Letter from the President

Dear Members,

On behalf of the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty Executive Committee—Frank Scarpitti, Mike Pohlen, Bob Brown, Helen Morgan, George Conrade, Barbara Viera, and Carol Hoffecker—I extend greetings and good wishes. We are especially pleased to welcome all of our new retirees. One of the many things I liked about being a faculty member was September, the start of a new academic year, a time to begin again, an opportunity to look forward with fresh ideas. September holds these same benefits for UDARF, as we begin 2010-2011 with plans for an informative and entertaining year of programs for our members.

Last year when responsibility for UDARF moved from Human Resources to the Provost’s Office, Suzanne Austin was the Associate Provost working with our group. Dr. Austin has recently been named Interim Dean of the College of Education and Human Development, and Deputy Provost Havidán Rodríguez and Acting Associate Provost Margaret Andersen are now our contacts in Hullihen Hall. Amidst all these administrative changes, one thing remains constant: UDARF continues to be a strong and vibrant part of the University and is seen as such by the University administration.

Since its inception, the Association of Retired Faculty has provided an opportunity for those who have served the University and their spouses to gather quarterly for lunch, to hear a speaker and to socialize with many of their former colleagues. For some of the 300-plus members living in the greater Newark area, it is an opportunity to stay in touch with the University and to stay abreast of new administrative and academic initiatives. This is also done through our quarterly newsletter, available to all retired faculty members. While we are grateful for what the association has achieved so far, it would appear that more can be done for those who have dedicated years, even decades, to helping the University earn the status it now enjoys. In the coming year, the Executive Committee will be examining ways that UDARF can be of greater service to its members. Please don’t hesitate to send your ideas to members of the committee.

This year’s luncheon programs will be on Oct. 4, Dec. 7, Feb. 1 and May 9. On Oct. 4, Dr. Tricia Wachtendorf, Associate Director of the Disaster Research Center, will discuss the Center’s research on the human response to disasters. Dr. Donald Sparks, Chair of the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences and Director of the University’s Environmental Institute will talk about
the Institute’s innovative work on Dec. 7. In 2011, Dr. Richard Hanley, Associate Professor of Philosophy, will explain the philosophy of popular culture on Feb. 1, and on May 9, President Patrick Harker will bring us up-to-date on the state of the University. So, mark your calendars and plan to attend.

We are also pleased to announce a special lecture series we shall be sponsoring in 2010 and 2011. Entitled “My Intellectual Journey,” these talks will provide one of our retired colleagues an opportunity to reflect on his or her personal and professional lives, how they interacted, how one influenced the other. Since each of us has a “story” behind our public scholarship, hearing about choices made and a life lived by others should be particularly meaningful. These talks will be held at the Marriott Courtyard on campus (plenty of free parking and easy access) and will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. The first talk, featuring Wayne Craven, Professor Emeritus of Art History, will be on Nov. 11 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. We are grateful to Provost Tom Apple and his office for funding for this project.

In the coming months, we shall be developing the capacity to communicate with our membership electronically. Being able to send emails directly to our members will allow us to keep you informed of events and opportunities in a timely manner. Eventually, we also hope to deliver our quarterly Newsletter electronically, but members will have the option of receiving a paper copy if they wish. To do this, we need your email address. Please indicate it on your luncheon reservation form, or send it directly to Helen Morgan (hmorgan@udel.edu) or George Conrade (gconrade@udel.edu) as soon as possible. Obviously, this information will be kept secure and not shared with any person or group outside of UDARF. And, speaking of electronic communication, check out our updated and revamped website (udel.edu/UDARF), a special project of our webmaster, George Conrade.

Have a wonderful Fall season, and I’ll look forward to seeing you at our first luncheon on Oct. 4.

Sincerely,

Frank Scarpitti, President

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**President discusses academic and physical plant initiatives**

A new science building and bookstore, development of the former Chrysler site and college reorganizations topped the list discussed by UD President Partrick Harker at the regular luncheon meeting of the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty (UDARF), held Tuesday, May 4, in Clayton Hall.

Harker noted the continuing realignment of colleges and departments.
“We have continued to have talks with faculty who have had discussions about where they want to be and where they want to align themselves intellectually,” Harker said. “I believe fundamentally, that faculty, will flourish if they are appropriately aligned with their intellectual peers.”

The latest realignment, which was approved by the Faculty Senate on May 3, involves the moving the Department of Fashion Design and Apparel Studies to the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Computer Sciences to the College of Engineering, Harker said.

