Dear Members,

On Nov. 11, UDARF will sponsor the first lecture in its new series titled “My Intellectual Journey.” Professor Emeritus Wayne Craven promises to entertain and inform the audience with an account of his personal life and professional career. Prof. Craven will reflect on his role as a leading scholar of American art history, and the acts, decisions and choices that led him to a position of intellectual leadership. As I contemplate his talk, I’m sorry that young faculty members from across the University will be unable to hear him speak of the lessons he has learned and what he has come to value. They would hear from a role model well worth emulating. I hope you will take the opportunity to attend this presentation.

The second presentation in this series will occur in mid-April and will feature Professor Emeritus Willard Fletcher of the Department of History. Prof. Fletcher’s intriguing background and internationally recognized scholarship are certain to make his Intellectual Journey one that all of us will want to experience. Just as soon as a date in mid-April is chosen, we will publish the information in our next newsletter, as well as send all of you an email with the details.

Of course, we can’t send you an email if we don’t have your email address. If you didn’t receive an email reminder of the first Intellectual Journey presentation, it’s because we don’t have your current address. If that’s the case, or if you change your address, please give us your current address so we may deliver information, invitations or announcements to you in a timely manner. Send your address to me, Helen Morgan or Sarah Hedrick in the provost’s office. If you plan to attend the next luncheon, put your address on the reservation form. You can rest assured that it will not be given, bartered or sold to anyone else.

Members of UDARF continue to offer positive feedback on the lunches we sponsor and speakers we select to make presentations at these affairs. For example, in October, Prof. Tricia Wachtendorf, the associate director of the University’s Disaster Research Center, spoke of the center’s research on humanitarian aid in Haiti, China and the Gulf Coast. And, on Dec. 7, Prof. Donald Sparks will speak about the University’s Environmental Institute and the important work he and his colleagues are doing in that area. Please plan to attend.
With more retirees than ever, and with so many of them continuing to live in the greater Newark area, it is disappointing that attendance at our luncheons is not greater. UDARF luncheons are a wonderful way to renew friendships, meet colleagues whom you didn’t know before retirement and hear about new programs at the University. Plus, the cost is modest and the food isn’t bad. Sign up now to attend the Dec. 7 lunch and talk by Don Sparks.

Attendance was excellent for the recent UDARF-sponsored day trip to the Folger to see a presentation of Henry VIII. Organized by Bob Stark and led by Jay Halio, the group heard Prof. Halio discuss the play on the way to Washington and offer observations and answer questions on the way back to Newark. Both the bus trip and the play received rave reviews from attendees. We hope to sponsor more trips of this sort in the future.

Our next newsletter will not reach you until February 2011, so enjoy the fall season, have a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season. I’ll look forward to seeing you on Dec. 7 at our next luncheon.

Best wishes,

Frank Scarpitti, President

---

**Disaster researcher discusses relief strategies at luncheon**

When it comes to providing the most effective disaster relief for victims of major catastrophes, experts have found that cash donations work best.

Tricia Wachtendorf, associate director of UD’s Disaster Research Center, explained why during a meeting of the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty held Monday, Oct. 4, in Clayton Hall.

In her presentation, “Getting Relief or Not: Disaster Humanitarian Assistance Efforts in Haiti, China and After the Indian Ocean Tsunami,” Wachtendorf, associate professor of sociology, noted that studies have examined the reasons why some communities are better able to receive assistance than others.
Wachtendorf’s research on disaster relief includes visits to Haiti and to the Sichuan Province in western China, where an earthquake on May 12, 2008, killed nearly 70,000 people. She also visited South Asia after the tsunamis that struck in December 2004, and New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

“We hear about events happening in our own backyard, around the country, and on the other side of the world,” Wachtendorf said. “It can really pull our heartstrings.”

Visiting a fishing village in India in the aftermath of the tsunamis, Wachtendorf found that residents who had moved to a higher location for safety reasons were living in a series of ad hoc tents made of all kinds of materials, while a cluster of nearby donated tents remained empty.

“As social scientists, we asked ourselves who decided which individuals would stay in the tents donated by Rotary International, and who would be placed the ad hoc shelter tents,” Wachtendorf said. “The answer was that the people preferred the ad hoc tents.”

A variety of factors influenced this decision, Wachtendorf noted, including the hot weather and the extended family social structure of the residents.

“It wasn’t as if these people were unappreciative,” Wachtendorf said. “The fact was that the donated tents did not fit their needs.”

In the aftermath of such disasters a point of convergence of material, people and information occurs, a situation that tests the organizational skills of emergency managers, Wachtendorf said.

“Pictures from Hurricane Katrina show piles and piles of clothing that showed up and could not be used,” Wachtendorf said. “There is a huge challenge in dealing with this, and more often than not such items ends up in a pile somewhere in the disaster area.”

Also problematic are donated canned goods, where labels have been torn off, and over the counter medicines that may be the subject of manufacturer recalls, Wachtendorf said.

“What it means is that you don’t know what you have got, or how you are going to sort through it,” Wachtendorf said. “All of this requires a huge amount of manpower to sort it and ship it out to the people who need it.”

In recent years, things have improved and measures advocated by the disaster research community, including cash donations to established relief organizations, are being implemented to speed up the relief process, Wachtendorf said.
“Cash donations are the most effective way to help the relief effort,” Wachtendorf said. “Cash allows established organizations the means to purchase the exact type and quantity of items needed, and financial contributions to charities like the Red Cross can help reduce the challenges posed by limited staff and equipment.”

