New Department of Theatre Arts and Dance Announced

by Dr. T. Paul Pfeiffer, Director of Theatre

Nearly 40 years in the works—and after several generations of faculty and long and constant effort to establish its public identity and reputation, the Bobbi Biron Theatre Program will unite with the SU Dance Program in fall 2008 to create a new academic department, the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Although theatre has been a regular part of Salisbury’s campus life since 1934, efforts to emerge as an independent department began in earnest in the 1970s under the leadership of the late Dr. Leland Starnes, the first director of theatre. During his tenure, Salisbury State Theatre, as it was then called, rose to national eminence and gained a solid reputation for quality productions and profession-ready students.

With the Bobbi Biron $500,000 endowment in 1998, the move toward an independent department gained significant momentum. The B.A. in theatre in 2000 and, finally, the union of dance and theatre further solidified this position. Finally, the stars were in alignment. Together our numbers could argue favorably; the necessary faculty was in place; the administration was in accord and all seemed right for the move. We are, of course, most excited and timorous of such a large step forward.

Learn With SU Classes

It’s been one year since SU first launched “Learn with SU”—and the popular lifelong learning series continues to grow.

Spring classes offered something for everyone. From a Thai cooking class to a sneak peek behind the scenes at Public Radio Delmarva, SU explored subjects of interest to Delmarva residents age 50 and over. Courses are offered on campus and in the Maryland and Delaware beach communities.

The series returns this fall with even more offerings. To learn more contact Amy Waters at 410-677-5416 or ahwaters@salisbury.edu.

SU Welcomes Healthy U

Beginning in January, SU and Healthy U came together to keep residents throughout the peninsula educated about healthier lifestyles. Founded in 2002 by civic leader Mitzi Perdue, Healthy U has helped thousands of Delmarva residents lose weight and live healthier for the past six years. This new partnership allows that trend to continue for years to come.

SU plans to continue many of the Healthy U traditions, including keeping membership free and offering monthly prize drawings. Organized activities, including group walks and even scavenger hunts, will be offered at no cost to members. Plans for a membership card good for discounts at local businesses (possibly including local health clubs and restaurants) also are in the works. The ever-popular Huey awards will continue, rewarding individuals and groups who do the most to better their health each year.

For more information or to join Healthy U contact Deanna Fahrman at 410-742-9202 or HealthyU@salisbury.edu. Learn more at www.healthyudelmarva.org.

Ailey Dance Theatre Returns

The history and flair of one of the nation’s most celebrated choreographers returned to SU this spring as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre presented the Ailey II Dance Company. Continuing the celebration of dance, one of the two Ailey performances was preceded by SU’s inaugural Distinguished Lecture in Dance, presented by Dr. Charmaine Patricia Warren, performer and historian.

Created by Ailey in 1974 to help talented students make the transition from the studio to the stage, Ailey II now has over 30 years of history. The company’s dancing demonstrates grace and flexibility as they perform classic and original works. Their repertory includes a diverse array of ballets ranging from Ailey’s masterpiece, **Revelations**—a tribute to African-American heritage in the United States—to the inventive choreography in Scott Rink’s **Bitter Suite**.

For a full schedule and information about classes or an annual membership visit www.salisbury.edu/lifelonglearning.
Three SU professors have received the highest faculty honor given by the University System of Maryland: the Regents Award for Excellence.

The Regents recognized Dr. Robert Dombrowski of the Accounting and Legal Studies Department for excellence in mentoring Jinchul Kim of the Art Department for excellence in teaching and Dr. Michael Scott of the Geography and Geosciences Department for excellence in public service.

“The recognition of these three Salisbury University faculty affirms what our campus community already knows – that they are excellent educators,” said SU Provost Thomas Jones. “Our students benefit greatly from the expertise of these professors and their enthusiasm for teaching and learning.”

Dombrowski has helped SU students gain real-world auditing experience by creating and overseeing the Community Service Financial Consulting Project. The initiative also aids the local community, placing accounting students with non-profit organizations. This allows these groups to receive low-cost financial services they may not otherwise be able to afford.

