

UDARF

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY



APRIL 2012

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

In a few months, my wife and I will have lived in Newark for 45 years! I came to the University thinking I'd stay for three or four years, but ended up staying for 38 before retiring. The University of Delaware turned out to be an excellent place for a young faculty member to build a career, and Newark remains what it was in 1967, a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Ellen and I feel fortunate that we made the decision to move to Delaware, and are even more grateful that we have never left. Even in retirement, there are few locations that can offer us the amenities that this University and the community provide. In fact, even the winter weather is getting better.

As you heard at the last luncheon, new UDARF officers have been elected to serve until 2014. Join me in congratulating new President Stuart Sharkey, Vice President Bob Carroll, Treasurer Bob Brown and Secretary Louise Little. Stuart will soon appoint an Executive Committee to work with him and assist in planning and implementing interesting and informative programs. I look forward to UDARF's continuing to be a meaningful organization for faculty retirees.

Your current officers are not finished yet, however. On April 12 we shall have the "My Intellectual Journey" lecture at 4 p.m. in the meeting room of the Courtyard Marriott. Emeritus Prof. Karl Böer will discuss his life and work as a pioneering solar scientist. The usual wine and cheese reception will follow the talk. And, for our last luncheon of the academic year, University President Patrick Harker will discuss The State of the University. Note that this luncheon will be held in Clayton Hall at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 9.

Since this is my last letter as President of UDARF, I want to thank the officers and members of the Executive Committee who have worked with me over the past two years: Mike Pohlen, Bob Brown, Helen Morgan, George Conrade, Barbara Viera, Larry Purnell, Bob Carroll, Arlette Rasmussen and Carol Hoffecker. Each one contributed to making the past two years a joyful experience for me. I am especially indebted to Helen Morgan for her guidance, loyalty and very hard work on behalf of the organization and its members. Whitney Gunter, although not a retiree, designed and maintained our excellent web site. We owe all of them our heartfelt appreciation.

Thank you for your continued participation in our programs and your positive reactions to the new things we have tried. Plan to attend our last two events of the year. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes,

Frank Scarpitti, President

UD research pioneer honored

The late Maria Telkes, a University of Delaware scientist known as the “Sun Queen” for her pioneering solar energy research, will be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in May.

Dr. Telkes is among 12 inductees, including the late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, who will be recognized for their world-changing inventions in a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

In 1972, Dr. Telkes joined the research team at UD’s Institute of Energy Conversion (IEC), where she developed the heating system for Solar One, UD’s experimental solar-powered house. Although she retired from UD in 1978, she remained active as a consultant nearly until her death in 1995.

Mark Your UDARF calendar

The next “My Intellectual Journey” talk will feature Karl Böer, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Physics and Solar Energy and founder of the Institute of Energy Conversion at UD. The event will be held at 4 p.m., Thursday, April 12, at the Courtyard Newark on the north campus.

University President Patrick Harker will present his annual “State of the University” talk at the next UDARF luncheon, set for 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 9, in Clayton Hall.

Prof. John Weiss recalls lifetime of photography

Photographer John Weiss has devoted much of his life to documenting the amazing diversity of people in the world and the places that they call home.

Weiss, who retired from UD in 2005 after a 30-year career as a professor of art and coordinator of photography, shared his passion for photography with luncheon guests during the March 6 meeting of the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty in Clayton Hall.

“Someone had suggested that I attend a photography show in Cambridge, Mass.,” Weiss said. “I went out and brought a lot of photography stuff. I was hooked.”

A recipient of the teacher of the year award from the Santa Fe Photographic Workshops, Weiss began his three-decades-plus career at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as an apprentice to photography legend and educator Minor White.

“He was teaching at MIT and I called him and told him about my interest, and he gave me the name of a person to study with,” Weiss said. “This individual later called me and said that Minor was looking for an assistant, so I applied and got the job.”

Weiss presented representative works from his worldwide journeys, including *People Who Never Were*, featuring definitely offbeat, almost surrealistic images from a summer photography tour of Ireland. When the prints taken from this tour were damaged while being developed, Weiss decided to abandon the idea of presenting what he had originally called “these beautiful Irish faces.”

“Weeks passed, then months, and I wondered what I would see if I brought these photos up on my computer,” Weiss said. “I went from horribly faint images to these abstracts of what I wanted to do. It took me weeks to do them, and they are heavily manipulated. It became the project of a lifetime.”



