

# UDARF

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY



February 2010

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

The brief history of UDARF during its first decade that appears in this issue provides some background to explain the organization's ongoing reciprocal commitment to serve its members' needs and to encourage its members to participate in, and to serve, the University and the larger community of which we are a part. The University is continuing to honor its commitment to serve us in many ways, including printing and distributing this Newsletter. For another example, some months ago I sent an e-mail to Chris Ulrich, the manager of Benefits, to encourage her to communicate with retirees through our organization. Some weeks later, I received a call from Kathy Corbitt, who heads the Employee Wellness Program. She said that Chris had given her the word that UDARF holds the key to communication with retired faculty. Kathy wants us to know about the University's continuing commitment to include us among its Wellness clients. I invited her to write a piece for the Newsletter and to make a brief presentation at one of our lunches.

UDARF and its members are reciprocating through gifts of money and personal time in serving the University and the community. Our October 2008 Newsletter published an article about Marcia Halio and Mark Sharnoff's volunteer tutoring at a middle school that serves low income boys. The last Newsletter included information about the creation of the University of Delaware Community Network, which is designed to assist newcomers to the University and Greater Newark Community in getting established and navigating their way around in a new environment. Those of you who attended the October lunch heard Clella Murray and Ulrike Zipser discuss this project and ask our members to volunteer their considerable expertise in making this project a success.

As most of you know from announcements at lunches and articles in the Newsletter, the Morris Library has a room filled with useful machines dedicated to the use of retired faculty. To thank the Library for the many services it provides to all of us, we have invited Susan Brynteson to attend our March lunch meeting where she will receive a gift from the funds that have been given to UDARF over the years. Your executive committee agreed that there could be no better use for this money. Until then, best wishes, and I hope to see you at lunch on March 2, 2010.

Carol E. Hoffecker, President

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# Graduate education to be focus of March luncheon

Debra Hess Norris, vice provost for graduate and professional education, chairperson of the Department of Art Conservation and professor of photograph conservation, will discuss graduate education at UD at the next luncheon meeting of the UDARF.

The meeting is scheduled at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 2, in Clayton Hall.

Entitled “Graduate Education at the University of Delaware: Building Student Success in Art Conservation and Beyond,” Norris’ talk will provide a general update on new initiatives in graduate education and how UD is working to strengthen graduate student success generally.

She also will discuss current and future activities associated with graduate-level training in the preservation of cultural heritage, including current on- and off-site preservation projects, such as George Washington’s canteen, a 2500 BCE bitumen boat from Ur owned by the University of Pennsylvania, works of art by Chaim Soutine and Gertrude Kasebier and collaborative initiatives, such as work building conservation expertise in the Middle East, rescuing public murals in Philadelphia and preserving the photographic heritage of historically black colleges and universities.

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# December meeting features talks on politics, development

While the election of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States was touted by the media as a historic event, many communications experts believe the presidential race also evidenced a major shift in the way voters and candidates used various media to present and obtain the latest information on the candidates.



Ralph Begleiter, Rosenberg Professor of Communication, Distinguished Journalist in Residence and director of the new Center for Political Communication, discussed these changes during a presentation at UDARF's Dec. 1 luncheon meeting in Clayton Hall.

Begleiter noted that while the campaign featured the first African American to be elected president and the second woman, Sarah Palin, to run for vice president, it also represented a major shift in how the news was delivered.

"Basically, you had newspapers pretty much disappear from the scene in terms of popularity," Begleiter said. "Now, most Americans get their news from other sources."

To emphasize the changing patterns of political communications in recent years, Begleiter showed a video clip of NBC newscaster Chet Huntley as he reported election night coverage during 1960 presidential election between the eventual winner John F. Kennedy, and his opponent, Richard M. Nixon.

"In 1960, there were only three channels to watch," Begleiter said. "Those days are long gone. When I show this clip to students today, they think it is from some ancient era."

## Center for Political Communication

Begleiter also discussed the UD Center for Political Communication, established recently to study and teach about the information technology revolution's effect on campaigns for public office and policy debates. "We are starting a new mission, whose primary focus is to engage people in a variety of disciplines working together on issues such as global communication," Begleiter said. "We are very excited about this, because we have gotten political scientists and

communication faculty working together on research projects that are already under way, and we know that there are going to be a lot more to come.”

