

RDCM Personalia Corner

● Sixteen Years Since the Passing into Eternity of the Romanian-American University

Founding-President and Rector Professor Ion SMEDESCU, PhD

Note from the Editor-in-Chief

On the occasion of the **Romanian-American Anniversary (RAU) of 33 years of excellence in bringing the education and career of RAU 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, **the whole RAU academic family is continuing to honor the memory of the Great Man that was Professor Ion SMEDESCU, RAU Founding-President and Rector between 1991 and 2008. Professor Ion SMEDESCU, Honorary Member (1998) of the Romanian Distribution Committee**, was awarded in May 2006 **"RESPAD" Diploma**, on the occasion of the **Symposium** with the topic **'Institutional-spiritual reconstruction of enterprises, requirement for sustainable development in the knowledge society'**, a nationwide premiere (the volume that contains this project, which appeared in April 2006 at ASE Publishing House and in which, at page 488, reference is made to 'RESPAD Trophy' awarded by the Romanian Distribution Committee, among other things emphasizing the correlation between real success and the vision of the training team; in *"Additional information regarding the event"*, distributed on the occasion of the works of the symposium, the hope was expressed as to what concerns the significance „of a new partnership of public-private interests post-accession in the European Union where the education and research, employers and administration, business governance will find solutions concerning common problems of our lives regarding enterprises competitiveness, pollution of the environment and poverty, the control of risks that the evolution in the new complexity of the world of uncertainties generates..."). Sixteen years ago, **Professor Ion SMEDESCU**, chose the 5th of October to step on the path of eternity, leaving as legacy the force of the feeling of solidarity in shaping minds and characters, opening the eyes for truth, the good and the beautiful, seeing the education as being connected to finding the truth and intelligence, both being strongly related to moral education. **Professor Ion SMEDESCU** widely opened up the gates of knowledge management and innovation, always doing what he thought best and without experiencing any fear, his intuition giving birth to the Romanian - American University, a great service provided to the future generations. **Professor Ion SMEDESCU** lived with intensity, making a constant and coherent effort to transpose in the academic landscape powerful ideas specific to the "cultural architect" that is his beloved "Marketing", advocating "intelligent growth". We can see below Rector Ion SMEDESCU next to His Beatitude TEOCTIST, the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church on the occasion of the Consecration of the Romanian-American University's Chapel, in 2007. Seven years later, on January 16, 2014, this very special moment was remembered by His Beatitude DANIEL, Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, Archbishop of Bucharest, and Metropolitan of Muntenia and Dobrudgea, during the Consecration of the painting of the Romanian-American University's Chapel and inauguration of the "Lux Mundi" reading room.



Sixty Years Since the Passing into Eternity of RAU Founding-President and Rector, Ion SMEDESCU

His Beatitude TEOCTIST, the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church and Professor ION SMEDESCU, RAU Founding Rector on the occasion of the Consecration of the Romanian-American University Chapel in 2007



Sixteen Years Since the Passing into Eternity of the Romanian-American University Founding-President and Rector Professor Ion SMEDESCU, PhD

It is well known that the RAU Founding-President and Rector of the Romanian-American University (RAU), Professor Ion SMEDESCU, was an outstanding personality of the Romanian academic life, renowned specialist in marketing, creator of school and promoter of private higher education. Distinguished Professor Ion SMEDESCU remains a true example of the connection between the power of education and the power of ideas, being always persistent in his work, climbing the steps of progress, showing will (in harmony with the intellect as well as with the sense of honor, moral, religious, aesthetic and duty), intelligence (having at the same time a concrete intuitive spirit and logical abstract) and affectivity, always acting guided by conscience and gaining virtue through action in consequence, brave and temperate at the same time, generating and binding bonds between souls by building useful and beautiful.

Let us recall the inspiring words of 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.”* Professor Ion SMEDESCU used to say that he had learned from his Great Teachers that moderation (as a rational attitude towards pleasure), courage (as a rational attitude towards pain), justice (as respect for man) and the sense of justice, of legality, were always needed, education meaning primarily respect. The arduous path chosen by Professor Ion SMEDESCU and his efforts for continuous improvement have always confirmed that virtue is a continuous positive action requiring tension, measure of things, science, patience, discipline, wisdom and faith.

In a Foreword by the Professor Ion SMEDESCU (referred to in the Diplomatic Gazette, Brussels, no. 45/December 2004) to a book by the Romanian-American University, he stated as follows: *“Times are changing, absolute values – truth, good, beauty – remain, always giving their owners the quality of being united and responsible in the promotion of education and culture, in gathering wisdom, knowledge and willpower. On of the Fathers of the American nation, Thomas Jefferson, answered a question regarding the University of Virginia (which he founded) as follows: ‘Here we follow the truth wherever it may lead.’ Jean Monet, one of the Fathers of the European Union, said in turn that: ‘Education and culture are the key to European integration’.”*

Professor Ion SMEDESCU 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. Thinking in multiple time frames, anticipating and reacting to discontinuities, and enhancing capabilities while looking ahead, constantly challenging priorities and inspiring the entire RAU academic family, empathizing with students, Professor Ion SMEDESCU was the essential ingredient behind RAU success story, being recognized as an early innovator, who proved the experience, the ability, the right mindset to build an extraordinary academic fortress.

On October 2, 2003 the legendary American Professor Ronald Carrier, PhD, Chancellor at James Madison University (JMU), Virginia, USA, stated: *“James Madison University is a friend of the Romanian-American University. On this day of October 2nd, 2003, we, the people from JMU are looking forward to the development of our relation. This university is an important force in the Romanian high education and the future leaders in business and government will be from among its students”. The knowledge is essential in a free society. Congratulations to the management of the RAU and especially to Mr. Smedescu”.*

Also in October 2003, His Excellency Jeronimo MOSCARDO, the Ambassador of Brazil in Romania (later Brazil’s Ambassador to the European Union), said: *“I want to congratulate Mr. Rector Smedescu for the ‘miracle’ of building the Romanian-American University. In a world where even governments today are powerless and in a position to ‘simulate’ the activity, it represents a lesson for future generations, the immense enthusiasm and faith that made this historic achievement possible. As a friend of Ion Smedescu, I am proud of him. In addition, it is important to reveal the immense capacity to ‘love’ and ‘admire of Professor Smedescu”.*

Three years later, Professor Linwood H. Rosse, PhD, President of James Madison University, Virginia, USA, said (in April 2006) to Professor Ion SMEDESCU: *“You have gathered together exceptional talents and conceived a modern university, just like a wonderful symphony orchestra. As we know, to create great music, an orchestra must be conducted by a firm but also educational hand. Such efforts require time for development, all important work requires, but the world is already beginning to hear the great music emanating from Bucharest”.*

