

Schools of Distinction

Henson School of Science & Technology



“The mission of the Henson School of Science and Technology is to provide a state-of-the-art scientific and health-related community where experienced faculty work closely with students in the pursuit of knowledge, with both students and faculty engaged in a partnership for learning.”

Henson's Points of Distinction Include:

- Henson Science Hall earned an **Honor Award** for its design from the Maryland Society chapter of the American Institute of Architects.
- SU is one of only four schools in the nation to be a member of the Mid-Atlantic Institute for Space and Technology (MIST)—exploring fast and flexible **access to space**.
- The University's respiratory therapy program is the **only four-year program in Maryland** providing training in this critical-need profession.

Leading The Fight Against Disease

Dr. Miguel Mitchell, SU chemistry professor, hopes his research will one day eradicate harmful effects of tuberculosis. He believes a new compound he developed last fall will be the next step in that process, shutting down the ability of tuberculosis to use oxygen. Approved for animal testing, the compound, if successful, could be less expensive and debilitating than current tuberculosis medicines, he said.

Recent tests by Scott Franzblau, director of the Institute for Tuberculosis Research at the University of Illinois, showed that, in the test

tube, one compound matched the potency of Rifampin, the most powerful tuberculosis drug currently available. “It’s like a skyrocket,” said Mitchell. “We expected decent results, but we never expected anything like this.”

Beyond tuberculosis, Mitchell is also seeking cures for other diseases. In spring 2007, as part of a \$50,000 U.S. Department of Defense grant—a first for SU—he led a Salisbury team in partnership with Harvard and Northeastern universities to research potential medicines for advanced prostate cancer.

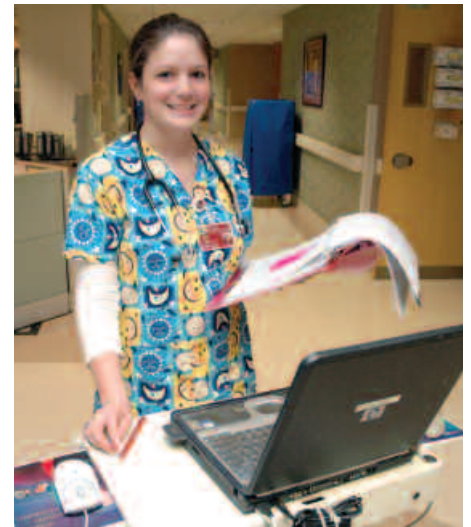


Critical Partnerships For Healthcare

As the national nursing shortage continues to grow, Salisbury University received funding from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to help address this critical need. Using a \$261,009 grant over three years, SU plans to expand its graduate programs in nursing to reach Maryland nurses who want to become nursing faculty.

The University will create a new clinical nurse educator track and will develop a track to allow registered nurses with an associate’s degree in nursing to earn a master’s degree in less time than is currently possible. SU is one of nine institutions that have received \$5.9 million over five years through MHEC’s Nurse Support Program.

This partnership between institutions of higher education and Maryland hospitals is expected to increase undergraduate and graduate nursing enrollments in Maryland by an estimated 1,500 students.



Mapping The Past With GIS

When a crew of historians, naturalists and educators set sail last summer to commemorate the expedition of Captain John Smith some 400 years ago, its voyage up the Chesapeake Bay included for the first time locations on the Nanticoke River in Delaware that were identified by a team of Salisbury University researchers through scientific remapping.

A Monumental Achievement

For nearly eight weeks, Dr. Michael Scott, of SU's Geography and Geosciences Department, and his team from the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative at SU, used geographic information system technology to digitize Smith's maps from 1612 and 1624. By overlaying images and then matching modern towns and natural landmarks with Smith's notations, they discovered that his venture up the Nanticoke did not stop at the Marshy Hope Creek, but instead continued into Delaware. As part of the 2007 commemorative voyage, sponsored in part by the Sultana Projects, Inc., an official State of Delaware black granite monument was erected at the Phillips Landing/Nanticoke Wildlife Area near Laurel, DE, to recognize Smith's exploration of the area.

"Without the remapping they would not have been able to put the monument where it needed to be, so we are jazzed about that," Scott said. The SU team shared their findings about Smith's journey with the Conservation Fund, the National Geographic Society and the National Park Service, organizations which are working on an estimated \$2 million project to create an official map for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail, the first of its kind.

Retracing Smith's Voyage

When it's completed in the next few years, the passage will retrace Smith's voyage from Jamestown, VA, to the mouth of the Susquehanna River. Scott, his team and local archeologists ventured out by boat with representatives from the organizations, as well as the Maryland Historical Trust, to view the landscape and the twists and the turns of the Nanticoke River from Smith's perspective. The SU team initially examined Smith's travels at the request of the town of Vienna, which wanted to confirm the locations the explorer visited on the Nanticoke River.



"The story has always been that John Smith discovered Vienna and they wanted to find out if that was true," Scott said. His team managed to align several Indian villages found on Smith's surprisingly accurate map with the towns of Nanticoke and Vienna.

"It's amazing, he mapped with a stunning level of accuracy," Scott said. "He's out there in this little boat navigating the hazards of uncharted territory and he was able to capture most major bends of the rivers and everything is pretty close to scale. His map was so accurate that it was used as the prototype of the bay for more than 100 years."

