



Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

The last two years have seen more change in our organization's relationship to the University than I could have imagined when I rather naively accepted the responsibility to be your president. Our partnership with the University remains as strong as ever, but it has changed. We have had to scramble to adjust to our added responsibilities as a result of being moved from the domain of Human Resources to that of the Provost's Office. On the other hand, we have been relieved of most responsibilities associated with the production of the Newsletter and we have developed fresh ties to other University offices. Those of you who attended recent lunch meetings will recall meeting Kathy Corbitt, the Wellness chief from Human Resources, Susan Brynteson of the Morris Library, and Martha Mitchell from the Development Office, as well as Suzanne Austin, the associate provost under whose aegis we now reside.

At its present stage of evolution, UDARF is a loose, yet strong organization that consists of three major components: the Newsletter, the four annual lunch meetings, and an executive committee that operates under the bylaws to sustain and develop the organization. We do some things as a group. For example, the executive committee recently voted to present a gift of \$3,000 from the UDARF Gift Fund to the Morris Library, in part to thank the Library for securing retirees a special room that can function as their on-campus office.

My term as UDARF president has made me appreciate anew the diversity of our group. Some people are eager to mentor or teach; some may be willing to assist newcomers to the community; some need an on-campus work space to continue their professional activities; while others simply want to share a meal with old friends and hear a good speaker. Many now live so far away that reading the Newsletter constitutes their contact with former colleagues. Organizing retirees is probably never easy, but organizing collegial but independent academics provides a challenge that makes herding cats seem easy. Yet we all share the desire to keep in touch with the University.

UDARF is, by necessity, difficult to define. It is part of the University, but not entirely so. Through its Newsletter and lunch meetings, it has the opportunity to suggest opportunities for service that members might undertake as individuals or in groups. UDARF can best serve by

keeping the retired faculty informed about the University and maintaining channels to assist its members in continuing to play a part in the institution's development.

With best wishes,

Carol E. Hoffecker
President

Vice provost updates UDARF on graduate education

Debra Hess Norris, vice provost for graduate and professional education, updated members of the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty on the new directions in graduate and professional education at UD during the group's regular luncheon meeting, held March 2 in Clayton Hall.



Norris, who also serves as chairperson of the Department of Art Conservation and Henry F. du Pont Chair in Fine Arts at the University of Delaware, said that a guiding principle during the past two years in the Office of Graduate and Professional Education has been to enrich and strengthen the graduate education experience at UD by collaborating with various campus units, as well as with other partners off campus in creating new initiatives.

“We have a strategic plan for graduate and professional education and advancing and sustaining the highest quality programs,” Norris said. “We also have been working with colleges and departments to try and benchmark funding for graduate student education, and to offer 12-month packages over multiple years.”

Norris said that the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies also is working with the Graduate Student Senate to better understand the needs of graduate students.

“We completed the first ever graduate student satisfaction survey to find out what the primary needs of graduate students are,” Norris said. “Their concerns include better housing choices and the need for a family leave policy.”

New initiatives in graduate education, Norris said, reflect the goals of the University's Path to Prominence™ strategic plan and are grounded within core principles and goals, including strengthening diversity and promoting visibility. Norris also noted that the Office of Graduate

and Professional Education is working to share dissertation defense dates and topics campus-wide to build audiences, interdisciplinary knowledge and new connections.

“In cooperation with the Writing Center we have established a dissertation boot camp,” Norris said. “The camp has turned out to be enormously popular, and three of the two-week dissertation boot camps are scheduled for summer 2010.”

Another initiative, Norris said, has been the establishment of a series of half-day workshops designed to help students become better grant writers. The workshops have been held in disciplines ranging from the humanities to engineering.

“We are trying to ensure that our graduate students have the skills and knowledge to identify and pursue external funding opportunities and to write compelling and engaging grant proposals. We want them to seek external funding with confidence,” Norris said. “We are excited about our progress to date.” The office’s new Web site (<http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/>) highlights funding opportunities and offers grant writing advice. Strengthening diversity in the graduate and professional student experience also remains a primary and central initiative in connection with the University’s overall strategic plan, Norris said.

