

THE SEA GULL

A SALISBURY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE • SPRING 2024

POWERFUL SU CONNECTIONS

Dedicated faculty, staff and student mentors support Sea Gull success - before they arrive at SU and when they take flight after graduation.



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Make Connections for a Lifetime

From the mentoring programs that connects new students to campus resources to the connections formed by University faculty and staff, it is these connection that create our Sea Gull family.

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Holloway Hall: Where SU Began

It has been 100 years since ground was broken on the University's signature building, Holloway Hall – read about its auspicious beginnings and take a stroll through time.

VOLUME 55 • SPRING 2024

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Letter from the President



Dear Sea Gulls,

It's my sincere pleasure to introduce the latest edition of *The Sea Gull*.

This issue stands as a testament to the remarkable connections and opportunities that define our vibrant SU community. Our alumni, students, faculty and staff continue to forge powerful bonds, creating pathways that enrich lives and shape futures. And because of these great successes, we found ourselves with so much good news to share that the only way we could give our people the attention they deserve is with a second issue of *The Sea Gull*.

Moving forward, we will create two issues a year in order to capture and share the remarkable stories of our Sea Gulls.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the groundbreaking of Holloway Hall, a milestone that shines a light on our rich history while propelling us forward toward the upcoming centennial celebration of our University. This is a time to reflect and honor where we've been and embrace the limitless potential of the century that lies ahead.

Within these pages, we showcase the exceptional accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students and alumni, spotlighting their highly impactful accomplishments across diverse fields such as broadcasting, the arts, entrepreneurship and academia. Their stories echo with inspiration, illustrating the transformative journey from SU experiences to shaping a brighter and more promising tomorrow.

As you dive into this edition, I encourage you to immerse yourself in the spirit of connection, celebration and progress that defines Salisbury University. Our collective achievements and shared experiences are the pillars of the unparalleled legacy of excellence we proudly uphold.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carolyn R. Lepre
President, Salisbury University



This issue stands as a testament to the remarkable connections and opportunities that define our vibrant SU community."

– President Lepre

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Starting With Pre-Semester Programs,

SU Experiences Help Students

MAKE CONNECTIONS FOR A LIFETIME



When Amiyah Brunson began her first semester at Salisbury University last fall, she didn't yet know her schedule or classroom locations. What she did know was that there were many faculty, staff and students she could turn to for support, thanks to SU's Powerful Connections (PowCon) program.

Brunson was one of 100 students enrolled as part of the largest cohort in the program's two-decade history. As a pre-semester experience run by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), Powerful Connections is a vital tool for new SU students.

"Powerful Connections plays an important role in successfully supporting students through the transition to university life," said SU President Carolyn Ringer Lepre (pictured left with the 2023 group). "Activities and programs help to orient students of various backgrounds with an understanding of the academic experience and our campus. Ensuring SU is a welcoming place for all is at the core of our mission."

Brunson began seeing the impacts of the program right away.

"When I first got here, I felt like I wasn't going to make any friends," she

said. "But by the third day, I'd made a bunch of friends. I felt so connected. It felt like we were already a family."

Brunson's sister, Ayonna, is a PowCon coordinator and secondary education and mathematics major. But, three years ago, she was in her sister's shoes.

"Powerful Connections helped me with getting connected," Ayonna said. She learned about student organizations, including the Black Student Union, and connected with other mentees. This provided her a support system on campus.

SU Director of Multicultural Affairs Vanice Antrum '12, M'14 also was a Powerful Connections mentee and mentor – and led the program for four years.

"Personally, doing the program was extremely helpful because you get a built-in community, you get a mentor, and there's an academic component of checking on your progress," she said. She also benefitted from hearing about leadership roles and scholarships.

"There were a lot of targeted deep connections to opportunities on and off campus," she explained. "Also, it teaches you leadership development and it connects you with alumni, faculty and staff. It is a conversation starter. I am still friends with folks from the program."

Ayonna and Amiyah's mother, Dr. Undrea Blake '05, principal of Wicomico High School in Salisbury, served as a guest speaker for this year's Powerful Connections cohort.

"Coming to SU was one of the greatest choices that I have made," she said, noting that the small classes, approachability and reputation of faculty, and ability to meet new people

made her experience as a student ideal.

Her advice for students was this: "Get involved in the activities SU has. Ask questions, and don't be afraid to ask for help because at some point, we all need help to reach our goals."

Zion Powell, a PowCon mentee, took those words to heart.



[Powerful Connections] teaches you leadership development and it connects you with alumni, faculty and staff. It is a conversation starter. I am still friends with folks from the program."

– Vanice Antrum

(From left) Vanice Antrum, Dr. Undrea Blake and Ayonna Brunson





Powerful Connections doesn't exist just to 'help' students. What we're doing is creating generational and systemic societal change."

– Robby Chin

Left: CAMP Program participants

Below: DRC STARS participants

Opposite Top: Dr. Margaret Sebastian (far right) with TRIO mentors

"I'm glad that I got the opportunity to learn more about SU before classes started," said the first-year geography major. "Meeting my dean, exploring campus and making friends allow me to have those 'powerful connections.' If I'm struggling in my courses, I know who I can call."

Program mentors like Jahnaiya Sutherland, a data science major and Clarke Honors College student, is one of those people.

"Being a mentor has allowed me to do for others what people have done for me: Be a leader who someone can connect with," she said. Especially for students of color, PowCon "kickstarts their engagement and involvement."

Sutherland herself has served in leadership roles for the SU NAACP and Multicultural Alliance. She encourages mentees to similarly get involved, knowing that she and others are there to help.



Connecting In Other Ways

Powerful Connections is just one way SU is helping students make connections. Dedicated faculty and staff mentors and



other targeted programs also aim to support students' success at SU, and as they launch careers or pursue advanced degrees after graduating.

Other pre-semester programs are led by SU's College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), Disability Resource Center (DRC) and TRIO Student Support Services.

"We've been running our CAMP Welcome Lunch for our new students and their families; however, this year we

were more proactive about providing our program in Spanish and Haitian-Creole," said Nina Soto Ramirez, CAMP director. Separate information sessions in each language also allow families to ask questions.

The DRC's STARS (Student Transition, Access, Retention and Success) Program fosters an inclusive environment with respect for all differences, helping provide incoming students with disabilities with resources.



“Coming to SU was one of the greatest choices that I have made.”

“The majority of our student mentees have high retention rates,” said Jalesa Hull, DRC assistant program director. “Students have shared that they feel more prepared for the semester. They have our department and a knowledgeable peer mentor to guide them.”

Information systems alumnus and past mentor Nick Kautz '23 said: “We introduce students to all the DRC has to offer in a three-day program. It was a joy to watch my mentees grow from nervous newcomers to successful students active in campus life.”

Biology alumna and past mentee Rebecca Pritt '23 agreed that the program provided her all the information she needed for success.

“I immediately felt welcomed into a supportive community,” she said.

TRIO’s Scholar Bridge program is another pre-semester effort that has grown to serve some 20 students annually in recent years, said Dr. Margaret Sebastian, TRIO director.

“TRIO focuses on the intersection between first generation, low income and students with disabilities because the barriers you have with those three identities are paramount,” she explained.

The TRIO Scholar Bridge Program explores the required skills of academic transition, course selection, financial literacy, FAFSA, graduate school and professional development, as well as the more “hidden curriculum” of higher education, Sebastian said, such as how to interact with faculty and staff.

The program also has focused on the value of making Salisbury and the Eastern Shore “home.” This year, that meant providing tours of the city and history of the land, as well as learning the locations of bus stations and shuttles, and fun regional activities.

“We took them to places to show them you can build a life here; you can build a good foundation here,” Sebastian said. During a roundtable, faculty and staff also told their stories of being first generation.

“The summer TRIO program helped me get out on my own more since I am a transfer student,” said I’yanna Wilson, a social work major. “SU has provided me a great education, and professors and staff help me when I need it.”

SU nursing major Niya Joseph (pictured above right) said TRIO has helped her financially, emotionally and academically, and now she is a TRIO ambassador.



“Since I started working here, it is teaching me important life skills that I will use even past college,” she said, like learning how to handle conflict, depend on a team, communicate and dress professionally. “Another great thing about TRIO is that you’re allowed room to grow. As a first-generation student it is hard to believe in yourself and have the courage to continue your journey in college, but having good people around you makes a difference.”

Ariel Simbana-Criollo (pictured below), who comes to SU from Ecuador, is a TRIO graduate assistant who helps TRIO ambassadors, and the students who rely on them. Personally, he said SU has given him many opportunities since he started the Master of Social Work Program.



“I could join groups and programs that would enrich my professional and personal development from the beginning,” he said, including the Comunidad and Umoja Scholar Program, Organization of Latin American Students, and Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care internship program. “These experiences have helped me grow.”



A Tradition of Connection

All of SU’s pre-semester programs have roots in long-standing summer experiences, which provide opportunities for incoming students to form connections before starting classes.

Achieve at Assateague visits the national seashore, while Bike, Beach and Beyond explores Salisbury via bike and a service project. Other students have connected through the Algonquin Canoe program to Canada, which started 40 years ago.

A model for other universities, that program was named a Distinguished Program for Student Services by the Maryland Association for Higher Education in 1986. The honor stemmed in part from the high graduation rates, strong campus involvement and academic success of participants.

Powerful Connections was pre-dated by a Mosaic summer experience and other pre-matriculation efforts as far back as 1989, said Dr. Vaughn White, former director of Multicultural Student Services. Mosaic students explored equity and diversity topics through trips to experience the Holocaust Museum, as well as African American colonial history.

Over the decades, SU has continued this tradition of helping students more easily transition to college life and supporting their success once they begin classes.

Sheree Satchell ’09, M’11, coordinator of student diversity, recruitment and retention for ODI, was a PowCon mentee in 2005.

“The PowCon program was pivotal in connecting me with resources on and off campus that led to my successful matriculation,” she said. “The students and staff that I met in the days leading up to classes were the primary reason I persisted to graduation at SU. I am most certain that I would have transferred had I not been able to come to campus early and formulate connections that would serve as my nucleus while here.”

Satchell said her mentor’s intentionality in getting to know her, and connecting her, helped her grow in confidence. She became active in clubs and organizations on campus and locally, and she traveled to student leadership conferences.

“PowCon provided me with a space to be seen, heard and known, to a degree that superseded my expectations,” Satchell said. “Research has shown that ‘belonging’ in any environment, but specifically within the academic realm, has been connected to higher achievement, persistence in college, and lower rates of depression and anxiety. As was true for me, ODI and PowCon remain a place for all students to come as they are, and receive the support, resources and tools that they need to excel at SU and beyond!”

Helping First Generation Students

A current priority at SU is helping support the success of students who are the first in their families to attend college. Last fall, SU welcomed some 1,400 new students in the Class of 2027 – and nearly half identified as first-generation.

Political science major Dylan Rivera is one. He said he didn’t have much help with the application process, but now that he’s at SU, he hopes he is making his parents proud.

“While only a freshman, I already made a lot of meaningful connections,” he said. “I am a part of Model United

Nations and the Student Government Association. My political science class had a guest who talked about a seminar with The Washington Center, which I applied for and got. This will help my career and help me understand how government functions.”

International business major Olivia Norris also is first-generation student. TRIO’s Scholar Bridge program helped ease her worries about what to expect at college.

“It helped build a foundation for a successful first semester and provided me early on with a support network,” she said. “This opportunity means the world to me. It means I can pave the way for my future, open doors to more opportunities for myself, and be a role model for my younger sister.”

In November, SU hosted some 65 high school and transfer students for the inaugural Eastern Shore First Generation Conference, designed to show them what four-year institutions have to offer. Last fall, SU’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion launched its First Gen Sea Gull Scholars program as part of efforts to ensure students’ success and sense of belonging at SU.

“We have social engagement, as well as academic and resource opportunities,” Antrum said. “We are trying to expose students to things they may not know since others in their family haven’t had this experience. We are trying to say: ‘let us help put you on a pathway to success.’”

Topics for First Gen Fridays have included Mental Health Matters and Exploring Financial Aid. Spring topics will explore Career Services, Fellowships and Research, and Financial Literacy.

Students also had the chance to attend First Gen Meetups that provide one-on-one connection with a first-generation faculty mentor. These explored what it means to be first gen and how to build support networks. SU faculty and staff also were surveyed about their experiences and support.



Creating Opportunities

Looking back on her experiences as a Powerful Connections mentor, SU alumna Cearrah Sherman ’18, M’21 said it helped her learn how to be a good mentor to others after SU. Now enrolled in a doctoral program at University of Maryland, Baltimore, Sherman said she’s seen PowCon alumni build relationships outside of SU, for business opportunities, community service and more.

“I have gone back to campus several times to speak with current students, and I love the interactions,” she said. “SU helps students be successful with offices to address many different needs. There are so many activities and organizations to get involved in.”

Robby Chin ’11, program administrative specialist for ODI, also sees firsthand how Powerful Connections and other programs are impacting students’ mindsets.

“Powerful Connections doesn’t exist just to ‘help’ students,” he said. “What we’re doing is creating generational and systemic societal change.

“PowCon achieves that by encouraging our students to value every

human interaction. It changes the way they see, perceive, greet, speak with and treat people – not just their peers, but their faculty, staff and everyone they experience outside the SU campus.

“I feel so grateful to have the opportunity to contribute to the success and actualization of potential of this generation of Sea Gulls, global citizens and community contributors.”

