



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

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completed this year – are some of the driving forces to enhance the Seidel School. Faculty and doctoral students from the Seidel School journeyed to Crete, Greece, to present at the Federated Geothermal Conference. This was a valuable networking and showcased the groundbreaking research that takes place on our campus.

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 energy, we are proud to have completed this year. Faculty and doctoral students from the Seidel School journeyed to Crete, Greece, to present at the Federated Geothermal Conference. This was a valuable networking and showcased the groundbreaking research that takes place on our campus.

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 faculty and staff. Faculty and doctoral students from the Seidel School journeyed to Crete, Greece, to present at the Federated Geothermal Conference. This was a valuable networking and showcased the groundbreaking research that takes place on our campus.

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.

Two standout programs that exemplify this comprehensive approach are the Blackwell renovation and the new Centennial Plaza. Faculty and doctoral students from the Seidel School journeyed to Crete, Greece, to present at the Federated Geothermal Conference. This was a valuable networking and showcased the groundbreaking research that takes place on our campus.

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- 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 W]Z MV\ QZM\ K WUJ\ Q\ 25% of these locations, and it is KWUXTM\ML XTIVM\IZQ]U 5ILM XW[[QJTM] a QIUO QIN\ ; NZVQU T P M VLMV [WV NM _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. Faculty and doctoral students from the Seidel School journeyed to Crete, Greece, to present at the Federated Geothermal Conference. This was a valuable networking and showcased the groundbreaking research that takes place on our campus.

These projects and achievements – along with many others

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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 our students' resilience and 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 persevered.

Returning for the spring semester with a renewed focus and a promise to herself, she thrived. Her success is a testament to the support and resources available at SU.

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.

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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

Looking Forward – Strategic Partnerships

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

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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
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mission of excellence.

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the Perdue School of Business, have agreed to serve as the Strategic
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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

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Make Tomorrow Yours
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