

## Letter from the President

Dear UDARF Members,

It's the start of a new academic year and your UDARF Executive Committee welcomes you: Stuart Sharkey, Bob Carroll, Louise Little, Bob Brown, Lou Mosberg, Phil Flynn and Frank Scarpitti. Our thanks and appreciation go to Frank Scarpitti and Helen Morgan who so ably served our organization for the last two years. A major innovation was the beginning of "My Intellectual Journey" series. This series will continue this year. The first speaker will be Frank Scarpitti at 4 p.m., Nov. 8, in the Courtyard Newark on the Laird campus.

This year began with the passing of former President E. Arthur Trabant. A "Celebration of His Life" was held on Sunday, Aug. 12. President Harker and Carol Hoffecker spoke and enumerated the many accomplishments during Dr. Trabant's tenure. They ranged from the construction of many new buildings to the establishment of numerous academic programs from Women's Studies to the College Earth, Ocean, and Environment (see article on page 3). Carol Hoffecker had previously written that "Art Trabant knew the retirees, and he took a great personal interest in their welfare. He hosted the lunch in May and, as the report of the (Faculty Senate) subcommittee put it, 'graciously offered to hold a regular monthly lunch for retired and emeriti faculty during fall semester 1989.' The subcommittee added that 'it is hoped that during the course of these meetings, our retired faculty will develop a formal organization to address issues they deem important.' It was from this hope that UDARF was born."

Over the years UDARF has become a strong voice for retired faculty. It has provided a means to communicate directly with members of the administration, and in particular, with President Harker. Any one of our members may bring up an issue at the executive meeting. Our meetings, which are open to any retired member, will be Sept. 11, Nov. 13, Feb. 12 and April 9.

This year we will have an exciting and informative luncheon series, as well as the "My Intellectual Journey" series. The first luncheon lecture will be on Oct. 2 with Ralph Begleiter discussing the coming national election.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our first luncheon on Oct. 2 at 11:30 a.m. in Clayton Hall.

Best wishes,  
Stuart Sharkey, President

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## President Harker discusses 'State of University'



President Patrick Harker gave his “State of the University” presentation at UDARF’s May luncheon meeting.

Topics included the incoming class of UD students, a continued focus on diversity initiatives and major campus building projects.

“The Class of 2016 had a record 26,683 applicants, and 1,287 are Delawareans,” Harker said. “This is a testament to the power and

effectiveness of the University’s [Commitment to Delawareans](#) program.”

The Commitment to Delawareans gives middle and high school students and parents in the First State information on what courses and grades they will need to be admitted to the University’s Newark campus.

Through diversity efforts and an academically stronger pool of prospective students, UD offered admission to 287 Hispanic students and 252 African-American students, with both numbers significantly higher than the previous year, he said.

“It’s true that every year is better than the last in high-achievers, underrepresented students and resident students,” Harker said. “We had more admissible students than ever before, giving us flexibility to focus on a student’s special talents and life experiences.”

To continue to attract the very best students, the University continues to hire first-choice faculty despite tough economic times, Harker said.

“Faculty drive the quality of our programming, the competitiveness of our research and the desirability of our students,” Harker said. “Our investment in faculty hasn’t wavered and won’t.”

Harker also noted that building a more inclusive University community continues apace with the [President's Diversity Initiative](#) and the Center for the Study of Diversity.

Margaret Andersen, associate provost and Edward F. and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor of Sociology, serves as executive director for the President's Diversity Initiative.

James Jones, professor of psychology and Black American Studies, is director of the Center for the Study of Diversity. A scholarly think tank, the center conducts research while helping UD find the best ways to support campus diversity.

Retired faculty members also were briefed on the continuing transformation of the University's physical plant via multiple major construction projects and groundbreaking for a new tenant on a newly named campus.

"Five years ago, we undertook a Campus Capacity Study based on building a connected campus and a collaborative culture promoting meaningful student engagement," Harker said. "We wanted to maximize our research capacity and encourage more interdisciplinary scholarship."

The study also called for creative open space preservation, natural resource conservation and making environmentally safe, sustainable growth a top priority, Harker said.

