

## President's Newsletter

August 2009

To all new students, faculty and staff, and to all who are returning to Salem State for another year of academic inquiry, social intercourse and community engagement--a most heartfelt welcome!

As we prepare for the year before us, I have much good news to share with you.



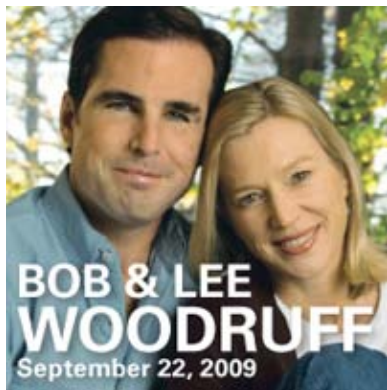
Many of you were on campus when we broke ground in March for the college's new 525-bed residence hall. If you're just now returning, please make a point to stop at Central Campus to see the progress that's been made in just six short months. Despite the rain that defined much of our summer, much has been accomplished and the shape of this grand new building to come is now clearly visible--and most impressive.

On July 6, Salem State was delighted to welcome Dr. Jude V. Nixon as dean of arts and sciences. Dr. Nixon arrived full of energy, and has wasted no time settling into his new position. I urge all who have not met him to seek him out on campus this fall, adding your welcome to my own. September is also the time when we welcome new faculty and staff to our community. I encourage each of you who are new to campus to engage yourselves fully in its life.

I'm proud to point out that the Salem State Upward Bound Program celebrates 20 years of a most successful partnership between the college and the Lawrence Public School System this year. On July 31, at the conclusion of this summer's six-week residential summer session, current students, alumni and staff feted the milestone anniversary with a dinner on campus. Dr. Joyce Foster, who wrote the initial grant for the program while employed at Salem State in the 1980s, and who is currently associate dean at Williams College, returned for the celebration and delivered the keynote address. She was joined by trustee David Abdoo and program director Wendy Porter-Coste.

By vote of the campus, *Listening is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project* was selected for our 2009 First Year Reading Experience (FYRE). The goal of this program--which requires all first-year students to read the same book--is to engage new students in the college community through a shared reading experience, welcoming them to a college culture that values the thoughtful discussion of ideas presented to us through the world of books.

Many of you have volunteered to read the book, and will be facilitating discussions with entering students on Opening Day. I encourage faculty to incorporate *Listening is an Act of Love* into first-year courses; follow-up events are planned to continue discussion of the book's themes throughout the academic year.



Another event I encourage you to attend is the Salem State College Series. Founded in 1982 as one of the first high-profile speaker series in the country, the Series has hosted numerous world leaders, artists, activists, authors, athletes, and intellectuals on our campus. On September 22, the Series welcomes Bob and Lee Woodruff. The event begins at 8 pm in the O'Keefe Sports Center.

Just one month after being named co-anchor of ABC's *World News Tonight* in December 2005, Bob Woodruff--longtime national and international news correspondent for the network--suffered traumatic head injuries when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in Taji, Iraq. Woodruff and his wife will share the inspiring story of their family's long journey back from his injury; a journey that has put a public face on the serious issue of traumatic brain injury and the health care our veterans receive.

In terms of the college's five-year strategic plan, September represents year two of its implementation. I recommend that everyone, whether new to Salem State or longtime members of our community, read this document, which is available online at [saalemstate.edu/about/mission](http://saalemstate.edu/about/mission), for it guides much of what we do.

As you begin this new academic year, I wish you much success. Remember that our community is only as engaged as its individual members. Please participate as fully as possible in the life of Salem State, for the rewards are many.

Sincerely,

Patricia Maguire Meservey  
President