Weiss showed a video filmed during a trip to Tanzania of dance by members of the Hadzabe, an ethnic group living around Lake Eyasi in the central Rift Valley and the neighboring Serengeti Plateau. “The Hadzabe live outdoors and make their own bows and arrows and hunt their own food,” Weiss said. “They were so kind. When we left we had a dance together, with all these rich Americans and these Stone Age people.”

Complementing the display of photos from places as varied as Morocco and Venice, with subjects ranging from snake charmers to dancing Bedouins, Weiss also showed video clips taken with his latest camera of choice, the iPhone.

In the videos, viewers are greeted with images ranging from the back of basketball legend Michael Jordan’s head on the rear door of a tractor trailer on the New Jersey Turnpike, to a news vendor setting up at 5:30 a.m. in Penn Station, in New York City.

“You never know where your next image is going to come from,” Weiss said. “You just line up a scene and wait for someone to intrude.”

A leader of several photography tours around the globe, Weiss said he finds a common thread of human connectedness exists among his traveling companions and the people they meet.

“Would it surprise you to learn that photography is a hobby, a blessing and a spiritual path?” Weiss said. “The most wonderful thing I find when I travel is that we are all so different and that we are all so alike.”

For a look at works by Weiss, visit <http://www.udel.edu/001243>.

Article by Jerry Rhodes

Photo by Ambre Alexander

Commencement set May 26

The academic year will come to a close Saturday, May 26, when UD will hold its 163rd Commencement in Delaware Stadium. Delivering the Commencement address will be Soledad O’Brien, Emmy Award-winning correspondent.

The ceremony, which is open to the public, will begin at 9 a.m. College and department convocations will be held May 23-26.

Statue to grace Mentors' Circle

A sculpture commemorating the Rev. Francis Alison, founder of the 18th century academy that became the University of Delaware, is being installed as a focal point of Mentors' Circle. A ceremony celebrating the project will be scheduled later this month.



The University commissioned the piece, "Wings of Thought," from acclaimed sculptor Richard Deutsch, who has fashioned it from a 27,000-pound block of white granite.

The 8-by-10-foot sculpture is an open book, carved on the left side with depictions reflecting Alison's intellectual interests and the "Heck Reaction" in honor of UD faculty member and Nobel laureate Richard Heck

The right side of the book is left blank to symbolize the future that will be written by today's and tomorrow's University students. Standing next to the book is a bronze quill pen, about 10 feet high.

In his proposal for "Wings of Thought," Deutsch said he was inspired by both UD's original seal, which depicts a book, and by the resemblance between an open book and the wings of a bird in flight. The quill, he said, not only was the writing implement used in Alison's day but also continues the visual reference to a bird.

Mentors' Circle was created in 2001 to honor recipients of UD's Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Advising awards with bricks bearing their names placed in the circle. With the reconstruction of the area and installation of the sculpture, those bricks will be replaced by new ones engraved with the names. In addition, granite pavers will be installed around the sculpture and will display the names of recipients of the Francis Alison Award, the University's highest faculty honor.

A selection committee representing the UD community reviewed proposals, provided input and ultimately chose "Wings of Thought" as the centerpiece of the project. Members of the Francis Alison Society, made up of the Alison Award recipients, played a key role in the selection process, said Debra Hess Norris, Henry Francis duPont Chair in Fine Arts and co-chair of the selection committee.

“Their guidance and support truly were instrumental in this process,” Norris said. “We are very fortunate to have an artist of Richard Deutsch’s prominence involved in this commission. We hope this is the start of many public art commissions across campus that will enliven our surroundings and inspire the community.”

Janet Hethorn, professor and chair of the Department of Art and co-chair of the selection committee, said the committee was “inspired by Richard’s creative vision” for the sculpture and Mentors’ Circle. The project, she said, has “the potential to serve as a lasting iconic image that embodies the University of Delaware’s longstanding commitment to engaged learning and excellence in scholarship.” University President Patrick Harker praised Deutsch’s work and the way “Wings of Thought” celebrates UD’s history and its commitment to academic excellence.

