

## President's Newsletter

### January 2010

To all members of the Salem State Community:

With hopes that your holidays were relaxing, and allowed you to spend quality time with family and close friends, I write you today with heartfelt greetings for a peaceful new year that is both prosperous and professionally rewarding.

Despite the challenges of this past year, as a community we still have much for which to be thankful, including the beautiful new residence hall rising like Brigadoon from our Central Campus, and the continuing progress on our new library and learning commons. As we greet the new year that is before us, I am particularly grateful for the spirit of collegiality that suffuses our campus, and binds our community together as we prepare for Salem State's future.

### Strategic Plan

I cannot talk of the future, of course, without mentioning the [strategic plan](#) that continues to guide and inform our decisions. It has proven to be a worthy and useful document and I encourage you to refer to it often throughout the year. Our strategic planning committee held its first meeting of this academic year in December, and will focus now on evaluating our progress with respect to our goals.



### Commencement 2010

I hope you had a chance to read the recent email about this year's commencement ceremonies. After collecting feedback from students, faculty and staff on several program options, the college has decided to split the undergraduate commencement exercise into two separate ceremonies. This option will allow students to include more of their family and friends in the celebration, and will provide for a shorter ceremony. It will also provide graduating seniors with four tickets to the ceremony at which they receive their diplomas.

**The two undergraduate commencements will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2010:** one for the School of Arts and Sciences at 10 am; and the other for the Schools of Human Services and the Bertolon School of Business at 3 pm. Students graduating with double majors will be asked to designate their primary major when they complete their application for degree form, and will attend the ceremony for that major.

**Commencement exercises for graduate students will remain as scheduled on Thursday, May 20, 2010,** at 4 pm. An announcement of commencement speakers will be made shortly, so keep an eye on your emails and this website.



### **Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**

Please plan to join me on Monday, January 25, at 11 am in the Mainstage auditorium as our community celebrates the life and work of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. In addition to the traditional MLK Convocation, which will welcome Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Sr. D.Min. (pictured left), pastor of the historic Charles Street A.M.E. Church, and chairman of the Boston School Committee, as our convocation speaker, and honor student essayists from Salem schools, we will present the college's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award at the post-convocation luncheon. Later that afternoon, we will cut the ribbon for the new Center for Diversity and Cultural Enrichment, located in the Ellison Campus Center. At 6 pm the college will hold an evening vigil.

### **Community Meetings**

Please mark Monday, February 1, in your calendars for the first community meeting of 2010. To ensure everyone an opportunity to attend, the morning meeting at the Mainstage auditorium will take place at 11 am, followed by an afternoon session at 5 pm. These meetings provide an opportunity to hear updates from around our campus, and share your questions.

The next committee meetings of the college's board of trustees are scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, at 3 pm, in the Enterprise Center conference room. For those wishing to attend, the next meeting of the full board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, at 5 pm, also in the Enterprise Center.

In closing, I hope that you will join me in extending your thoughts and prayers to the people of Haiti. The college has created a Web page, [salemstate.edu/Haiti](http://salemstate.edu/Haiti), so that we may keep our community updated on our response to this devastating disaster.

Sincerely,

Patricia Maguire Meservey  
President