“There also is a new College of Education and Human Development, which has been formed out of the School of Education and the Department of Human Development,” Harker said.

The quality and number of new faculty, hired at a time when other universities have been scaling back such initiatives due to continuing economic constraints, has also been significant, Harker said.

“Many major universities, both private and public, are out of the market because of the economy,” Harker said. “This is a golden opportunity for us, and we have been hiring pretty aggressively.”

Harker also noted that five of the 13 new faculty hires in the College of Engineering are women, which will put UD above the national average of 12 to 13 percent for women faculty in engineering.

Complementing the hiring of outstanding faculty, Harker said, is an incoming freshman class that Harker described as being “off the charts academically.”

“We had over 26,000 applications, including 23,000 from out of state,” Harker said. This means that while we take every qualified Delawarean, out of state students have less than a 10 percent chance of getting admitted.”

To continue to attract top level students, Harker said that UD is building a new interdisciplinary science and engineering lab to provide undergraduate classroom and much needed research facilities. It will be located near Academy Street and Lovett Avenue.

“We are now teaching undergraduate science lab six days a week, and by the time this new building is completed we might have to hold labs on Sundays,” Harker noted. “There simply isn’t any more room, and it is distressing to me as president of UD to have to turn away a young person because an undergraduate lab space is already taken. This means such students can’t fulfill their dreams. We can’t let that happen.”

The nearly 200,000-square-foot science building will consist of a research wing and teaching wing, and will also support the University’s commitment to reduce its carbon footprint.
The interdisciplinary science and research facility, which is slated for completion by the summer of 2013, also will house the University of Delaware Energy Institute and the Delaware Environmental Institute (DENIN), Harker said.

“Science there will be taught in a very different way,” Harker said. “It used to be that you had a lecture, and then a lab that was not connected physically to the lecture space. In the new building, students will get up from the lecture, go into the lab in the next room, and then return to the lecture classroom. This will really put us on the map in terms of science teaching.”

A new physical plant also will be built on east campus to meet the needs of the new classroom and research labs and new housing planned to eventually replace the West Campus Rodney and Dickenson dormitories, Harker said.

Recent initiatives also include building a new bookstore on Main Street on the site of the old Christina School District Building. “Construction on the new bookstore … will be completed by August 2011,” Harker said.

The redevelopment of the former Chrysler site, which represents a 22 percent increase in the size of the University, will include a transit hub, with enhanced rail and transportation systems.

“It is really important to have this because of our partnership with Thomas Jefferson University and with the U.S. Army at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland,” Harker said. “We need to close the transportation gap between Perryville and Newark, so that we can connect from Richmond to Boston and even to Rhode Island.”

The former Chrysler site also will be home to a clinical medical campus as part of the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA). Established in 2009, DHSA is a coalition comprised of Christiana Care Health System, Nemours/A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children, Thomas Jefferson University, and the University of Delaware, aimed at improving health and healthcare services in Delaware.

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**UDARF sponsors bus trip to DC**

The University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty will sponsor a bus trip to see Shakespeare’s Henry VIII in a matinee performance on Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Folger Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Jay Halio, UD professor emeritus and a renowned Shakespeare scholar and teacher, will prepare the group on the play beforehand.

A major exhibition entitled “Vivat Rex!” in recognition of the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII’s accession can be viewed prior to the matinee in the Folger Shakespeare Library.
Cost is $75 for theatre ticket, bus and gratuity. Individuals can make their own lunch plans.

Checks should be made payable to the University of Delaware and should include a phone number and “Henry VIII” on the memo line. Mail checks to: Eleanor Gurdikian, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Delaware, 2700 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington, DE 19806.

Departure will be at 8:30 a.m. from Arsht Hall on UD’s Wilmington campus and return will be approximately 8 p.m.

Trip coordinator Bob Stark can be reached via email at [rstark@udel.edu].

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**Save the dates**

The calendar for UDARF’s quarterly luncheons for 2010-2011 has been set. Please note that the October and May meetings are on Mondays. Dates and speakers are

- Monday, Oct. 4, with featured speaker Tricia Wachtendorf, associate director of the Disaster Research Center;
- Tuesday, Dec. 7, with featured speaker Don Sparks, director of the Delaware Environmental Institute;
- Tuesday, Feb. 1, with featured speaker Richard Hanley, associate professor of philosophy; and
- Monday, May 9, President Patrick Harker discussing the state of the university.