Sebastian echoed this: “We are trying to communicate with students that it is okay to need help. I tell students, ‘I care about your future and I want to connect you with people who can help your future come to life.’”

This support begins at the top at SU, as President Lepre has emphasized: “We are a family at SU. A family that cares about one another and works toward a common goal – creating an environment in which every student has what they need to achieve success.”

Left: Achieve at Assateague participants

Above: Eastern Shore First Generation Conference



In July 2023, SU photographer and visual images coordinator Megan Raymond captured a post-storm photo of the century-old Holloway Hall beneath a full-arc rainbow, set against an orange sky. The Wicomico County Tourism Department honored Raymond's photo as one of the top three submissions in its 2023 photo contest.



Read about the history
of SU's signature
building on page 26.

ON THE AIR:

Sea Gulls Soar in Broadcasting Careers



Glen Charlton '12 is currently assistant director of creative and digital strategy for Georgia Tech Athletics.

LIVE AT THE SCENE

Salisbury University is a place where opportunities abound and passions take off.

It's where Steven Graves '14 learned the value of passion and the drive to pursue it.

As a student, he was president of SU-TV, working alongside Eli Modlin '16 (SU's current Chief of Staff) to revive the student-run station into something that could bring life to the campus and the many diverse voices within it. Together, they covered major events, including the implementation of traditionally Black sororities and fraternities on campus, and they highlighted the talent of the Black student body through the African Student Union and Passion for Fashion club.

As an SU student, Graves learned everything from time management to building sets, interviewing guests and reading a teleprompter. While his friends were out on Saturday nights, he was in his dorm room, writing his next story for SU-TV. That's when he realized something important.

"For me, SU was this great place where I was able to grow a passion," Graves said. "I got experience as an anchor while at SU and knew that was my career goal. Now, I've achieved it."

Graves went on to work for CBS Chicago and is now the morning news anchor for WPBF 25 in Florida. Throughout his professional career, he has covered community pieces with the goal of highlighting positivity and giving people from all walks of life a chance to share their voice. It was something he did as an SU student, and his experiences with SU-TV showed him the value in being a person who others could look to and learn from.

"There is a lot of power in doing what we do," Graves said. "People are just people, and they want to be heard. Even if they're completely different from you, sometimes if they can just get a platform to share their voice, they become someone you can relate to."

Other SU alumni who have entered TV broadcasting careers include Tyler Butler '12, primary morning anchor of KOLD-TV in Tucson, AZ.



"SU was able to equip me with a strong foundation for my career," Butler said. "I'm doing the work I love all because of the people I met, the skills I learned and the path I started on at SU."

IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN BALTIMORE

Dalencia Jenkins '21 starts her day while most people are still in bed. She shows up to the studio at WBAL-TV11 in Baltimore, MD, and starts forecasting the weather. After a radio segment, it's to hair and makeup, and then she's live on air.

It's like she was made for TV. With confidence and a smile, she delivers the weather report to the Baltimore area – an important job, where many people may depend on her to help protect their lives, property and families. When she's not forecasting and preparing her weather hits, she gets to enjoy the glamor of TV, with segments like a Sunday brunch featuring cuisine by local chefs and welcoming pets from shelters onto the show.

It's everything she's wanted since she was a young girl, when she was running around taking pictures of clouds and sunsets with her Hello Kitty camera.

"Everything little Dalencia was dreaming of is right here," she said. "I'm doing all of this for her."

When Jenkins entered SU's communication and geography programs, she knew her dream of broadcast meteorology was achievable. Her faculty saw that passion in her and taught her everything she needed to know, from using models to forecast local and national weather to training as an on-air talent. She honed her on-air skills with SU-TV, and her mentors helped her combine her enthusiasm for science with her love for broadcasting. Even those in SU's Admissions Office saw her passion and helped her with public speaking as a tour guide and student speaker at campus events. During her senior internship, she learned valuable lessons on TV production from the talented crew at PAC-14.

Before she had even graduated, she was already living her dream. She had a job lined up at WBOC-TV in Salisbury, and in January 2023, she moved into

Photo credit: Kenna Wilson

her current position in Baltimore. Now she gets to see all her hard work come to fruition.

“When you tell people your passion at SU, they love it and want you to succeed,” Jenkins said. “My faculty gave me everything I needed to achieve my goal and would do anything to get me there.”

Other SU alumni have entered successful careers as meteorologists in broadcasting, including Stephanie “Stevie” Daniels, meteorologist for WMAR in Baltimore, and Eileen Whelan ’09, meteorologist for ABC7 and NewsChannel8 in Washington, DC. Mike Seidel ’79 has led a long career in meteorology, reporting on The Weather Channel and ABC’s *Good Morning, America*.



Photo credit: Smiler Photography



I loved my time at SU, and even though I live thousands of miles away, I still feel supported by my faculty there. I couldn’t have done anything like this without my time at SU. I am immensely proud to be an alumna.”

– Caitlin Cleveland ’16

TUNING INTO TOMORROW

SU alumni can be found everywhere. All you have to do is turn on the radio.

Recent graduates Jared Watson ’22 and Luke Metrinko ’21 found their career paths in the radio industry after building their resumes and their confidence at SU.

Watson is currently the promotions producer and on-air talent for Coast Country 103.9 and 106.3. He was hired directly from his student internship at WBOC-TV, and he said SU helped him get his foot in the door.

“If SU didn’t have the faculty and resources they did to help me, my path may have been a whole lot different,”



Watson said. “Getting that exposure allowed me to go in prepared for my future.”

Metrinko is a producer for SiriusXM College Sports Radio, where he creates content for *Dusty and Danny*, keeping listeners all over the U.S. up to date on the latest news in college sports. His behind-the-scenes expertise is what brings the show to life, as he edits audio and operates the radio board in the studio. He is also the lead producer for the Saturday morning show *College Gameday Tailgate*, which previews college football and basketball games for the weekend.

One of the most exciting parts of his job is that he gets to work with some of the biggest names in the industry, including people he grew up watching on TV such as Jacob Hester, EJ Manuel and Colt McCoy.

“It has been a dream come true for me,” Metrinko said. “My experiences at SU allowed me to grow as a student and as a person. I left with the confidence to accomplish anything I want.”

GAME ON!

There’s a whole wide world of sports that SU alumni are bringing to every corner of the nation, from Boston to L.A.

Stacey Lamboni ’13, senior manager for Red Sox Communications, is responsible for leading the in-house video team for the Boston Red Sox, handling everything from video and audio played through ballpark to social media.

She said her classes at SU helped her form the path to where she wanted to go for her professional career. Her faculty like Dr. David Burns helped her see the possibilities for her future and apply her skills in a hands-on, practical way.

The most exciting part of her job – even more than player interviews and drone shots – is seeing her team’s projects playing on the video board at the park in front of 35,000 people.

“It’s very gratifying to see our ideas go from storyboard to screen,” Lamboni said. “People may not think about how these things are made, but we’re



Stacey Lamboni

grinding it out every day to bring them fresh content and creativity.”

Glen Charlton '12 is currently assistant director of creative and digital strategy for Georgia Tech Athletics, and she previously worked for NASCAR as a producer, editor and cinematographer. Her experiences as an SU student laid a strong foundation for a career in broadcasting. Dedicated faculty, hands-on learning opportunities like SU-TV, and the connections she made with her peers had a direct influence on her career.

“At SU, I had the opportunity to tap into the many aspects of broadcast and discover my niche within the field,” Charlton said.



Glen Charlton

SU put Caitlin Cleveland '16 in scoring position for her future. She has led a varied career, including as the lead assistant editor for Joke Productions in Los Angeles, producer and editor for true crime podcast *The First Degree*, and digital video editor for the NFL Throwback team. Among the many lessons she learned at SU, she said the connections she made were important in shaping her into the person she is today.

“I loved my time at SU, and even though I live thousands of miles away, I still feel supported by my faculty there,” Cleveland said. “I couldn’t have done anything like this without my time at SU. I am immensely proud to be an alumna.” *SC*



Caitlin Cleveland



Learn more about SU's Communication Department - and stay tuned for a new graduate program coming soon!
salisbury.edu/comm

Steven Graves '14 (left) with the SU-TV team during his time as a student at SU; in the center of the group is their advisor Mike Camillo. For over 15 years, Camillo has been an enthusiastic and knowledgeable mentor to SU students pursuing media careers.



ARTURA JACKSON '14, M'16

Pay It Forward

Jackson Wants to Leave Places Better Than We Found Them

Jackson started at Salisbury University as an elementary education major and history minor. She spent three semesters on academic probation and was failing her major, but she loved history and museums.

"I didn't know any historians and didn't think I would find work in the field," she said. "I come from a family of educators, so I was going into teaching. But after multiple attempts to succeed, I found myself in [associate vice president of academic affairs] Dr. Melissa Boog's office faced with a tough decision. Change my major or drop out of college."

She switched to history, allowing her passion to push her into her purpose, and actually graduated twice from SU's History Program, earning her bachelor's in 2014 and master's in 2016.

Today, Jackson is a historian with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Black History Program, and the site manager at the historic Ridgeley Rosenwald School.

"I love that I get to serve my community," said the Prince George's County native. "I daydreamed about working here. I get to help tell the story of my community, I get to educate my community and I get to preserve the history of my community."

Jackson credits SU history faculty with truly seeing and believing in her – to this day.

"I was mentored by amazing professors who supported my dreams," she said, like Dr. Dean Kotlowski, who helped her overcome the loss of her older brother.

"I remember the first time I got an A in his class I put it on my fridge," she said. "He thought I was smart and really believed I could do this. He encouraged me, and I became one of his biggest fans. I took almost every course of his."

Dr. Kara French became her research mentor, leading to a presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

"When I came to her about a research project on the Black community in Allen, MD, she supported us," Jackson said. "My passion for researching and telling stories really bloomed."

"I remember going to the University of Kentucky, standing in the auditorium, and telling this Eastern Shore history to a broader audience. That really inspired me to continue on to graduate school."

Jackson earned a graduate assistantship with SU's Edward H. Nabb Center for Delmarva History and Culture, where she



curated one of her first exhibitions and earned a President's Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award.

"In graduate school, I got to research and meet the most amazing woman I have ever known: Maryland's mother of civil rights, Gloria Richardson (pictured left with Jackson), leader of the Cambridge civil rights movement," Jackson said, recalling how longtime SU history professor Dr. Clara Small took time to drive her to Philadelphia.

"It was that moment for me. To see this woman who looks like me, who is from my state, and who has this similar zeal and zest as me was incredible."

At SU, Jackson also led Colleges Against Cancer. She still uses skills she learned from Relay For Life today, like talking about issues in an impactful way.

While Jackson loved telling Eastern Shore stories at SU, she really wanted to do that work in her home community. She had been a swim instructor for the Prince George's Department of Parks and Recreation and worked her way up from there.

"We are allowed to be imaginative here," she said. "We offer hundreds of summer camps, and in 2017, we created a She The People camp for girls to get excited about the political process. We took them to the Capitol and Supreme Court. I was able to create curriculum and activities. We made politics and history fun for a week."

In 2019, Jackson earned a Prince George's County 40 Under 40 Award, in part for the camp. She's proud that many of the participants went back to their schools and got engaged.

Since taking over the schoolhouse in 2022, Jackson has been focused on getting it operational and developing outreach. This includes field trips for children and community events like hosting the Capital Area Food Market.

"One of my goals is to make this space accessible to the public," she said. "If I can get you here, I can tell you more. Thinking about ways I can do that is really exciting."

Eventually, Jackson hopes to enroll in a Ph.D. program.

"Understanding history is understanding where we are going," said Jackson, who specializes in gender studies, 20th century U.S. history and African American history. "My dream is that people see themselves reflected in stories and narratives."

She also believes we all have a responsibility to leave the world better than we found it: "We don't dictate what happened in the past, but we can dictate the future. We move ahead together."



"We don't dictate what happened in the past, but we can dictate the future. We move ahead together."

ARTURA JACKSON

Salisbury University's BLACK ALUMNI: Creating Connections

Ashley Fletcher '14 believes Salisbury University's community is stronger when alumni support current students – and each other. After all, that's the Sea Gull way. That was the initial thought that led her to work with fellow graduates to establish the Black Alumni Association of SU in 2020.



"BAASU was founded to address the continuous need for a network that represents the collective cultural experiences and achievements of Black alumni," said Fletcher, who serves as the association's president, noting its mission statement. "Working in conjunction with the SU Alumni Association, we strive to empower SU Sea Gulls of the past, present and future."

One goal has been to establish and maintain a strong network of diverse alumni. Fletcher, who earned her M.F.A. in graphic design from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) after completing her B.A. in art, with a graphic design track, at SU, realized the benefits of connecting with alumni from similar backgrounds after entering the job market.

"I got to witness how strong [MICA's] network of graduates was," she said. "I can go on LinkedIn and instantly get career help from MICA alums. Not only is their network great; their career support from Career Development is top notch."

"This brought me to reflect on my time at SU, how, as a Black student feeling underrepresented on campus and in the classroom, I could've really used that same support. There are so many barriers to entering the workforce and challenges that students face post-grad. This led me to think about how we could create a network that supports and celebrates Black alumni and students."



While the SU Alumni Association boasts a wide-ranging community of more than 60,000 former Sea Gulls, its public database of alums does not include data on former students' heritage.

Since the creation of BAASU, its founding board – including Rachel Obamwonyi '16, Dominic Williams '17, Jeremie Davis '18, Unique Falcon '17, Julian Nelson-Saunders '18 and Donovan Mack '18 – have cultivated a network of some 700 diverse alumni, allowing members from multiple decades to connect through their shared SU experiences.

