

Salisbury University Foundation, Inc.

Abercrombie Gifts Support Nabb Research Center

Joanna Cato was known for her love of Chesapeake history. Her passion will help educate future generations through Salisbury University's Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture. "I think it's important to preserve family and heritage," said Cato's daughter, Joanna Abercrombie, who, with her husband, Michael, made two gifts to the Nabb Research Center in Cato's honor.

She added that she wanted to contribute to an organization that cherished history as much as her mother did. With that philosophy in mind, the Abercrombies donated to the center a number of original political, social, religious and economic papers, as well as personal correspondence from as early as the post-Revolutionary era. The materials will be used by SU students and others researching and studying regional history.

Items in the collection included a 19th-century comb and fan and photos. Along with these historical documents, the Abercrombies presented the center with a check for \$25,000 to fund projects and exhibits.

"Michael and Joanna Abercrombie, long-time supporters of the Nabb Research Center, believe strongly in the center's mission," said Dr. Ray Thompson, center director. "We are most grateful for their generosity and desire to share Delmarva history with others."

The Nabb Research Center is a humanities research archive for students and the general public. Its holdings include manuscripts, photographs, family histories, court records, maps, newspaper clippings, rare books and other artifacts that help illuminate the Delmarva Peninsula's history and culture.

Honoring Board Retirees

The SU Foundation, Inc. honored three retiring members of its board of directors: Richard A. Givens II, Dr. Peter Jackson and Peter A. Roskovich. Combined, they served for some three decades. A two-time SU graduate, Givens earned degrees in liberal studies/music and in business administration. Since joining the board in 2002, he served in nearly every capacity, including chair, vice chair and treasurer. A retired senior fiscal administrative officer for the Delaware Treasurer's Office, he also contributed expertise to the Investment, Audit, Gifts and Development, and Public Radio committees over the years. Jackson and Roskovich both joined the board in 2005. Jackson was a dedicated leader of the Grants and Public Radio committees and an advocate for the WSCL/WSDL stations. He and his wife, Judy, are generous contributors to the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra, having guided its board and built up its endowment with a challenge grant and planned gift. They also have supported SU music ensembles through the Jackson Music Performance Fund and brought musicians to campus through the Jackson Chamber Music Series. Roskovich, a 1988 SU graduate, chaired the Nominations Committee. A former SU lacrosse player, he has remained an unwavering supporter of Sea Gull athletics and is a member of SU's Maroon & Gold Club.

Purnell Among State's Top 100 Women

SU Foundation, Inc. board member Susan Purnell was named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women for 2014. Bestowed by *The Daily Record*, a Baltimore-based business newspaper, the honor recognizes the outstanding achievements of professional women who reside or work in Maryland. Purnell is the third-generation owner of Kuhn's Jewelers in Salisbury, the sixth-oldest independent jewelry store in the United States. Since 2012, she has served as volunteer host of *SU on the Air*, a monthly PAC 14 program that provides information about campus achievements, programs and events. She is a co-founder of the Jack Purnell-Chris Thomas Memorial Tennis Tournament, held at SU and named, in part, in memory of her father.



Thompson (left) and Abercrombies



Retiring Foundation Board members



Purnell (right)





Shore Hatchery participants

Sea Gull Century Celebrates 25 Years

On October 5, 2013, more than 7,000 cyclists participated in SU's 25th Sea Gull Century bike ride across the Lower Eastern Shore. Growing from less than 100 participants in its early years, the ride is "among the largest and now oldest on the East Coast," said coordinator Amy Waters. The traditional 100-mile Assateague century offers a panoramic view of the Atlantic Ocean and a glimpse of the wild ponies, while the 100-mile Snow Hill century takes cyclists through a quaint Worcester County town, with galleries and beautiful homes. A 64-mile Princess Anne metric century route winds through Somerset County. The Sea Gull Century's flat terrain attracts cycling enthusiasts from as far away as England and Canada, and some 35 states, including Maine, California and Florida. Riders ranged in age from 7 to 88, and one rode for the 25th year.

Ratcliffe Gift for Shore Hatchery Entrepreneurship Program

With an eye to bolstering employment, the Baltimore-based Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation committed \$1 million to SU's Perdue School of Business for grants and loan guarantees to start new businesses. Over a five-year period, the Ratcliffe Foundation will offer as much as \$200,000 annually to entrepreneurs looking to create startups. One of the Foundation's goals is to have new businesses opening within six months with the potential of employing five or more within a year.

Two- and four-year college graduates residing in the mid-Atlantic region are eligible. This includes all of Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Proposals from New York and New Jersey are also considered.

"We are most grateful to the Ratcliffe Foundation for considering a unique approach to business education – helping young people to launch new businesses. Salisbury University has a quarter-century tradition of encouraging and investing in newly minted entrepreneurs through its Bernstein business plan competition. We think the combination of substantive grants and mentoring by successful professionals will offer some exciting, real-world possibilities," said SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach.

With a nod to its Eastern Shore location and home within the Perdue School, the fund is titled the Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation Shore Hatchery. A unique feature is an assigned mentor who consults with the selected entrepreneurs throughout the startup process. The mentors are experienced business people with success in founding or growing new businesses. Mentors come from Shore Hatchery's 25-member board of directors, which includes Jim Perdue, president/CEO of Perdue Inc.; Mike Scarborough, founder of Scarborough Capital Management in Annapolis; Frank Gunion, owner of South Moon Under in Ocean City (Maryland's 2013 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year); and attorney Benjamin Willey of Bethesda.

"Many people talk about entrepreneurship and employment," said Bruce Rogers, a board member and president/CEO of Sherwood of Salisbury. "The million-dollar commitment by the Ratcliffe family and their foundation is unusual and notable. We are excited about their belief and investment in the Perdue philosophy."

In the most recent round of the Shore Hatchery, over \$125,000 was awarded to eager entrepreneurs.