



Rommels Gift For Entrepreneurship

Dave and Patsy Rommel made a firm commitment to helping a new generation of entrepreneurs with a \$5.5 million gift benefiting SU's new Center for Entrepreneurship at the Plaza Gallery Building in downtown Salisbury and supporting other future activities of the campus and the Perdue School of Business.

Dave began his career with Rommel Electric Company, founded by his father in 1956. Since Dave started working there in 1976, he and Patsy have become mainstays in business on the Lower Eastern Shore and beyond. More than 40 years later, the Rommel Construction Group includes companies specializing in electrical, mechanical, traffic and transit work – and the Rommel Companies operate Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealerships and Ace hardware stores – all across the mid-Atlantic.

Expected to open by 2020, the Center for Entrepreneurship will feature a shared co-working space for SU student entrepreneurs, including six offices and six individual "garages" for winners of the Ratcliffe Shore Hatchery and the student Entrepreneurship Competitions.



Sea Gull Century Boosts Area Economy

According to a study from SU's Business, Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON), SU's annual Sea Gull Century bike ride has a \$7 million annual economic impact on the community each year.

According to the study, approximately 85 percent of cyclists from the past three years traveled 100 miles or more to attend the Century. Many had at least one guest with them, staying an average of two nights in the area and spending locally for food, fuel and other necessities during that time. This led to a direct impact of some \$4.4 million spent at local businesses. An additional \$1.1 estimated indirect impact took into account spending by these businesses to accommodate the number of customers brought in by the ride. BEACON also estimated a \$1.4 million "induced effect" of money spent by employees of businesses who benefited from Century cyclists.



Andes Scholarship For Future Educators

Two SU education professors created a scholarship that fully covers senior year tuition for an education major from Maryland.

Dr. Jon Andes of the Education Specialties Department and Dr. Laurie Andes of the Teacher Education Department started the Andes Family Scholarship to encourage more SU students "to enter the field of education, graduate and make a difference in the lives of young people." The endowed gift will provide an ongoing scholarship for an education major.

"These two Salisbury professors are invested in future educators like myself through more than just teaching us the craft," said senior Brianne White, the 2016-17 beneficiary. "I feel honored to have received such a generous award."

The need based scholarship is for students who combine high academic performance with a history of excellence.



30th Anniversary Of Perdue School Endowment

Jim Perdue, chairman of Perdue Farms, Inc., was the fall 2016 speaker for SU's Perdue Executive Leadership Series.

His presentation was part of a 30th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Franklin P. Perdue School of Business, SU's first named endowed school. A multimillion-dollar 1986 gift by Jim Perdue's father, Frank, the late poultry magnate and SU alumnus, paved the way for other major gifts.

"As we celebrate this milestone of the Perdue family's generosity, we are honored to have Jim Perdue as a speaker in

the series," said Dr. Christy Weer, dean of the Perdue School. "Frank not only was instrumental in endowing the business school, but took a personal interest in our students. As an advisor and member of several Perdue School boards, Jim has continued that legacy of involvement."

At SU, Perdue serves on the board of the Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Shore Hatchery, which provides funding for regional entrepreneurs. As president of the Franklin P. Perdue and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation, he announced in 2006 an \$8 million gift from the foundation to SU for the construction of Perdue Hall.



Campus Expansion Supports The Arts

Several properties south of the campus were acquired to facilitate SU's growing programs.

Although no decisions have been made on uses for most of the properties, the Tri State Engineering site is expected to reopen in late 2019 as a home for artists. It will become the new home for SU's blossoming three dimensional arts programs, including glass blowing, sculpture and ceramics. The facilities will be more than double the amount of space currently available at Fulton Hall.

These acquisitions bolster the campus footprint to its largest size to date over 200 acres.

