Letter from the President

Dear Members,

My wife, Ellen, and I have just completed a week of volunteering at the Dzil Libei Elementary School on the Navajo Reservation in Cameron, Ariz. We worked with a fourth grade class of 14 students, tutoring, presenting lessons, assisting the teacher and doing whatever was required to facilitate learning and introducing the students to a different culture. The experience was enormously rewarding and enlightening for us, and I recommend that you consider doing it at some time in the future. While there are many ways of having a meaningful retirement, none is better than contributing to the growth and development of children whose needs are so great.

Our last luncheon was a memorable one. Xiang Gao entertained us with his incomparable virtuosity and his discussion of his life and work. The University is fortunate to have him on the faculty. The next luncheon, on Dec. 6, will feature Sandy Robbins, chair of the Theatre Department and director of the PTTP and REP programs. Prof. Robbins founded both of these programs and is looking forward to sharing his excitement about the role of theatre in the life of the University and in the culture in general. This promises to be an informative and entertaining continuation of our Celebrating the Arts theme.

The first “My Intellectual Journey” lecture will be held at 4 p.m., Nov. 10, in the large meeting room of the Courtyard Newark on the Laird Campus. Prof. Emeritus Carol Hoffecker will discuss her life and career. Wine and cheese will be served after the talk. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

We shall soon be electing new UDARF officers who will assume office after our May luncheon. The Nominating Committee of Lou Mosberg, Ivo Dominguez, Phil Flynn and Helen Morgan is hard at work. They will welcome your suggestions.

The retired faculty are fortunate to have a room in the Morris Library equipped with necessary office supplies dedicated to their ongoing scholarly needs. This facility is costly to maintain and is now underwritten by the Library budget. Please consider designating a contribution to the University for the maintenance of the retired faculty work space. At a time when all institutional budgets are tight, this would be of help to both the library and our UDARF colleagues.
There has been some question about the IT services provided to retired faculty. Pat Sine, director of IT Client Services, maintains that there has been no change in policy regarding retiree services. There has, however, been a tapering off of service for home computers to conform to policy that has been applicable for some time. And, since retirees are no longer employees of the University, they are not eligible to download any of the MS Office programs. If you have questions, feel free to contact Pat Sine. One area in which there has been a change in policy is parking. You may have noticed that your gold permits may be used in fewer parking areas than in the past. Those areas designated as “central campus” are no longer available for gold parking.

I’ll look forward to seeing you on Nov. 10 and again on Dec. 6.

Best wishes,

Frank Scarpitti, President

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**UD yearbooks now online**

The University of Delaware Library has completed the digitization of all UD yearbooks, which now are accessible on the web.

The yearbooks of the University of Delaware, in their various iterations, are accessible online by visiting the Library’s homepage at www.lib.udel.edu and clicking on the feature box on the right side of the page.

All yearbooks of the University, published under varied names, were scanned at a high resolution and are full-text searchable. A user can search online for a specific name, word or topic in each yearbook.

“The digital collection of all yearbooks of the University of Delaware contains 75 yearbooks and the Blue & Gold collection of the Women’s College contains 17 yearbooks. I think that alumni of the University of Delaware will greatly appreciate the ability to view the online version of the yearbooks to identify wonderful memories and warm reflections of their time at the University,” said Susan Brynteson, vice provost and May Morris Director of Libraries.

Some yearbooks not in the University of Delaware Library collection were loaned from University Archives and Alumni Relations.

*This image is from the cover of the 1907 yearbook, “The Derclict.”*
Gov. Christie to speak Nov. 16

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a rising star in the Republican Party and a UD alumnus, will be the final speaker in this fall’s National Agenda series, “Girding for Battle: Political Movers and Shakers at the University of Delaware.”

He will discuss challenges facing governors at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16, in Mitchell Hall. Door will open at 6:30 p.m., and people will be seated on a first come, first served basis.

