



Tuesday, September 17, 2024 • 3 p.m.
Holloway Hall, Jackson Family Auditorium

Good afternoon!

Just like each member of our SU family, I too have my own SU story. Our collective stories are tales of dreams pursued, challenges overcome and milestones achieved – each contributing to the broader story of our campus.

These stories are the very heartbeats of our university and help us

This summer, a group of faculty and doctoral students from the Seidel School journeyed to Crete, Greece, to present at the Federated Geothermal Conference. This year, the team completed this year – are some of the driving forces to enhance the Seidel School's geothermal research. These achievements possible. valuable networking and showcased the groundbreaking research these achievements possible. research that takes place on our campus.

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Understanding the importance of this project, the State provided an additional \$1 million to complete it, these additional monies from SU's own reserve funds to complete it, these additional monies from the University of Wyoming, where he served as vice president of the University System of Maryland.

When celebrating these accomplishments and their role in advancing geothermal research, we are proud to have a former vice president of the University System of Maryland, where he served as vice president of the University System of Maryland.

Part of the Blackwell renovation is the installation of geothermal energy systems with a zero net carbon footprint while upholding SU's enduring commitment to environmental responsibility.

and Belonging, which enhances collaboration across campus by uniting geothermal energy systems with a zero net carbon footprint while upholding SU's enduring commitment to environmental responsibility.

Upon completing the installation this spring, we will restore the law of belonging, and paving the way for retention and success in and out of the classroom. Campus improvements can sometimes be disruptive. Right now, we know the loss of the Blackwell parking lot is creating complications and inconveniences. We are currently working to remedy this.

Two standout programs that exemplify this comprehensive approach of belonging, and paving the way for retention and success in and out of the classroom. Campus improvements can sometimes be disruptive. Right now, we know the loss of the Blackwell parking lot is creating complications and inconveniences. We are currently working to remedy this.

- Some of these steps include:
- increase student parking spaces;
- converting service vehicle spots to increase available parking spaces; and
- reviewing the shuttle system to alleviate pressure from main campus parking.

a mentee her freshman year. Aside from the connection to everything from clubs to study groups, Odia Jahnaiya says that she wouldn't still be at SU if not for Powerful Connections and the people she's met. Growing from a mentee, to mentor, to mentor coordinator, Jahnaiya knows that she's a small, but mighty part of someone else's journey here at SU.

I know it creates a headache when a spot is not easily located, and please know we are working to remedy the issue. More information will be forthcoming via email, so please look for it soon.

Jahnaiya's journey with Powerful Connections illustrates how crucial support systems are in fostering personal growth and community.

The ongoing construction keeps us on track for the anticipated renovation of the Guerrieri Student Union upon Blackwell's completion. Funds for the project are already set aside, and we look forward to exploring how we can use this space strategically and M{KQMV\Ta \W UMM\ M^WT^QVO [\]LMV\ VZMM\ KKTQVO JQV[_Q\ P I\ \IKPML UQVQ KIV[)VW\PMZ XZWRMK\ JMVMA\QVO WJZ MV\ QZMBK\WUJ\W\Q\ 25% M these locations, and it is KWUXTM\ML XTIVM\IZQ\U 5ILM XW[QJTMJ\AQIU\Q\N\; HZVQU T P\ M VLMV[WVNM_MZ XTIV\ Foundation, the planetarium will be primarily used for astronomy classes, while the projection dome can also be used for special events such as virtual reality experiences and movies.

communities. -IZTQMZ \PQ[aMIZ UIVa [I_ W{KM \ZI[P K ZMM\ KKTQVO JQV[_Q\ P I\ \IKPML UQVQ KIV[)VW\PMZ XZWRMK\ JMVMA\QVO WJZ MV\ QZMBK\WUJ\W\Q\ 25% M these locations, and it is KWUXTM\ML XTIVM\IZQ\U 5ILM XW[QJTMJ\AQIU\Q\N\; HZVQU T P\ M VLMV[WVNM_MZ XTIV\ Foundation, the planetarium will be primarily used for astronomy classes, while the projection dome can also be used for special events such as virtual reality experiences and movies.

These projects and achievements – along with many others

Our sustainability teams are also working to keep what isn't trash out

hall to encourage students to donate unwanted items. Over these two periods, we collected nearly six and a half tons of donations, most of which went to local thrift stores!

All this work resulted in SU being named a Top Performer in the Energy Impact Area by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

From sustainability to access, SU is dedicated to advancing a culture of inclusion and equity, ensuring that these values are woven into everything we do.

A Look Back – Distinction & Growth

Once again, we were recognized as a top University by countless publications for our commitment to student success and career readiness.

We also were recognized as a leader through numerous grants, including:

- A grant for interpretation and accessibility features at the Museum of Eastern Shore Culture – set to open on November 1;
- A grant that will help SU use AI solutions to solve problems for local agencies;
- A grant for campus improvements;
- A grant to increase student retention and success;
- and so many more.

Speaking of student success, I want to highlight our Back to Flying program. It's a testament to the power of perseverance, evident in the remarkable turnaround of those who received the scholarship, seeing their average GPAs go from a 1.29 to an astonishing 3.8.

