

## President's Newsletter

July 2009

With the official launch of the college's new Web site coinciding with the advent of summer in New England, it seems a most opportune time to bring you news from across campus.

In May, we graduated one of our largest groups of alumni in the college's history. Although they face a daunting task in the current job market, they are both well prepared and resilient and we expect great things of them.

Here at the college, we, too, have not been immune to the deleterious effects of our faltering economy. As a result of prudent planning, however, I can assure you that Salem State will weather the current climate of uncertainty and emerge stronger than before.

The budget and personnel decisions we have had to make in the past few months have been difficult--but we are not the only ones faced with difficult decisions. I take the optimist's view, and believe that within every challenge lies an opportunity. Salem State is not only prepared to face these challenges, but ready to seize the opportunities they present.



On campus, in fact, there is an unmistakable vibrancy. On June 5, we broke ground for a second residence hall-dining complex on Central Campus (pictured left). With its completion in 2010, the college comes that much closer to becoming a truly residential campus.

We are also in the early planning phase of a new library for the college. When completed in 2012 (estimated), it will complete a quadrangle with the Ellison Campus Center, Meier Hall and the Commons Dining Hall on North Campus, and bring all library collections, services and operations together in one 21<sup>st</sup>-century facility.

We've been enjoying visitors, too. On June 25, the college welcomed almost 450 international historians to the 18<sup>th</sup> annual World History Association Conference. The WHA chose Salem State as this year's host because of its strong history and international programs, and for its location in a city that has played such a prominent role in our nation's development.

Our summer campus is full of young people. Through our A.I.D./ACCESS program, a state, grant-funded venture that provides alternative admissions opportunities for talented low-income or educationally disadvantaged students, approximately 250 young men and women of promise will complete a six-week campus residency to prepare them for college. Our Upward Bound program, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, will bring 47 high school students from the greater Lawrence area to campus between July 5 and August 7. Living in Bowditch Hall, they'll work to improve their mathematics, laboratory science, composition, and foreign language skills in preparation for eventual college entrance.

Other young people you'll see on campus this summer are taking part in various orientation sessions. Entering freshmen will participate in one of seven two-day programs before starting classes in September and their families will have the opportunity to take part in one-day orientations of their own. Transfer and international students won't be forgotten, and will attend sessions geared specifically to them.



On July 6, the college welcomes Dr. Jude V. Nixon (shown left) to our campus as dean of arts and sciences. Dr. Nixon comes to us from Oakland (Michigan) College, where he has most recently been professor of English and director of the Honors College. Dr. Nixon brings to Salem State a record of innovative and dynamic leadership, a firm foundation in academics, a respect for scholarly research, strong teaching and publishing credentials, and a commitment to community engagement. At this time in our history, I believe he is the right fit for our institution.

I think you'll agree with me that Salem State is truly a campus that never sleeps. Summer, winter, spring, and fall, our college is at full throttle and full speed ahead as we all work to achieve our vision to be a premier teaching university dedicated to excellence in education, service and scholarship.

Sincerely,

Patricia Maguire Meservey  
President