THE CHESAPEAKE BAY IN THE 21ST CENTURY CONFERENCE attracted hundreds of visitors to numerous presentations on the health and future of Chesapeake Bay Country, including an engaging appearance by talk show host, humorist and self-described populist Jim Hightower. Other speakers included Baltimore Sun columnist Tom Horton and U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes. Media coverage was extensive and The Sun ultimately published a major environmental story based in part on research presented at the conference.

In the spring semester such luminaries engaged the campus as: Dr. William Dunham, author of The Mathematical Universe, named Best Mathematics Book of 1994 by the American Association of Publishers; National Book Award-winning author Tim O’Brien, author of several books and renown for his essay in The New York Times Magazine about his return to Vietnam; Alfie Kohn, provocative author of Punished by Rewards, The Trouble with Gold Stars, Incentive Plans, A’s, Praise and Other Bribes; and journalism icon Daniel Schorr, senior news analyst for National Public Radio.

“2001: A Service Odyssey” showcased SU’s 75-year tradition of service by students, faculty, staff and alumni to the region as 1,500 members of the campus engaged in service projects throughout the Lower Shore in April.

The 75th anniversary year celebration culminated with the Diamond Jubilee Gala on June 2 where we honored three individuals who have enriched so many through their unstinting dedication to the University: Professor Emeritus Jessie Fleming, Maryland Delegate Norman Conway, and businessman and philanthropist Frank Perdue. The event made for a joyous evening and placed an emphatic exclamation mark on our celebratory year. The event also raised $15,000 for our Shore Scholars Fund.

Governor Glendening paid the University a much appreciated encore visit in October for a ceremonial ground breaking for the new $37 million science building. At 145,500 square feet, the science building will be the largest academic facility on campus and one of the largest science buildings in Maryland.

As construction began on the science facility, housing opportunities expanded for students with the opening of University Park, a 576-bed apartment
complex less than a mile from campus. This unique public-private housing partnership provides students with their most desired living style according to surveys—single rooms.

Continuing the University’s commitment to its employees, SU converted 65 contingent faculty and staff to full-time positions with state benefits. In addition, the University’s Staff Senate completed its inaugural year. The Staff Senate is the third and final segment of the University’s tripartite shared governance structure which also includes the Faculty Senate and Student Government Association. All three voting bodies meet together for discussion as a part of the campuswide University Forum.

We rang in the New Year in January with an announcement of over $2 million in funding from federal, state and local sources for a public transportation system for the Lower Shore. Much credit for pulling the consortium of public agencies together to develop this collaborative transit plan goes to the Project Management Group, located in the Perdue School and headed by Dr. Memo Diriker and Ruth Baker.

That announcement was further evidence of SU’s increased success at securing government grants for an array of research and community service projects. Other publicly funded programs secured this fall include: $752,295 from the U.S. Department of Education for a collaborative grant with Frostburg State University to enhance technology instruction for teacher education graduates; $735,984 from the U.S. Department of Education to fund a “Bilingual Education: Training for Teachers” program; $48,000 from the Maryland Higher Education Commission’s Gear Up program to increase the number of African-Americans from the Eastern Shore enrolled in post-secondary education; and $212,469 from the Maryland Committee for Children to fund the Lower Eastern Shore Regional Child Care Resource and Referral Center. Until very recently SU’s efforts to secure federal and state grants have lagged behind other Maryland colleges. We have definitely turned the corner and will continue to aggressively pursue all funding sources.

SU has enjoyed a leadership role statewide in private giving to public colleges, and our success has continued unabated this year. Private contributions to Salisbury exceeded $2.27 million during FY 2001.

Major gifts included a $225,000 planned gift by Dr. William Bosley to endow an international teaching scholarship; $150,000 from alumnus Michael Scarborough toward the Scarborough Student Leadership Center, opening fall 2001; and during the year membership in the President’s Club, for donors of $1,000 or more, grew from 173 to 198.

The Bosley gift served as the foundation for the $1 million Seidel Challenge Campaign, announced in June. The Seidel Challenge will raise endowment funds for teacher scholarships. The University has a rich history of producing many of the state’s top teachers; twice in the past four years, 25 percent of Maryland’s district teachers-of-the-year have been SU alumni. The campaign will raise funds to match a $1 million gift from Samuel and Marilyn Seidel, who in 1997 endowed the Seidel School of Education and Professional Studies. Sam Seidel was honored shortly before his death with a Doctorate of Humane Letters at SU’s spring commencement.

Our Salisbury Symphony Orchestra benefited to the tune of $24,000 from the premiere of Salisbury’s first Decorators Show House. Some 2,000 patrons of the arts visited the former Allen family Camden Avenue residence that was transformed into a showcase for the talents of local decorators, giving those touring the house an opportunity to buy pieces of the decor and take away valuable design ideas. The house has since become the new home of the SU Foundation.

Alumni activities continued to draw record numbers including Homecoming/Reunion Weekend which featured several first-time attractions: Decade Tent Reunions, a Celebration of the Arts performance and the Alumni Pep Band at the football game.