

Student Achievements

SU Student Relay For Life Lauded

For the past 13 years, SU students have made an impact through the campus' annual Relay For Life to benefit the American Cancer Society (ACS). Last year, they received the Excellence in Student Service Group Award from the Maryland-D.C. Campus Compact.

The non-profit association of public and private colleges provides leadership to colleges and universities in the region by advocating participation in public service and civic engagement programs. The award is given annually for leadership in and commitment to service projects that extend beyond co-curricular requirements or course-based service learning, with an emphasis on long-term, sustainable community impact.

"We would not have been as successful without our amazing planning committee and every single person who came to our event, donated and helped us take a stand against cancer," said Amanda Vancleemput, 2015 SU Relay chairperson. "I care very much about this organization, and judging by the amount of love and support we receive from students, faculty and staff each year, I would say they care just as much, if not more."

The ACS South Atlantic Division also honored SU's Relay with the division's Top Collegiate Fundraising Award. In addition, SU earned the Spirit of Relay and Colleges Against Cancer Leader of Hope awards.

In April, the SU Relay For Life Committee achieved a long-term goal, reaching the \$1 million mark for funds raised since the inaugural event in 2002.

Safe Spaces Training Expands

SU's Safe Spaces Workshop is now being offered statewide through a partnership with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR).

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and intersex (LGBTQI) people frequently find themselves excluded and uncomfortable in a variety of settings," said Dr. Diane Illig, Safe Spaces training coordinator and chair of SU's Sociology Department. "Our program explores how to create more welcoming environments at work, school and in the community. We teach participants how to promote 'safe spaces' of respect, acceptance and support for all."

Through the workshop, participants develop an understanding of the experiences of LGBTQI people; identify sources of unwelcoming behaviors; learn LGBTQI-inclusive terminology; learn to dispel negative stereotypes; develop strategies to create more welcoming environments; and formulate effective responses to many of the issues and scenarios that LGBTQI people experience in their workplace, school or community. The program has been offered, in various formats, to faculty, staff and students at SU since the late 1990s.

Since the MCCR partnership began in July, the training team has expanded its efforts, conducting workshops twice for the MCCR, as well as the Maryland Department of Human Resources; Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development; Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; and Cecil County Department of Social Services. The workshop also has been offered three times on campus. In total, some 170 have participated – an increase from the 111 who were trained in 2013-14.

Library of Congress Internship

Art major James Harrison joined students from Harvard and Columbia universities, among others, as one of 36 Library of Congress Junior Fellows participating in the institution's 2015 summer intern program. He was selected for the position out of more than 800 applicants. During the paid internship, he was exposed to a broad spectrum of the library's work, from copyright and access standards, to information management and digital initiatives. Harrison worked within the library's Conservation Division to create materials to promote document conservation and raise awareness of the institution's resources.

TRiO Travels to Cuba

Eight students enrolled in SU's TRiO ACHIEVE Student Support Services program spent a week in Havana, Cuba. The students explored Havana's historic district and visited markets and museums. They engaged with two grassroots groups dedicated to community enhancement: Espiral, which educates young people on environmental issues and sustainable development, and Okan-Tomi, which promotes Afro-Cuban dances and musical traditions. They also learned about history and culture from a University of Havana professor and public health from a Cuban medical doctor.



Library of Congress Intern
James Harrison



"Make-A-Heron" Contest Winners



Safe Spaces Training

Melody Esbach

Sea Gull Square: The \$45 million Sea Gull Square opened its doors in 2011 to some 600 students. The largest building and newest residence hall on campus is a mixed-use development with retail businesses on the ground floor, providing a striking gateway for visitors.



Environmental Studies Student Initiatives

Environmental studies students are being recognized for efforts locally and nationally.

“Scuttle,” by environmental studies majors Catie Burkowske and Kathleen McMillen, won the “Make-A-Heron” art contest to create the mascot for the City of Salisbury and Wicomico County’s “Stash Your Trash” anti-litter campaign. Participants were challenged to make herons, featured in the campaign’s logo, from recyclable and found objects. Scuttle’s feathers were cut from cardboard boxes. Its beak is a CFL light bulb, with plastic strips for its tail and a base decorated with flowers made from plastic bottles. The heron’s frame was made from pieces of chain-link fence, welded and covered with chicken wire.

A \$2,050 Improving Wildlife Habitat grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s E-Lit program enabled Environmental Studies Department students from SU’s Green Floor Living Learning Community to partner with James M. Bennett High School to create 10 bee nest boxes and six bat roost boxes, as well as nine bird boxes (three each for bluebirds, robins and barn swallows, and barred owls). The project helped some 100 high school students learn about the local environment, conservation, and their ability to improve wildlife habitat and stem biodiversity loss.

Breck Sullivan received one of the field’s most prestigious undergraduate honors: an Environmental Protection Agency Greater Research Opportunity (EPA-GRO) fellowship. Only 34 of the awards, worth up to \$50,000 each, are given each year, offering the rare chance to work side-by-side with EPA officials. The fellowships provide students with college funding for their junior and senior years, as well as paid internships at EPA facilities during the summer between those years. Sullivan is the sixth SU student in the past five years to receive the honor, placing Salisbury among the nation’s top universities for EPA-GRO fellowships.

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Sea Gull Square
Ribbon-Cutting
Ceremony 2011

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SU’s Relay Earns
National Honors

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TRiO Students In Cuba

