

Think Diversity

Coming Together



Special Assistant For Diversity

Anthony Jemison (Class of 1987) was appointed as the University's first special assistant for diversity. He is developing a comprehensive plan to enable SU to achieve its diversity goals. His responsibilities include assisting in the development of departmental actions plans to increase and retain historically under-represented faculty, staff and students; identifying and writing grant proposals for funding campus diversity efforts; developing and coordinating education events that promote a diverse campus culture; and collaborating with University departments, and community and national organizations to further SU's diversity goals. To bring awareness to the campus, he has participated in diversity training sessions for various student organizations and presented staff development workshops on "Understanding Diversity" and "Valuing Difference."

An International Link

When Salisbury University President Janet Dudley-Eshbach and the president of SU's International (Student) Group, Andre Kovalev of Russia, cut the ribbon on the campus's new Link of Nations on May 9, they were celebrating an increasing international presence on campus and off.

The Link in the concourse between the Guerrieri University Center and the Commons displays the flags of some 40 nations representing SU's international students, faculty and staff. Students from an alphabet of countries, Albania to Zambia, were on hand to explain the symbolism of their national flags and munch on cake decorated with good luck slogans in their native languages.

A Community of Caring

International students—about 70 total—are excited about the creation of the Link of Nations. "It shows that the University cares about international students," said Christal Christian, a junior finance major from the Cayman Islands. "It makes me feel welcome." The Cayman Island flag is a colorful collection of symbols including three green stars representing its three islands, blue wavy lines for the ocean, a lion symbolizing strength and stability, a turtle because Christopher Columbus first named it "The Land of Turtles," a pineapple, coat of arms and even a Union Jack.

"It is nice to have recognition of where I come from," added Quynh Hoang, a sophomore elementary education major from Vietnam.

SU: An International Choice

Students around the globe pick SU for a variety of reasons, according to Agata Liszkowska, international student services coordinator. "A lot are looking for a good school that's reasonably priced," she said, usually "a public school because of lower tuition." They receive no American federal or state aid, and money is often an issue. In Third World countries, said Liszkowska, families, including aunts and uncles, may band together to send one child to college in the U.S. Students are also attracted to Salisbury because of the proximity to Washington, D.C., particularly if they have embassy connections. One diplomatic family from Tanzania, in Africa, now working at the U.N., has been sending children and extended family members to SU for nearly 20 years.

The international students study in all four of SU's schools and most are undergraduates. Some are able to work part time on campus with jobs in horticulture, dining services, information technology or University police. A



(On left) Cuban Interests Section Secretaries Alfredo Montero Quintero and Carlos de Céspedes Piedra

International Connections

Always willing to expand students' boundaries, SU's Office of International Education provides several study abroad opportunities. In the past year, SU students have studied in:

- Australia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Czech Republic
- Ecuador
- England
- France
- Germany
- Honduras
- Ireland
- Italy
- New Zealand
- Scotland
- Spain
- Semester at Sea with stops in 10 countries

As part of its annual Multicultural Festival Week, SU dedicated the Link of Nations celebrating an increasing international presence on campus.



few work in the residence halls helping supervise American peers. They also volunteer, for example, when a hospital calls with foreign language speaking patients who need a translator, or in the courts, schools or social services.

Regional Impact

The local community is supportive. A Salisbury chapter of Rotary International sponsors a scholarship for an international student each semester. Liszkowska, herself a one-time international student, knows how important the scholarship is for the students and would like to see other programs established.

If the Link is a symbol, "I like it," said Christian, "It makes the SU community more aware of the diverse international population studying, teaching and working here."

"We're more diverse than people may realize," added Liszkowska.

Taking a Study Break Abroad

Thirteen SU students, under the direction of program designer Dr. Keith Brower, spent five weeks living and studying in Málaga, Spain, as part of the 2002 Summer Program in Spain—SU's first summer study abroad program. Participants in the program, launched in 2001, live with Spanish families, take classes on Spanish language, culture and history with Universidad de Málaga faculty and visit the historic cities of Granada, Córdoba and Sevilla.



Málaga, Spain

Breaking Barriers

SU's Bilingual Education Office hosts two grant programs that aim to improve educational opportunities for English language learners and bilingual students on the Eastern Shore. The Bilingual Education Career Ladder Program (BECLP) offers scholarships to current teachers who wish to pursue an M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and to bilingual students and community members interested in becoming educators. This year the program offered scholarships to 65 individuals. The Training for All Teachers (TAT) Project offers training in best practices for teaching English language learners. The project has trained almost 1,000 college faculty, staff and K-12 teachers.