**Campus News**

**Broadband Grant Expands to Over $2.12 Million**

The Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc. (MdBC) really likes SU’s work with the state’s broadband mapping initiative. After the first year of the project, the contract for the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) has been extended to five years and increased to more than $2.12 million.

“With the increase from $502,832 to $2,121,160, this is now the largest single externally funded project in SU history,” said Dr. Clifton Griffin, dean of graduate studies and research. “The ESRGC is doing tremendous work and is a prime example of the University’s growing research capabilities, particularly in science-related fields.”

The ESRGC is taking on a number of additional tasks related to expanding the scope of the online broadband map. Currently, the map shows the service areas of some 40 broadband providers that have their own physical infrastructure. The ESRGC is adding data about companies that rent the lines of these providers and resell broadband service to consumers. It also will track WiFi hotspots.

**SU Still a Best Value**

For the third consecutive year, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine has named SU one of its Top 100 “Best Values in Public Colleges.”

Featured in the February 2011 edition, SU and the other campuses listed “deliver a stellar education at an affordable price,” the magazine said.

The accolade is the latest addition to SU’s national rankings. For the 12th consecutive year, SU is one of The 373 Best Colleges by The Princeton Review. For the 14th consecutive year, SU was named one of U.S. News & World Report’s Top Public Universities in the North, one of the highest-placing public master’s-level universities in Maryland.

**Farewell Faculty**

SU bid farewell to some fabulous faculty in 2010. Among those who have retired are:

- Dr. W. Dorsey Hammond, Department of Teacher Education
- Dr. Richard Hunter, Department of Biological Sciences
- Dr. Karin Johnson, Department of Nursing
- Dr. Thomas Jones, Department of Biological Sciences
- Dr. Francis Kane, Department of Philosophy
- Mary Kane, Department of Nursing
- Frances Sistrunk, Department of Social Work

**TRIO = SU Student Success**

By Dixie Herrech ’94

For SU, 2010 was a landmark year in its ability to support the educational achievements of its students. In August, SU was awarded a $1.2 million TRIO grant by the U.S. Department of Education. TRIO is a set of federally funded college programs developed to support students who are first-generation college students, low-income or students with disabilities achieve their goal of a college education.

Led by Dr. Heather Holmes, director of SU’s Center for Student Achievement, SU created its ACHIEVE Student Support Services (SSS) program and has set three main goals for the five-year grant: increase the annual retention rate of SSS students to 83 percent (currently the rate stands at 77.8 percent), increase the six-year graduation rate of SSS students to 70 percent (currently that rate stands at 67 percent) and increase the number of SSS students in good academic standing.

SU students will benefit immensely from the academic support initiatives created through the grant funding. Among the new and enhanced offerings are tutoring, supplemental instruction for students in classes with historically low pass rates, study strategy workshops and cultural events to enhance the educational experience.

**Caps and Gowns Go Green**

Pepsi, Coke or 7Up—what will your grad be wearing?

SU’s 85th year Winter Commencement was among the most sustainable in University history as all 569 graduates wore a new kind of cap and gown made from recycled plastic soda bottles.

SU is the first institution on the Eastern Shore—and one of only five in Maryland—to use the new “GreenWeaver” apparel from Oak Hall Cap and Gown, a leading academic regalia manufacturer.

An average of 23 bottles are melted down to create the plastic pellets spun to make each gown. After the ceremony, the gowns themselves may be recycled. Oak Hall’s goal is to keep some 7 million bottles out of landfills.

In addition, the company is making a “green” commitment to SU, donating 25 cents to sustainable organizations on campus for each cap-and-gown set the University purchases.

**Students Get a Cash Course**

As the number of college graduates with debt continues to increase, SU has partnered with Cash Course on a new Web site to help students become more financially savvy: www.cashcourse.org/salisbury.

The site explores topics including budgets, loans and credit cards, as well as eating healthy on a budget and steps to becoming a millionaire. Campus officials say the information is important because students nationwide are taking out loans, signing up for credit cards and spending money without planning.

In Maryland, a state mandate is being considered during the 2011 legislative session to encourage colleges and universities to provide financial literacy courses, Web sites or programs to help students become more financially savvy. Once again, SU remains ahead of the curve.