Major construction projects supporting these goals include:

- The 194,000-square-foot Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Laboratory;
- The 15,000-square-foot Life Sciences Research Building;
- Alison Hall renovation;
- Two residence halls on East Campus that will be home to 767 first-year students; and
- A 45,000-square-foot addition to the Carpenter Sports Building that will triple workout space and accommodate better exercise equipment.

Another University milestone was achieved with the groundbreaking ceremony for the Bloom Energy Manufacturing Center, located on the recently renamed Science, Technology and Advanced Research STAR Campus on the site of the former Chrysler auto plant.

"With this groundbreaking, we celebrated jobs, 900 direct jobs and 1,500 total if Bloom's contractors pursue proximity," Harker said. "We came together as a community to assure economic strength through cutting edge science, technology, invention and innovation."

The new name for the campus echoes the star logo of the Chrysler brand, giving a respectful nod to 60 years of manufacturing on the 272-acre site, Harker said, while committing to a future that will include biomedical and clinical research and education.

“This year, with land-grant universities across the United States, we celebrate the 150th year of that charter,” Harker said. “The STAR Campus is our land-grant mission in action.”

The talk was followed by a question-and-answer period.

*Article by Jerry Rhodes*

*Photo by Kathy F. Atkinson*

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## President Emeritus Trabant remembered

President Emeritus Edward Arthur (Art) Trabant was remembered as a person of deep personal integrity, courage and optimism during a celebration of his life held Sunday, Aug. 12, in Clayton Hall.

The 22nd and 24th president of the University, Dr. Trabant died July 20 after a brief illness. He was 92.

Introduced by J. Cameron Yorkston, a graduate of the Class of 1971 and longtime friend of the Trabant family, University President Patrick

Harker offered condolences and thanks to Dr. Trabant’s wife of 68 years, Jeraldine Merlyn Shanessy Trabant, and daughters Arta, Amanda and Jeri.



“I thank all of you for coming out to show your respect, affection and love for Dr. Trabant, whose imprint on this University is set in such deep relief,” Harker said. “It is no overstatement to say that the University of Delaware is the institution it is today because of President Trabant.”

Harker noted that Dr. Trabant, who took office in 1968, during a time of national student unrest, guided the University through two decades that saw the student body increase from 7,500 to more than 15,000 undergraduates.

Many of the University’s signature programs and centers, including the Institute for Energy Conversion and the Center for Composite Materials, were established during Dr. Trabant’s two terms as president, Harker said.

“He also was deeply concerned with improving academic opportunities for underrepresented minorities and for women,” Harker said. “It’s a privilege of mine each year to present the E. Arthur Trabant Award for Women’s Equity, honoring Art’s passion for support for women’s inclusion, opportunity and equality on campus.”

Carol Hoffeecker, Richard Professor Emerita of History, said that Dr. Trabant's embrace of inclusivity included the initiation of a new community design for UD that included creating a commission of students, faculty and administrators.

"President Trabant and his wife, Jerry, put great emphasis on nurturing a relationship with students," she said. "When students organized a candlelight memorial to their fellow student demonstrators killed at Kent State and came to the president's house, the Trabants did not call the police, they joined in. That response says a great deal about the Trabants' principles and their courage."

Hoffeecker said that in an interview conducted some eight years ago, Dr. Trabant emphasized that his greatest accomplishment was his marriage to his life's partner, Jerry.

"Everything he did, he said, flowed from the strength and support of that magnificent bond," Hoffeecker said. "He was a remarkable individual, who, as his wife Jerry says, loved this University."

Andrew Kirkpatrick, former chairman and honorary counselor to the UD Board of Trustees, said that every reference to "Art Trabant brings to mind his many special qualities."

"When I think of him, my first memory is his sense of humor," Kirkpatrick said. "It turned many standard occasions into wonderful experiences, when otherwise they would have been quite ordinary."

Kirkpatrick also lauded Dr. Trabant's courage as evidenced by "his firm determination in matters he considered important," including taking the initiative to build a new basketball arena at UD.

Amanda Trabant, who described herself as the youngest member of the Trabant clan, said, "I can still feel the essence of my father, my daddy, Jerry's husband, my sisters' dad, a beautiful person."

Describing how each member of the family shared a unique relationship with her father, Amanda Trabant said her relationship evolved over time and across a great distance.

Among her father's most defining aspects, Amanda Trabant said, were his love for his wife, Jerry, and his intellect, evidenced in a sentence from his inaugural address as UD president: "There is a truth beyond fear which may be pursued by intellectual discipline."

