

OH WHAT A NIGHT!

It was a night when the number 80 was on everyone's lips, if not before their eyes. The logo for the black-tie gala in the Commons celebrating Salisbury University's 80th anniversary greeted guests on a large video screen, in their programs, even on the chocolate wafer with dessert.

The number 8, traditionally associated with success, achievement and new beginnings, seemed apt. The festive evening marked both the ending of celebrations of the University's 80th anniversary year and the official beginning of a multimillion-dollar fund-raising campaign by its administration and the Salisbury University Foundation. Here the 80 which got the biggest "wow!" was an accountant's dream: In the first two years of its silent phase the campaign has raised "more than 80 percent of our initial \$25 million goal," said Chairman Henry Hanna, "80 percent to honor our 80th anniversary!"



Gala Co-chairpersons Pam ('92) and Fried Lankford



SU Foundation Board Chairman Ed Thomas (left), Michele Thomas, Dara Hanna and Capital Campaign Chairman Henry Hanna



"At 80, Salisbury University is still a very young institution," SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach told several hundred supporters. "Because of its youth, we can still see and appreciate the work of those who came before. Each generation has endowed this University with unquestioned loyalty and enthusiasm, always hopeful about its future. For all that we have accomplished today—our national championships, our national rankings, our national distinction—we are still defined by our aspirations and our possibilities."

Monies raised through the campaign will turn many of those aspirations into realities. Since the Gala, the SU Foundation and campaign leadership team have elevated its total goal to \$30 million. Individual goals will benefit student scholarship endowments (\$15 million), the new Teacher Education and Technology Center (TETC) which begins construction this fall (\$4 million), matching funds for a new home for the Franklin P. Perdue School of Business (\$4 million), library enhancements (\$2 million), fine arts (\$2 million), Sea Gull athletics—including new facilities for varsity teams (\$2 million)—, and campus enhancements and outreach (\$1 million).

Major donations to the campaign during the silent phase, through tremendous philanthropy, include \$8 million from the Arthur W. Perdue Foundation to help fund construction of the Perdue School building; an anonymous \$7 million planned gift for scholarship

funding; \$2 million from alumnus Audrey Christopher to create the Christopher Scholars Program; real estate valued at \$1.3 million from Sam Brown and Bill Church; a planned gift from alumna Carol Powers and her husband, Jim, to benefit the TETC; \$500,000 from the estate of long-time theatre patron Bobbi Biron, for whom Salisbury University's theatre program is named; a special planned gift and annual contribution arrangement from Sea Gull parents David and Wanda Hooper; \$200,000 from the family of Charles R. and Martha N. Fulton, long-time supporters of SU, to benefit scholarships for Worcester County students; and a special annuity from alumna Jeanne Bulleit to benefit TETC programs.

Hanna chairs a campaign team which includes past Salisbury University President Norman Crawford; alumni Niel Carey, Rick Givens, Amy Tilghman Miller and Beth Sarbanes Sheller; Salisbury University Foundation Board members Jim Perdue, Ed Thomas, J. Michael Scarborough and Dr. Irving Shen; special friend of the institution Bruce Rogers; and members of the University administration.

Titled "Taking Excellence to New Heights," Campaign 2012 is based upon the needs of the institution articulated in its recent Facilities Master Plan and Institutional Strategic Plan studies. A cross-section of University faculty, staff, students and alumni participated in these studies.

At the gala kick-off celebration, Dudley-Eshbach told the well-wishers, "I would ask everyone to take a minute and dream of what we could become. Tonight, we begin our pursuit of that dream."

Del. Page Elmore presents President Janet Dudley-Eshbach with a proclamation of recognition from the Maryland House of Delegates



President Janet Dudley-Eshbach asked the crowd to "dream of what we could become"

The Rotunda of the Commons was decorated with images from SU's 80-year history



Guests celebrate 80 years of SU's excellence



(From left) Ruth Moore, Newt Jackson, David Moore, Clary Jackson and Marshall Moore