

## Letter from the President

Since 2000, I have had the honor and privilege of being the President of Salisbury University. In my 16 years here, the SU skyline has been enhanced, the campus footprint and our academic offerings have increased, and yet we still have been able to maintain our friendly, small-school feel. Even with all the physical enhancements, it really is always the people of SU – our students, faculty and staff – who truly make us *A Maryland University of National Distinction*.

For example, Salisbury University was spotlighted in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* as one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright Scholars in 2015-16. (SU and the Naval Academy were the only two Maryland campuses to earn the distinction.) Among our recent Fulbrighters, of course, are faculty, staff and former students. Drs. Dean Kotlowski of History and Olivier Roche of Management and Marketing taught and researched in Austria and Belarus, and administrator Aaron Basko bolstered connections in Japan. From the English Department, Dr. James King took area educators to Ghana to explore cross-curricular connections on a Fulbright-Hays grant, while Dr. Manav Ratti created a garden in Salisbury with a Canadian Fulbright. Alumna Payge Jennings is in South Korea on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, and next spring, Dr. Andrew Sharma of Communications Arts will teach at the Indian Institute of Mass Communications in New Delhi.

Diversity, globalization and inclusion continue to be priorities on campus, as well. *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* named SU among the top 50 universities in the nation offering "outstanding opportunities to Hispanic students." Last winter, I led a University System of Maryland delegation to Cuba to explore opportunities for collaborations in higher education.

Facilities improvements have been another highlight of 2016 with the opening of the Patricia R. Guerrieri Academic Commons and the new Sea Gull Stadium. Supported by an \$8 million gift from the Guerrieri Family Foundation, the Academic Commons is the epicenter of academic life, housing the library, Nabb Research Center, academic services, a faculty center, a 400-seat assembly hall and more. The \$19 million stadium also is a fitting home for our national championship-winning student-athletes and coaches – and we hope you'll join other Sea Gull fans at a game. Go Gulls!

In case you haven't heard, there's another "new" building on campus: Conway Hall. Last spring, the Teacher Education and Technology Center was renamed during a heartfelt ceremony honoring SU alumnus and former Maryland House Appropriations Chairman Norman Conway ('65). The Wicomico County educator was a staunch advocate of the Eastern Shore during his time in office, supporting numerous capital projects at SU and across the Lower Shore, benefitting everything from schools to fire departments to the Salisbury Zoological Park. This is a fitting tribute to a very humble alumnus.

I invite you to come back and see first-hand all the new facilities on campus while joining us for Homecoming and Family Weekend 2016. There is something for everyone, with an Alumni Pre-Game Barbecue, reunions for various class years and student groups, tours of the Guerrieri Academic Commons, and so much more. Thank you for your continued support of YOUR Alma Mater, and I look forward to seeing you on campus in the near future.



*Janet Dudley-Eshbach*

Janet Dudley-Eshbach, Ph.D.  
President, Salisbury University

### We invite your comments, criticisms, compliments, corrections and contributions...

Please write to: Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, Editor, SUMagazine, 1120 Camden Avenue, Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD 21801-6837. Or email us at [alumni@salisbury.edu](mailto:alumni@salisbury.edu) • The editor reserves the right to publish letters of interest.

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Kathy D. Pusey '86

#### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jeanne Anderton '76

Melinda B. Khazeh

Jayne E. Block '97 & M'99

Kathy D. Pusey '86

Jason E. Curtin '98

Megan Raymond

Todd Dudek

Erin Smith '09 & M'11

Dr. Janet Dudley-Eshbach

Michael Suber

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WWE, Corp.

Barry Ziehl '91

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Janet Dudley-Eshbach

Nancy Talbott '16

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Julius M. Jones Jr. '06, M'09

Jerry Wilson '62

Ron McGann '88

Barry Ziehl '91

#### ADVANCEMENT AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION STAFF WRITERS

Jayne Block '97, M'99

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Christine B. Smith M'02

Susan Maxwell Eagle

Erin Smith '09 & M'11

Christina K. Gordy '03

#### CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Victoria Phelps '18

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Please send comments, news and address changes to:

Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving  
Salisbury University  
1120 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801-6837  
call 410-543-6042 (toll free 888-729-2586)  
or email [alumni@salisbury.edu](mailto:alumni@salisbury.edu)

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