Opposite Page: Members of the BAASU visit campus, including (top photo) Ashley Fletcher (center) and Rachel Obamwonyi (right), who visited with Multicultural Affairs Director Vanice Antrum '12, M'14

This Page: The BAASU have hosted several events at Alumni Homecoming

“Working in conjunction with the SU Alumni Association, we strive to empower SU Sea Gulls of the past, present and future.”

Ashley Fletcher

Last fall, they worked to create new SU memories for many of those, hosting the organization's first reunion activities during Alumni Homecoming and Family Weekend.


After conducting an alumni survey, they planned a slate of activities including a sold-out cookout, family-friendly bowling session and “Back on the Shore” party, as well as the return of the SU Jazz Brunch, sponsored by SU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

“We were looking to provide programming and events that speak to the Black experience at Salisbury,” explained Fletcher. “It's very unique. It's very dynamic and multifaceted.”

She hopes students introduced to BAASU will see how vast their alumni community is and know that BAASU has saved space for them. And the association is not stopping there.

“We're just getting started,” she said. “The support that we've received from alumni has been incredible. We are super excited for what's to come!”

She also thanked the organization's sponsors: Divine Counseling, owned by SU alumna Cara Baltimore '18, LCSW-C, and Rise Up Coffee Roasters.

BAASU is seeking officers and committee members, as well as information from diverse alumni who have not yet connected with the organization. To express interest, email blackalumsu@gmail.com. 



For more information, including social media links, visit linktr.ee/blackalumsu





Spreading Understanding Through Language-Based Fellowships

Salisbury University students have made a name for themselves on a global scale, with more than 100 winning national and international fellowships, scholarships and awards in the past decade. A key facet of many of these experiences is the sharing of language, whether it is the SU student becoming immersed in critical languages or teaching English in another country, these efforts are enhancing communication and collaboration throughout the world.

NEW LANGUAGE. NO PROBLEM.

One of the programs making the sharing of language and culture its central mission is the Boren Fellowship. An initiative of the National Security Education Program (NSEP), the Boren provides funding for U.S. undergraduates to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to national interests, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America and the Middle East.

In the fall, Danitza Verano Roman, an international studies major, traveled to India as a Boren Fellow where she studied Hindi. For Verano Roman, who grew up in Peru, taking on another language is nothing new. Immigrating to the U.S. when she was 14, she knew almost no English when she arrived, but picked it up fluently in the past eight years.

As a first-generation college student, her journey to SU was a challenging one, enrolling just three years after arriving in the U.S. and still getting comfortable with the language. One of her primary reasons for coming to a mid-sized university like Salisbury was that she felt she could become part of a community and make connections, which was key in her Boren acceptance.

“One of the biggest things for me is to be able to help and give back to the community with everything that I was given,” she said, crediting friends and SU faculty like Dr. Kristen Walton, director of SU’s Nationally Competitive Fellowships Office, and Dr. Brittany Foutz, faculty in the Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution Department. “I wouldn’t be here getting all these opportunities if it wasn’t for professors, friends and people who helped and guided me.”

While in India, Roman studied the language and the educational system, particularly for women. She hopes to use what she has learned to help the U.S. build connections with India and encourage women to possibly attend SU and other U.S. colleges and universities through exchange programs or enrolling full time like she did.

EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

Joining Roman abroad are two SU alumnae who are teaching English and experiencing cultures abroad as recipients of the 2023-24 U.S. Fulbright Student Award. Samantha Bartell ’22 is fulfilling her English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) award in Moldova. Hira Shahbaz ’20 is undertaking hers in Kazakhstan.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program aims to expand perspectives through academic and professional advancement and cross-cultural dialogue. Its ETA Programs place Fulbrighters in classrooms abroad to provide assistance to the local English teachers. ETAs help teach English language while serving as cultural ambassadors for the U.S.

“To be selected as a Fulbright Student is one of the most prestigious honors a student or recent graduate can achieve,” said SU President Carolyn Ringer Lepre. “Both Samantha and Hira were very accomplished students at SU, and both know the benefits of studying abroad.

“To be able to advance the education of others while experiencing cultures in other countries is a wonderful

“One of the biggest things for me is to be able to help and give back to the community with everything that I was given. I wouldn’t be here getting all these opportunities if it wasn’t for professors, friends and people who helped and guided me.”

– Danitza Verano Roman



Danitza Verano Roman

opportunity. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to what lies ahead for them.”

Bartell sees the award as an opportunity to help others, as she did as a member of SU’s Best Buddies, empowering meaningful friendships with those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and Girls on Top of the World, an all-girls community service organization.

“I believe in the importance of advocating for groups who are

systematically and historically disadvantaged in education systems globally,” she said. “This means using my privilege of a quality education to ensure that future generations have equal opportunities and are empowered to pursue their own education.

“I want to connect specifically with Roma students and students with disabilities in Moldova, as they historically have been discriminated against within the education system. Moldova has worked hard to ensure

sea gull stories

quality and equality in its education system, and I would like to learn how it has done this while also learning about areas that could be improved.

“I believe that education opens the doors to opportunities for development and community connection, and I am excited to share the friendships and skills I learn in Modolva with peers in the U.S.”

Following her Fulbright experience, she plans to pursue a career with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), focusing on international development and equal right in education.

Shahbaz hopes her experience will broaden her teaching background and allow her to learn more about the region.

“This Fulbright will allow me to further my teaching experience in an international and non-Western setting,” she said. “To prepare for a career in USAID’s education sector, I must gain exposure to different education systems through immersion and go beyond the limitations of analyzing texts and policy briefs.



“The state of education in Kazakhstan and the opportunities it can present are of the utmost importance, given that nearly a third of the nation’s population is younger than 15 and females constitute the majority population.”

– Hira Shahbaz



“Due to my studies and background, I am well acquainted with the South Asian region, but wish to expand my knowledge into Central Asia. The state of education in Kazakhstan and the opportunities it can present are of the utmost importance, given that nearly a third of the nation’s population is younger than 15 and females constitute the majority population,” she added, noting that, despite the country’s growth as an economic powerhouse, challenges involving occupational mobility for education women remain.

Now pursuing her M.A. at Columbia University, Shahbaz earned several additional nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships during her time at SU, including the Boren fellowship and scholarship, Critical

Language and Gilman scholarship. She also received the U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship as a student at Columbia. After her Fulbright experience, she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in international educational development.

Bartell and Shahbaz were among 12 Fulbright Student semifinalists from SU this academic year. The Fulbright is America’s flagship international exchange program and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. 

Above: Hira Shahbaz at the Aksu Canyon in Kazakhstan

Left: Samantha Bartell

What's New At SU?

Wondering what is happening on campus – here is a quick glimpse at the latest at Salisbury University.



1

GSU on the Move

As campus prepares for the renovation of Blackwell Hall, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion has found a new home in the Guerrieri Student Union. The student-focused renovation will see Blackwell transformed into a hub for student services around campus. By creating a central, one-stop-shop for critical student services, SU is thoughtfully and deliberately positioning students for a successful academic journey.

2

Learn and Live (Together!)

Since 2007, first-year SU students with similar academic interests have been able to build their networks through SU's Living Learning Communities (LLCs), residing on the same residence hall floors as like-minded peers, taking classes and participating in activities together, often in the same building. Starting this year, students with shared mindsets or experiences beyond the classroom had a chance to be a part of their own peer groups through a new Special Interest Housing pilot program. Inaugural SIH communities include University Spirit; Transfer; and Student Advocacy, Inclusion and Leadership (SAIL).

3

Thanking SU Greats

Two athletics facilities have new names remembering the contributions of two SU greats. The Softball Stadium was named in honor of Margie Knight, who led the softball team for 25 seasons before her passing in July 2022. The Soccer Complex was renamed to the Gerry DiBartolo Sea Gull Soccer Complex in celebration of the athletics director's retirement in June. Gerry served SU for 44 years, including 37 years as a coach on the soccer sidelines.



4

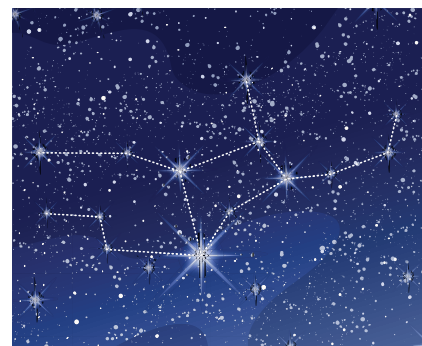
New Programs

Launched in partnership with Wor-Wic Community College, a new forensic science concentration is now available to students within the integrated science major, incorporating several fields of study to analyze and interpret criminal-related data. Four new minors are also available: human resource management, media production, health education and Asian studies.

5

Look to the Sky

Thanks to a \$200,000 gift from the Richard A. Henson Foundation, the University will be adding a planetarium to campus. Supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education within the Henson School of Science and Technology, this gift will enable visitors to explore the galaxy, right on campus. SU anticipates public shows to begin by summer 2024 and classes starting that fall.





In Memoriam

JUDY JACKSON

In November, Salisbury University was saddened by the loss of Judy Jackson, one of the area's most prolific supporters of the arts.

A past member of the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra board of directors, along with her husband, Dr. Peter Jackson, she was instrumental in the organization's growth in stature and resources. She also was a staunch proponent of Delmarva Public Media and SU's music program, which was named in honor of her and Peter in 2022.

In addition to those efforts, she and Peter created the Peter and Judy Jackson Chamber Music Series at SU, bringing some of the world's top musicians to the Delmarva Peninsula. Their total \$1.3 million endowment to the University has benefitted countless students and community members, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

A retired psychiatric nurse, Judy also served on the College of Health and Human Services advisory board, providing valuable input for programs and initiatives.

When the University dedicated the Jackson Family Auditorium of Holloway Hall (see story at the right), Judy was, as ever, vibrant and joyful during the name unveiling, celebrating that day as she did every day.

Auditorium Honors Longtime Supporters



As longtime supporters of Salisbury University's music program, Dr. Peter and Judy Jackson seldom missed a performance. Just weeks before Judy's passing in November, the University's historical Holloway Hall Auditorium was dedicated in their honor: the Jackson Family Auditorium of Holloway Hall. Judy and Peter now are part of nearly every music performance – and many other events hosted by SU.

"The Jacksons have played an integral part in SU's music program for decades – and will continue to do so for decades more," said SU President Carolyn Ringer Lepre. "To know that current and future generations of Salisbury students and community members will attend concerts and other performances in the auditorium that now bears their name is a fitting tribute to a family that has created such a lasting legacy at this University."

Last fall, the Jacksons announced an addition of \$800,000 to their previous promise of \$500,000 for music programs at the University. The new annual and charitable remainder trust funding brought their total endowment to \$1.3 million. In December 2022, Lepre announced the naming of SU's music program – now the Peter and Judy Jackson Music Program – in their honor.



The Jacksons have played an integral part in SU's music program for decades – and will continue to do so for decades more."

– Dr. Lepre

Above: (From left) Jackson family members Robert Bean and Catherine Jackson, and Judy and Peter Jackson with SU President Carolyn Ringer Lepre and Dr. Maarten Pereboom, Fulton School dean

LFQ Celebrates 50 Years

A decorative infinity symbol given away to attendees may have been the most fitting gift during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the internationally recognized journal *Literature/Film Quarterly* (LFQ) at Salisbury University.

There are infinite ways adaptation – the base of the journal – can be interpreted, and there are seemingly infinite ways that LFQ has needed to adapt over its 50 years to keep up with the film industry and its academic following.

A half-century ago, when co-founders Drs. Jim Welsh and Tom Erskine began the journal, they could have had no idea how much of a worldwide success it would become with readership in more than 30 countries.

“I think that Jim Welsh and Tom Erskine were visionaries,” said Dr. Elsie Walker, the publication’s current editor



and SU professor of English. “They built this from absolutely nothing. And they built it out of love, and I think, ultimately, that’s where the best work comes from.”

Walker took the role of editor in 2003 and has guided the publication for the past 20 years into its current iteration as a fully online journal, which has only expanded its reach.

To learn more about LFQ, visit lfq.salisbury.edu.

Wight Portrait Unveiled

Serving as Salisbury University’s ninth president, from 2018-2022, Dr. Charles A. Wight led the institution through one of the most unprecedented times in history, taking actions to keep the University thriving during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, his portrait joins those of his predecessors in honor of his service to SU. Created by Jinchul Kim, SU professor of art, the painting was unveiled during a festive ceremony in advance of its installation outside the President’s Suite in Holloway Hall.

“This portrait represents, as we just heard [from Jinchul], more than just strokes of paint; it represents the spirit of leadership, dedication and commitment



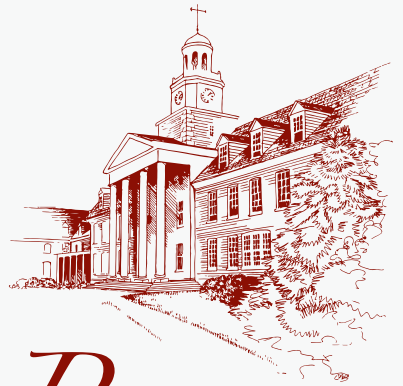
to the pursuit of knowledge, progress and Salisbury University,” said SU President Carolyn Ringer Lepre.

“Chuck’s unwavering belief in the power of education as a force for positive change propelled our institution forward, nurturing an environment where curiosity flourished and innovation thrived, even under the most difficult of circumstances.