One student's story is particularly inspiring. She transferred to SU from Prince George's Community College. Away

from home, she faced challenges but remained committed to her education and personal growth.

Returning for the spring semester with a renewed focus and a promise to herself, she thrived. Her journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and the support of our community.

Kellie's story is about more than just a scholarship – though she notes it's been an important part of her success – it's the lessons she learned along the way – lessons she will take into her own classroom one day. As an elementary education major, Kellie knows that her experience as both a struggling and successful student will make her a better and more empathetic teacher to her future second graders.

Graduate School, furthering our shared goal to boost enrollment, enhance graduate education and strengthen the University's reputation.

We've already seen how this increased synergy and support has helped students transition from undergraduate to graduate studies.

Take Nick Ransom, a 2024 graduate of the Perdue School of Agriculture. Although many of his peers were moving on after graduation, Nick chose to extend his time at SU by pursuing an M.B.A. The decision wasn't easy, but having the chance to further his education, remain part of a championship culture and continue being immersed

in the University's traditions was a significant factor for him to be. He is now a graduate of the University of Maryland, where he will continue his education and contribute to the field of business.

At my last State of the University address, I announced several newly developed programs in engineering physics, music therapy and public communication through the Fulton and Graduate schools. The

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Madison Cuthbert, an environmental and international studies major, will conduct research in Greece on the interconnectedness of science and policy in the role of minimizing microplastics in Greek University of the Aegean.

Naomi, who hopes to someday receive a Fulbright to study in France, one of the most competitive Fulbright locations across the globe. Naomi, who hopes to someday for life on Mars. After completing her Fulbright, Naomi plans to begin medical school and apply to be a physician through the U.S. Air Force

Students are not the only ones who continue to be recognized their research in Europe.

will spend the spring semester and part of next summer conducting research and teaching in her native home of Bulgaria with a focus on

Our commitment to providing experiential learning goes beyond their fundraising initiatives forward. Congratulations Michelle on this year and a hat tip to the goal of reaching 100 endowed scholarships to the Center for the Scholarship Program. As of today, we baseball and softball won NCAA regional championships; and our PIAM XI [[ML \PM PITN_1a UIZS _Q\ P [KPV _WUMV¼[TIKZW[[M \MIU _I[\PM VI\QWVITITank the SU Fund Book whose Endowment Incentive Program ?M PIL)TT)UMZQKIV[)TT +WVNMZMVKML\PM\PM[PQQWIMZ8[TWaW]Z[KSTa <PZW WN \PM AMIZ IVL Å^M +WIKPM[WN \PM AMI .W]VLI\QWV XTMLLOML WN ;MI /] <PM[M]KKM[[M[WV \PM ÅMTL IZM OZMI\ W]_ TAMM[[KKTQ[PMW WYZV\]UMV\] <PQ[[O in the classroom is even more impressive. it easier for donors to contribute the initial investment needed to create

7VKM IOIQV [\]LMV\ \]PTM\M[PIAM PQ Oasng support toMSU[students.V [\]LMV\ athletes and are more likely to remain and graduate on time. In <PM[M [KPWTIZ[PQX[UISM I XZWNW]VL L ILLQ\QWV L]ZQVO \PM IKILMUQ K For instance, the Anne and John Gilhead Scholarship is sponsored)TT)UMZQKIV[IVL WVM KWVNMZMVKM ; by SU faculty members Eileen Gilhead and Jiz Forte in memory of <PQ[aMIZ¼[QVKWUQVO KTI[[QVKT]LM Eileen Perez's M[\ [\]LMV\ \]PTM\M KWPWZ\ M^MZ . NZM[PUMV IVL \ZIV[NMZ[7]Z -WVPIaW]J]VPZM\NP]W]LIZ[PRXQ Q[WzMZML \ \]PTM\M[[\IVL[\ ! _PQKP Q[\PM TIZO Social OZM] for who demonstrates a commitment to caring for SU history. These numbers excitingly include the 14 members of the W\PMZ[<PQ[[XZQVO -UQTa 0I]V IKKM X\M JZIVL VM_ _WUMV¼[IVL UMV¼[OWTN \Mwasn't able to attend the thank you celebration since she had just given

A huge part of these students' college experiences will be their birth to a beautiful baby girl. participation on these teams, and I am thrilled to welcome them to the In her note of thanks to Eileen and John, she wrote the following: Flock and that we can provide them with the opportunity to play the "Please know that your scholarship is appreciated and has helped me sport they love at the collegiate level.

<PQ[OZW]X _QTT IT[W Y]QKSTa TMIZV W]ZQ[V]D MPVQ[[\ZU S V-W]MQM Q ZMUPM QZa ML XIZ dedication to this community beyond our campus. Earlier this year, internship while juggling pregnancy was demanding ... I have now ;ITQ[J]Za \]PTM\QK[_WV \PM ,Q^Q[QWV enrolled in graduate school of Qana I; Iaz to Qecome a licensed clinical)_IZL NWZ UWZM \PIV ^WT]V\MMZ P Special Thanks so can provide therapy services to people with mental participation rate. This is particularly impressive when you consider health disparities."