"This statement struck a chord with me and it turns out to be the conviction that gave Daddy his specialness, his dignity, sense of humor, optimism, strength, love of humanity, dedication to community and future generations, belief in education for all, and finally, his radiant smile."

A light, sentimental touch was added to the celebration by musical selections offered on piano by Thomas Palmer, assistant professor of music, beginning with the UD Fight Song and ending with the playing and singing of the UD alma mater.

Musical selections also included My Wild Irish Rose, Good Night, Sweetheart and a ragtime classic requested some 80 years ago by a young Art Trabant after attending the funeral of a neighborhood mentor and friend, Yorkston said.

“Art attended that service and came away with the feeling that it was much too dark and much too sad. When he got home, he told his parents, ‘I’m not going to have that at my service. Alexander’s Ragtime Band will be a piece that will be played at my service,’” Yorkston said. “So today, with Art in mind, he gets his wish.”

Family members received guests during a reception after the celebration ceremony.

*Article by Jerry Rhodes, Photos by Evan Krape*

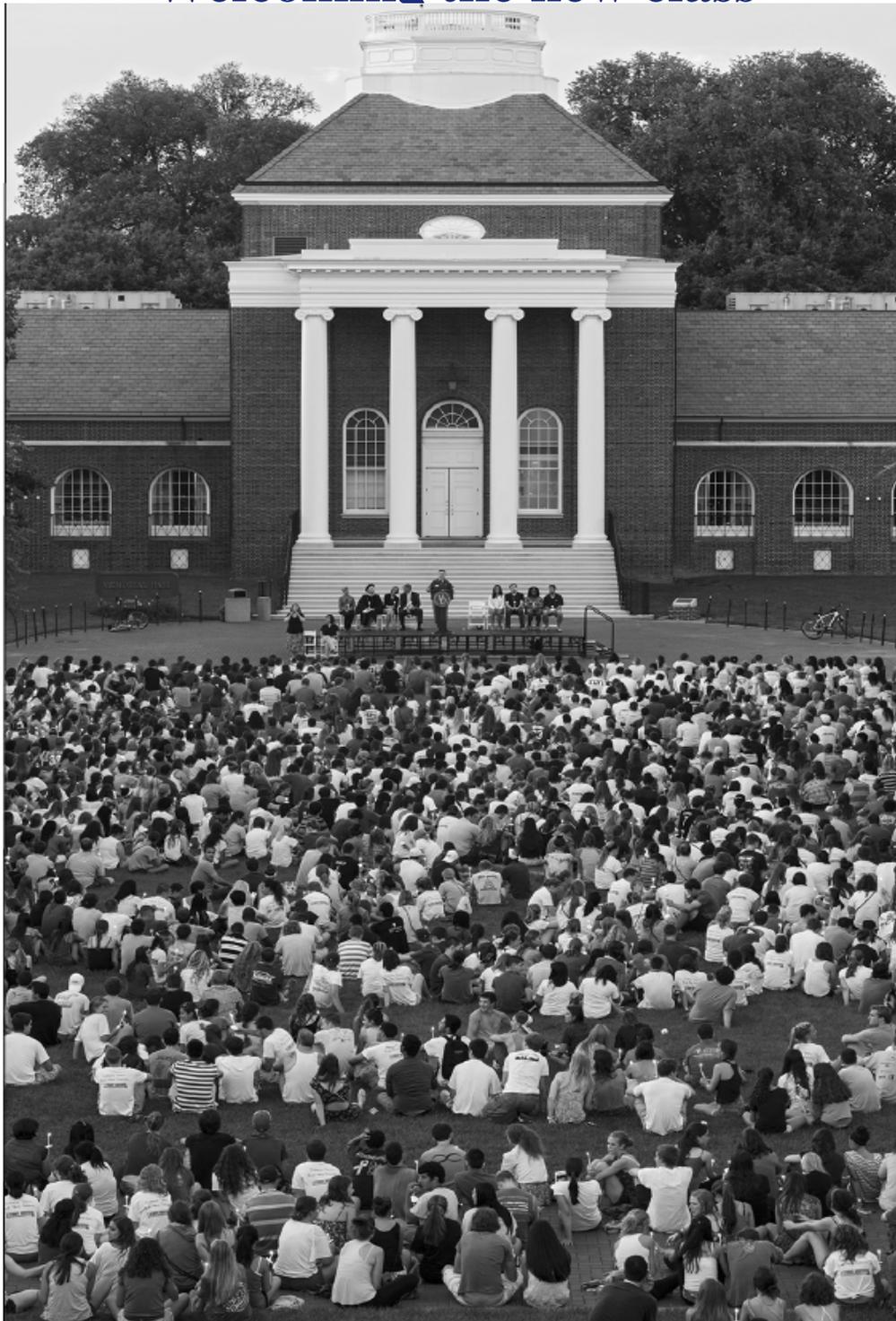
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## **Parking changes for 2012-13**

