Letter from the President

By now most people have read how Salisbury University has expanded its footprint and transformed the skyline of south Salisbury with the construction of several remarkable state-of-the-art facilities. At the same time, the profile of our student body has consistently improved. These trends continue in 2013-14: GPAs and SAT scores remain at the highest level in the institution’s history, and the demolition of Caruthers Hall will make way for the soon-to-be crown jewel of our campus – the Patricia R. Guerrici Academic Commons.

What really enhances the value of an SU diploma, however, are the many achievements of students and faculty; each individual success contributes to the common good of the entire University.

Over the past year, for example, SU students competed in competitions on campus and beyond. Four computer science majors took first place in a J.P. Morgan Code for Good Challenge in New York City, topping 23 other teams, including Harvard and Carnegie Mellon. More importantly, they used their technical skills to help a nonprofit that aids malnourished children in developing countries. Communication arts major Anthony Zangara and his business partner won $14,300 from the Franklin P. Perdue School of Business’ revamped Entrepreneurship Competitions to expand their Quikshakes company in YMCAs across the state.

Spring 2013 graduate Dominique Kuncw earned one of the most prestigious international scholarships, the Gates Cambridge Award, to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Cambridge. Biology student Mallory Hagadorn garnered a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to further study dung beetles on farms across Maryland. Drs. Michael Lewis and Jill Caviglia-Harris again received the University System of Maryland’s $80,000 Wilson H. Elkins Professorship to continue their environmental studies projects and research.

Other faculty are making impressions on the world stage: John Wesley Wright of the Music Department recently performed with folk singer Judy Collins, American Spiritual Ensemble members and others for the family of President John F. Kennedy during a national celebration in Ireland that was broadcast for millions. Dr. Ryan Taylor of the Biological Sciences Department has had two papers accepted in Science, considered the most prestigious general science journal in the world.

Nursing Department Chair Lisa Seldomridge received the University System of Maryland’s highest faculty honor: the Regents Award for Excellence in Teaching. Staff member Brenda Grodzicki was also honored with the Regents Staff Award for Excellence for her work on the Literature/Film Quarterly, a publication founded at SU with international readership. Fulton School Dean Maarten Pereboom was elected to the Maryland Humanities Council Board of Directors, and Libraries Dean Beatriz Hardy was selected as a fellow of the prestigious Massachusetts Historical Society. The work of faculty and staff at SU and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore also was profiled in a front-page story in The Baltimore Sun and praised as an exemplar of collaboration to help expand diversity and opportunity.

Within these pages are many other stories of success; we are grateful to the students, faculty and staff who share their intellect and talents with this University. Since 1925, it has always been our people who have made Salisbury University a truly extraordinary place.

I encourage you to stay connected to your Alma Mater through the Alumni Association. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you on campus in the near future.

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