After graduating from UD in 1984, Christie attended Seton Hall University School of Law, graduating in 1987. He joined a law firm and soon was made partner. He served as U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey from 2002-08, and was sworn in as New Jersey’s 55th governor in 2010

Biden delivers Constitution Day lecture, donates Senatorial papers

Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., a UD alumnus, returned to campus Sept. 16 to donate his Senatorial papers to the University and to deliver the inaugural James R. Soles Lecture on the Constitution and Citizenship.

From the moment the U.S Constitution was written, its meaning has been fiercely debated, but in the end it provides the principles and mechanisms for political compromise and the path to progress, he said to a capacity crowd in Mitchell Hall.

“The true accomplishment of our founders was not that they spoke with one voice” but that they brought together many voices to forge the Constitution, he said. “That is the genius of the document.”

“The Constitution doesn’t provide certainty,” Biden said, adding that the founders knew they couldn’t create a document that would settle all questions that might ever arise. “But they could
be settled by the institutions to which the Constitution gave rise and power. … They built a framework for government that allowed many disparate voices to be heard.”

Political disagreements and, eventually, compromises have moved the nation forward throughout its history, Biden said, with the Constitution holding out the promise that every voice in a diverse society can be heard and blended together—”not always in harmony, but in unity.” If Americans trust the process of government, he said, today’s generation will successfully get through “this temporary period of political paralysis.”

At the conclusion of the lecture, Biden urged students in the audience and others to get involved in public service: “Politics is not a dirty word. Politics is the only way a community can govern itself and resolve its differences without the sword.”

Senatorial papers

The vice president’s Senatorial papers—a collection that also includes records in various formats such as recordings and web pages—will be processed, preserved and housed in the UD Library’s Special Collections Department, where staff members are nationally known for their expertise in managing political archives.

The donation is expected to encompass more than 2,500 cartons of papers, in addition to 415 gigabytes of electronic records, all of which are currently stored in the National Archives and Records Administration. The papers will be sealed for two years after Biden retires from public office.

The political papers already housed in Special Collections span more than two centuries and include those of federal legislators Michael N. Castle, Thomas R. Carper, Edward E. “Ted” Kaufman, John Williams and J. Allen Frear Jr.

UD President Patrick Harker, speaking at the ceremony, thanked Biden “for this extraordinary donation of Senatorial papers, an abundance of materials that will illuminate decades of U.S. policy and diplomacy and the vice president’s critical role in its development.” The papers, Harker said, will provide students and scholars “an incredible asset for generations to come.”

Susan Brynteson, vice provost and May Morris Director of Libraries, called the donation priceless. “The Biden Senatorial papers will document a remarkable personal career but equally will help scholars understand a great deal about those significant decades in the history of Congress, the nation and the world,” she said.

James R. Soles Citizenship Endowment

Through the generous donations of alumni and friends, the James R. Soles Citizenship Endowment has been established to honor the late Prof. Soles and his lifelong commitment to public service.
The Soles Lecture on the Constitution and Citizenship will be sponsored annually by the Department of Political Science and International Relations as the University’s official recognition of the approval of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787.

Prof. Soles joined the UD Department of Political Science and International Relations in 1968 and taught courses specializing in American government and public law until he retired in 2002. He died in October 2010.

*Article by Ann Manser, Photo by Evan Krape*

*Photo Caption: UD President Patrick Harker, Vice President Joeseph Biden and Susan Brynetson, vice provost and May Morris Directory of Libraries, officially mark the gift to the University.*

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**Francis Alison Society’s 2011 Mangone Young Scholar selected**

Thomas H. Epps, III, assistant professor of chemical engineering at UD, has been selected by the University’s Francis Alison Society to receive its 2011 Gerard J. Mangone Young Scholars Award.

The award, named in honor of the late distinguished University professor, recognizes promising and accomplished young faculty. The recipient is chosen by fellow faculty members who have received the Francis Alison Award, the University’s highest faculty honor. Epps, who received his award Nov. 2 from the Francis Alison Society, joined the UD faculty in 2006.

The Mangone Young Scholars Award is named in honor of the late Gerard J. Mangone, who joined the UD faculty in 1972 and created the UD Center for the Study of Marine Policy, renamed in his honor in 2003. Dr. Mangone, University Research Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, received the Francis Alison Award in 1983. In 2010, he received an honorary degree from UD. He died on July 27, 2011.