Kim, an award-winning artist featured in exhibits throughout the United States as well as his home country of South Korea, came to SU in 1996 and has seen the Art Department grow exponentially since. In 1999, the University had only two students majoring in art with an emphasis on painting and drawing – Kim’s specialties. By 2007, that number had grown to 15.

A founder of the Eastern Shore Regional Geographic Information System Cooperative, Scott was eager to prove that geographic scientists and governments could work together for the good of municipalities, counties and even states. In 2007, he took this idea to the next level, founding the nation’s first Master of Science in geographic information systems and public administration.

For the first time, four members of the University community are among Maryland’s Top 100 Women for 2008: Dr. Rosemary Thomas, vice president of University Advancement and executive director of the SU Foundation; Marie Cavallaro, senior faculty in the Art Department; Paula Morris, who teaches in the Marketing Department; and Stephanie Willey, a founding member of SU’s Town-Gown Council.

The award, bestowed by The Daily Record, a business-based newspaper in Baltimore, recognizes the outstanding achievements of professional women who reside or work in Maryland. This is the 13th year the award has been given. SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach was selected in 2007 and 2005.

Thomas, who arrived at SU in 2003, is recognized as an outstanding advocate for SU and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Under Thomas’ leadership, the SU Capital Campaign has reached 80 percent of its goal in only two years, raising funds to achieve needed capital improvements and to provide scholarships to deserving students. With her vision, the Sea Gull Century, a nationally recognized bike ride, and Fun Day, a community family festival, have brought thousands of participants to campus, cementing SU’s ties to the community and the region.

Cavallaro is honored for her work as co-founder of the Cavallaro Cleary Visual Arts Foundation (CCART) in Salisbury. During the past nine years, CCART has raised some $40,000 for 45 Eastern Shore high school students who are pursuing art in college, through contributions from local community arts supporters and through its annual holiday arts and crafts sale which has become a Delmarva Peninsula tradition. An acclaimed visual artist, Cavallaro has used her talent, experience and energy to inspire new generations of artists at SU for nearly 35 years.

Paula Morris, an 11-year veteran of SU’s Perdue School of Business, is recognized for her work with Kids of Honor, Inc., a non-profit organization she founded in 2001 after discovering that one-third of America’s youth do not graduate from high school. Through Kids of Honor, Morris has helped unite businesses, schools and a broad range of social services to enrich the lives of local youth.

The organization partners with youth programs to empower young people to graduate from high school. A 2006 National Points of Light Award recipient, Morris is youth coordinator for the All American City Committee, advisor to the Youth Leadership Academy and a volunteer for the Maryland Roundtable Achievement Counts program.

SU alumna Stephanie Willey ’82 is the only “media” honoree to make the list, recognized for her work as a local sales manager for Comcast Spotlight. Actively involved in the community, Willey is a driving force behind the University’s Town-Gown Council, partnering with local residents, the campus community and city and county government to foster relationships and establish such initiatives as the fall “Welcome Back” program for college students.

In addition, SU counts at least one more alumna among the list: Class of 1985 graduate Jeanne Yeager.

The Daily Record created Maryland’s Top 100 Women to recognize professional success, community leadership and other contributions being made by women throughout the state to better communities. It also recognizes those who play an active role in mentoring younger generations.
Triumphant Return of a National Research Conference

The city of Salisbury became an academic mecca this April as more than 2,800 student scholars and faculty descended upon SU for the 22nd National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR).

This is the second time in a decade that the conference has been in Maryland, both times at SU. Some 350 colleges and universities were represented and the diversity is remarkable: from Harvard College and Vassar to the Borough of Manhattan Community College and the University of the Virgin Islands. The nation’s largest undergraduate research conference, NCUR is unique in its emphasis on undergraduate research.

Remembering NCUR: Then and Now

Sand, sand and more sand. That’s what Jason Curtin ’98 remembers most vividly from when the 1998 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) came to campus.

Curtin, then a senior, and other student volunteers spent hours shoveling dump truck loads of sand around Red Square for NCUR’s celebratory beach party. Complete with an NCUR sandcastle sculpture, the party welcomed students from across the country.