“Through his tenure, he instilled values that continue to resonate throughout our community – values of integrity, compassion and inclusion. This legacy is not merely a chapter in the archives of our history; it is a guiding light that continues to illuminate our path toward a brighter future.”

HOLLOWAY HALL:

Where SU Began



On October 17, 1923, Maryland Senator Charles Disharoon arrived at a recently cleared cornfield about a mile south of what were then the city limits of Salisbury, ready to break ground on the State Normal School at Salisbury.

One problem: No one brought a shovel!

Luckily, one of the contractors ready to begin construction had a spade in his truck and, shovel in hand, the senator ceremonially began construction on the site known 100 years later as Salisbury University.

Since 1925, Holloway Hall has stood on that spot. As SU prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2025, the University's inaugural building still remains its most iconic among the 220 acres and nearly 100 buildings that are now part of the campus.

"Looking back over a century, it is impressive to see how far SU has come from that celebratory day in 1923," said SU President Carolyn Ringer Lepre. "With that growth has come tremendous opportunities for tens of thousands of students who, for decades, have made the world a better place thanks to their Salisbury degrees."

Plans for SU began after a 1921 report commissioned by Maryland legislators questioned the ability of the state's

existing "normal schools" (soon to be known as "state teachers colleges") to produce enough teachers to satisfy Maryland's rural areas. The issue had become especially urgent during World War I, when many teachers left their classrooms to join the war effort.

Salisbury native William Holloway, Maryland assistant superintendent of schools, encouraged legislators to consider his hometown as the location of a new normal school that could help solve the problem. A commission appointed to select the site approved the purchase of 29 acres of land for \$16,000.

Holloway became SU's first president, serving from 1925-1934. The building, constructed in phases with additions in 1928 and 1932, was eventually named in his honor. Housing classrooms, dorm rooms, a dining hall, social areas and a campus elementary school, it remained the campus' only building until the opening of Wicomico Hall as a men's residence hall in 1951 to accommodate an influx of students enrolling under the G.I. Bill in the wake of World War II.

Since its opening, more than 70,000 students have earned their degrees from SU, following a path that began with a single scoop of dirt 100 years ago.





↑ The three, maze-like, non-connecting basements of Holloway Hall were excavated by using literal horsepower.

← Construction of the building was done in phases, with the various wings being erected over several years, with its completion occurring in 1933.



↑ One of the most intriguing residents of Holloway Hall in its early years was a seven-foot plaster statue, with movable parts, of *Diana the Huntress*.

← William Holloway, SU's first president, helps break ground on the building that would some day have his name.



↑ Holloway Hall served as all functions when it opened, classrooms, dormitory, dining hall, library and a Campus School, where area school children served as pupils for the teachers in training. When the school opened in 1925, there were 61 pupils enrolled in grades one through four housed in two classrooms. The school remained in Holloway Hall until it moved into its own building (where the Guerrieri Academic Commons now stands) in 1955.

An aerial photograph of the Salisbury University campus. The image shows a large, multi-story brick building with a central tower, surrounded by green lawns and trees. To the right, there are several smaller buildings and a large parking lot filled with cars. In the background, a water tower and other campus structures are visible, along with a residential area and a road. The overall scene is a mix of urban and natural elements.

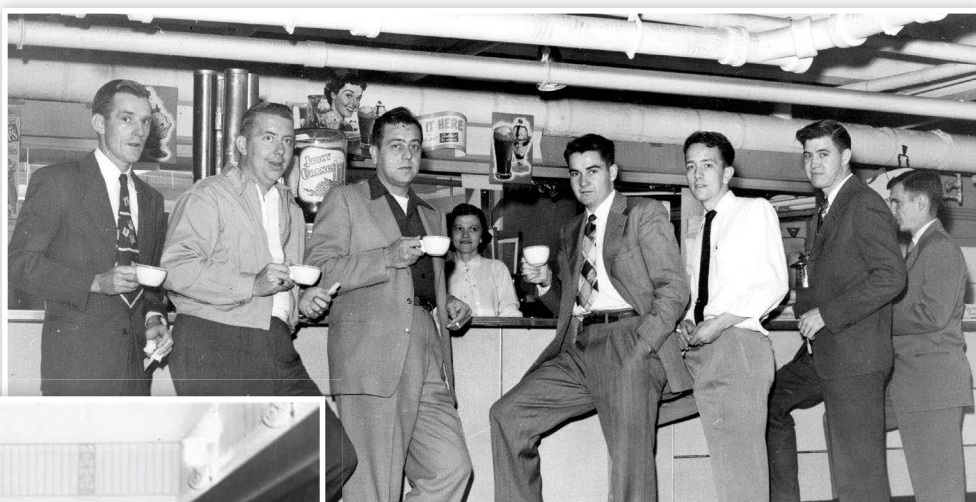
Help Make History!

As the University prepares for its 100th anniversary in 2025, SU's Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture is collecting oral histories from alumni and current or previous faculty and staff members who want to share their memories of the school. We want your stories – it can be as simple as sharing your favorite memory from your time on campus to talking about your favorite professor to a longer conversation about your experiences. Interviews can be done in person or over Zoom. To add your voice to SU's history, please contact:

University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian
Jen Pulsney
jhpulsney@salisbury.edu
410-548-2193



Holloway Hall became Holloway Hall in December 1966 when the main buildings on campus were given their official names.



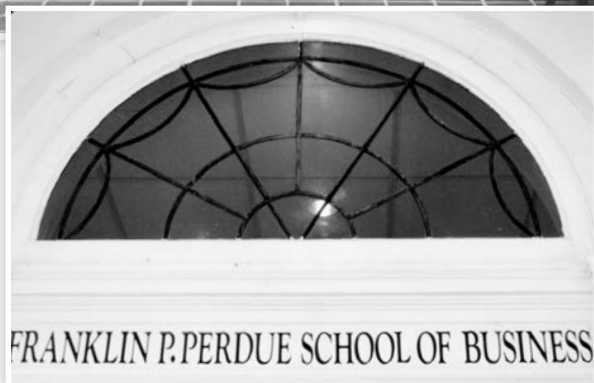
At a gala party in September 1950, a Student Activity Center, converted at a cost of \$15,000, was opened in the basement of Holloway Hall. It housed a bookstore, post office, snack bar and dance floor.



In 1968, the dining hall in Holloway Hall was converted into a gallery for rotating art exhibits – now known as the Great Hall – and the old kitchen into a modern infirmary, which is still SU's Student Health Services location.



Holloway Hall served as dormitory space for nearly all of its first 50 years, with the last students moving out in 1973.



As the building transitioned throughout the decades, it underwent several renovations, most notably in 1984-85, when the original Campus School, commonly referred to as the east wing was revamped to house the Perdue School of Business and the Perdue Wing was born. The current layout of the building occurred during a major remodel in 1995-96, when the residents of the building were relocated temporarily to trailers in the parking lot where Conway Hall now stands.



As the campus slowly re-opened during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Great Hall was home to Campus Health for over a year, serving as a testing site and later as vaccination clinic.



The contents for this feature are taken from *Salisbury: From Normal School to University 1925-2001*, which was written by Dr. Sylvia Bradley, SU history professor emerita, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the University.

SU HORTICULTURE AND GROUNDS STAFF

Making the University Flourish

Celebrating Those Who Care for Campus

When students are asked why they chose Salisbury University, many of them say the same thing: “From the first moment I stepped foot on campus, I fell in love.”

SU is nationally recognized and internationally accredited for its 200-plus-acre arboretum. The beauty of the grounds is central to the University’s vibrant campus life and a major factor in many students’ college decision. SU regularly wins awards for its arboretum and sustainability initiatives, including being designated as a Bird Campus, Bee Campus and Monarch Watch butterfly waystation, and earning Tree Campus USA recognition. All of this is possible thanks to the dedicated team that maintains the campus, many of whom are proud Sea Gull alumni.

The SU Alumni Association honored SU’s Horticulture and Grounds Department for its role in preserving the campus’ beauty at its annual awards ceremony. From setting up for Alumni Homecoming and Family Weekend to ensuring the campus remains litter-free, the department continues to go above and beyond to meet the needs of the campus community. Among the staff that were honored are Julie Golightly, William Lowery, Richard Shaw ’94, Sherrie Bauer ’94, William “Bill” Harris ’82 and Frank Bowen ’89, assistant director of Horticulture and Grounds and Physical Plant.

“Caring for the campus is not just a responsibility. It’s an honor,” Bowen said. “I get to work with a team of wonderful people, who know we have a great opportunity to make a difference.”





Bowen said what motivates the staff is that many are SU alumni themselves who understand the importance of what they do.

“Everyone on our team, down to groundskeepers and service workers and current students, are happy to be an important part of SU,” Bowen said. “Since I first came to SU as a student, I’ve seen the campus through all its changes. It’s still the same place, and we love it.”

When Bowen was an SU student, he worked for the Horticulture Department. Back then, the crew relied heavily on students – especially during the summer, when students would help with mowing, irrigation and caring for the plant life.

For many students, caring for the campus teaches them management skills and gives them the opportunity to learn from some of the best horticulturists. They also feel the importance of creating an atmosphere that feels warm and welcoming for the entire community, something that motivates them to continue giving back to their Alma Mater as staff.

That was the case for Sherrie Bauer, who returned to SU as part of the Horticulture and Grounds Department in 2017. The passion of the team is what made Bauer want to come back and be part of it. What she enjoys about her job is that everyone brings different experience and landscaping styles, which come together to create a diverse and vibrant vision for the campus.

“Our campus is beautiful, and everyone on the team takes pride in the presentation of the campus,” Bauer said.

“Caring for the campus is not just a responsibility. It’s an honor. I get to work with a team of wonderful people, who know we have a great opportunity to make a difference.”

FRANK BOWEN

Opposite: Horticulture staff (from left) Sherrie Bauer, Richard Shaw, Rachael Faust and Bill Harris

All About the SU Arboretum



3,000

trees and an extensive
inventory of plant species



200

acre campus of gardens and
landscaped settings



14

years among Princeton
Review’s Greenest Colleges



1st

Bee Campus USA honoree in
the University System of
Maryland



AMBER COWAN '04

New Stories Through Glassworks

Reincarnating Lost History

Looking at one of Amber Cowan's glass sculptures is like stepping into another dimension.

Her work sets a story in motion. It's as if the sculpture itself is swimming, fluttering, dripping, ready to take off and fly away. Each piece is its own world, a story with a thousand parts. The amount of time, skill and vision it takes to create a single sculpture is astounding.

How does she do it? She starts by heating up the kiln.

Cowan worked hard to design this life for herself. She built her career like she does her art – one piece at a time.

"I always believed in myself and knew I could make it work," Cowan said. "A lot of it is just having the grit to pursue what you love. It's like rolling the dice on yourself constantly. It's a lot of hard work, but it's worth it."



Cowan has come a long way since she graduated from SU's hot glass program in 2004. Her work can be found in galleries and museums across the country, and she has been featured in *The New York Times*.

Looking at her sculptures, it seems like she works magic, creating something out of nothing. But her primary material is recycled vintage glass, made of dead stock colors from defunct companies – parts of history that may otherwise lay in waste. Part of her work is searching for the right components, touring old glass factories for scraps or finding them in thrift stores across the country. Sometimes, people will send her family heirlooms, which allows her to preserve a part of their family history in her work.

"I'll do a lot of research on the history of those objects and the story behind them," Cowan said. "If I put one of these pieces into my sculptures, that story continues to be told."

She likes to call her medium "sought objects," an active hunt for pieces she can mold into her narrative. In her pursuit of these fragments of a story, she is reclaiming something lost.

One of her pieces includes a broken blue candy dish, sent to her by a woman whose great-great-grandfather won it at a state fair in 1834. He gave the dish to his wife, and their history continued to be passed down through generations. Now, it lives on in one of Cowan's pieces, on display in Imagine Museum in Florida.

"The journey has really been amazing," Cowan said. "I think every day how lucky I am."

Cowan has returned to SU campus to give an artist talk to current students. She is an example that whatever their dreams are, they can make it happen.

"The glass program is why I went to SU," Cowan said. "I have seen a lot of my colleagues I graduated with go on to pursue careers and start their own studios. If you get out there, meet a lot of people and reach for the opportunities around you, it will broaden your worldview."



**"A lot of it is just having the grit
to pursue what you love."**

AMBER COWAN



Funding for Our Future

IDEAS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ACROSS OUR CAMPUS

Much of the President Carolyn Ringer Lepre's vision for Salisbury University stemmed from meetings with hundreds of faculty, staff, students and area residents during her first six months at Salisbury to learn about their views of the University and its strengths, challenges and opportunities. From a shared focus on student and academic success to a desire for deeper community engagement and inclusive excellence, Lepre discovered what was most important to stakeholders.

"I learned our people are everything," she said. "Time and again, I heard what makes our University special is how deeply we care about one another and about our students."

So valuable was this input that Lepre announced the creation of a new Strategic Innovation Fund of \$500,000 annually for three years to fund proposals from the SU community for projects and programs that help achieve her vision for the University. This will give SU's students, faculty, staff and others the opportunity to have a direct impact on the institution's future.

Strategic Innovation Funds may be used for a wide variety of projects, including developing new interdisciplinary research clusters, building community and industry partnerships, supporting undergraduate and graduate student recruitment and retention, funding ideas that will help SU operate more effectively or efficiently, or other potentially high-impact ideas that require seed funds to test concepts or build momentum.

Last fall, the first round of proposals garnered over 40 applicants and the first five programs to benefit from the funds were announced at the President's State of the University Address.

