

On April 1, 2007 an interesting newspaper article – entitled “A Miracle of Romania, and following the line of visionary thoughts” – appeared on the website of the Romanian Distribution Committee, the article starting from the statement of His Excellency Mr. Moscardo de Souza, former Ambassador of Brazil to Romania (and later Ambassador of Brazil to Belgium), with regard to the Romanian-American University as "A miracle of Romania". Mr. Moscardo de Souza is the one who argued (as Ambassador of Brazil to Belgium) in the *Diplomatique Gazette*, Brussels, that a "cultural mutation" would be necessary to transfer the target point of the economic to the meta economic and of the material scenarios to the human person. In a comment regarding this stance, the Founder of the Romanian-American University, Professor Ion Smedescu, expressed his pleasure to follow the line of visionary thoughts about the organization of the planetary society in the context of radical changes and extraordinary effects that necessarily impose a new task, specific to a deep and tenacious philosophy, reconciling the conceptions to be able to put the economy at the service of society, against the background of the development of a more participatory citizen attitude. The volume of “*Expuneri, Alocuțiuni, Mesaje (1991-2006)*”, published in 2007 at the Pro Universitaria Publishing House, Bucharest, and signed by Ion Smedescu, offered the opportunity to understand the tenacious constructive

approach of the one who sheds a tear of the soul with each passing year added to the history of this “Miracle of Romania”, the Romanian-American University (RAU), as if confirming Brancusi’s words: “Time perfects the human spirit, and the spirit itself demands this” (<https://www.crd-aida.ro/2007/04/o-%e2%80%99cminune-a-romaniei%e2%80%9d-si-urmarirea-firului-gandurilor-vizionare/>).

It is suggestive to remember here the congratulatory remarks made by the 2007 RAU Management-Marketing School Valedictorian, Cosmin Tănase-Gheorghiu, on the occasion of the celebrating of RAU 25th anniversary: *“Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Romanian-American University elicits a storehouse of wonderful memories, heightens my appreciation for the work of professors, students and the entire academic community, evoking many thoughts about the past, the present and the future. My experience at the Romanian-American University is bound up inextricably with the intellectual pursuits that I have followed. There are important, but more elusive, qualities of this University – a unique place – that are more difficult to put into words. I believe that the character of its special academic prestige was distinctively shaped by the expectation that each and every one of us will bring our full share of curiosity, analysis, passion, and intellectual brilliance to bear on our lifelong search for new insights and interpretations. To me, it is the fulfilling notion that the Romanian-American University could achieve at once, namely teach students to explore new intellectual horizons, and at the same time, create class after class of devoted alumni who see positive action in the real world as their highest achievement. It has been a great honor and privilege for me to participate with my professors and colleagues in the never-ending task of building an academic community of distinction. Through our efforts, generation by generation, a 25-year enterprise has not only endured but flourished and I am glad to be a part of this achievement. For all these reasons, the Romanian-American University will always have a special place in my heart and memory”* (<https://holisticmarketingmanagement.ro/congratulatory-remarks-celebrating-the-25th-anniversary-of-rau/>).

Coming back to Brussels, it is worth mentioning that just two years before (on April 18, 2014) another interesting newspaper article – entitled *“More than a happy coincidence: a new reference to the Romanian-American University in ‘Distribution d’aujourd’hui’, Brussels”* – appeared on the website of the “Holistic Marketing Management” journal of RAU Management-Marketing School: *“...in Brussels the prestigious journal “Distribution d’aujourd’hui” (55ème année, Janvier – Février – Mars 2014; published in French and Dutch) made a new reference to RAU through the expert voice of Professor Léon F. WEGNEZ. On the occasion of this anniversary of 23 years of excellence in bringing the education and career of the Romanian-American University Students forward, while keeping pace with the times that come and go, and reinforcing the strengths of this wonderful educational citadel by testifying the importance of teamwork governed by values and principles, our whole academic family is continuing to honor the memory of the great man that was Professor ION SMEDESCU, Founding-President and Rector of the Romanian-American University between 1991 and 2008”* (<https://holisticmarketingmanagement.ro/more-than-a-happy-coincidence-a-new-reference-to-the-romanian-american-university-in-distribution-daujourdhui-brussels/>).

Drawing an arc over time it is important to refer to the impressive RAU Opening Ceremony of the 2023-2024 academic year, which took place on Friday, September 29, 2023. A significant newspaper article – entitled *“Academic excellence, learning, innovation and international collaboration”* – appeared on the website of the “Holistic Marketing Management” journal of RAU Management-Marketing School: *“The participants of the opening ceremony were warmly greeted by the Rector of the Romanian-American University Costel Negricea, who conveyed a significant message regarding academic excellence, learning, innovation and international collaboration. Next, Professor Costel Negricea invited Her Excellency Mrs. Kathleen Kavalec, the Ambassador of the United States of America to Romania, to take the floor. Her Excellency’s rigorously organized, pertinent and elegant speech captured the attention of the audience, stimulating both reflection on the highlighted relevant aspects and the quality of the speeches delivered by the following distinguished speakers. A special merit also went to the video messages sent by several traditional partners of the Romanian-American University, such as the President of the James Madison University in the USA, Jonathan R. Alger, an acclaimed specialist in higher education policy.”*



Romanian-American University Rector Costel Negricea and Her Excellency Mrs. Kathleen Ann Kavalec, U.S. Ambassador to Romania  
RAU Opening Ceremony of the 2023-2024 academic year took place on Friday, September 29, 2023

It is again an honor to recall the words of the RAU Founder, Professor Ion Smedescu: *“For me, the Romanian-American University is everything: my home, my profession and my spare time. This establishment of education and science is a mirror of me and of my work for tens of years, my eternal soul, and my idea for the renewal of the concept of work.”* Allow us to remember that Professor Ion Smedescu chose the same day as Rev. Prof. Dr. Dumitru Stăniloae, the 5th of October (1993, namely 2008), to step on the path of eternity. Former student of the „Christian love Theologian” – Father Stăniloae, Professor Ion Smedescu often mentioned Father Stăniloae, speaking of the mysterious beauty of a wonderful landscape and the necessity of the conscious sense of the ordinance, of the beauty, in order to perform a task the right way, in joyful communion. Professor ION SMEDESCU always knew how to guide RAU academic family, giving shared ambition and purpose, determining a real commitment to the necessary cultural transformation to keep RAU dream alive and well, never forgetting what makes RAU unique. He

always linked explicitly expectations to goals, designed the proper roles for future needs, cultivated leaders through apprenticeship, and involved stakeholders in building desire for change in accordance with his fundamental sense of noble mission and urgency.