“I remember it was a beautiful night, and the beach party gave us the chance to interact with students who were here to present,” Curtin said. “NCUR was a big deal and a great way to showcase SU. The whole campus pitched in, from housekeeping to catering to students.”

Fast forward 10 years. Now SU’s director of alumni relations and annual giving, Curtin was on hand when NCUR returned to SU this spring. This time he was a staff volunteer, responsible for co-planning the Friday night beach party. “It was such a hit the first time we are bringing it back,” Curtin said.
Celebrate the Best and ‘Greenest’ Children’s Lit

From three-time Caldecott Medal winner David Wiesner to the widely-acclaimed writer Phillip Hoose, esteemed authors and illustrators of the Caldecott Medal distinguished their work. Wiesner, the only three-time winner and parent, is renowned literary nurturers of children’s literature:

- *Winston of Churchill: One Bear’s Battle Against Global Warming*, written by Jean Davies Okimoto and illustrated by Jeremiah Trammell (Sasquatch Books) for children’s fiction;
- *The Light-Bearer’s Daughter*, by O. R. Melling (Harry N. Abrams, Inc./Abrams Books for Young Readers) for young adult fiction; and
- *The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming*, written by Laurie David and Cambria Gordon (Scholastic, Inc.) for nonfiction.

Each year, SU partners with the Newton Marasco Foundation, an environmental organization in McLean, VA, to highlight books that encourage environmental stewardship among children and youth. The national awards honor books that not only raise environmental awareness of environmental issues, but also instill a sense of responsibility for nurturing, protecting and defending the earth. Three books were honored during the 2008 Green Earth Book Awards—the nation’s first prize for environmental stewardship in children’s literature:

- *Winston of Churchill: One Bear’s Battle Against Global Warming*, written by Jean Davies Okimoto and illustrated by Jeremiah Trammell (Sasquatch Books) for children’s fiction;
- *The Light-Bearer’s Daughter*, by O. R. Melling (Harry N. Abrams, Inc./Abrams Books for Young Readers) for young adult fiction; and
- *The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming*, written by Laurie David and Cambria Gordon (Scholastic, Inc.) for nonfiction.

The festival featured a talk by Robert Buchanan, president of Polar Bears International. The organization was selected by Okimoto to receive her $500 prize for an environmental group. Buchanan shared his vision of saving the polar bears’ region and the planet. Okimoto and two other Green Earth Book Award honorees also led an environmental writing panel.

To learn more about the festival and book awards visit [http://faculty.salisbury.edu/~elbond/childlitfestival.html](http://faculty.salisbury.edu/~elbond/childlitfestival.html).

### Graduate Study at SU

Ready to earn another degree? There are many reasons to choose SU for your graduate education. In its advanced courses, SU offers a rigorous program of graduate study that stresses inquiry, critical thinking, intellectual integrity and professional collaboration. The graduate curriculum is designed to assist students in attaining greater mastery of their fields of specialization, to improve skills in pursuing independent study, and to increase professional knowledge and ability that will promote their careers and enhance satisfaction in their work.

Ready to go back to school, but Salisbury is a little too far to commute? Check out our growing satellite programs expanding across the state and blended programs that incorporate classroom and distance learning.

**Social Work**

SU signed articulation agreements with three community colleges in Central Maryland making it easier for social work students at those campuses to go on to earn a bachelor’s degree. Beginning in fall 2008, students at Frederick Community College and Hagerstown Community College will be able to transfer seamlessly to SU’s satellite social work program at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown. Similarly, students attending Harford Community College may enroll in SU’s satellite program at Cecil College in Elkton, MD. SU has already signed similar articulation agreements with Cecil College, as well as Chesapeake College where students take classes at its Eastern Shore Higher Education Center at the campus in Wye Mills, MD. Another agreement with Delaware Technical and Community College allows social work students to seamlessly transfer to SU’s main campus.

**GIS, Public Administration**

Starting this summer, SU students may begin the new Master of Geographic Information Systems and Public Administration Program. With classes on campus and online, the one-of-a-kind degree combines the study of geographic information management with management of local government and municipalities. Designed for working professionals, it may be completed in either 13 or 25 months.

