Letter from the President

This January, I attended the open house for the “new” Pocomoke Hall, the first of the traditional residence halls in the Quad to undergo a major reconstruction. Except for an expanded entranceway, the facade of the building is much as it has been since 1966. Inside, however, it is not your father’s college dormitory.

Thanks to a $7.1 million renovation, it is now one of the most environmentally friendly and secure facilities on campus. Residents have said: “It doesn’t feel like a dorm anymore. It feels more like home.”

In many ways, the re-designed Pocomoke Hall is emblematic of the evolving Salisbury University. Just as the recently renovated building is state of the art, so is SU, with more programs, a more diverse student body and striking new facilities. Earlier, this year The Princeton Review, in cooperation with USA Today, named Salisbury one of the top 50 best value public colleges in the nation. Publishers praised Salisbury for having “recently made a transformation from regional gem to an internationally recognized institution attracting students from 31 states and 54 countries.”

This past fall, the University broke ground on a $56 million home for the Franklin P. Perdue School of Business, one of only eight institutions worldwide accredited by the Network of International Business Schools. And this spring, we hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for a new 605-bed residence hall with retail space at the site of the former Allenwood Shopping Center.

Despite such obvious growth, however, SU remains a campus with a small school feel where personal interactions between students, faculty and staff are highly valued. Students do well, from the classroom where, for example, nursing majors have the highest pass rate of all baccalaureate programs in Maryland on the National Council Licensure Exam, to the athletic fields, where the field hockey team earned its fifth NCAA Division III championship.

Nearly two decades ago, former President Thom Bellavance talked about then Salisbury State University as the future William & Mary of Maryland. The College of William & Mary is known as a Virginia public institution with a small private school feel and, above all, a reputation for excellence in everything that it does.

We believe in that vision. I hope you’ll plan on returning to campus soon to see how your Alma Mater is evolving into A Maryland University of National Distinction. 

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