

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH ATILIM UNIVERSITY IN TURKEY OFFERS NEW GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES**

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*Associate Vice President for Global Engagement Mark Meehan visits the Atilim campus in Turkey*

**R**ivier University signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Atilim University of Ankara, Turkey. This mutually beneficial strategic alliance will enable students from both institutions to experience a rich, vibrant culture, and live and learn alongside their peers in the United States and Greece.

This MOA is the foundation for initiatives that will enable Rivier students to travel and learn in Ankara, Turkey and for Atilim students to experience living and learning in the United States. The student exchange program will allow for students in each institution to attend from one term to one full academic year at the other institution.

Dr. Gunhan Pasamehmetoglu, Atilim advisor to the board of trustees and former president of Atilim, and Dr. Hasan Akay, Atilim's provost and professor emeritus at Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), were on the Rivier campus in April for the official MOA signing with Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, president of Rivier, and Dr. Mark Meehan, associate vice president for Global Engagement.

"We are thrilled to be launching a partnership with Atilim University, one of Turkey's leading higher education institutions," said Dr. Meehan. "The newly signed agreement will directly connect our faculty and students to a cutting edge institution in one of the world's most strategic countries."

Atilim University's facilities in Ankara, Turkey will host Rivier University study abroad programs to include students and faculty. The study abroad experience may include Turkish language courses, cultural immersion activities, service learning activities and experiential learning projects. The program will start in fall 2013 through a joint course focused on global issues which will be taught simultaneously in Nashua and in Ankara, and students will meet via a high definition video system each week to discuss shared reading assignments.

"We are very pleased to sign this collaborative agreement with Rivier University," said Dr. Akay, "The agreement encourages short-term student and faculty exchanges, as well as collaboration among faculty and students. Some areas of collaboration we can foresee are in the business schools of both

universities as well as math, psychology and computer science related programs. Because the educational values of Rivier are in line with our values, we expect a sustainable relationship as a result of this agreement.”

Akay added that he has been impressed with Rivier’s global engagement program, and that Atilim hopes to host Rivier faculty and students for teaching trips in the future, as well as co-teaching courses from both campuses in which students can work on joint projects online.

Also included in the agreement is a faculty exchange where faculty from both institutions will be able to conduct research and/or teaching residencies at the other institution.

Atilim University was founded by the Atilim Foundation in 1997 and is located on 250 acres of land in one of the fastest developing residential areas of Ankara. ■