Article by Jerry Rhodes

Photo by Kathy Atkinson

---

**Delaware Environmental Institute to be discussed at next luncheon**

Donald L. Sparks, who directs the Delaware Environmental Institute, will discuss the institute’s work at the next luncheon of the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty, scheduled from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Clayton Hall.

Sparks, who is the S. Hallock du Pont Chair in soil and environmental chemistry, was named director of the institute last fall. The multidisciplinary institute is focused on providing solutions to global environmental challenges through knowledge-based partnerships that integrate environmental science, engineering and policy.

Institute research focuses on processes at the air, land and sea interface; environmental forecasting and restoration; and ecosystem health and sustainability.

---

**Professor emeritus Richard F. Heck wins Nobel Prize in Chemistry**

Richard F. Heck, the Willis F. Harrington Professor Emeritus at the University of Delaware, has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, it was announced Oct. 6 by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Heck, 79, was honored alongside fellow researchers Akira Suzuki, 80, of Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan, and Ei-Ichi Negishi, 75, of Purdue University, “for palladium-catalyzed cross couplings in organic synthesis.” They will share a $1.5 million award.
The Nobel laureates are scheduled to present their lectures Dec. 8, 2010, in Stockholm.

According to the Nobel statement, the scientists were honored for discovering “more efficient ways of linking carbon atoms together to build the complex molecules that are improving our everyday lives.”

Speaking from the Philippines just an hour after learning of the award, Heck said that he was surprised, although not completely surprised, as their work had been suggested for the high honor. However, he said it is “a very nice conclusion.”

“The University of Delaware is exceptionally proud of Prof. Richard F. Heck and his ground-breaking research in the field of chemistry, which has resulted in the award of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry this morning,” UD President Patrick Harker said.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment for Prof. Heck and his colleagues, acknowledging the development of a tremendously sophisticated tool that will aid scientists to make potential cancer drugs and medicines,” UD Provost Tom Apple said.

Apple was a graduate student in chemistry when Heck was on the faculty at the University of Delaware. Heck retired in 1989 from the UD faculty.

Douglas Taber, professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry who has known Heck as a colleague since 1982, explained the importance of his work, saying, “All of pharmaceutical chemistry and photolithography, the making of computer chips, depends on carbon bond formation. His [Heck’s] contribution was to make that bond catalytic in the expensive metal, making large-scale industrial production affordable. When DNA sequencing became important, Heck chemistry made the coupling of organic dyes to the DNA bases possible.”

This is the second Nobel Prize winner with ties to the University’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The late Daniel Nathans, who graduated from UD in 1950 with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1978.

Heck completed both his bachelor of science degree (1952) and his doctorate (1954) at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). After postdoctoral work, he took a position with Hercules in Wilmington, in 1957. His remarkably productive research career at Hercules led to his move to the University of Delaware in 1971.
His contributions have previously been recognized by the Wallace H. Carothers Award, bestowed by the Delaware section of the American Chemical Society in 2005, and the American Chemical Society Award for Creative Research in Synthetic Methods, in 2006.

---

**Special offer for retired UD faculty**

The award-winning Courtyard Newark is a learning laboratory for students in the University’s Department of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management. Members of UDARF are eligible for a special rate of 50 percent off the prevailing room rate, based on availability of rooms. To get this special rate, contact Bill Sullivan, managing director, at (302) 391-2261 or by email at billsul@udel.edu.

---

**Campus News Briefs**

**Fulbrights**

The University of Delaware is among the top producers of Fulbright Scholars in the nation. According to the Institute of International Education, UD—which has five honorees in 2010-11—is tied with Harvard, Stanford, Cleveland State, UCLA, the University of California Davis, the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and Virginia Commonwealth University. The University of Illinois at Champagn tops the list this year, with eight honorees.
Top Doctoral Programs

In the latest assessment from the National Research Council, five of the University’s doctoral programs have been ranked among the tops in their fields in the United States. Selected were biomechanics and movement science, chemical engineering, linguistics and cognitive science, materials science and engineering and mathematics. All five won high scores for research activity, a major category that considered average number of publications by the faculty, the average number of citations of those publications, the percent of faculty with grants and faculty awards.

Four-star rating

Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities, has given UD a four-star rating for the sixth consecutive year. UD received high marks for organizational efficiency, organizational capacity and accountability.

International honors

The University of Delaware Chorale has just returned from the 42nd International Tolosa Choral Contest in Spain, where the students won three second-place awards and a third-place award. Participation in the festival is by invitation only, and the UD group was one of only two U.S. choirs participating.

Mark you calendars

Upcoming UDARF luncheons are scheduled:

• Tuesday, Dec. 7, with featured speaker Don Sparks, director of the Delaware Environmental Institute;

• Tuesday, March 1, (please note date change) with featured speaker Richard Hanley, associate professor of philosophy; and

• Monday, May 9, with UD President Patrick Harker. (Please note that this meeting is on Monday.)

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

David M. Robinson Jr., professor emeritus of electrical engineering, died Sept. 2, 2010. A UD alumnus, Dr. Robinson was the first recipient of a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from UD in 1964. He received the College of Engineering’s Outstanding Alumni Award in 1997.

James R. Soles, Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science and International Relations, died Oct. 29, 2010. Dr. Soles was a member of the political science faculty from 1968 until he retired in 2002. He was awarded UD’s Medal of Distinction in 2007.