At a time of critical shortages in nursing, a caring philanthropist and an institution capable of making a difference came together to address a need that truly affects us all. In December of 2006, The Salisbury University Foundation announced the largest single gift by an individual donor in its history—a $5.3 million bequest to benefit nursing and other medically related professions taught at SU from Lucy Tull.

“Lucy Tull understood the importance of skilled nurses and other health care professionals to the Eastern Shore’s quality of life, and developed an abiding appreciation for the reputation of our Nursing Department and the caliber of its graduates,” said SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach. “She also believed it was important to provide deserving Eastern Shore students with greater access to a Salisbury University education, which will give them the tools to succeed in today’s knowledge-based economy.”

Most of the gift—$4.8 million—establishes the Lucy Tull Scholarship Program for students with financial need wishing to pursue a degree in a medically related field. Students must reside in Wicomico, Worcester or Somerset counties. The funds are also available for transfer students from Wor-Wic Community College who meet the scholarship prerequisites. While those studying nursing have priority, students in other programs such as pre-medicine and the health sciences, including respiratory therapy and clinical laboratory science, may apply.

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“This is the largest bequest gift ever received by Salisbury University,” said Ed Thomas, chair of the SU Foundation. “I only wish she were here to see and feel the excitement of this day.”

Although she spent the last four decades of her life in Salisbury, Tull’s adopted home was New York City. A Sutton Place socialite who graduated from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts and the New York School of Interior Design, she is fondly remembered for her charm, wit and sense of fashion. A regular visitor to the Eastern Shore while growing up, Tull had family ties to Worcester and Somerset counties. In the second half of her life, she built a home near the University in the Ridge Road neighborhood.

“This gift is a remarkable statement about the power of a healing hand and the difference that many believe we can make,” said Dr. Susan Battistoni, chair of the SU Nursing Department. “We, Salisbury University, are proud to be entrusted with Mrs. Tull’s legacy.”
Salisbury University officially broke ground on the new $54.7 million Teacher Education and Technology Center (TETC) last fall, a showcase building for education in the State of Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region.

The three-story, 165,000 square-foot facility will replace Caruthers Hall, current home of the Seidel School of Education and Professional Studies. Opened in 1955, Caruthers, which first began as a demonstration elementary school and served the needs of generations of student teaching interns, is a third of the size of the TETC. The departments of Education and Social Work within the Seidel School have since outgrown its space.

“The construction of the new Teacher Education and Technology Center at Salisbury University underscores the importance Maryland places on education,” said former Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. “The preparation of the best-educated teachers and their skilled use of the latest technology in our school systems are necessary for educating the next generation of Marylanders. This new facility will serve that purpose well.”

“The TETC shall serve as a gateway to Salisbury University’s exhilarating future, and will affirm our stature as a Maryland university of national distinction,” said SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach. “This complex will revolutionize the manner in which teaching, learning and discovery take place upon this campus. The enhanced classroom, laboratory and studio space will help us open the doors of higher learning to even more of Maryland’s most promising students, while the state-of-the-art learning technology will prepare our graduates with the tools to succeed in today’s knowledge-based economy.”

“Salisbury University has long had a reputation for educating quality teachers for Maryland’s schools. This new home for the Seidel School of Education and Professional Studies will enhance that reputation at a time when a new generation of teachers is needed to replace many who are now retiring. The building is a testament to the value that SU and the University System of Maryland place on teacher recruitment, preparation and support,” said USM Chancellor William E. “Brit” Kirwan.

The traditional, academic Georgian structure is broken into three wings with brick walls and gabled roofs. The architectural design complements Holloway Hall, the campus’s first building and an area landmark. The TETC’s main entrance from campus is marked by a tower on the southwest corner, and the three wings frame a large grass-covered courtyard. Completion is expected by summer 2008.

To check up on the construction of this exciting, new building, visit SU’s Web cam at www.salisbury.edu/webcam.

A Gift for Education

Teacher, war veteran and chemical industry magnate, Audrey Calvin Christopher was a man who had seen the world. In spring 2005, SU lost yet another great friend and champion with his passing.

Christopher graduated from SU in 1941 and after teaching in Anne Arundel County, he left for war overseas. Upon his return, he entered the corporate world. He retired in 1976 as the vice president for corporate administration and director of industrial relations for W.R. Grace and Company. He was the president of the New Providence Historical Society in New Jersey and a member of the vestry at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Murray Hill, NJ. After his wife, Ruth, passed in 1994, he enjoyed woodworking, historical researching and traveling.

Although he settled in New Jersey, he never forgot Salisbury. In 1996 he created the Audrey C. Christopher Endowment for Education to provide scholarship support for education students. With Christopher’s recent passing, SU is now the recipient of $2 million to fund this wonderful program.

Learning for a Lifetime

Learning doesn’t stop after high school or even after college. It lasts a lifetime.

In February, Salisbury University began inviting Delmarva residents age 50 and over to embrace that philosophy through “Learn with SU,” a series of classes offered during the school year encompassing everything from local history to fitness to wine tasting to gardening. Classes offered so far have included “Is There Still a South, and is Delmarva Part of It?” by Donald Whaley, SU history faculty; “A New You in the New Year” by Dr. Dawn Chamberlin M’87, SU field hockey coach; and “The Taste of Good Grapes” by Peggy Raley, proprietor of Nassau Valley Vineyard.

Learn with SU is a dynamic program that takes the SU show on the road to Eastern Shore locations such as SU’s Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art; CHEER Center in Ocean View, DE; Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce in Fenwick, DE; Manor House in Seaford, DE; Worcester County Library in Ocean Pines, MD; and The Parke in Ocean Pines, MD.

If you are interested in being a part of this vital program—either attending or presenting—call Amy Waters, SU director of leadership giving and stewardship, at 410-677-5416 or e-mail ahwaters@salisbury.edu.