### **Development seeks support, collaboration**

Martha Mitchell, director of Gift Planning in the Office of University Development, encouraged UDARF members to become involved with efforts to support the mission of the University.

“In my role as director of gift planning, I support all colleges, programs and centers at the University in the area of gift planning. I work with donors who wish to make either unusual gifts to the University, other than writing a check or transferring a stock, and I also deal with complex tax situations,” Mitchell said. “Our office encourages alumni and faculty, parents and staff to include the University in their estate plans to support programs they are interested in and want to see continued in perpetuity.”

Mitchell said the name of the Legacy Society has been changed to the Carillon Circle to be something uniquely Delaware. “As the Development Office, we want to know how we can communicate more effectively with you, and we want to hear your ideas on services we can provide for you as an individual,” Mitchell said. “You obviously have a great sense of what has happened in the past, and we would also appreciate hearing from you on ways to reach out to our alumni, faculty and friends.” Also at the meeting, President Carol E. Hoffecker, introduced Suzanne Austin—associate provost in the Office of the Deputy Provost. Austin, a historian of Latin America, moved to the Provost’s Office as associate provost. She is charged with responsibility for a number of enterprises, including UDARF.

*–Jerry Rhodes*

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# **UDARF at Twenty: A Short History**

## **Chapter 2: UDARF’s First Decade**

*by Carol Hoffecker*

From its founding in 1989, UDARF had three major goals. As stated in an early, but undated, brochure, these goals were: “to advance the well being of its members; to aid in the University’s activities and purposes; and to promote beneficial relations between the Association and the University.” Membership in the organization was extended to all retired faculty. Their spouses, widows, and presumably widowers, though they were not mentioned, were eligible to become affiliate members. By 1991 the policy had been extended to provide honorary membership status

“to retired members of the University community who have had long and close relations with faculty and made substantial, if non-teaching, contributions to the life of the community.”

From its earliest days, the UDARF calendar featured four yearly luncheons in Clayton Hall where members were invited to hear “stimulating” speakers from the faculty and administration. In the organization’s early days, members could also attend informal brown bag lunches that were held periodically in the Perkins Student Center. The “brown bagger” groups were small and those events were discontinued at an unrecorded time.

From the beginning, individual members were encouraged to involve UDARF in a variety of efforts to aid the University and Newark communities. In 1991 John Wriston organized UDARF members to assist in a pick up along Elkton Road and Christina Parkway that collected twenty-five bags of trash. In 1995 John Wriston together with John and Dorothy Moser led a cancer walk that raised \$1,200. UDARF was also an important advocacy group on behalf of its members in persuading the University to provide a benefits statement for retirees and in offering a service whereby shut-ins could call UDARF officers to arrange for visits from fellow members.

Communication was the key to organizing and promoting all of those activities. To succeed, UDARF needed a newsletter. Fortunately, Ed Rosenberry, a retired professor of American literature, volunteered to take on that task, and he proved to be an enthusiastic and resourceful editor. The first issue of the UDARF Newsletter appeared in April 1990. It was a modest piece of two pages, published on inexpensive yellow paper in typewriter style print. That issue set the tone and style for the future. Its readers learned that Harry Shipman, the Physics Department astronomer, would speak at the May lunch. There was also an article entitled “Some Explanatory Notes on TIAA/CREF Retirement Income Plans,” a subject that reverberates to this day.

One recurring theme of the 1990s was encouraging members to develop their skills in using new technologies. The second issue of the Newsletter included a piece called “Computer Help for Retired Faculty.” In April 1996 Editor Rosenberry published his findings on an inquiry about members’ use of computers. He discovered that a few members were using e-mail and noted that “even the negative responses were interesting. All reported ruefully that their grandchildren swim in cyberspace, leaving them to feel like beached whales.”

The final installment of UDARF’s history will explore the evolution of the organization in its most recent era. It will also reflect, from a historian’s point of view, on the changes in the nature of the present-day faculty compared to that of the past and take note of the challenges that those changes present for UDARF’s future.

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## **Retirees can access a resource for wellness**

Almost everyone looks forward to the carefree days of retirement, when you finally have time to enjoy your favorite activities. Most of us anticipate a meaningful retirement and hope to reach or exceed 100-plus years of age in good health. The reality is that 80 percent of older Americans

today have at least one chronic condition that affects their ability to lead an active life. Three behaviors—poor diet, lack of exercise and smoking—are the primary causes of the nation’s leading chronic diseases that include heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. Changing ANY of these behaviors GREATLY reduces your risk of developing a chronic disease.

