Music to Our Ears

Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art—are thrilled with the results of a new $1.6 million endowment and look forward to a brighter future thanks to the more than 200 special friends of Salisbury University whose gifts made the success of the Challenge possible.

President Janet Dudley-Eshbach expressed the University’s appreciation to the community by stating: “We could not have raised this money without the generous match offered by the Perdue-Kresge Challenge. I am most grateful to the Perdue family, to the Kresge Foundation and to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore for creating this opportunity.”

One of the largest gifts to the Salisbury University Endowment Partnership was by Peter and Judy Jackson of Tyaskin, MD, who made a challenge grant of $100,000 to benefit the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra. With the response of other Symphony supporters and the Perdue-Kresge match, their gift quadrupled to $400,000. Dr. Jackson enthusiastically stated, “Matching funds are a powerful motivator for donors. We devised a creative way to successfully make our money and the money of other friends of the orchestra really multiply.”

The Jacksons have deep roots on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, in classical music and in the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra. Peter Jackson’s father, Roger Jackson, M.D., was one of the founding members of the Symphony in the early 1980s; Peter is an accomplished bass fiddle player; and his daughter, Sarah Jackson, has made a career of music, presently holding the position of principal piccolo for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. “We are so pleased to be able to make a difference in our community’s symphony and in the future of Salisbury University,” said Peter Jackson.
Walking for a Cure: Salisbury University Foundation Assists SU Students Make a Difference

Salisbury University students are truly among the best in the nation. It has been verified statistically as a result of national rankings both academically and athletically. Most recently a new measure of success and excellence reinforced that SU students really are among the best.

Three years ago, Salisbury University student Rebecca Lyons took it upon herself to introduce Relay For Life to the Salisbury University campus. Wicomico County has long been known for its outstanding Relay For Life here on the Eastern Shore and the students decided to take it a step further, or actually bring it a step closer, and sponsor an event at SU. The Salisbury University Relay For Life was named the number one collegiate Relay in the country based on money earned on a per capita basis.

Our students took the initiative to organize this event that has come to be the American Cancer Society's signature event in an effort to raise funds to support the search for a cure for cancer. Student teams coming together, having fun and raising funds for the cause brought SU students, faculty and staff together to honor survivors, remember loved ones lost and persevere. This dedication and fabulous result prompted the Salisbury University Foundation to serve as a major sponsor of this year’s Relay and to facilitate the first SU faculty-staff team to participate. The SU Foundation is proud to be associated with this stellar student event because as Relay reminds us: “There is no finish line until we find a cure.”

A Step Back in Time Helps the Nabb Center Take a Step Ahead

An event to benefit the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture was held for the second year at Clifton, the historic home of Bill and Kathy Niskanen, on May 22, 2004. “Settlers of the Eastern Shore Evenlight” featured the history of Clifton and the area of Revell’s Neck on the Manokin River in Somerset County, MD. Mrs. Niskanen is a member of the Salisbury University Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors and also serves on the Nabb Center’s Advisory Board.

The evening was billed as “an inspiring evening of good company, fabulous food and potent potables.” This turned out to be true as close to 150 guests enjoyed the ambience of the historic grounds, the costumed storytellers and the fabulous cuisine. Moreover, the resulting proceeds from this evening of fun and fancy generated the most funds ever raised in a single evening’s event in Somerset County.