Stephen Reilly - Communication Arts
/story no. 38/

50 Sea Gull
Success Stories
Every member of Salisbury University’s campus – yesterday, today and tomorrow – has a distinct story to tell. Here are just 50 stories – arranged alphabetically – of Sea Gulls who are doing great things at SU and in the world.

1. Nursing graduate Pam Anthony is a rising star in the health care world, her company, Restore Rehabilitation, LLC, has grown out of her basement and into 14 states and Washington, D.C.

2. For over 25 years, alumnus Richard Bernstein, a successful entrepreneur and founder of K&L Microwave, has sponsored a business plan competition on SU’s campus, awarding thousands of dollars to students aspiring to start their own businesses.

3. Baltimore Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti is also a Sea Gull.

4. While seniors at SU, Chelsea Brown and Jessica Cahill became the first SU students to intern at national political conventions: Brown worked for the U.S. Department Foreign Press Center at the Democratic Convention and Cahill was assigned to CNN during the Republican National Convention.

5. While pursuing a Ph.D. in geology, alumnus Greg Burzynski worked on a project photographing 579-million-year-old organisms on the tip of Newfoundland.

6. Economics and environmental studies faculty member Dr. Jill Caviglia-Harris earned Stanford University’s prestigious Leopold Leadership Fellowship for her studies on deforestation and human welfare in Brazil; she frequently involves a team of students on her research trips to the Amazon.

7. The Chronicle of Higher Education named SU among top producers of Fulbright Scholars in the United States in 2010. Nearly 20 SU faculty have earned this honor.

8. Since graduating SU, Dave Cottle has made a name for himself in the lacrosse world. He is currently the head coach of the Chesapeake Bayhawks, a Major League Lacrosse professional men’s field lacrosse team.

9. Upon graduation, Elizabeth Dahlen earned $25,000 to pursue the Erasmus Mundus Master in Adapted Physical Activity at one of Western Europe’s oldest universities – the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium.

10. SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach was the only university president honored as one of Maryland’s Most Admired CEOs by The Daily Record, a Baltimore-based business newspaper; she was nominated for “propelling the campus into a University known nationally, and, increasingly, internationally, as one of the best values in public institutions dedicated to undergraduate teaching and learning.”

11. Alumnus Ken Duffy is manager of Ticket Operations for the Philadelphia Phillies.

12. For over 10 years, David Earl has had success with his blues and roots music label Severn Records; he chose to give back to his Alma Mater with a cornerstone gift to help purchase equipment for aspiring musicians to use in the Audio Demonstration Studio of SU’s TETC.

13. The SU Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative coordinated a team of some 50 SU students, working around the clock, to support FEMA in assessing the storm damage in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

14. In just three years, five students majoring in environmental studies earned the nationally competitive EPA-Greater Research Opportunity Fellowship, which incudes a paid summer internship conducting research in an EPA field facility.

15. Alex Beebe-Giudice moved to Alaska after graduating SU in 2005 and has built a career guiding helicopter-supported dogsled tours.

16. SU students routinely earn the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad; recipients have traveled to countries including China, Costa Rica, Ecuador Ghana and Tanzania.
17 Upon graduation, Mallory Hagadorn earned a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship valued at $126,000 to further her undergraduate study of the beetles on farms across Maryland.

18 Alumnus Dr. Joseph Herman is the director of the Pancreatic Multidisciplinary Clinic, director of clinical research in the Department of Radiation Oncology and associate professor of radiation oncology and molecular radiation sciences at Johns Hopkins.

19 Alumna Victoria Jackson-Stanley was the first woman and first African-American to be elected mayor of Cambridge, MD.

20 Trent Jennings uses the skills he learned from SU conflict analysis and dispute resolution program to become a relief worker with international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); he has assisted in such places as Kosovo, Macedonia, Kenya and South Sudan.

21 Alumna Diane Auer Jones, a molecular biologist and past U.S. assistant secretary for postsecondary education, is president and CEO of The Washington Campus, which provides comprehensive educational programs to help executives understand how Washington works.

22 Julius Jones earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees at SU, and he is now an exercise program specialist for FEMA.

23 Dr. Dean Kotlowski, history, has been featured on C-SPAN three times recently: the national public affairs station filmed his class on America in the 1970s and he has twice been featured speaking at the Nixon Library in California; Kotlowski is the author of a book on Nixon’s Civil Rights policy.

24 Mike Koval, who teaches legal environment and business law, earned the prestigious Charles M. Hewitt Master Teacher Award from the international Academy of Legal Studies in Business, honoring faculty who incorporate new subject matter, cultural shifts, and advances in pedagogy and technology into their classes.

25 English graduate Emily Lembo earned a prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to travel to South Korea and supplement English language instruction and provide a native speaker in classrooms.

26 Bruce Lesh considers his honor as the Organization of American Historians national Tachau Pre-Collegiate Teacher of the Year as a testament to the great teachers he had, including his mentors at SU.

27 Geography major Emily Lewis flew with more than 50 other planes from California to Pennsylvania as part of the Air Race Classic, an annual competition for female aviators.