For those looking to take greater control of their health, the University of Delaware’s HealthyU Wellness Program is a resource that provides retirees with a variety of ongoing wellness programs and services that focus on the practice of healthy behaviors and prevention of disease. Retirees receiving UD benefits can enjoy full access to the program and can use Wellness Dollars to register for specific services and/or health campaigns.

Examples of current programs and services include: walking programs, weight management programs, cooking demonstrations, health screenings, fitness assessments and personal training, health seminars, group exercise classes and locker rental.

Retirees can also enjoy the benefits of a FREE membership to the Employee Fitness Center (EFC), a full-service exercise facility located in the Carpenter Sports Building. The EFC is open every day, and our staff is available to orient you to a variety of fitness equipment and help you with a safe, effective workout.

Remember, poor health is not an inevitable consequence of aging. Adopting healthy habits into all aspects of your life will provide you with a greater quality of life. The HealthyU program is available to support your efforts to greater independence and a healthier YOU.

For more information, call (302) 831-8388 or go to [www.udel.edu/wellness](http://www.udel.edu/wellness)

*–Kathy Corbitt*

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## **Library space available for UDARF members**

At the request of former UDARF President Robert Stark, Susan Brynteson, Vice Provost and May Morris Director of Libraries, established a Retired Faculty Room available to all members of UDARF. It is located in 040D, on the lower level. of the Morris Library.

The room is equipped with a late-model computer with Internet access, a printer and a fax machine; it is provided with printer paper, pencils, paper clips and other necessary materials. If problems arise with the equipment, the concern should be reported to the Student Multimedia Design Center Desk, the Circulation Desk or to Library Administration (Room 210).

Faculty may request a personal key for long-term use at the Library Administration Office (Room 210). Faculty may request a key for temporary use to be returned the same day from the Circulation Desk (First Floor) or at the Student Multimedia Design Center Desk (Lower Level).

More information is available at <http://www2.lib.udel.edu/new/1libretfacultyrm.html> or go to the UDARF website at [www.udel.edu/UDARF](http://www.udel.edu/UDARF).

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## Mark your Calendar

- Global Agenda 2010: Understanding Political Islam. Select Wednesdays, Feb. 24-May 12. For details, visit [www.udel.edu/cpc](http://www.udel.edu/cpc).
- UDARF Luncheon with UD President Patrick Harker. Tuesday, May 4.
- Spring Commencement: Saturday, May 29. For details, visit [www.udel.edu/commencement](http://www.udel.edu/commencement).
- Second annual Forum & Reunion Weekend, Friday through Sunday, June 4-6. For details, visit [www.udconnection.com/ReunionWeekend](http://www.udconnection.com/ReunionWeekend).

## Emeritus status awarded

The Board of Trustees approved emeritus status for 11 members of the faculty at its December meeting.

Honored were **Kenneth Ackerman**, Anthropology; **Dewey Caron**, Entomology and Applied Ecology; **Carl Dawson**, English; **Ann Gibson**, Art History; **Leslie Goldstein**, Political Science and International Relations; **Kenneth Lomax**, Bioresources Engineering; **David Mason**, Food and Resource Economics; **Lois Potter**, English; T.W. Fraser Russell, Chemical Engineering; **Stephen Skopik**, Biological Sciences; and **Robert Wilson**, Urban Affairs and Public Policy.

## In Memoriam

**Neal A. Phillips**, who taught business law at UD for 30 years before retiring in 2008, died Dec. 9, 2009.

**Anthony F. Gaudy Jr.**, H. Rodney Sharp Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering, died Nov. 17, 2009. He retired from UD in 1988.

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## UDARF E-RESERVATION FOR LUNCH

Checks, payable to the University of Delaware, are due at the door  
ABSOLUTELY NO CASH, please!

Remember:

You should submit ONLY ONE registration.

**The deadline for registration is February 23.**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2009

**Time:** 11:30 am

**Location:** Clayton Hall

**Name:**   Cost \$15.00

**Guest:**   Cost \$15.00

**Total Amount:**

**E-mail:**

Note: You *must* enter your e-mail address in the block above to enable your reservation.

**Comments:**  
Please use this  
space for news,  
comments,  
postal address  
or e-mail  
changes.