\PI\ ,Q^Q[QWV 111 Q[\PM TIZOM[\ 6+)) KWVNMZMVKM KWUXZQ[ML WN colleges and universities. Raising resources goes beyond scholarships and campus initiatives; 0QOP QUXIK\ XZIK\QKM[IVL M`XMZQM VQ]Z K WITZ WQX Q^MQTK QTW_Va[[JMK WUU]VQ\ a U KMV\ZIT \W W]Z X]ZXW[M I[I]VQ^MZ[Q\ across the Eastern Shore. Our students especially play a pivotal role member of our community. Even the smallest touch point can often be V \PQ[MVLMI^WZ 1VQ\QI\Q^M[TQSM :MT QVKZMLQJTa [QOVQÅKIV\ NWZ W\PMZ[Night, led by our students, not only raise essential funds but also foster awareness and engagement on important issues. And this spring, just

A Look Back – Raising Resources

As we continue to prioritize and enhance these vital elements, we KI][M[)LLQ\QWVITTa W]Z .ZI\MZVQ\ a IVL ZMKWOVQbM \PI\ IKPQM^QVO W]Z OWIT[ZMUVQZ]MZ]UMZ]M]P]ZSRJ]TMK XVPJ]Q W]Z/W XQ K and creativity – it also necessitates robust support and resources. for their national and local causes last year.

In an incredible display of community support and generosity, this <PM LMLQKI\QWV WN ITT \PM[M [\]LMV\] Z [XZQVO[¼ /Q^QVO ,1a _I[I ZM[W]VLQVO [PKW]V]O?QAP QWZRQKM \PM]Z[M_Z]MMI\M[W]Z I ZIQ[ML I KWUJQVML \W\IT WN UWZM \PIV\PZW]ORPTNZS]M W]KVF]M M^WZ\] WZ [UITTMZ WN LMLQKI\ML]XXWZ\MZ[<PQ[Q Uozdonorment to Kari Qmes that ZMC Educ]om]nity and the deep commitment of our alumni, friends and partners to our support our shared goals.

=VQ^MZ[Q\ a¼[UQ[[QWV IVL ^Q[QWV 1 WzMZ I JQO \PIVS aW] \W W]Z OMVMZW]] matching gift donors Wayne and Melissa Judkins, who for the third year A Look Back – Institutional Identity & Reputation in a row helped to make this day a success.

)VW\PMZ [QOVQÅKIV\ KWV\ZQJ]\WZ \W \in]strengthening our Institutional Identity and Reputation. P W W^MZ[MM[/Q^QVO ,1a IVL W]Z AEI[P N]VLZIQ SMZa XVZ\ P]N]J]P]QV Z]W]Z]MOQ]Q]W]L^M[MUJ I[WVM WN \PM +WUU]VQ\ a .W]VLI\QWV¼ rich traditions and values. This year we introduced new regalia, leadership and innovative approach have been instrumental in driving TMOIKa [MI\QVO IVL I ÅZ[\ OMVMZI\QWV P V

Looking Forward – Strategic Partnerships

To build on this momentum and further enhance our community and campus, we are also focusing on developing strategic partnerships.

7VM []KP XIZ\VMZ[PQX Q[_Q\P \PM ?QKWUQKW +W]V\a 8]JTQK 4QJZIZ a which has been instrumental in making the Performing Arts Center a

4QSM 5QLLTM ;\I\M[\PM [\ZI\MOQK XTIVVQVO XZWKM[[QV^WT^M[[\]LMV\[\ NIK]T\^a [\Iz IT]UVQ IVL KWUU]VQ\^a XIZ\VMZ[\W KZIN\ I ^Q[QWV ZMÆMK\QVO
our shared aspirations and strategic priorities. This will involve a series of workshops, forums and discussions designed to gather input, align our goals, and set actionable and measurable objectives for the years ahead.

Our aim is to develop a Strategic Plan that not only addresses immediate needs but also anticipates future trends and positions us for TWVO \MZU []KKM[[1 IU M`KQ\ML IJW]\ \PM XW\MV\QIT \PQ[XZWKM[[PWTLL[NWZ][\W ZMLMÅVM W]Z OWIT[QVVW^I\M W]Z XZIK\QKM[IVL N]Z\PMZ W]Z mission of excellence.

<WLIa 1 IU \PZQTTML \W IVVW]VKM \PI\ BMJILQIP 0ITT ^QKM XZM[QLMV\ WN QVKT][QWV IKKM[[IVL JMTWVOQVO IVL ,Z +PZQ[\^a ?MMZ LMIV WN
the Perdue School of Business, have agreed to serve as the Strategic 8TIV KW KPIQZ[*M WV \PM TWWSW]\ NWZ IV MUIQT NZWU W]Z KW KPIQZ[announcing the steering committee and with more information about how you can participate in the next few weeks.

Everyone's involvement in this process is invaluable, and I thank you all for your upcoming work.

Driven by Mission, Fueled by Rest

Now, all this work mean.áXd à > ðrivor yall f @I P 0 ð



Make Tomorrow Yours
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