28 Tim McFadden used the seed money he earned from SU’s Bernstein Business Plan Competition to start a glassblowing studio and gallery in Baltimore; he has since won $25,000 through SU’s Shore Hatchery program to increase production capacity and marketing for a waterproof decorative light bulb he has developed.

29 Alumna Erica Messer is a television writer, producer and story editor who is the showrunner for CBS’s long-running Criminal Minds.

30 Alexis Morrell is pursuing her M.F.A. in film production at the University of Southern California’s renowned School of Cinematic Arts – following in the footsteps of Frank Capra, Robert Zemeckis and George Lucas – and has worked on TV shows including Chelsea Lately with comedian and author Chelsea Handler and Under the Gunn with fashion consultant Tim Gunn.

31 Called “one of Australia’s best-loved stars of stage, film and TV,” John O’May got his start at SU.

32 Charles Overholt was the first SU student to earn a Fulbright Student Fellowship; he traveled to Germany to further his history studies on Hessian mercenaries and the American Revolution.

33 Social work students Jewellianna Palencia and Ashley Van-Vee volunteered at Sparrow Rainbow Village, a facility for those infected with HIV and AIDS, in Gauteng, South Africa, through the U.S. Agency for International Development.
What will your Sea Gull success story be?

34. Dr. Anjali Pandey, English, earned a $1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of English Language Acquisition that funds a program to enhance the “English as a second language” (ESOL) skills of teachers throughout the Eastern Shore of Delmarva.

35. Alumnus and Perdue Farms President Jim Perdue can frequently be seen in national commercials for his company’s chicken.

36. Seattle Seahawks Defensive Coordinator Dan Quinn was a Sea Gull before he helped coach the team to win Super Bowl XLVII.

37. Dr. Dean Ravizza, Health and Sport Sciences Department, shared with CNN International that sports programs and events like the World Cup may be used to teach strategies for resolving conflict at home, in schools and communities, and ultimately across war-torn regions; Ravizza conducts research in Uganda on using sports to rebuild the lives of children, including those who once served as soldiers in militias.

38. Stephen Reilly used the varied skills he gained as a communication arts graduate to earn the position of executive director of the U.S. Fulbright Association, which is the alumni arm of the prestigious Fulbright international exchange program for college students and faculty.

39. SU’s student-organized Relay For Life has raised over $1 million for the American Cancer Society (ACS) since 2002 and has twice been named one of only 20 “Leaders of Hope” by Colleges Against Cancer, an ACS program that unites more than 300 campuses in the fight against cancer.

40. The September after graduating, Lindsay Ruggiero began working on CBS’s The Early Show; she quickly became the production assistant to then-anchor Maggie Rodriguez.

41. Six physics and engineering students represented SU at the inaugural Scientista Symposium at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston; designed to enhance the education of women studying science, the symposium was titled “Scientistas Speak Out: The Importance of Communication in Science.”

42. Alumnus Mike Seidel has been a field reporter and on-camera meteorologist with the Weather Channel for more than two decades.

43. Dr. Frank Shipper, Management and Marketing Department chair, continues his examination of employee-owned companies with the $15,000 Kevin E. Ruble Fellowship from Rutgers University; his studies have been cited by MSNBC and The Wall Street Journal, among others.

44. Dr. Donald Spickler, Mathematics and Computer Science Department, was honored with the Mathematical Association of America’s regional John Smith Teaching Award.

45. Alumnus Patrick Stewart is a senior engineer for NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center who works maintaining over 20 worldwide ground-based LiDAR, remote sensing technology, which has taken him to Southeast Asia, India, Norway and even the Geographic South Pole.

46. Thousands of student volunteers turn up each semester to assist their Salisbury neighbors for the fall I Love Salisbury and spring Big Event clean-up events.

47. Dr. John Wenke, English professor, is featured in the documentary Salinger, along with prominent actors, writers and other scholars, including novelists E.L. Doctorow and Tom Wolfe, and actors Ed Norton, John Cusak and Danny DeVito. A recognized scholar on J.D. Salinger’s work, Wenke wrote the first book-length study of Salinger’s uncollected and collected short fiction.

48. Austin Whitehead, accounting alumnus, earned an internship in Belize, educating underprivileged children about financial literacy and responsibility as an ambassador for PricewaterhouseCoopers – he was one of 3,000 applicants for the 150 international outreach positions.

49. Jennifer Hope Wills, a music education graduate, is an actress who has starred in Phantom of the Opera and Beauty and the Beast on Broadway.

50. John Wesley Wright, SU’s voice instructor, is a member of the acclaimed American Spiritual Ensemble and regularly tours as a soloist and with professional ensembles throughout the U.S., Japan and Europe, including a concert to celebrate the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s visit to Ireland.

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“Salisbury laid the foundation for everything I do at work. From business classes to computer skills to communication skills, it all came from Salisbury.”

Ken Duffy ’99 (Communication Arts - story no. 11) - Manager of Ticket Operations for the Philadelphia Phillies

“The success of our students might give the impression that these awards are easy to come by, but this is not the case. The EPA is very selective. These outstanding SU students are among the best in the country.”

Dr. Mike Lewis – Environmental Studies Department Chair discussing SU’s streak of Environmental Protection Agency Fellowship recipients (story no. 14)