All luncheons are scheduled from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Clayton Hall.

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**Disaster relief to be discussed at next UDARF luncheon Oct. 4**

Tricia Wachtendorf, associate director of UD’s Disaster Research Center, will be the featured speaker at UDARF’s October luncheon, kicking off the 2010-11 year.

Luncheon is scheduled from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 4, at Clayton Hall. (Please note this event is on Monday, rather than the normal Tuesday.)

Her topic will be “Getting Relief—Or Not: Disaster Humanitarian Assistance Efforts in Haiti, China and after the Indian Ocean Tsunami.”
Wachtendorf, a member of the UD faculty since 2004, studies the coordination between organizations in disasters. Earlier this year, she traveled to Florida and the Dominican Republic to study formal and informal relief efforts after the earthquake in Haiti.

One of the pioneering institutions in the field of disaster research, UD’s Disaster Research Center is a multidisciplinary research organization engaged in research, education and outreach on a number of issues related to disasters and catastrophes.

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**Faculty given emeritus status**

Sixteen members of the UD faculty have been granted emeritus status in recognition of their distinguished contributions to teaching, scholarship and service.

Honorees and their disciplines are Kenneth Ackerman, Anthropology; Dewey Caron, Entomology and Wildlife Ecology; Roberta Colman, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Sue Davis, Political Science and International Relations; Carl Dawson, English; Ann Gibson, Art History; Leslie Goldstein, Political Science and International Relations; Mahendra Jain, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Ron Karlson, Biological Sciences; Kenneth Lomax, Bioresources Engineering; David Mason, Food and Resource Economics; Betty Paulanka, Nursing; Lois Potter, English; T.W. Fraser Russell, Chemical Engineering; Stephen Skopik, Biological Sciences; and Robert Wilson, Urban Affairs and Public Policy.

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**New lecture series to examine the academic life**

Reflections on a life in academia will be the focus of a new lecture series being offered this year by the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty.

Entitled “My Intellectual Journey,” the series will provide members of UDARF an opportunity to talk about their personal and professional lives, how those two intersected and the personal choices they made along the way.

Opening the series on Thursday, Nov. 11, will be Wayne Craven, H.F. du Pont Professor Emeritus of Art History. Dr. Craven, who received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from UD in 2008, is a respected scholar in American art and the recipient of the University’s Excellence in Teaching Award and the Francis Alison Faculty Award.
He will speak from 4-5:30 p.m., at the Courtyard Newark at the University of Delaware on the Laird Campus. His presentation will be followed by a wine and cheese reception.

The series is supported by the Office of the Provost.

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**New Officers Introduced at May Meeting**

Introduced at the May meeting are the new leaders of UDARF for 2010-11: From left, Michael Pohlen, vice president; George Conrade, web master; Helen Morgan, secretary; Frank R. Scarpitti, president; and Robert Brown, treasurer

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**Keep Up-to-Date on the Web**

Visit the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty Web site at www.udel.edu/UDARF. In addition to a calendar of upcoming events, the site includes UDARF bylaws, copies of past newsletters and information specifically for spouses.
In Memoriam


Donald F. Crossan, 84, UD alumnus, faculty member and administrator, died May 5, 2010. His 39-year career at UD included service as professor, vice president of University relations and business management, dean of the then-College of Agricultural Sciences and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. At UD, he received the Medal of Distinction, the Outstanding Alumnus Award and the Excellence-in-Teaching Award, as well as being inducted into the Alumni Wall of Fame.

James E. Danberg, 82, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, died Aug. 16, 2010. He joined the UD engineering faculty in 1967 and retired in 1985. During that time, he also was a consulting engineer with the U.S. Army Ballistic Research Laboratory at the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

J. Manfred Ennis, 86, a longtime member of the staff in UD’s registrar’s office, died June 18, 2010. He worked at UD for 45 years before retiring as an assistant registrar.

Robert C. Hogenson, 73, composer and associate professor of music, died May 27, 2010. A member of the UD faculty since 1972, he retired in 2000.

Joyce E. Perry, 58, UD alumna and second women’s head basketball coach in UD history, died April 17, 2010. She retired from coaching in 1996 and then taught computer software classes in the then-College of Health and Exercise Science.

Ada Leigh Soles, 73, a former academic adviser at UD, died June 7, 2010. A respected civic leader and legislator, she was married to James R. Soles, professor emeritus of political science and international relations. In 1996, she was awarded UD’s Medal of Distinction.