Parking changes announced for the 2012-13 year included a regulation change affecting retirees. UD retirees interested in obtaining a parking permit may order a central permit at no charge or get a gate permit by paying the difference in cost. For more information and further updates visit UD’s Parking Services website at [www.udel.edu/transportation/parking/](http://www.udel.edu/transportation/parking/).

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## Welcoming the new class



Members of the Class of 2016 began their academic and personal journeys as Blue Hens at a Twilight Induction Ceremony, held Aug. 27 on the South Green. Speakers included UD President Patrick Harker, Interim Provost Nancy Brickhouse, Nancy Targett, dean of the College

of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, Dawn Thompson, dean of students and associate vice president for student life, and Ken Jones, vice president of the UD Alumni Association. In addition, several leaders of student organizations also offered welcoming remarks. An ice cream social followed the event.

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## Newsmakers in brief

**Robert Gilbert**, Unidel Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Sciences, has been awarded an honorary doctorate from Tbilisi State University's I. Vekua Institute of Applied Mathematics. He was recognized for his "valuable contributions to the theory of differential and integral equations and applied mathematics, and the successful cooperation with the scientists of the [institute and university]."

**James E. Newton**, professor emeritus of Black American Studies, was named winner of the James H. Gilliam Sr. Chairman's Award by the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. The award recognizes pioneers for outstanding contributions and leadership in the fight for civil rights and a more equal and inclusive America.

**Lois Potter**, Ned Allen Professor Emeritus of English, is the author of *The Life of William Shakespeare: A Critical Biography*, published in May by Wiley-Blackwell. A review in the *Times Literary Supplement* said the book "ranks with the most distinguished examples of its kind," adding that Potter "fashions a fresh approach by linking the life with the works in each phase so that her subtitle ('A critical biography') is not merely conventional but faithful to the contents."

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## In Memoriam

**Samuel Gwinn**, former director of Cooperative Extension and former state director of Delaware 4-H, died, April 10, 2012. Dr. Gwinn began working for UD Cooperative Extension in 1948 and retired in 1984. He was 92.

**William I. Homer**, H. Rodney Sharp Professor Emeritus of Art History, died July 8, 2012. He was 82. A nationally recognized scholar, teacher and connoisseur, Dr. Homer was the first chairman of UD's Department of Art History. He retired in 2000.

**C. Ray Huggins**, former head of Student Health Services, died July 22, 2012. Dr. Huggins was medical director of Student Health Services from 1976 until his retirement in 1990. He was 92.

**Arnold D. Kerr**, professor emeritus of civil engineering, died May 27, 2012, at the age of 84. He came to UD in 1978 and taught courses in engineering mechanics and railway track engineering. He retired in 2004.

**David W. Paca**, who worked in the Office of the Treasurer for 23 years, died June 3, 2012. He was 77.

**Margaret H. Perkins**, widow of UD President John Alanson Perkins, died July 22, 2012. In 2001, UD presented Mrs. Perkins with its Medal of Distinction. She was 97.

**Russell Powers Jr.**, former director of Publications, died May 28, 2012. He was 86.

**Kent S. Price**, associate professor emeritus and one of the founding faculty members of what is now the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, died April 16, 2012, at the age of 75. Former director of Delaware Sea Grant's Marine Advisory Service, he retired from UD in 2000 after 33 years of service.

**Robert F. Rider**, trustee emeritus, died June 4, 2012. He was 83. Mr. Rider joined the Board of Trustees in 1985 and chaired the Trustee Committee on Grounds and Buildings from 1989 until 2003, when he was named trustee emeritus.