It was a phenomenal year for intercollegiate athletics. Salisbury University claimed the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) All-Sports Trophy for the third straight year, signifying the outstanding “total” athletics program in the CAC.

SU won 10 of the conference’s 18 championships during the 2000-01 academic year to successfully defend its All-Sports title. Salisbury easily outdistanced second place Mary Washington, which has finished second to the Sea Gulls in the overall standings for the last three years.

In addition, Salisbury had 12 teams represented in NCAA Tournaments and Championships during the year and finished with 14 players named to various all-America teams. Capping a banner season, SU’s athletic program was ranked 15th nationally in Division III in the Sears Cup.

All of that on-field success served as a catalyst for athletics fund-raising. Membership in the Varsity Club more than doubled in the past year, from 93 to over 200. The first endowment in support of a team was established, with over $15,000 raised toward a Men’s Lacrosse Endowment.

One of President Dudley-Eshbach’s immediate priorities was the hiring of a new provost. Dr. Donald Cathecart, who quite ably served as interim for the past three years, turned over the reins as the University’s vice president of academic affairs to Dr. David H. Buchanan.

Buchanan, who began his tenure at SU on July 2, was formerly dean of West Chester (PA) University’s College of Arts and Sciences.

“Dr. Buchanan brings a breadth of experience working with a large complex school of arts and sciences,” said Dudley-Eshbach. “He is strong on consensus building, shared governance and, like SU’s faculty, is committed to high academic standards.”

Also joining the executive staff, made up of the president and her vice presidents, is Albert Mollica, SU’s new vice president of university advancement and executive director of the SU Foundation Inc. Mollica, who like Buchanan started at SU in summer 2001, was most recently vice president of institutional advancement at Cabrini (PA) College.

Dr. Harry Basehart, professor of political science in SU’s Fulton School of Liberal Arts, was one of only three professors in the University System of Maryland to receive the Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service. Basehart was recognized for his long-standing commitment to SU’s Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE); development of student internship programs on local, state and national levels; and service to Maryland on Governor Glendening’s Special Committee on Voting Systems and Election Procedures, created after alleged voting misconduct in Florida during the 2000 presidential race.

SU welcomed its first Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Ana Maria Aragones Castaner, who had previously taught at Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. She brought her expertise in international migration to Delmarva, a topic she could both teach from the Mexican perspective and also learn from a place rich in migration itself.
The University suffered a tremendous loss when Dr. K. Peter Lade died in the spring. A world-renowned anthropologist, Lade was the 1999-2000 Wilson Elkins Professor, one of the University System of Maryland’s highest honors. A 27-year member of the SU faculty, Lade served as Faculty Senate president in 1999-2000. He is greatly missed by his Salisbury University family.

The ceremonial end of the academic year featured the graduation of 928 undergraduates and 83 graduate students, who learned a lesson in the power of passion for one’s profession combined with faith, humility and strong work ethic, and the wonders they can work, from the graduation speaker, Julia Harper (Class of 1990), the reigning Delaware Teacher of the Year.

At December’s commencement, 445 earned bachelor’s degrees and 81 received their master’s hoods. U.S. Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware was the speaker.