Letter from the President

Greetings! Salisbury University began the 2011-12 academic year with a rare Eastern Shore earthquake, followed by wind and rain from Hurricane Irene during student move-in. These two natural phenomena served as a fitting prelude to the exciting events that would take place on SU’s campus during the ensuing months.

The University opened $100 million in innovative new facilities last fall, transforming the Route 13 corridor. On September 8, we cut the ribbon on Predeur Hall with the help of Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley and Predeur Farms Chairman Jim Predeur. Sustainably designed, Predeur Hall features state-of-the-art class and study rooms and the Franklin P. Predeur Museum of Business and Entrepreneurship. One month later, we formally celebrated the opening of Sea Gull Square. Built with local developer Blair Rinnier and the Rinnier Development Company, the 230,000-square-foot mixed-use complex includes ground-floor retail shops and apartment units for 600 students. Closing out the semester in December, we cut the ribbon on the Richard A. Henson Medical Simulation Center. This center is transforming our nursing and respiratory therapy programs by providing aspiring health care professionals and current community providers with high-tech training.

Our students are even more impressive than our new facilities. The fall 2011 freshman class is the most diverse and academically qualified group in the history of SU, with some 8,000 applicants vying for 1,200 seats. In the past four years, SAT scores have risen a remarkable 40 points to 1,711, defying the national trend of declining scores. Overall, SU’s 6,600 students come from 52 states and 68 nations. This diverse population of students contributes greatly to a rich educational environment on campus and extends the University’s international reach. SU truly has become a Maryland University of National and International Distinction.

Also adding to SU’s national distinction are our alumni, who continue to excel in their careers, this year notably as educators. Thanks to the Neldel School’s excellent teacher education programs, nine SU alumni are among the 24 Maryland Teachers of the Year for 2011 – the most of any campus represented. Free of Delaware’s Teachers of the Year also studied at SU.

As the campus continues to grow, it is wonderful to see that SU’s reputation is following the same path and is expanding in many positive ways. For example, for the 15th consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report named SU among its Best Colleges. SU is ranked among the “Top 10” Public Regional Universities in the North and is the only Maryland campus in that category! Sea Gull student-athletes also continued traditions of excellence. Last spring, four teams won conference championships. The baseball team competed in the College World Series, the women’s lacrosse team advanced to the quarterfinals, softball played in the regional final and men’s lacrosse won its ninth national championship. Last fall, five teams won conference titles, and all six teams earned the right to compete in NCAA post-season action. The field hockey and football teams reached the quarterfinals.

With our continued accolades and ever-evolving campus footprint, I encourage you to plan a visit back to your Alma Mater to see what is new. We will celebrate Homecoming 2012 on October 12-14, and I look forward to visiting with you then, if not sooner. Thank you for your continued support. Go Gulls!

President, Salisbury University

Janet Dudley-Eshbach, Ph.D.