“It’s fitting that the sculpture honors not only our founder, the Rev. Francis Alison, but also the faculty who have embodied the ‘scholar-schoolmaster’ ethos on which he built UD,” Harker said. “I hope students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors will draw inspiration from the piece, as they continue a lifetime of learning. Plans for the sculpture actually started years ago, with private donations and funds being raised and put aside to cover the project’s cost.”

Richard Deutsch has 30 years of experience creating large-scale sculptures and environments for both interior and exterior public spaces in his native California, as well as in Washington, D.C., Arlington, Va., and Chevy Chase, Md. His designs have featured stone, water, bronze and stainless steel.

The selection committee for the Mentors’ Circle project consisted of Francis Alison scholars, other faculty members, students and University supporters. Working with public art consultant Jack Becker of Forecast Public Art, the committee reviewed proposals from 17 artists and selected three finalists, from which Deutsch was chosen.

Members of the selection committee, in addition to co-chairs Norris and Hethorn, were Virginia Bradley, professor of art; Tsu-Wei Chou, P.S. du Pont Chair of Engineering and Francis Alison faculty member; Wayne Craven, H.F. du Pont Winterthur Professor Emeritus of Art History and Francis Alison member; Nancy Cooch, sculptor and member, Architectural Review Committee; Carol Hoffecker, Richards Professor Emeritus of History and Francis Alison member; Amanda Norbutus, doctoral student in preservation studies; Molly Sullivan, student, Student Government Association board member; Monica Taylor, vice president, University Development and Alumni Relations; and Janis Tomlinson, director, University Museums.

Members of the technical committee were Jules Bruck, assistant professor of landscape design; David Meyer, associate professor of art and head of Sculpture Studio Area; and Bruno Pouliot, adjunct assistant professor of art conservation

4th Alumni Weekend planned June 1-3

To: Retired UD faculty members

From: Office of Alumni Relations

Come back and celebrate the University of Delaware's fourth annual Alumni Weekend with the entire UD community. Alumni Weekend is UD's premier alumni event and is an opportunity to reconnect with friends, staff and former students. In 2011, more than 3,200 people attended. The entire weekend promises to be filled with fun, friends and engaging UD activities for all ages.

Event highlights include receptions hosted by all seven colleges as well as the Honors Program and Athletic Department, followed by the Mug Night Dela-bration. Saturday's activities feature the Blue Hen 5K run/walk, Blue Hen Brunch on The Green and President Harker's State of the University. The colleges and special affinity groups are holding events on Saturday as well.

For more information and to view all events, visit the Alumni Weekend web site at www.UDconnection.com/AlumniWeekend or see the Alumni Weekend insert in the April issue of the UD Messenger. You can also see who has already registered for Alumni Weekend, including fellow retired faculty and former students, at the "Who's Coming" page.

Register at www.UDconnection.com/AlumniWeekend using the non-alumni form and contact Tracey Bauernschmidt, tbauerns@udel.edu, to sign up for free Mug Night or Blue Hen Brunch. Hope to see you there!

Newsmakers in brief

Philip Goldstein, professor emeritus of English, is the author of "Reception and/or (in)fusion: Interpretation and Literary Institutions in the 21st Century," in the book *Romancing Theory, Riding Interpretation: (In)fusion Approach*, Salman Rushdie, edited by Ranjan Ghosh.

Leslie Goldstein, Judge Hugh M. Morris Professor Emerita of Political Science and International Relations, contributed an essay on judicial review around the world to the International Encyclopedia of Political Science (SAGE Reference, 2012).

Thomas Pauly, professor emeritus of English, is the author of a new book *Game Faces: Five Early American Champions and the Sports They Changed*, published by the University of Nebraska Press. The book looks at five important but nearly forgotten athletes from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In Memoriam

Mary Helen Callahan, 69, died Feb. 1, 2012. She worked for more than 30 years at UD on the professional staff of what was then the College of Urban Affairs and later the College of Human Resources, Education and Public Policy. She was married for 47 years to Raymond A. Callahan, professor emeritus of history at UD.

Lawrence Cohen, 61, died April 1, 2012. He was a professor of psychology on the UD faculty for 32 years.

Henry William “Bill” Crittenden, 95, died Jan. 30, 2012. Professor emeritus of plant and soil sciences, he served on the UD faculty from 1949 until his retirement in 1977.

Patrick J. White, 59, died Jan. 29, 2012, in intensive care at Christiana Hospital. A UD alumnus, he taught in the Department of English for many years.