These projects have the opportunity to change Salisbury University for the better – and there is still money left to be invested. Resubmissions and new proposals are being sought during the spring semester to ensure SU fully invests the \$500,000 committed to ideas that make a difference across our campus.



STRATEGIC INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS – FALL 2023



\$96,250

Fostering Inclusive Educational Excellence: Implementing ACUE's Effective Teaching Practice Framework for Student Belonging and Success

Dr. Jessica Clark, Assistant Provost for Faculty Success



\$70,000

First Gen Sea Gull Scholars Program

Vanice Antrum, Multicultural Affairs Director & Dr. Margaret Sebastian, TRIO Student Support Services Director



\$15,000

Sammy's Stash, A Secondhand Shop

Rachael Faust, University Recycling Coordinator



\$11,500

Salisbury University Flash Fundraisers

Michelle Pryor, Annual Giving & Engagement Director



\$5,000

Pathways to Progress: Empowering Probation Students for Academic Excellence and Beyond

Wendy Jin, Perdue School of Business Advising Services Coordinator

To support academic excellence and inclusive practices, SU will partner with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE), a recognized organization dedicated to improving student success through the implementation of evidence-based, inclusive teaching practices. The project's significance and its impact on SU and the broader community are noteworthy, including an estimated return-on-investment of more than \$1.1 million at the end of three years from student retention.

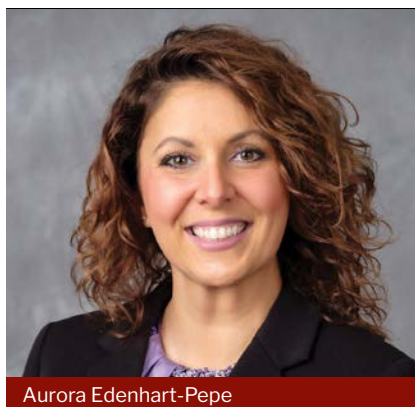
New University Administrators

Salisbury University welcomed two new members to its leadership team in 2023.

With more than a decade of experience in higher education administration, Aurora Edenhart-Pepe is SU's new vice president of administration and finance.

Edenhart-Pepe came to SU from Wake Forest University School of Law, where she served as chief administrative officer.

Edenhart-Pepe oversees the University's overall budget, financial and administrative operations, including capital projects, facilities management, human resources, information technology, and campus safety and sustainability. In addition, she is helping SU transition to Workday enterprise resource planning software, a process that began more than a year ago in connection with other University System of Maryland institutions. This platform is expected to be a critical component for many of SU's



Aurora Edenhart-Pepe

current systems, from student services to employee management.

With a higher education background spanning more than a quarter-century, Dr. Deirdra Johnson is the University's newest associate vice president of student affairs.

Johnson comes to SU from Wor-Wic Community College, where she served as dean of enrollment management and



Dr. Deirdra Johnson

student services.

"With passion and knowledge, Deirdra has assisted in developing and implementing several successful student retention initiatives at Wor-Wic," said Dr. Dane Foust, SU vice president of student affairs. "We are excited to welcome her to SU, working with her as we strengthen existing initiatives and develop new programs to best serve our students."

Provost Emerita Olmstead Retires



When Dr. Karen Olmstead came to Salisbury University as dean of the Henson School of Science and Technology in 2008, she hoped to provide SU's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students with the best education possible. A decade later, she expanded that philosophy to include the campus as a whole upon becoming SU's provost and senior vice president of academic affairs in 2018.

After nearly 15 years as a proven leader and champion of both students and faculty at the institution, Olmstead stepped down from position at the end of the 2022-23 academic year and recently retired after taking on a special role in the President's Office.

As dean of the Henson School, Olmstead was a co-principal investigator for a \$996,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to fund the University's Bridges to SUCCESS (SU Connections to Careers for Every STEM Student) program, designed to increase science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates by 75% within five years. In her role as dean, she also helped open SU's Richard A. Henson Medical Simulation Center.

As provost, she was instrumental in the creation of SU's College of Health and Human Services. She also played a key role in the transition of the Honors Program to what is now the Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke Honors College.

Olmstead was influential in SU's earning the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification in 2020, developing the Rommel Center for Entrepreneurship and winning more than \$3 million for SU in state funding for workforce development. During her tenure, SU also set new records for Fulbright students and scholars, being named a top producer in the United States for both.

State of the University – Now & Tomorrow

A formalized graduate school, new academic programs and enhanced study abroad initiatives were among the highlights announced by Salisbury University President Carolyn Ringer Lepre during her second State of the University address in November.

These are among the next steps in realizing the “Salisbury Seven,” a blueprint for SU’s future success laid out during her inaugural State of the University address – read about them at salisbury.edu/salisbury7.

“Nine months ago, I stood right here and shared our collective vision to be a University known for its purpose of transforming lives through academic excellence and its commitment to suffusing life-changing, high-impact practices, inclusion and belonging throughout the educational experience,” Lepre shared. “Since then, I have been blown away by your excitement for our path forward.”



FORMALIZED GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Faculty Senate recently gave its approval to formalize a graduate school at SU. The new academic unit will take the place of the University’s current Office of Graduate Studies and Research (along with the creation of a new Office of Research and Sponsored Programs), allowing SU to bolster efforts to grow graduate enrollment.



NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Lepre announced SU has submitted letters of intent to the University System of Maryland to launch new bachelor’s degree programs in engineering and music therapy. They are the first of what the President expects will be the launch of one new academic program in a high-impact area each year.

Plans for a third new program, an M.A. in public communication, also are in process. That degree will focus on advanced education for public relations

practitioners and analysts in the athletic, health care, commercial, public affairs and political fields, she said.



SALISBURY UNIVERSITY GLOBAL CAMPUS

As part of a continuing effort to become the Maryland public university with the highest number of students who have at least one global experience prior to graduation, SU is expanding its study abroad opportunities through new SU Global Campus programs.

During the winter 2024 term, SU leased an entire building for student residences in Stirling, Scotland, growing its SU in Scotland Global Campus program at the University of Stirling. There, students learn both in the classroom and in culturally important locales such as Edinburgh and Glasgow.

In June, seven SU faculty will follow in their footsteps, teaching classes in English and Spanish during the summer session through the SU In Spain Global Campus program in Málaga.



Read the State of the University transcript on the President’s website: salisbury.edu/president



STRATEGIC INNOVATIONS

Lepre announced the first five ideas to benefit from the new Strategic Innovation Fund – read about the new program on page 34.

In addition, Lepre shared SU is developing a central fund to ensure the ability to provide sign language interpreters at all University events. The President announced plans to install pickleball courts on campus, with the first expected adjacent to Sea Gull Square next spring. She also discussed a study to determine the feasibility of resurrecting the University's marching band, originally active from 1972-1982.



CAMPUS CLIMATE

Lepre announced the development of ongoing diversity, equity and inclusion training programs, as well as the promotion of open dialogues and the implementation of diverse recruitment practices.

She discussed the importance of mental health among the campus community, noting the Student Affairs Division's significant investment in TimelyCare, a 24/7, external tele-mental health service provider, which offers free on-demand and scheduled counseling for students.



INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY

The President also updated the audience on another initiative announced in February: the Centennial Scholars Challenge to create 100 new endowed scholarships in time for the University's 100th anniversary in 2025. The initiative is nearly a third of the way completed, with 30 new scholarships announced so far.

Capital projects such as the forthcoming renovation of Blackwell Hall into a student service hub will represent investments in the University's future. The enhanced structure is expected to open in fall 2026 as the first net-zero building on campus (meaning no net greenhouse gas emissions) and one of the first in the University System of Maryland.



RECENT SUCCESSES

Lepre also took time during her State of the University to reflect on the successes the University has seen in the past nine months.

These have included the approval of a new General Education program to be introduced next fall. The program focuses on the student learning outcomes reflected in SU's mission and vision, beginning with an academically centered first-year semester and ending with an experiential learning opportunity for all students.

SU welcomed one of its largest first-year classes in campus history, with nearly 1,400 students this fall, including more than 530 transfer students and over 320 new graduate students. Hailing from 27 states and 18 countries, almost a third self-identified as coming from underrepresented backgrounds, making this the most diverse class in SU history.

Of particular note was the announcement of \$11 million in external grants and contract awards in 2022-23, representing the largest single-academic-year amount ever received at SU.



BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE TOGETHER

Lepre closed her address by sharing an account of certainties she has for the future of SU:

"I am certain that we will find ways to put our people – our community – first.

"I am certain that we will provide impactful academic programs that serve the needs of our students and the world.

"I am certain that we will create a place where everyone feels valued and empowered.

"I am certain that we will create opportunities for students to be the critical- and ethically minded leaders of tomorrow.

"I am certain that our institution will be a premier example of excellence.

"And I am certain that, together, we are building a brighter future."



The Numbers Speak for Themselves SU'S LATEST RANKINGS

Top 10

Guerrieri Academic Commons –
The Princeton Review Top 10
Best College Libraries in the nation

27 Years

U.S. News and World Report's Best
Colleges – Best Regional Universities
in the North and Top Public Schools,
Best Value Schools, Best Colleges
for Veterans, Best Online Master's in
Nursing and Best Online M.B.A.

25 Years

The Princeton Review's The Best
Colleges – among the nation's
top 15% of four-year colleges and
the Best Mid-Atlantic Colleges

10 Years

Forbes magazine's America's
Top Colleges and America's
Best Value Colleges

11 Years

Washington Monthly
magazine's America's Best Bang
for the Buck Colleges

9 Years

Money magazine's
The Best Colleges in America



New Golf Teams, New Coach

DALTON DEARDORFF

Dalton Deardorff has been named the first head men's and women's golf coach, leading Salisbury University's newest two sports.

"I'm excited to have earned this incredible opportunity to create a golf program at Salisbury University," said Deardorff. "To be able to work within a department that has already established itself for athletic prowess across so many programs is a great honor. As we begin recruiting for our first men's and women's classes, we're looking forward to bringing in top-tier student-athletes who will lay the foundation to shape our program for the future."

Deardorff brings over 25 years of experience to the Sea Gull golf program. He comes to Salisbury after spending almost four years as a private instructor based out of Bishopville, MD. He also hosts a golf-based podcast, *Wonderful Walks in Golf*. Deardorff played collegiately at Marywood University, joining Marywood's first-ever golf recruiting class, helping the Pacers win back-to-back Colonial States Athletic Conference championships in 2015 and 2016. Deardorff has also competed in multiple open and amateur tournaments hosted by the Maryland State Golf Association.

Polizzi Leads the Sea Gulls

From the softball field to the administrator's office, Monica Gordy Polizzi has been a force in NCAA athletics for more than 20 years. She brings those decades of experience to Salisbury University as the newest director of athletics and campus recreation – the first woman to hold the position.

Polizzi comes to SU from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC, where she served as senior associate athletic director of internal operations. Prior to that, she spent 11 years at Mars Hill University (NC), including eight as head softball coach and three as assistant director of athletics.

"Salisbury University is an athletics powerhouse, and it takes a strong leader to continue to guide our teams and students to success," said SU President Carolyn Ringer Lepre. "With more than two decades as a coach, administrator and student-athlete at the collegiate level, Monica fits that description and then some."

"I am excited to lead the Sea Gulls, and I'm eager to work with so many talented and successful coaches and staff," said Polizzi, a Salisbury native. "Growing up near the University, I had the opportunity to experience the enthusiasm around some of the program's earliest team championships in the 1990s. I can't wait to play a part in that legacy ..."

Polizzi currently chairs the NCAA National Committee for Division II football – the first woman to hold that position, as well – and serves on the NCAA Regional Advisory Committee for the sport. Professionally, Polizzi was one of only 24 women from all NCAA divisions selected to participate in the NCAA's 2020 Lessons in Management workshop. She also was selected as one of eight mentees to participate in the 2022 Division II Athletic Directors Association Women and Minorities Mentorship program, offered through the Division II Athletic Directors Association and NCAA, and has served as a delegate at multiple NCAA conventions.



20+
YEARS IN
THE NCAA

2
DECADES AS COACH,
ADMINISTRATOR &
STUDENT-ATHLETE

1st
WOMAN TO CHAIR
NCAA DII FOOTBALL
COMMITTEE

Sea Gulls Celebrate A True Winning Fall

Salisbury University volleyball may have brought home the biggest hardware with a Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference (C2C) championship, but they were far from the only maroon-and-golds to experience success in the first athletics season under new Director of Athletics Monica Polizzi.

Sea Gull field hockey enjoyed another season from its perch at the top of the sport, reaching as high as fourth in the rankings and finishing 14-5. SU earned a second straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals after freshman Ramsey Coffman came off the bench in overtime to score a penalty-stroke goal, lifting SU past Williams College, 1-0, in the second round.

Salisbury football rattled off its 14th consecutive winning season, overcoming

a slew of injuries to finish 6-4 and earn a tie for second place in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC). Sophomore kicker Kollin Samaha was named NJAC Special Teams Player of the Year, while senior Joey Bildstein made his third All-NJAC First Team after rushing for 15 touchdowns in just six games.

Sea Gull women's soccer broke 10 wins to secure its first winning record since 2019 at 10-7-2, with half of those victories coming by just one goal. SU men's soccer began to turn the corner under second-year boss Zack MacDougall by locking up its first winning season since 2018 with a 7-5-5 mark. Both sides earned signature 1-0 victories during the campaign, with the women's team ending Washington & Lee's two-year regular season undefeated streak on October 13 and the men

upending NCAA Tournament-bound Christopher Newport five days later.

