One Person Can Make A Difference
Past South African President F.W. de Klerk added his name to the roster of impressive conflict resolution speakers to come to SU.

On the Cover: Howard McGillin (as The Phantom) and Jennifer Hope Wills ‘95 (as Christine) in a scene from THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, which is the longest-running show in Broadway history. Read her story on page 10.

Photo Credit: Joan Marcus

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Homecoming
Friends, family and fun ... see the highlights from last year’s reunion celebration.

Up, Up And Away!
The SU skyline is changing as the walls go up on the Teacher Education and Technology Center.
Alumni Director Takes Newest Gulls On an Outdoor Adventure

Last summer I had the opportunity to be part of the New Student Experience trip to Acadia, ME. Serving as a staff advisor along with Tony Broadbent ’86, Dr. Stephen Gehnrich from the Biological Sciences Department and Jeanne Anderton ’76 from the Art Department, I embarked upon an eight-day adventure to the New England coastline with 29 incoming freshman and six peer advisors to cycle, kayak, camp and hike. The purpose of this trip is to get incoming students acclimated to college life and each other. It challenges them to think beyond a classroom setting, and it provides the staff and peer leaders the opportunity to orient the students to campus life, programs and services offered when they arrive back at the University. The Office of New Student Experience provides many trips each summer including an Alaskan Experience, Algonquin Canoe, Nantahala Whitewater and West Virginia Whitewater, just to name a few.

As an incoming freshman, these trips were available to me, but I did not participate in the outdoor course—instead I took the classroom course that fall semester. Now, almost 10 years later, I got to witness first hand the outstanding experience that these freshman students get on these trips. I was encouraged by the new crop of students too. They are highly motivated, passionate young people ready to face the challenges of college.

On our last day at Acadia, we visited the top of Cadillac Mountain to watch a beautiful sunrise. (Cadillac Mountain is one of the first places east of the Mississippi River to see a sunrise.) I was approached by a woman asking if we were from Salisbury University. She had seen the four SU vans parked in the lot and came up to our group. She introduced herself as Jennifer Ericson Whetstone ’88. She, her husband Stephen ’88 and their daughter Emily were vacationing and had the same thought our group and came up to our group. She introduced herself as Jennifer Ericson Whetstone ’88. She, her husband Stephen ’88 and their daughter Emily were vacationing and had the same thought our group had—to catch a beautiful sunrise on top of the mountain!

It goes to show that no matter where you are there is some sort of Salisbury alumni connection to be found. I hope you enjoy this latest edition of the SUMagazine. You will find the latest news in regard to “Focus on Tomorrow,” the theme for this issue. The University is in the midst of a capital campaign which will help not only the structural appearance of our Alma Mater change, but also the quality of our students, faculty, staff and alumni as well.

Jason E. Curtin ’98
Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving

PS. — I also wanted to thank Jim Hudson ’94 for his years of service on not only the Alumni Board of Directors, but also for serving as the chair of the Publications Committee that helps produce this magazine.