

President's Newsletter

March 2010

To all members of our Salem State community:

I was delighted to see so many of you at our open campus meeting last month (February 1) and I'd like to extend my thanks for continuing to take part in these very important dialogues. Your questions are insightful, informative and thoughtful, and are of great help to me as the college moves forward.

For those who were unable to attend February's meeting, I have posted highlights in [Navigator](#). I urge you to take a few minutes when you are able to review the items that were discussed.

The college's financial health

- I am encouraged by the governor's initial budget for fiscal year 2011, which brings us close to returning to 2009's level of funding, and hope that the college will fare well when the final budget is approved. This is a long process which will take several months and many negotiations at the State House.
- I am confident that we are in a stronger position in March 2010 than we were in March 2009. We have adjusted to the large budget reduction of 2009. We still have work ahead to be sure we have our resources aligned with our goals.
- Until the economy improves, which in all likelihood will take some time, we must all continue to work cooperatively, and find ways to do more with less if we are to achieve the goals we have set before ourselves in our strategic plan. Our number one priority, as always, is our students.



Series

I am delighted to announce the speakers for this year's [Salem State College Series](#). Disabilities advocate Ted Kennedy, Jr. will open the Series on Tuesday, April 27. He will be followed on Thursday, September 23, by well-known mind-body health guru Dr. Deepak Chopra. More information about these illustrious speakers can be found at salemstate.edu/series. Both subscription and individual speaker tickets are now on sale.

Salem State's response to the disaster in Haiti



Approximately 150 self-identified Haitians and Haitian-Americans are a part of our campus community. I urge you to support all those in our community who have been affected by the devastation in Haiti and its aftermath. Many of you have asked how you might help, and in response I'd like to share with you the efforts being undertaken by Salem State trustee James Ansara and his wife, Karen.

Jim spent 11 days in Haiti assisting with relief efforts just after the quake, and returned on February 15, where he remains, working to establish hospital and other infrastructure projects. Jim and Karen made a commitment to match up to \$1 million in donations to the Haiti Fund. The fund was established by the Ansaras, in conjunction with the board of trustees of the Boston Foundation, to

focus on longer term human rights and reconstruction issues in Haiti. As of February 15, the Haiti Fund had raised over \$2 million to help rebuild the nation of Haiti, and to benefit Haitians in the Boston area. Donations to this effort may still be [made online](#) or through a check made payable to the Boston Foundation (with Haiti Fund in the memo line). Checks should be sent to The Boston Foundation, c/o Fund Administration, 75 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Salem State has also undertaken many initiatives in support of Haitian relief efforts. I have been most touched by the response from our students. Working with student life, they have organized numerous remembrance events and fundraisers. To keep abreast of the college's activities relative to Haiti, please visit salemstate.edu/Haiti.



NEASC accreditation

Every ten years, the 238 colleges and universities accredited by the New England Association of Schools and College's (NEASC) Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) are required to submit to comprehensive evaluations to maintain accreditation. A self-regulatory, peer review process based on rigorous criteria, these evaluations determine how well each institution meets prescribed standards relative to its stated mission.

Following each institution's review by a team of peers, accrediting commissions determine the accreditation status of the institution, using a variety of means to ensure follow-up as appropriate and further evaluation in the case of substantive change on the part of the institution.

At present, various committees at the college are preparing the required information for review. When complete, this information will be incorporated into our self-study, which will be sent to the peer review team assigned to Salem State next fall. Drafts of this material will be made available to the community, as will the final report. The peer review team will review us in February 2011, and will follow up with a site visit in early April 2011. I will continue to keep you informed as this important process moves forward.

Kudos

- To the music department—faculty, staff and students— on achieving a prestigious accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music.
- To Danielle Morgan, Bowditch Hall residence director, who has been named the national “Outstanding New Professional” by the American College Personnel Association.
- To Informational Technology Services (ITS) for the smooth implementation of our new email system. ITS has done some “serious heavy lifting” lately and we are grateful for the collective efforts of all.
- To the students who participated in the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival's regional competition. Four Salem State students advanced to the semi-final round and three further advanced to the final round. Two of these were later selected as first and second alternates.



Upcoming

Accepted Student Days

Accepted Student Days are scheduled for Saturday, April 3, and Sunday, April 11. We are holding both admission events on weekends to allow greater access for potential students and their families, while honoring all religious observances.

Commencement Speakers

I am pleased to announce the following speakers for our 2010 commencement ceremonies. They are as follows: noted educator, author and MacArthur Fellow Dr. Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, graduate commencement, Thursday, May 20, at 4 pm; former Massachusetts governor Michael S. Dukakis, undergraduate School of Arts and Sciences, Saturday May 22, at 10 am; and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center president and CEO Paul Levy, undergraduate Schools of Human Services and Bertolon School of Business, Saturday May 22, at 3 pm. We are so fortunate to have each of these accomplished individuals with us as we celebrate with our graduates and their families.

April Campus Meetings

Please note April 5 (11 am) in the Twohig Gymnasium and April 6 (5 pm) in Classroom B (O'Keefe Center) in your calendars. These are the dates for our next open campus meetings. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Patricia Maguire Meservey
President