For the first time in 30 years, Salisbury University students will have access to new campus recreational facilities. In April, the Salisbury University Foundation, Inc. announced its approval for the purchase of the Merritt Racquetball and Fitness Club located on the periphery of campus on Milford Street.

A transition period for Merritt’s employees and loyal club members was enacted by the health club’s long-time owner and founder, Ronald F. Jones. The facility now known as the University Fitness Club became available for students in fall 2008.

“Merritt has been a part of the community for 30 years,” said Jones. “I am happy to see that it will continue its life serving young athletes and becoming part of a University with vigorous health and recreational programs.”

In 2005, SU was voted one of the top 15 healthiest campuses in the U.S. by Men’s Fitness magazine. The health club has an ideal location for SU students and its athletics program. The two-story, 16,000 square-foot building is a full-service facility with racquetball courts, nautilus circuit training, cardio-training and weight rooms, aerobic studio and locker rooms, and it is adjacent to the University’s Indoor Tennis Center. Merritt’s back yard abuts SU’s soccer and women’s lacrosse fields. Merritt is also just a few yards away from University Park, a major residential complex housing SU students.

“We’ve been looking for an opportunity to expand the campus fitness space,” said Ed Thomas, SU Foundation chairman. “I can’t think of a better site for such a facility serving students.”
Students often rave about their faculty and the impact that these caring, dedicated members of the Salisbury University community have had on their lives and that of their Alma Mater. Taking this one step further, retired faculty members Bill and Kit Zak announced their intention to provide for the future of their beloved SU by making a very special planned gift.

After teaching on the campus of Salisbury University for a combined 54 years, the Zaks decided that there would be no better tribute to their years of service than to support their favorite academic departments. As a result, the Zaks developed a scholarship rewarding deserving students in the fields of English and environmental science.

Funded through a gift of trust that will award scholarships upon their passing, the Zaks believe that by assisting future generations of SU students, their love for the institution and their disciplines will live on.

“We are so proud of the students we have seen pass through the departments in which we have taught here at SU,” said Kit Zak. “Knowing that we are able to provide for their futures and make an education more affordable for them means so much to us.”