The Office of Graduate and Professional Education also has partnered with the Institute for Global Studies to offer global competitive research travel grants that are supported by the Unidel and other foundations.

As its reach becomes more global, Norris said it is important for UD to enhance orientation for incoming international graduate students and increase efforts to promote the accomplishments of its graduate students and programs.

President Harker to speak at May UDARF luncheon

UD President Patrick Harker will be the featured speaker at the next UDARF luncheon meeting, scheduled at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 4, in Clayton Hall. Learn about the latest developments at UD and where it is headed on its Path to Prominence™. To sign up, use the enclosed luncheon reservation form or make your reservations online at [www.udel.edu/UDARF].

George Watson named dean of College of Arts and Sciences

George H. Watson, a member of UD’s physics faculty since 1987 and a UD alumnus, is the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, after a national search. He has served as interim dean of the college since last July, when former dean Tom Apple became UD’s provost. In making



the announcement, Apple said Watson “is well-respected throughout the campus and in the higher education community around the world for his integrity, his productivity and his dedication to this institution.”

Suzanne Austin interim dean of College of Education & Public Policy

Suzanne Austin, associate provost for academic affairs since last July, has been named interim dean of the College of Education and Public Policy, after Michael Gamel-McCormick stepped down April 1. A national search will be conducted to find a permanent dean for the college. Austin, who joined UD’s history faculty in 1985, has held a number of administrative posts at UD, including associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and chairperson of the Department of Art. Deputy Provost Havidán Rodríguez will assume Austin’s responsibilities for UDARF while she is serving as interim dean.



[UDARF at Twenty: A Short History](#)

The First Decade of a New Millennium

by Carol Hoffecker

Numbers provide a good place to begin the recent history of UDARF. The organization’s first directory in 1988-89 listed 135 names. The most recent directory, published in 2008-9, lists 426 names. Not only has our membership grown in size, it has also spread out geographically. In 1989, about 80 percent of those listed lived in or near Newark. Now the percentage of those who live nearby has been reduced to around 60 percent to 65 percent, depending on how far one is willing to drive to attend a lunch or meeting.

The shift in the size and location of our retiree population emphasizes the importance of the *Newsletter* as the means to hold UDARF together. Fortunately, the Newsletter has grown with the expanding membership. In the organization’s early years, the *Newsletter consisted of two pages, mimeographed and stapled together on inexpensive yellow paper. In 2001, it underwent a big improvement to better quality paper and occasional photographs.*

Elbert Chance took on the task of editing the Newsletter from Ed Rosenberry in 1997. For the next decade he did a superb job of eliciting information from retirees and publishing their contributions as well as news of the organization. In 2007, when Elbert resigned, UDARF president Bob Stark did yeoman service in convincing the University’s Office of Communications

& Marketing to assume responsibility for the Newsletter. John Brennan and Kathy Wheatley, in that office, deserve high marks for the result.

Our Newsletter is produced to a professional standard. It is less like the small-town newspaper of its earlier iteration and more an institutional publication. A reporter and photographer attend each UDARF lunch and provide excellent summaries of the speakers' remarks. This service is especially useful to those members who live far from campus and cannot attend. There is now a president's column to keep members informed about UDARF activities, and members are still welcome to send in notices for publication. In addition to its Newsletter, UDARF has established a Web site to provide information about the organization and a means of communication between the organization and its members.

In the last decade, UDARF has undertaken a number of projects. There were special pre-opening tours of new University buildings, such as the Roselle Center and the Marriott Courtyard Hotel. President Bob Stark sought to "foster continuing academic, intellectual and collegial needs" for retired faculty. This initiative resulted in the establishment of a specially designated room in the Morris Library where retired faculty members have access to the machines necessary to work and write.