While the sport features no win-loss records, the Salisbury cross country teams can also claim winning campaigns after experiencing multiple fall breakthroughs. The Sea Gull men and women combined for three team first-place finishes through the season, and each side recorded strong placings at the conference and regional championship races. The women earned their best regional finish (seventh) in 17 years, while the men cracked the top 10 at regionals (ninth) for the third straight year.

The fall season brought another bountiful harvest to SU Athletics and, undoubtedly, a sterling start to the Polizzi era.

The fall season brought another bountiful harvest to SU Athletics and, undoubtedly, a sterling start to the Polizzi era.



Photo credit: Hamdi Reagle



Volleyball Secures Conference Title

Moments after the ball fell to the floor for the last time in the Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference (C2C) finals, right as the Sea Gulls broke their first of many celebratory hugs to shake hands across the net, senior libero Grace Rail couldn't keep the tears from flowing over what her team had just accomplished.

Salisbury volleyball had been here so many times. Last season, they came up short at Mary Washington in four sets. The year before, it was against eternal rival Christopher Newport University (CNU) after squandering a pair of match points in the fifth set.

Rail and six of her SU teammates – Ella Skye Franks, Delaney Madsen, Jackie Mitchell, Kayla Pedersen, Natalie Uibel and Brooke Young – had experienced that same heartache twice over in pursuit of their first conference championship since the Margie Knight days in 2012. With the prospect of hosting C2C Tournament in 2023, they knew this time had to be different.



Photo credit: Hannah Reagle

Two hours of intense, back-and-forth volleyball eventually came down to who could score three points first.



It took some growing pains over a rocky start to get there. The turnaround started on September 30 against Mary Washington at Maggs Center. Trailing two sets to none, the Sea Gulls pulled off a stunning “reverse sweep” to deal the Eagles their first loss of the year. That ignited an 11-2 stretch to close out the regular season. Gwen Eustace emerged as a dominant force in the middle during her sophomore season, and Julie Altieri and Kiley McTaggart broke into the starting rotation as freshmen.

The second weekend in November had arrived.

After dispatching CNU in the semifinals, Salisbury was ready for another bout with Mary Washington for

the title. Two hours of intense, back-and-forth volleyball eventually came down to who could score three points first. The Sea Gulls landed the next two, spotted UMW one, and watched as the final Eagle attack sailed high and past the line.

Through glistening eyes, Rail held tight to her teammates and Head Coach Nikki Binetti. Moments later, all it took was the slightest beckon from C2C commissioner Chris Roekle. Rail sprinted to grab the trophy and hoist it high as her teammates spilled forward – finally, finally champions.

Hall of Fame's New Class

Salisbury University's Hall of Fame welcomed the Class of 2023 during Alumni Homecoming in the fall. The six-person class includes Coach Margie Knight '79, Michelle (Gravdahl) Deck '13, Brendan Kincaid '08, Tara (McGovern) Gurria '12, Johnny Rodriguez '12 and Chelsea Tavik '13.

One of the true titans of Sea Gull athletics, the late Knight served as a head coach for the Salisbury softball and volleyball teams for a combined 40 seasons, earning Capital Athletic Conference (CAC, now Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference) Coach of the Year 18 times.

Deck guided the softball team to four CAC championships, four NCAA Tournament appearances and a berth in the 2013 national championship series. She earned three NFCA All-America nods, including first team in 2013, and was named NFCA National Catcher of the Year in 2013.

Kincaid ruled the tennis courts with 100 combined wins across singles and doubles competitions. He also assisted SU football win the 2006 Eastern

Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) South Atlantic Bowl championship and earn a bid into the 2007 NCAA Tournament.

McGovern helped the Sea Gulls win their fifth field hockey national championship in 2009, assisting on the only goal of the game. SU qualified for the NCAA Tournament all four seasons with McGovern and won a trio of CAC championships in 2008, 2009 and 2011.

Rodriguez was integral in men's lacrosse capturing the program's ninth national championship in 2011 and reach the NCAA title game in 2010. SU reached four consecutive NCAA Tournaments with Rodriguez on the roster and took home three CAC crowns in 2009, 2011 and 2012.

One of the most decorated athletes in Sea Gull history, Tavik owns a pair of Salisbury's 24 individual national championships and the only two women's individual crowns. She captured the 2012 indoor shot put championship and capped her career with a personal-best shot put to win the 2013 outdoor crown.



Remembering Coach Deshon

SU mourns the passing of one of Sea Gull baseball's founders and a pillar of Salisbury Athletics, Deane Deshon.

The 1998 inductee into the SU Athletics Hall of Fame led the baseball program for 34 years, compiling a 553-446-12 record with five NCAA Tournament appearances.

When he was hired by then-Maryland State Teachers College in 1962, Deshon's first task was to build the baseball program. Handed a situation with no team, no field, and a population of just 105 male students, Deshon helped oversee the construction of a field where Maggs Center and Devilbiss Hall now stand. He needed just seven years to guide his team to a share of the Delaware Valley Conference Championship. Soon after, they were competing with the upper echelon of Division III talent.

Recognized for both his baseball and basketball leadership, Deshon was named the 1967 Maryland Intercollegiate Basketball Coach of the Year, earned two NAIA District Baseball Coach of the Year awards and named the 1977 NCAA Division III Baseball Coach of the Year. He retired as the 13th-winningest baseball coach in NCAA Division III history.





Meet the New SULead-ers

INTRODUCING THE FIRST COHORTS

With a goal of creating a pipeline of diverse leaders within the institution, the SULead program was introduced recently as a professional development initiative to foster engagement of talented, emerging Salisbury University staff with leadership potential by providing them with a well-rounded view of what goes into running the campus, as well as mentorship from area leaders.

Ten staff members, representing a diverse cross section of campus, comprised the first cohort: Lacie Doyle, advising services coordinator in the Academic Advising Office; Jennifer Ellis, curriculum and academic specialist in the Academic Affairs Office; Cynthia Funkhouser, executive administrative assistant in the Fulton School of Liberal Arts; Alexia Rawlings, academic program specialist at the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE); Rachael Faust, recycling coordinator in the Facilities Services Office; Colin Watson, support associate in the Information Technology Department; Jeff Westphal, University Police officer; Erin Smith, assistant director of alumni engagement in the Alumni Relations Office; Dawn Keter, training coordinator and counselor in the Counseling Center; and Mario Ramirez, office clerk in the Conference Services Office.

Meeting once a week, cohort members learned about each of SU's divisions from members of the President's Cabinet and interacted with other leaders on and off campus, including SU President Carolyn Ringer Lepre, Maryland Governor Wes Moore, Salisbury Mayor Jack Heath, Greater Salisbury Committee President and CEO Mike Dunn; area business officials; and members of the University's shared governance organizations.

In addition to gaining a better understanding of the innerworkings of SU, they also networked and built relationships across campus and beyond, learning about the challenges and opportunities facing higher education and participating in self-assessment activities to leverage their unique strengths for personal and professional success.

"I really appreciated the self-reflection sessions, particularly the ethics study and the leadership session ... [which] gave me an opportunity to reflect on what I believe to be true about myself ... and to understand my leadership styles, beliefs and core values," said Ellis.

After a successful inaugural semester, SU Lead continues to serve as a professional development program, with the second SULead cohort of 12 employees launching last fall.

Above: Inaugural SULead Cohort

Below: Fall 2023 SULead Cohort



Alumni Greetings



Dear Fellow Alumni,

It is always a great day to be a Sea Gull! That is a phrase I have used or heard many times during my time as a student and it still remains true today. As an alumnus and a longtime University employee, I can attest to the progress Salisbury University continues to make as it approaches its 100th birthday. I am so proud of the many accomplishments our Alma Mater achieves in the classroom, on the playing field and the impact Sea Gull Nation is making around the world.

This fall, we had a tremendous Alumni Homecoming and Family Weekend. I thank all the alumni who joined us for one of our many events throughout the week and thank my colleagues across campus who worked hard to make it a memorable experience. We plan events that enable alumni to network and reconnect with former classmates or teammates. One of the programs we are continuing in 2024 is SU on the Road, where you are able to meet with President Carolyn Ringer Lepre to hear where SU is headed and to provide insight into how we can best support our students to prepare them for the next phase of their life.



Pay it forward to the next generation of Sea Gulls just like our more seasoned alumni invested in you."

The Office of Alumni Engagement is here to serve our entire alumni base and are sharing some new programs to expand our reach this spring. The first is Gulls Of the Last Decade (GOLD) where our newest alumni get extra perks like discounted events and engagement opportunities just for them. We also are starting a Sea Gull Alumni Alliance Program where we work with alumni group leaders, helping them bring alumni together who share common interests. Please visit salisbury.edu/alumni or email alumni@salisbury.edu for more information.

One of the best parts of my job is getting to meet so many alumni who have unique stories of how SU impacted their lives. Many speak of a teacher, an advisor, a coach or a staff member who was there when they were needed most or helped them find their passion that led into a career. I encourage all of our alumni to come back to campus to reconnect with the area that means the most to you. Take the opportunity to speak to a class or work with Career Services to provide internships to worthy student applicants. Make it a point to pay it forward to the next generation of Sea Gulls just like our more seasoned alumni invested in you. I look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

Once a Sea Gull, Always a Sea Gull!

Jayme Block '97, M'99

Associate Vice President, University Advancement



Know an alum worthy of recognition?

Check out the Alumni Association Award descriptions and nominate them today:



Celebrate your favorite professor!

Learn more about the Faculty Appreciation Awards and submit your nomination:



Are you looking to start an alumni group?

Our Sea Gull Alumni Alliance is the perfect place for our alumni to reconnect over a common interest, campus organization, geographic region, culture or shared identity. Learn more about the program:



Stay Connected

- facebook.com/SUAlumni
- [@SUalumni](https://www.instagram.com/SUalumni)
- [@SUalumni](https://twitter.com/SUalumni)
- [linkedin.com/school/salisbury-university](https://www.linkedin.com/school/salisbury-university)

Alumni Book Club: pbc.guru/salisbury

Recent Alumni Event Snapshots

- 1 **SU on the Road:** Friends of Sea Gull Football Golf Tournament – Ocean City Golf Club, Berlin, MD – July 1, 2023
- 2 **SU on the Road:** Phillies Event – Philadelphia, PA – July 15, 2023
- Meet the New Women's Basketball Coach – Salisbury, MD – August 4, 2023
- 3 Jimmy Buffet's Escape to Margaritaville – Toby's Dinner Theatre, Columbia, MD – August 17, 2023
- 4 DC United Game – Washington, DC – August 26, 2023
- 5 Gerry DiBartolo Sea Gull Soccer Complex Naming – Salisbury, MD – August 26, 2023
- 6 Men's Soccer Alumni Game – Salisbury, MD – August 26, 2023
- 7 Women's Soccer Alumni Game – Salisbury, MD – August 26, 2023
- 8 Field Hockey Alumni Game – Salisbury, MD – August 27, 2023
- 9 Cross Country Alumni Day – Winter Place Park, Salisbury, MD – September 30, 2023
- 10 Margie Knight Sea Gull Softball Stadium Naming and Alumni Day – Salisbury, MD – October 7, 2023
- Run the Boards Like Rob – Ocean City Boardwalk – October 15, 2023
- 11 Men's Basketball Tip-Off Dinner – Black Diamond, Fruitland, MD – October 20, 2023
- 12 Men's Basketball Alumni Game – Salisbury, MD – October 21, 2023
- Homecoming Satellite Event:** Bar Rita – Fort Lauderdale, FL – October 27, 2023
- 13 **Homecoming Satellite Event:** 3 Daughters Brewing – St. Petersburg, FL – October 28, 2023
- 14 **Homecoming:** Class of 1993 and 1998 Reunion – EVO Public House – October 28, 2023
- 15 **Homecoming:** Men's and Women's Tennis Alumni Gathering – SU Tennis Courts – October 28, 2023



Find out what's happening near you under the "Alumni Events" tab at:
salisbury.edu/alumni





2



3



5



6



7



9



8



10



12



13

Class Notes

Information received prior to approx. October 1, 2023
M = Master's Degree; D = Doctorate

1970s

Donald Taylor '73 received the Salisbury Award for his long record of leadership on behalf of youth, volunteerism and service to the less fortunate.

Granvil Jones '75 was honored by the Atlantic General Hospital Auxiliary, Berlin, MD, for his years of volunteer service.

Andrea (Hedrick) Williams '79, M'95 was recognized by Perdue Farms, Inc. of Salisbury, MD, for his years of service with the company.

1 Reverend J. Joseph Hart '79 retired after 30 years of dedicated service as Greater Baltimore Medical Center director of spiritual support services.

2 Salisbury University honored the following alumni with the inaugural Meritorious Staff Award at the 2023 Employee Appreciation Day: **Richard Culver '70; Joanna (Horsey) O'Neal '84, M'11; Kathy Pusey '86;** and **Charlotte Rayne '89.** Pictured are Culver (right) and Pusey with SU Chief of Staff **Eli Modlin '16.**

1980s

Jacqueline Banks '82, M'85 had a virtual presentation of her newly released book *The Black Mermaid: Topaz's First Integration* sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations of Johns Hopkins University.

Allen Brown M'82 was presented with the Individual Community Service Award by the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association for his hours of volunteering to a variety of groups.

Kory Hooker '83 was recognized by Perdue Farms, Inc. of Salisbury, MD, for his years of service with the company.