*Article by Gabriella Chiera*
Violinist Xiang Gao shares music, cultural ideas

Violinist Xiang Gao shared his music and his views on cultural interchange during a meeting of the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty, held Oct. 4 in Clayton Hall.

Through his performances, his teaching as a professor in UD’s Department of Music and his popular trips to China, Gao offers members of the University community the opportunity to experience traditional and contemporary American and Chinese cultures.

“I’m very honored to work with talented faculty members and guests from all over the world,” Gao said. “Another role that I play here on campus is that I direct and introduce concerts for the UD Master Players Concert Series.”

Born in Beijing, China, Gao came to the United States when he was 18, and began teaching at UD in 2001.

“China gave birth to me as my mother country, and America, which gave me incredible opportunities to create a family here in Delaware, is my father country,” Gao said. “In light of my cultural parents, I try to introduce people to the culture and the music of these two great nations.”

Gao presented a recorded performance of Blue Little Flower by China Magpie. The internationally acclaimed ensemble, of which Gao is a founding member, performed the piece during a concert earlier this year at Mitchell Hall.

Established by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project, China Magpie performs crossover music with its own arrangements and compositions on instruments with roots in both countries.

Explaining what UDARF members had heard, Gao said, “The lute that was played is called the pipa, a Chinese lute related to the Western guitar, which was brought to China during the Qing Dynasty, which lasted from 1644 to 1912. Through modern research, it is amazing to see these connections, where we find that many Chinese instruments were imported.”

Retired faculty and guests also were treated to a video performance by 6ixwire Project of Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso by French composer Camille Saint-Saëns.
Formed by Gao and Cathy Yang, 6ixwire Project showcases the virtuosity of two world-class musicians performing on the traditional four-stringed violin and the erhu, the two-stringed Chinese violin.

“When you place these instruments side by side, you can almost tell that they are related,” Gao said.

Musical selections performed by Gao at the UDARF luncheon included the Evening Boat Song, a Chinese folk song, and Salut D’ Amour by British composer Edward Elgar.

Gao encouraged UDARF members to join him and his wife, Renee Dong, instructor in Chinese in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, on a trip to China, the Middle Kingdom, slated for June 2012.

Besides engaging his audience in a musical and cultural discussion, Gao invited UDARF members to share their experience and expertise with other members of the UD community.

“This is a wonderful way to come back to campus to see your colleagues and see what the students are doing, and to hear a wonderful concert,” Gao said. “I’m very pleased that you continue to play a part on this beautiful campus.”

*Article by Jerry Rhodes*

*Photo by Kathy F. Atkinson*

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**Mark your calendar**

- Tuesday, Dec. 6: Luncheon with Sanford Robbins
- Tuesday, March 6: Luncheon with photographer John Weiss
- Thursday, April 12: “My Intellectual Journey” with Karl Boër
- Wednesday, May 9: Luncheon with President Patrick Harker
Newsmakers in brief

Herbert E. Allen, professor emeritus in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering with a joint appointment in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, recently presented a seminar on “Ecotoxicity of Nickel and Copper in Soil: The Terrestrial Biotic Ligan Model” at Yangtze University and Wuhan University in China. During his stay, he was also appointed a visiting professor at Yangtze University.


Theodore Braun, professor emeritus of French and comparative literature, had a paper on “Violations of the Law in [abbé Prévost’s 1731 novel] Manon Lescaut” read at the 13th International Congress on the Enlightenment, Graz, Austria, July 25-29, and organized and chaired a session on “The Alps, the Pyrenees, the Andes: Literature and Arts,” at the annual meeting of the American Society for 18th Century Studies, Vancouver, B.C., March 17-20.

David Roselle, president emeritus, has been honored by the University of Kentucky, which is naming a new 144-bed residence building on its Lexington campus for him. He was president of UK from July 1987 through December 1989, before serving as UD’s president from May 1990 to July 2007. He is now director of Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library.