

## Letter from the President

Greetings! Salisbury University continues, in so many ways, to make a name for itself as *A Maryland University of National*

*Distinction*, from its award-winning faculty and top-notch students to its ever-changing campus footprint and exceptional cultural opportunities. With SU's consistent acknowledgements in national guidebooks and our exceptional academic quality and results, you don't need to drive down Route 13 here in Salisbury to know that the campus is on the move.

### Quality and Value

SU recently was named one of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine's Top 100 Best Values in Public Colleges for the fifth consecutive year. Salisbury also was ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* for the 16th year in a row, appearing among the Top 10 Public Regional Universities in the North and one of the most efficient. In addition, for the 14th consecutive year, SU is one of *The Princeton Review's The Best 377 Colleges* and *The Best Northeastern Colleges*. And *University Business* magazine last year named SU a "Model of Efficiency." These accolades are a reflection of our alumni, who continue to advance in their careers while giving back to their Alma Mater in a variety of ways, and our dedicated faculty and staff, who make our students' experience exceptional.

Such accomplishments have not gone unnoticed by prospective students. Over 8,800 students applied for 1,200 seats in the fall 2012 incoming class. In five years, SAT scores have risen 50 points. Overall, SU's 8,600 students come from 33 states and 69 nations.

### An Active Community of Scholars

Our students have many opportunities to gain hands-on experience through undergraduate research, study abroad, professional internships and civic engagement. For example, five SU



students, in the past three years, have earned prestigious Environmental Protection Agency fellowships. Geography

majors assisted FEMA with mapping damage assessments following Super Storm Sandy. Two worked for CNN and the State Department at the national political conventions, and another joined the writing staff of Ryan Seacrest Productions.

Faculty members representing all of our endowed schools have distinguished themselves as a cut above the rest. Mike Koval of the Accounting and Legal Studies Department earned the Hewitt Master Teacher Award from the Academy of Legal Studies in Business. Dr. Enyue Lu of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department earned over \$300,000 from the National Science Foundation to make SU an official Research Experiences for Undergraduates Site, allowing students to explore computer and information science during the summer. We also have two Fulbright Fellows: Drs. Eugene Williams of Biological Sciences and Richard Hoffman of Management and Marketing are teaching and researching in Iceland and Estonia, respectively, this year.

### Meeting Student and State Needs

As a public university, we recognize the workforce needs of the state and are committed to meeting those demands. Helping to address nursing shortages, SU launched its first doctoral program, in nursing practice, last fall, and faculty are already working on a distance-accessible format to expand it statewide. Nursing students again have the highest NCLEX pass rates of all baccalaureate programs in Maryland. And, starting in fall 2013, a new collaborative B.S.-to-M.S. program in cybersecurity with the University of Tartu and Tallinn University of Technology in Estonia will allow SU students to gain

international experience at recognized institutions in this rapidly growing field. SU also has established an official Environmental Studies Department, already attracting more than 120 majors.

### Campus Growth on the Horizon

We also have more and exciting physical changes coming up. Next fall, our tennis courts on the main campus will move to their new location on East Campus, adding to the athletic facilities concentrated in that area. And, at long last, preparations will begin moving forward for construction of our newest and largest building on campus, the Academic Commons. This facility will replace SU's Blackwell Library, built in 1958. More than the traditional library, however, SU's Academic Commons will be the hub of student learning on our campus. Besides the expanded space for books, journals and other research resources, the Commons will house the Center for Student Achievement, the Nabb Center for Delmarva History and Culture, classrooms and other spaces for student group work, a cyber café, faculty gathering space, an auditorium, and a variety of other spaces in support of research and learning. Later this semester, I'll have an exciting announcement regarding a major private gift related to this project.

### Gulls Fly Home

The continual rise in stature of Salisbury University is due to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who make up the fabric of our outstanding institution. As President, I thank you for your continued support and welcome you back to campus to show your Sea Gull pride. We celebrate Homecoming Weekend October 11-13, 2013. I hope to see you there!

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