Bonnie (Waite) Willey '83 of Community Wellness at TidalHealth Peninsula Regional in Salisbury, MD, was selected as the 2022 third quarter recipient of the MacGyver Award, which recognizes social workers and counselors who contribute a positive image to their profession.

Scott Allison M'87 retired from Roanoke College, Salem, VA, as the director of athletics after over 30 years of service.

Karen (Clarke) Ferruzza '87 was named an honoree for the Maryland School Librarian of the Year award, sponsored by the Maryland Association of School Librarians.

Mary Catherine Klein M'87 was recognized by Perdue Farms, Inc. of Salisbury, MD, for her years of service with the company.

James Sturgell '87 took on the new role of executive vice president/chief commercial officer of U.S. Foods, Rosemont, IL, as part of restructuring changes in the executive leadership team.

1990s

John Baugher '91 is the new high school principal at Sussex Technical High School in Georgetown, DE.

William "Bill" Lewit '91, M'93 is one of the new assistant coaches for men's basketball at Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK.

Barrett Mincey M'91 was inducted into the prestigious Marquis Who's Who biographical registry for his example



of hard work, drive and ambition as an educator and consultant.

Tammy (Brumley) DeBerardinis '92, M'99 received the Extra Mile Award from Wicomico County Public Schools, Salisbury, MD.

Patricia (Keene) Walls '92 was named the deputy director of human resources by the Worcester County Commissioners, Snow Hill, MD.

Tae Johnson '93 retired as the deputy director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency after over 30 years serving our country.

Thomas King '93 is the new assistant coach and director of operations at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD.

Deborah (Holloway) Moreno '93 completed her M.B.A. from Columbia Southern University, Orange Beach, AL.

Timothy Robinson '93, M'06 was appointed the new chief of police for the Ocean Pines community, Berlin, MD.

Rhonda Hall M'94 was named the superintendent of the Accomack County Public Schools system in Accomac, VA.

Jessica (McArdle) Kubek '94 was a graduate of the 2023 class of Cecil Leadership Institute of Cecil County, MD. The institute provides a framework where business and government leaders engage and commit to ongoing development within the county.

3 Kathy Melvin '94 is now a certified family nurse practitioner at TidalHealth Primary Care in Georgetown, DE.



Jason McLaughlin '95 was recognized on the top 1% list of mortgage originators by *Mortgage Executive Magazine*. He works for NFM Lending, Linthicum Heights, MD.

Ron Greene '96, M'04 took the position of assistant principal at James M. Bennett High School, Salisbury, MD.

Stephanie Stone '96 was appointed to the post of supervisor of accountability for St. Mary's County Public Schools in Leonardtown, MD.

Shannon (Cordell) Berg '97, executive director of the Nir Family YMCA in Wilmington, NC, participated with thousands of kids and adults in the "World's Largest Swimming Lesson," a global event designed to send the message that swimming lessons saves lives.

Kirby Bryson M'97 is the new supervisor of Title I for Wicomico County Public Schools, Salisbury, MD.

Kendra Decker '97 has been appointed as the National Managing Partner of Professional Practice at Grant Thornton, LLP.

Matthew McGinnis '97 was named the athletic director for Delmarva Christian Schools, Georgetown, DE.

Valerie Moyers '97, M'01 earned her Master of Education in curriculum and development from the University of Phoenix and continues to teach at Northwestern Elementary in Mardela Springs, MD.

Corey Snelson '97 is the new director of evaluation at the University of Washington Institute of Translational Health Sciences.

Anthony Villanova M'97 was named the new vice president of PickPal Solutions of Orlando, FL.

Tara (McIntyre) O'Barsky '98, M'04 took the position of supervisor of community schools in the Division of Student and Family Services for Wicomico County Public Schools.

Alissa (McClintic) Fraser '99 was named the new principal of Ferry Farm Elementary School in Fredericksburg, VA.

Carl Johnson M'99 was recognized by Perdue Farms, Inc. of Salisbury, MD, for his years of service with the company.

Kara Layfield M'99 is the new financial aid coordinator in Salisbury University's Financial Aid and Scholarships Office.

Kamesha Miller '99, M'04 is the new assistant principal at Wicomico High School in Salisbury, MD.

2000s

Clara Outten '00, M'06 was honored with the Exemplary Mentor Award by the National Association for Professional Development Schools. She is a teacher and mentor at Snow Hill Elementary School, Snow Hill, MD.

James Hesen '01, M'01, M'10 is now a pupil personnel worker in the Wicomico (MD) County Public Schools.

Joshua Mitchell '01, M'03 is the new civil information model coordinator for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Middle East District.

Danielle Repetti '01 was appointed as chief revenue officer for the Dallas-based Solutions By Text.

Stacie Wentz '01 was named head men's and women's cross-country coach at the University of Saint Joseph's Department of Athletics.

Marie (Hofmeister) Baker '02, M'04 is the new assistant principal at Pittsville Elementary and Middle School, Pittsville, MD.

Diana (Federici) Cropper '02, '04 was selected as the Salisbury University Employee of the Month for May 2023. Diana is the assistant director of housing and residence life.

Juanita Parks '02 was recognized with the 15 Under 50 award by the Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce. She is the chief financial officer of Williamsburg Landing, Williamsburg, VA.

Elizabeth Trott '02 is the new instructional coach at Beaufort County School District in Beaufort, SC.

Christian Lowe '03 is the new principal at J.P. Knapp Early College High School in Currituck, NC.

Michelle (Weiler) McGeogh '04 was appointed co-chair of the Equal Justice Council, which supports the Maryland Legal Aid through fundraising and advocacy.

Katy (Turner) Pietroski '04 was named TidalHealth Peninsula Regional Hospital's Second Quarter 2023 Team Member of the Quarter for her nursing services.

Jonathan Richardson '04 was welcomed by the Virginia Department of Health as the new health director for the Eastern Shore Health District.

Matthew Ripa '04 is the new visiting professor of theatre at Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA.

Jessica Cooper '05 is a new registered respiratory therapist at TidalHealth Peninsula Regional Hospital in Salisbury, MD.

Marina (Walters) Edwards '05 was promoted to executive vice president of Presque Isle Rehabilitation Service, LLC in Edinboro, PA, and obtained her legal nurse consultation certification.

Jamie Heater '05, M'06 is the new director of marketing at Gillis Gilkerson, Inc. of Salisbury, MD.

Ryan Kessler '05 is the new principal at Delmar Elementary School in Delmar, MD.

Tashica Hilliard '05 was a graduate of the 2023 nursing class of Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury, MD.

Rachel (Lyons) Smith '05 was reappointed to a three-year term on the Talbot County Commission on Aging, Easton, MD.

Charles Cook '06 was appointed as the chief legislative officer for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Lanham, MD.

Kurt Dawson '06 joined WBOC-TV in Salisbury, MD, as the pilot of Chopper 16.



William C. Savage '06 was recognized as a Gold Badge member of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company and honored for his lifelong commitment to the safety and well-being of the residents and visitors to the Ocean City, MD, community.

5 At a baseball tournament in July 2023, several former SU baseball players ran into one another while now coaching their own sons in baseball. Pictured are **Jason Lively '07** and his two sons; **Nicholas Pegelow '06, M'07** and his son; **Jesse Trout '06** and his son; and **Colin Kraus '09** and his son.

Shauna (Metz) Aherne '07 was appointed as president of medical excellence and specialized services at Inizio Medical, Yardley, PA.

Brian Briggs M'07 is the new principal at Parkside High School in Salisbury, MD, part of Wicomico County Public Schools.

Doug King '07 was the recipient of the Extra Mile Award from Wicomico County Public Schools for his extraordinary work at the Wicomico High School, Salisbury, MD.

Katrina (Dixon) Patterson '07, M'08 was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award by Salisbury University's School of Social Work.

MaryClare Cernik '08 was awarded the Independent Catholic High School Teacher of the Year for her work as a computer science teacher at Mercy High School in Baltimore, MD.

Heather Cherry '08, '12 took the position of assistant principal at Westside Intermediate School in Hebron, MD.

Hunter Emory '08 has been inducted into the 12th Man Gridiron Club. He is also the current director at large for Delaware Electric Coop, Inc.

Margaret Evans '08 has been appointed as director of portfolio management working with Thomas Park Management in Towson, MD.

Jason Capobianco '09 is now the supervisor of special education for Wicomico County Public Schools, Salisbury, MD.

Jeff Emden '09, general manager at Chesapeake Plywood in Baltimore, MD, received a professional recognition by the *Baltimore Business Journal* for his dedication and leadership in the industry.

6 **Katey (Algier) Evans '09**, founder and CEO of The Frozen Farmer, celebrated two impressive distinctions in spring 2023 – she made the sixth annual Female Founders list, which honors 200 women whose innovations shape the world into a better place, and The Frozen Farmer was ranked sixth on the Inc. 5000 Regionals Mid-Atlantic list, the most prestigious ranking of the region's fastest-growing private companies.

Paige (Paxton) Larmore '09 was the recipient of the Extra Mile Award from Wicomico County Public Schools for her extraordinary work at the central office, Salisbury, MD.

2010s

Carol Kurtz '10 was promoted to director of operations for InFocus Financial Advisors, Inc., Salisbury, MD.

Valerie Folsom '11, M '15 is the new principal at Pemberton Elementary School, Salisbury, MD.

Julia Glanz '11, M'13 was announced as one of *The Daily Record's* Leading Women Under 40.

Ashley Kishorn '11 is the new associate director of athletics and senior woman administrator at Mitchell College in New London, CT.

Matthew Cohen '12, co-founder of SIMPLi Food and Beverages in Baltimore, MD, was selected by the University System of Maryland for the Maryland Momentum Fund.

April Ferraro '12 made partner with the firm of Abrams & Bayliss, LLP of Wilmington, DE.

Amy (Markley) Jones '12, M'15 was honored by Salisbury University with its 2023 President's Diversity and Inclusion Champion award.

Heather Montgomery '12, '16 was appointed the new coordinator of multilingual learners for Caroline County Public Schools, Denton, MD.

Jenna Payne '14, M'16 was announced as Salisbury University's Employee of the Month for July 2023. Jenna is an admissions counselor at the University.

Jennifer Sami '14, M'18 is a first grade teacher in the Wicomico County School District in Salisbury, MD.

Diana Chavis '15 has earned the designation of Master Municipal Clerk by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, Inc.

Brittany Jackson '15 assumed the position of assistant principal at Parkside High School, Salisbury, MD.

7 Rachel Markow '15, D.N.P.'19 recently opened a new business called Perpetual Skin in Annapolis, MD.

T. Mitchell Northam '15 authored *Rowdy and Proud: Atlanta United's 2018 MLS Cup Season and Other Southern Soccer Stories*, which appeared at number one in new release soccer books on Amazon.

Stephanie (D'Anna) Scherer '15, M'21 was named the 2023 Geospatial Professional of the Year by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Victoria Shull '15, M'18, M'20 was appointed as the coordinator of multilingual learners for the Caroline County Public Schools in Denton, MD.

Kylie Weinel '15 Is the new personnel services administrative coordinator at Frederick County Parks and Recreation in Frederick, MD.

Thelonious "Theo" Williams '15 was named the special assistant for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Lanham, MD.

Eli Modlin '16 has been added as a member of the Joshua M Freeman Foundation's Board of Directors.

Katelin Talbert '16 is now a Certified Physician Assistant to the Bloom Health Centers, Lewes, DE, location.

Christopher Eccleston M'17 was named the recipient of the 2023 Lower Shore Distinguished Citizen Award from the Del-Mar-Va Boy Scouts Council.

David G. Root '17 has retired as the Sussex Center director at the Small Business Development Center in Georgetown, DE.

Jared Sherman M'18 was appointed the new principal of Colonel Richardson High School, Federalsburg, MD.