There was a short-lived effort to raise money from members whereby UDARF could make awards to students. That experiment succeeded in raising enough money to provide modest awards to the presentations judged best at the Arts, Humanities and Social Science in View program in the summer of 2008. The winners were invited to present summaries of their research at lunch meetings in 2008-09. UDARF members enjoyed meeting the students but voted to discontinue the fund-raising effort mainly because they prefer to give their money to the University individually rather than collectively. In 2008, UDARF joined the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). We have not as yet had the opportunity to explore the possibilities that this connection may bring. The future is filled with new challenges and perhaps we can learn valuable lessons from the experiences of other retired faculty organizations.

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.

\$3,000 gift presented to UD Library

At its March 2 meeting, members of UDARF made a contribution of \$3,000 to the University of Delaware Library.

The gift, which represented donations made by UDARF members over several years, was presented to Susan Brynteson, vice provost and May Morris Director of Libraries, by UDARF President Carol Hoffecker.

“As some of you know, Bob Stark always thought retired faculty ought to have a place on campus where they can go and have available things like a fax machine, and a computer to help them continue on their research as members of the UD community,” Hoffecker said. “Thanks to the efforts of Bob and Ted Braun and others, the Library has given us a dedicated room where you, as retired faculty, can study, read and write. With this in mind we decided that there was no better way than to give these funds to the UD Library.”

In an expression of appreciation for the gift, Brynteson, noted it has been said that a great university needs a great library, or, a great library makes a great university. “Anyway, a great library is always present at a great university. I’m happy to say that the UD Library is a great library,” Brynteson said. “We have wonderful collections and online resources, all of which are available to you. I hope you use them, including the general circulating collection and the library database, which is available 24/7.”

Brynteson also noted the recent exhibition in Morris Library of an 1808 letter by Thomas Jefferson that was discovered on by UD graduate students sorting materials of the Bringham family, a family that once owned Rockwood, the estate in North Wilmington, now the Rockwood Museum. The Jefferson letter has substantive content with a distinct Delaware connection and was written during the time Jefferson was president.

“This was the real thing, and to look at the signature was really quite thrilling,” Brynteson said. “The letter will be on display during the UD Forum & Reunion Week [June 4-6].” Brynteson also reminded UDARF members that two classical music databases, Classical Music Library, and Naxos Music Library, are available online at the databases link on the library’s home page. The acquisition of the Classical Music Library database was enabled through the support of the Henry Newton Lee Jr. Family Library Music Fund.

In a letter of thanks to UDARF, Brynteson wrote that the gift would be used to provide support during 2010-11 for an important and heavily used database entitled “ReferenceUSA,” which provides information about more than 14 million U.S. companies, public and private. The database is used by students in all disciplines across the University and by graduating seniors and others seeking employment opportunities.

Her note concludes, “Again, thank you for your support of the University of Delaware Library in this thoughtful, generous manner. I also thank you for the delicious lunch and good company....” Also visiting the UDARF luncheon meeting was Kathy Corbitt, director of the UD Wellness Program, who discussed program benefits available to retired faculty, including the popular “Step Into Spring” walking program, which runs from April 5 to May 23 at a cost of \$20 wellness dollars. “I urge you to participate. You get a pedometer,” Corbitt said. “We are going to have campus walks afternoon and evenings.”

Corbitt also invited retired faculty members to visit the UD Employee Wellness Center located in the Carpenter Sports Building for one-on-one training sessions on how to use the equipment and to participate in an exercise program more specific to each individual.

2nd annual Forum & Reunion Weekend scheduled June 4-6

The University will hold its second annual Forum & Reunion Weekend from Friday through Sunday, June 4-6, and retired faculty members are invited to attend at no charge. Alumni often remark that one of the things they most enjoy about returning to campus is reconnecting with professors who played such an important role in their lives. Retired faculty will be receiving information in the mail on how to register. To review the full schedule of events, visit [www.UDconnection.com/ReunionWeekend].

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

Joan Cox, wife of Roger Cox in the English department, died Jan. 10, 2010.

Karen Hill, wife of Peter Hill in the music department, died Jan. 6, 2010.

You can still vote!

It's not too late to cast your ballot for next year's UDARF officers. Paper ballots were mailed with the February edition of this Newsletter, or vote online at UDARF's Web site [<http://www.udel.edu/UDARF/2010Ballot.html>]. Ballots must be returned by April 28.