MARCH LUNCHEON

WHERE: John M. Clayton Hall
WHEN: Tuesday, Mar. 6, 2007
SPEAKER: Dr. Kenneth Haas
TOPIC: “Cruel But Not Unusual: The U. S. Supreme Court’s Approach to Disproportionate Prison Sentences”

Never Underestimate The Power

Alcoholism, education, slavery, women’s suffrage, equality, working conditions, prostitution and poverty were among the issues that motivated American women to organize in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

History Professor Anne M. Boylan described the achievements of these dedicated pioneers during her December luncheon presentation for UDARF members. Her research in this area has led to two well-received books, The Origins of Women’s Activism: New York and Boston, 1797-1840 and Sunday School: The Formation of an American Institution, 1790-1880.

Dr. Boylan noted that many early efforts to better conditions or bring about change were

Rival universities with whom Delaware competes for student athletes include the College of William & Mary, 3rd; James Madison, 21st; UNC Wilmington, 35th; University of Massachusetts, 63rd; George Mason, 78th; and the University of New Hampshire, 88th.

Delaware also was prominently mentioned in a lengthy story entitled “Beyond Berkeley” that appeared in The Wall Street Journal Online on November 10, 2006. Reporter Nancy Keates noted, “As college admissions mania snowballs, many state universities are getting increasingly selective.”

In specific references to the UD, she wrote, “Attending the local public university is no
local or regional, but the Civil War resulted in a shift to national issues, and women of all ages, races and economic levels soon became involved.

Some of the earliest and most successful organizations were founded in Boston and New York City. The Boston Female Asylum, founded in 1800, changed its name to The Boston Society for the Care of Girls in 1910. It has been described as “the first public charity projected and established by women in the town of Boston”. Its objective was to raise funds for the benefit of female orphan children three to ten years of age.

The City Mission Society was founded by members and clergy of Boston’s Old South Church to meet the educational, economic and social needs of underserved and vulnerable residents of all ages. It later assisted in funding the Boston English High School, the Home for Little Wanderers and YMCA Boston.

The Seamen’s Aid Society of Boston was founded by Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of Godey’s Lady’s Book. It initially was a women’s sewing circle that made clothing for sailors and members of their families. A free library established by the Society eventually became the Merchant Marine Library and is still in existence.

Henrietta Green Regulus Ray, a noted poet who became the first president of the New York Female Literary Society, also was co-founder of the African Dorcas Association, a support group for Free African Schools.

The American Association of University Women, one of the oldest women’s organizations in the United States, was founded on November 28, 1881, by Marion Talbert, Ellen Richards and 15 other female college graduates. This organization, which will observe its 125th anniversary in 2007, longer a birthright. An explosion in applications has allowed the schools to reject students in record numbers. The University of Delaware (home of the Fightin’ Blue Hens) accepted fewer than half of its applicants last year, even as the number of students it admits has risen.”

Citing student experiences in various parts of the nation, she wrote, “When Sara Beth Winters was trying to decide between the University of Delaware and Tufts University, the public school’s recent fund-raising efforts made the difference. She extensively visited both campuses, meeting with heads of the respective eastern Asia studies programs. Delaware’s recent infusion of $400 million in donor funds, raised during the past five years, has helped the school build classrooms and hire more faculty, and left Ms. Winters impressed. ‘Overall, the opportunities were surprisingly much better,’ says Ms. Winters, who has a weighted high school GPA of 4.5 and SAT scores of 750 math, 700 writing and 690 verbal.”

In a section of the story entitled “Up and Comers”, the Journal provides snapshots of institutions that, according to admissions deans at top graduate schools, college advisers and freshmen recruiters, are making substantial improvement. Those cited are the Universities of Florida, Delaware, Georgia, SUNY Stony Brook, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Washington, Pittsburgh, U. C. San Diego and Arizona. Delaware received special notice for its extensive foreign study programs, new residence halls and Center for the Arts.

To clarify the University’s position with respect to the admission of state residents, officials have prepared an informative pamphlet entitled Commitment to Delawareans which is available upon request. In a cover letter, Provost Dan Rich explains the
promotes lifelong education and positive societal change.

Other notable women’s organizations have supported a variety of causes. The Women’s Christian Temperance Union was founded in 1874 by women concerned about problems caused by the excessive use of alcohol. The Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 by descendants of those who aided in gaining America’s independence. Its members support historic preservation, education and patriotic projects. The National Women’s Trade Union League of America was established in 1903 to help women organize unions that would enable them to bargain for improved working conditions and wages.

Some women’s organizations have declined or disappeared, Dr. Boylan said, but many have survived and continue to support worthy causes, particularly those relating to education, the needy and equity for women.

New President Due in July

Dr. Patrick Harker, dean of the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, will become president of the University of Delaware on July 1, 2007, succeeding Dr. David Roselle, who will leave what Dr. Harker described as “an incredibly strong foundation.”

Dr. Harker was chosen after a nationwide search and his selection has been widely praised. Though many who know him have cited his achievements in business-related areas, Wharton’s deputy dean David Schmittlein told News Journal reporter Mike Chalmers, “He has a deep knowledge and appreciation of arts and sciences and the fundamental disciplines of a university. He has a strong set of values about personal integrity, about the way an institution is run in an

University’s effort to accommodate all qualified residents who apply. Sections of the pamphlet titled “General Requirements” and “Course Requirements” provide specific guidelines about how a student may best prepare for admission.

Headline Stories

The National Science Foundation has awarded a $3.1 million grant to a University of Delaware team establishing a new graduate program in sustainable energy from solar hydrogen. This program involves 21 faculty members under the direction of Associate Professor Christina Honsberg.

Project partners are the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the University of New South Wales and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

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Dr. Charles Epifanio recently was named Associate Dean of the College of Marine and Earth Studies. He is responsible for activities at the Hugh R. Sharpe campus in Lewes.

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Delaware’s popular mascot YouDee has become a member of the Mascot Hall of Fame in Philadelphia. He and Wisconsin’s Bucky the Badger and Auburn’s Aubie the Tiger were elected as members of the Class of 2006.

Joining professional mascots in the Hall of Fame was Clutch the Bear of the NBA Houston Rockets whose performances are created by Delaware alumnus Bob Boudwin, who was the first undergraduate to appear as Youdeee.

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**High National Ranking**

Several national publications recently have cited the University of Delaware for its quality. *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance* magazine for February 2007 has an article entitled “100 Best Values in Public Colleges”. The rankings are based on a combination of high academic quality and affordable cost.

The Universities of North Carolina and Florida are the highest-ranked institutions. Delaware is 15th, while neighboring universities Maryland, Rutgers and Penn State are 23rd, 39th and 44th, respectively.

The Wilmington Senior Center ended in December 2006. The Time of Your Life programs at the Riverfront Arts Center in Wilmington attracted large audiences from senior centers and retirement communities throughout the state.

These forums featured such distinguished speakers as Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Annelle Primm of the American Psychiatric Association, and Delaware Lt. Gov. John Carney, Jr.

University of Delaware participants included Professors Marie F. Kuczmski and Nancy Cotugna, program evaluators, and UDARF’s Elbert Chance, master of ceremonies.

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**Thought for the Day**

**Aspire to inspire before you expire!**

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