

Celebrating Graduation: It's All In The Family!

When Joe Eshbach Jr. '06 enrolled as a student at Salisbury University in 2002, he faced many of the same obstacles as his fellow 900 freshmen: sharing a dorm room for the first time, finding the right classes, adjusting to expectations and freedoms far different from high school ...

He did have one unique challenge, however: Out of nearly 7,000 students at SU, he was the only one who was the president's son.

"I honestly didn't know what it would be like, but I'm an optimistic person," he said. "It was a great experience. I love my mom and dad."



Aside from some ribbing by a few students, Eshbach found his life to be similar to others' on campus. He moved out of his parents' house and in with roommates, struggled with some classes and excelled in others, and "learned to live on my own."

When SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach handed him his diploma during this year's spring commencement ceremonies as both his president and his mother, it marked a celebration not only of family and academics, but also of personal success.

It also continued a tradition of more than a century. Dudley-Eshbach's grandmother graduated from college in 1903, a time when very few women did. The importance of education was passed down through the generations, culminating with Dudley-Eshbach's 89-year-old parents (Joe's grandparents) having the opportunity to see their daughter and grandson share the stage at commencement.

The moment seemed light-years away from Eshbach's initial day as a freshman, when a spur-of-the-moment decision set the course of his academic future: "When I first came to SU, I didn't know what I



wanted to do. I chose my major, outdoor education, on a whim on my first day."

Call it "blink"—the currently in-vogue term for split-second decision-making, or intuition—his choice turned out to be the right one. Next fall, Eshbach, a Dean's List student who graduated *cum laude*, enters graduate school at the University of Florida. There he will pursue his M.S. in the university's tourism program—one of only six in the nation. He has earned a graduate assistantship with TRiP (the Travel and Recreation Program), which schedules student adventure outings such as snorkeling, scuba diving and snowboarding.

He said his SU courses, including research- and science-based classes like anatomy and physiology, have prepared him for the more challenging graduate curriculum he expects at Florida.

"It really teaches you what you can expect in grad school," he said of his SU experience, citing Dr. Joan Maloof in the Biology Department and Drs. Carol Wood and Susan Muller in the Health, Physical Education and Human Performance Department for sparking his interest in an outdoor career.



SU also provided opportunities for Eshbach to develop his leadership skills. Following his mother's advice to involve himself in campus activities, he joined and helped revamp the SU Surf Club. Although it wasn't exactly what his mother had in mind, that experience may influence his career path following graduate school. He says his ultimate dream is to open a beachfront hotel/resort in Costa Rica.

For now, however, Eshbach is preparing for an adventure not on the waves, but in the classroom. There will be some minor changes—the calls home will be long-distance—but Eshbach has no fears about climbing another rung on the educational ladder. This family tradition always has his parents' support, whether he's living 800 feet or 800 miles away.

State of the University

President Janet Dudley-Eshbach delivered her 2006 State of the University address this spring, titled "A Maryland University of National

Distinction," reviewing an academic year defined by landmark accomplishments and outlining a strategic vision for continued excellence. The President spoke of the values

that have guided SU's rise to distinction and expressed support for several innovative proposals. The full text of the speech is available at www.salisbury.edu/prez/speeches.

2005 Homecoming

Celebrating our 80th Anniversary, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 30-Oct.1, were packed with activities for everyone!

Reunions, too!

From 60-plus year reunions to nostalgic swimmers to favorite faculty, Sea Gulls returned to Salisbury University to celebrate!



Class of '31 (from left) Gladys Brohawn Evans, Florence Wimbrow Parsons and Jason E. Curtin '98

Class of '45 (from left) Gladys Brown Evans, Jeanette Richards Caitlin, AnnaMae Perdue Vincent, Charlotte Widdowson Gladding and Norma Mills Penuel.



Class of '50 (seated from left) Bessie Lynch Cutler, Madelyn Butler Potter, Grace Wood Heath, (standing from left) Louis S. Seidel, Clarke Cugler, Walt Potter and Levin R. Heath.

Emeriti Luncheon (seated) BettyLou Bloodworth, Dennie Bloodworth '49, (standing) Dr. Norm Crawford and President Janet Dudley-Eshbach



Emeriti Luncheon (from left) Dot Newcomb, President Janet Dudley-Eshbach and Mary Gene Jenkins

Emeriti Luncheon (from left) Dr. Phil Bosserman, Dr. Norm Crawford, Carol Bosserman, Dr. A. Nayland Page and Dr. Ellen Neufeldt



Class of '55 (seated from left) Werner F. Rebstock, Shirley Bowdle Truitt, Oliver F. Rhine, Lois Hall Webster, Carolyn Bennett Kniceley, (standing from left) Jan Marshall Fadeley, Alvin Younger, Frances Johnson Scott, Bettie Smith Nichols, Andrew J. Dickerson, Mary Lou Horsey Brittingham, Bonnie Wood Feeney, Shirley Young Laynor, Marion Conway Dryden, Janice Watson Miles



Alumni Swim Meet Participants

Hall of Fame Inductees (from left) Richard Berkman '92, Dan Quinn '94 and Eric Ungleich '93