### SU Graduate Programs

- **Applied Health Physiology (M.S.)**
- **Business Administration (M.B.A.)**
- **Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution (M.A.)** (starting fall 2009)
- **Education (M.Ed.)**
- **Educational Leadership (M.Ed.)**
- **Reading Specialist (M.Ed.)**
- **English (M.A.)**
- **Geographic Information Systems and Public Administration (M.S.)**
- **History (M.A.)**
- **Mathematics Education (M.S.)**
- **Nursing (M.S.)**
- **Social Work (M.S.W.)**
- **Teaching (M.A.T.)**

### Certificate Programs:

- **Family Nurse Practitioner**
- **Geographic Information Science Fundamentals**
- **Health Care Management**
- **Middle School Mathematics**
- **Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages**
- **Teaching and Learning with Technology**

Learn more at [www.salisbury.edu/gradstudy](http://www.salisbury.edu/gradstudy)
Lending a ‘Big’ Hand

On a sunny Saturday April morning SU students united to help the community during the fourth annual Big Event community cleanup day, sponsored by the Student Government Association. During the day-long community service project, 300 SU students helped University neighbors in the Salisbury and Fruitland area by fulfilling requests to perform household chores such as raking leaves, cleaning attics and painting. Some 50 projects were completed this year with students helping neighbors with everything from spreading mulch and trimming trees to cleaning gutters and washing windows.

NPR’s StoryCorps Visits Delmarva

StoryCorps, the famed National Public Radio project, which has recorded some 30,000 stories of everyday Americans since 2003, came to the Delmarva Peninsula in April. Co-sponsored by SU’s Public Radio Delmarva, StoryCorps’ shiny Airstream trailer containing a portable recording studio parked at a local community college for several weeks this spring to interview area residents. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to share and is preserved at the Library of Congress. A copy is also archived at Public Radio Delmarva’s studios at SU. Selected interviews will be edited for broadcast on WSCL 89.5 FM and WSDL 90.7 FM. Others will be edited and included in StoryCorps’ database for national broadcast on NPR.

A Symphony Premiere

A highlight of the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra’s spring concert was the premiere of Russell Podgorsek’s work Micro-Symphony, a piece commissioned especially for the SSO. The evening also continued the spring music festival theme exploring “The Magic of Music” with a performance of film composer John Williams’ music previewing two of this year’s most anticipated—and magical—films: “Raiders March” (from the Indiana Jones series) and “Harry Potter Suite” (from the Harry Potter series).

Fit and Over 50

SU hosted the ninth annual Eastern Shore Senior Games in April. The event features competitions in aquatics, badminton, bowling, cycling, chest press, a 5k run/walk, floor and foul basketball shooting, golf, table tennis, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. Athletes from Maryland, Delaware and Virginia competed in age brackets based on five-year increments, beginning with ages 50-54. Area seniors make staying in shape a social affair, using the Senior Games to keep in touch with old friends and make new ones. In recent years, more than 300 have competed in the games.

Nabb Research Center Heads to Virginia

SU’s Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture Board of Directors and Mrs. K. Ray Johnson hosted a benefit garden party this May at the historic Grapeland estate in Exmore, VA. Johnson opened the doors of her historic home to benefit the Nabb Research Center’s mission as a non-profit organization to collect and preserve the history and culture of the Delmarva Peninsula. The center is used by scholars, historians and genealogists researching the region of the Eastern Shore of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

This 1825 Virginia Historic Landmark belongs to an important group of refined Federal period houses. Federal-style architecture rose to prominence during the later quarter of the 18th century and took cues from the neoclassical styles that were becoming common during the years of the early Republic.

To learn more about the Nabb Research Center visit http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu.

Gulls Fly to Annapolis

Salisbury University’s annual SU Day at the Legislature, led by President Janet Dudley-Eshbach, featured the president speaking to the House of Delegates and group meetings with Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler and Comptroller of the Treasury Peter Franchot as well as senators and delegates from throughout the state. The message from SU’s students, faculty, staff, alumni and Foundation board members was a heartfelt thank you for support of the campus during the past year. A highlight of the day was presentation of the annual John R. Hargreaves Award, this year honoring Speaker of the House Michael E. Busch.