CAMPUS NEWS

Sarbanes Honored at Commencement

The University paid tribute to one of Maryland's most venerable leaders as U.S. Senator Paul S. Sarbanes received an honorary Doctor of Laws during the winter commencement.

He has been called “the classic example of the American dream.” Born in Salisbury, the son of Greek immigrants, Sarbanes grew from his humble Eastern Shore roots to become one of the most acclaimed legislators in United States history. His 30 years with the U.S. Senate ended with his retirement in early 2007.

His strong support of SU is also noteworthy. He has obtained funding for the Nursing Department to expand its education opportunities and for the Perdue School of Business to establish its international business curriculum.

In 2002, he established the Sarbanes Lecture Series within SU's Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement. The program has brought to campus such renowned speakers as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California.

Tibetan Monks Share Culture

Last fall, more than 1,000 people visited the University Gallery in Fulton Hall for the week-long residency of the 11 monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery in India. The monks created an intricate mandala symbolizing Buddha Akshobya, the Buddha of conflict and resolutions.

Throughout the week, the monks meditated and prayed for world peace as they built the mandala made of fine sand ground from marble and dyed into vibrant colors. At the end of the week, the mandala was destroyed with a small brush shortly after it was completed. This process represents the impermanence of life.

This is a return visit to the University for the monks, who were in residence in fall 2001.

SU Becomes First in USM With SAT-Optional Policy

This spring, the University System of Maryland Board of Regents approved SU’s proposal for a five-year pilot study to make submission of SAT and ACT scores optional for certain applicants.

Under the proposal, prospective students with a high school grade point average of 3.5 or higher have the option to submit SAT and ACT scores when applying to SU. Salisbury will be the first USM institution to make SAT and ACT results optional when considering such students’ admission.

SU expects this new policy will attract an even more diverse pool of highly motivated, civic-minded students with distinct talents in academics, the arts, leadership and other fields of achievement. Students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher who choose not to submit SAT or ACT scores will be encouraged to provide additional information to demonstrate their strengths in these areas.

Environmental Friendliness

SU's Teacher Education and Technology Center, currently under construction, proves careful planning is the key to environmental friendliness.

Bicycle racks were incorporated into the design to encourage bicycling as an alternative to driving. Some floors will be covered with renewable and recyclable bamboo instead of petroleum-based products. Up to 40 percent of the building's structural steel frame is made from recycled materials, and an ultra-efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning system will use no CFCs.

Through a recent partnership with Pepco Energy Services (PES), Inc., SU is implementing similar environmentally friendly infrastructure changes in all campus buildings, decreasing everything from electricity to water usage for a projected $5.3 million savings.

In all, the project is expected to save water equal to the amount consumed annually by 473 family homes, electricity sufficient to power 1,600 homes, and will reduce emissions equal to removing 1,571 cars from the road. Upon approving the idea, the Maryland Board of Public Works commended the University for its creativity and leadership in this area.

Ward Museum World of Possibilities

For the 37th year, SU’s Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art welcomed artists from around the globe to its annual Ward World Championship Carving Competition. The largest and most prestigious carving competition in the world, it attracts thousands of carvers and spectators.

Alumni are invited to enjoy the Ward Museum, featuring the largest public collection of decorative and antique decoy. From its picturesque nature trails, to its fine art exhibits, to its children’s activities, there is something for everyone at the Ward. On your next trip back to SU, check out the Ward Museum’s Web site (www.wardmuseum.org) and see what wonders await you.