In Memoriam

- **Elizabeth Hickman Oliphant '43** – August 27, 2023
- **Roger M. Ayers Jr. '54** – June 18, 2023
- **Gilmer B. Williar Jr. '58** – October 5, 2022
- **William E. Bailey '59**
- **John "Jack" R. Savage '63** – May 8, 2023
- **The Honorable Donald F. Johnson '64** – October 14, 2023
- **Leland T. Short Jr. '64** – December 18, 2020
- **George M. Pearce '68, M'80** – April 29, 2023
- **Stephen L. White '68** – July 11, 2023
- **Ellen F. Pilchard '69, M'74** – June 12, 2023
- **Laura C. (Hill) Layton '71, M'77** – August 18, 2023
- **Nancy (Fykes) Nelson '72** – August 23, 2023
- **Margaret F. Wells '72** – September 19, 2023
- **Michael R. Bernstein '74** – September 8, 2023
- **John H. Truitt Jr. '74** – December 9, 2022
- **Richard S. Dubsky '75** – May 15, 2023
- **Christopher W. Foreman '75** – July 29, 2023
- **Phyllis H. Horn '75** – September 26, 2023
- **Eugene N. Nero '75** – May 30, 2023
- **Leon W Tyler Jr. '75** – September 6, 2023
- **Scott H. Parker '76** – May 25, 2023
- **Harriette W. (Renken) Schmick '76** – September 4, 2023
- **James S. Lasley '79** – May 26, 2023
- **Mary K. (Dyson) Bohanan '80** – October 12, 2023
- **David J. Grise '82** – August 14, 2023
- **Christopher Romett '83** – October 17, 2023
- **Linda (Foote) King '84** – August 31, 2023
- **Jeremiah "Jere" M. Lynch '85** – May 22, 2023
- **William E. Postles III '85** – August 18, 2023
- **Tammy S. Gharbi '88, M'07** – May 19, 2023

- **Christopher L. Higgins '88, '92** – October 17, 2023
- **Susan "Joanne" (Hudson) Oakes '91** – May 28, 2023
- **Kathryn M. (Kinchliffe) Staples '91** – July 28, 2023
- **Joyce A. Balderson '92** – August 22, 2023
- **Laverne G. Wright '93** – August 14, 2023
- **John William Schubert Jr. '95** – November 21, 2023
- **Melissa D. (Fehrer) Wanner '95** – June 15, 2023
- **Willard M. Morris '98** – August 30, 2023
- **Sarah R. (Hudson) Layfield '99** – July 9, 2023
- **Kimberly A. Phillips '00** – June 8, 2023
- **Jeffrey S. Turner '00** – July 31, 2023
- **William A Walker '00** – June 23, 2023
- **Kathleen J. Fichtel M '06** – June 17, 2023
- **Emily E. Norman '11** – August 5, 2023
- **Edward J. Washington '13** – August 22, 2023
- **Hannah (Gowe) Gevaudan '15** – August 7, 2023
- **Lewis M. Alexander III '19** – June 30, 2023
- **Derrick C. Taylor '20** – July 15, 2023

Faculty & Staff

- **Lola M. Andrews, Food Services** – September 24, 2023
- **Julie A. Benge, Dining Services** – June 25, 2023
- **Deane Deshon, Athletics & Physical Education** – December 2, 2023 (Read about Deshon on page 41.)
- **Shirley F. (Dean) King, Human Resources Department** – June 28, 2023
- **Dr. Dennis Pataniczek, Seidel School of Education Dean** – September 24, 2023
- **Robert L. Taylor, Housekeeping** – August 18, 2022
- **Betty Jean (Jackson) Watson, Registrar's Office** – May 15, 2023

Jenna Haines '17, M'19 earned the Rising Professional Alumni award from Salisbury University's School of Social Work.

Mary Jo Kerr M'17 was appointed as the new principal of Greensboro Elementary School, Greensboro, MD.

Stephen Romano M'17 is now the assistant principal at Wicomico High School in Salisbury, MD.

Keaton Burke '19 has been named an assistant swimming coach at Salisbury University.

Tineka Harmon '19, M'20 graduated in the 116th entrance-level class of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy at Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury, MD.

Aprile Preller '19 was named the 16th head women's basketball coach for Salisbury University.

Kaitlyn Sroka '19 joined TidalHealth Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic, Salisbury, MD, as a patient advocate/clinician.

2020s

Emily Sayers '20 is a new enrollment specialist at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury, MD.

Hira Shahbaz '20 was selected as a 2023-24 Fulbright Student and will fulfill her English Teaching Assistantship award in Kazakhstan. (Read more on page 20.)

Jenna Gibbons M'21 was selected as the 2022 fourth quarter recipient of the MacGyver Award from TidalHealth Crisis Center, Salisbury, MD, which recognizes social workers who contribute a positive image to their profession.



Malcolm Gibson '21, M'23 was named the running back/special teams assistant football coach at Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA.

Chloe Hellams '21 is a new school teacher at Flagler County School District in Bunnell, FL.

Breonna Hopkins '21 became assistant principal at North Salisbury Elementary School in Salisbury, MD.

Samantha Bartell '22 was selected as a 2023-24 Fulbright Student and will fulfill her English Teaching Assistantship award in Moldova. (Read more on page 20.)

Kendall Dixon '22 received the Rookie Therapist of the Year award from the Maryland/District of Columbia Society for Respiratory Care. She is a respiratory therapist at the University of Maryland Shore Regional Health, Chestertown, MD.

Nathaniel Trice '22 joined the team at WBOC-TV in Salisbury, MD, as a photographer.

Ryan Mackesey '23 joined the team at WBOC-TV in Salisbury, MD as a photographer and editor.

Blake Thomas '23 is working his ideal post-graduation job as a park ranger at Janes Island State Park in Crisfield, MD.

Marriages

1 Stephen Skiscim '16 and Kaitlyn (Karnoske) Skiscim '18
– July 9, 2022

2 Brendan Bromwell '17 and Valerie (Byron) Bromwell '17

Kevin Miller '17 and Margaret Lenz '17
– September 23, 2023

Births

Finith Jernigan '07 –
Son: Finith Scott IV

John Sheridan '07

Carl Bickie '08, M'10 and Allison (Vanocker) Bickie '11

3 Trenton Garman '08 and Meredith (Ray) Garman '09 –
Daughter: Elizabeth “Libby” Caroline

4 Raymond Edelen '11 and Angelica (Doran) Edelen '12 –
Son: Declan Raymond

Kyle Banks '13 and Bethany (Wilson) Banks – Son: Lucas Mitchell Banks

5 Chase Lewis '14, M'22 and Rebecca (Beute) Lewis '15 –
Son: Graham William Lewis

Charles Almer IV '15, M'17 and Michelle (Clark) Almer '15 –
Son: Charles V

6 Jonathan Bucheimer '15 and Emily (Gubish) Bucheimer '14 –
Son: Edward Bucheimer

Class Notes Submissions

SHARE YOUR LIFE EVENTS WITH US!

Via email: alumni@salisbury.edu
Online: salisbury.edu/classnotes



Share your marriage and birth announcements. Let us know about exciting new chapters in your career. Tell us about your latest gathering with other alumni.

When providing your information, please include your class year(s), maiden name (if applicable), dates and any additional information.

If providing an image, please provide a high-resolution photo (.jpg or .tif) for consideration for inclusion.



LEE ROTH '00

Building a New Model

Roth Weaves Experiences to Develop New Marketing Approaches

Lee Roth credits the start of his career to an internship at the acclaimed advertising agency Ogilvy in New York City.

He received the internship thanks to a connection made by Dr. Richard Bebee, who was then the dean of SU's Franklin P. Perdue School of Business.

"Dr. Beebe connected me with an alumnus, Joe Ventura '97, who was nice enough to get me an interview," Roth said.

After graduating from SU with a B.S. in business administration and minors in international business and marketing, Roth went back to Ogilvy where he was involved with advertising campaigns for companies including IBM and Miller Lite.

"Ogilvy gave me a solid foundation in advertising and management," he said. "My initial internship was in media. My full-time role was in account management. My education at Salisbury prepped me in the intangibles, being able to speak with confidence to anyone."

"I owe a lot to the faculty at Salisbury. I was fortunate they took a real interest in my development as a student and a professional."

From Ogilvy, Roth went on to advertising agencies Wieden + Kennedy and mcgarrybowen, where he worked on brands including Starbucks, Nike, Disney, Burger King and Verizon. At The Coca-Cola Company, he oversaw the brands vitaminwater, smartwater and POWERADE. After that, he led global advertising for PayPal. Roth also worked in the startup world as an entrepreneur and chief marketing officer, before opening and managing the U.S. office of BeenThereDoneThat.

"Each role at each company has made me who I am today," he said, reflecting on learning how to create communications and how to be an integrated marketer.

All of those experiences helped Roth build and shape his new marketing consultancy, The Actionists, which he co-founded to bring together the best thinkers from marketing, strategy and creative roles to help companies drive their business.

"Our mission is to make marketing more actionable to the business," Roth said.

The marketing expert finds it's hard to put the value of a Salisbury education in words.

"Underneath the classes, the offerings, the experiences, there



"Our mission is to make marketing more actionable to the business."

LEE ROTH

is a level of care and love for students that is unmatched,” he said. “That ensures not only will you leave with a quality education, but you’ll be a better person. So many faculty members, administrators and students truly cared about my well-being, my development and my success.”

At SU, Roth was part of the Student Government Association and the Perdue School Dean’s Leadership Group. He called the number of experiences SU offers second to none.

“The educational experience at Salisbury went way beyond the classroom,” he said, citing study abroad, leadership programs and canoeing in Canada. “The experience the University provided and the relationships with administration and faculty played a huge role in who I’ve become today.”

Roth said that he always goes back to advice from Dr. Bebee, especially: “Have a coffee with anyone and everyone. You never know what might come out of it.”



Opposite: Roth with son Dylan. Top: Roth with daughter Sienna. Despite his career success, he counts the shared experience of raising his children with his wife Jess as his biggest accomplishment.

Bottom: Roth with (left) Dr. Gerry DiBartolo, now retired SU marketing faculty and athletics and campus recreation director, and retired Perdue School Dean Richard Bebee.





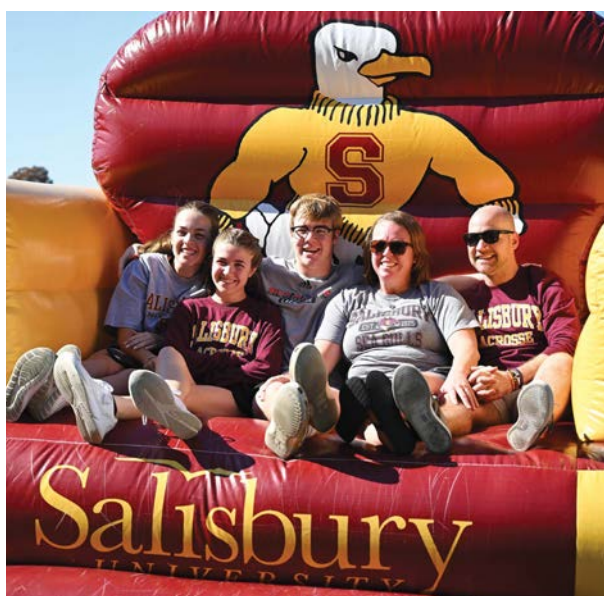
OCTOBER 23-29, 2023

Alumni Homecoming

and Family Weekend



The Homecoming Pep Rally, hosted by the Student Government Association, featured Sea Gulls competing in fun games and activities!



Mark Your Calendar Now For
Next Year! – October 21-27, 2024



SU celebrated 50 years of
the student radio station
96.3 WXSU.





The Class of 1973 joined together to celebrate their 50th reunion with other alumni at a special Homecoming lunch, and the Black Alumni Association of SU hosted various events throughout the weekend (see page 18).



Alumni, families and fans enjoyed the Flock Party and Carnival before the Sea Gulls took on The College of New Jersey for the Homecoming football game.



Make an Impact - In a Flash

At Salisbury University, every day offers an opportunity to make a positive change. This idea is brought to life through the generosity witnessed during SU's new Flash Fundraiser campaigns. Similar to SU's annual Giving Day, Flash Fundraisers are condensed, 24-hour fundraising sprints that rally supporters to make impactful contributions focused on identified needs with established dollar goals, often offering matching gifts to maximize the impact of donations.

In an extraordinary display of unity and generosity, the SU men's lacrosse team launched a flash campaign that surpassed all expectations. With the rising costs of travel, accommodations, food and equipment for its roster of 50 student-athletes, the men's lacrosse program found itself in need of additional financial backing to maintain its national championship-caliber status. This became even more critical this year as their established sponsorships underwent changes. With a fundraising goal of \$30,000 and a generous \$3,000 matching gift to ignite the initiative, they embarked on their own Flash Fundraiser journey.

Just two weeks before the virtual one-day event, a fire destroyed the home of Head Coach Jim Berkman and his wife Jenn. In response to the outpouring of support from SU students, faculty, staff, alumni and the greater Salisbury community, Coach Berkman encouraged alumni and supporters wishing to help him to instead contribute to men's lacrosse during its Flash Fundraiser. He even sent personalized video messages expressing his gratitude and appreciation, directing everyone to join the cause.

The fundraiser was extended for an entire week and the results were nothing short of astounding. At the 2023 national champions ring ceremony, Berkman announced the over \$83,125 total raised and extended his heartfelt thanks to the 174 supporters.

Other areas of campus have harnessed the same spirit of collective giving to address their specific funding need, including Food for the Flock; Cross Country and Track and Field; Music, Theatre and Dance Department; and the Henson Simulation Center.

The men's lacrosse team's journey serves as an inspiring example of what can be achieved when Sea Gulls come together to support a common cause. Ultimately, Flash Fundraisers remind us that every day holds the potential to make a profound impact.



Support your favorite areas of campus as they fundraise for specific needs. Gifts on these days are matched up to a specified amount.

giving.salisbury.edu/pages/flash-fundraisers



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salisbury.edu/sumagazine

publications@salisbury.edu

FAMILY MEMBERS OF ALUMNI: If this issue is addressed to a relative who no longer maintains an address at your home, please send the correct address to the Office of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving at alumni@salisbury.edu.

Salisbury University has a strong institutional commitment to diversity and equal educational opportunities. To that end, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, marital status, pregnancy, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or other legally protected characteristics. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, 1216 Camden Ave., Salisbury, MD 21801, 410-543-6426.



It's A Busy Spring At SU

Take a look at Salisbury University's events page to see what amazing things are happening on campus – check back often to see the latest!

salisbury.edu/events

HIGHLIGHTS OF SPRING 2024

- **Tibetan Monks' Residency**
Featuring a mandala sand painting and various lectures from the monks of the famed Drepung Loseling Institute.
- **Focus on Asia Speaker Series**
The University welcomes preeminent scholars of Asian history to discuss thought-provoking studies of imperialism in Asia.
- **Black History Month**
Lectures and performances highlight this annual campus celebration, with this year featuring a keynote lecture exploring African American Methodist Episcopal portraiture.
- **Music, Theatre & Dance**
SU's performers take to the stage throughout the spring, including their annual musical, fan-favorite *Little Shop of Horrors*.