

**Newsletter
of the
The University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty (UDARF)
413 Academy Street Newark, DE 19716
T. Elbert Chance, Editor**

No. 69, April 2007

MAY LUNCHEON

**WHERE: John M. Clayton Hall
WHEN: Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 11:30 a.m.
SPEAKER: President Patrick Harker**

Learning About the Law

It was Mr. Bumble, a Charles Dickens character in *Oliver Twist*, who made the profound and oft-quoted statement, “If the law supposes that, the law is a ass—an idiot.”

After hearing Dr. Kenneth Haas describe some recent court decisions at the March luncheon, many in attendance found it easy to agree with Mr. Bumble. Dr. Haas cited specific cases where excessive fines or periods of imprisonment had been imposed, frequently because of mandatory “three strike” laws that deprive judges of the opportunity to exercise discretion. Many listeners were stunned by harsh sentences for what appeared to be minor infractions of the law.

Dr. Haas, who has received both Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Advising Awards, said the Supreme Court has not always spoken as clearly as it should, and he believes court decisions should be based on what actually happened rather than on what might happen. He noted that judges frequently compare sentences imposed for similar crimes in different states. Rulings in Texas and South Dakota reputedly are harsher than those in most other states.

There are no major differences in the hypocrisy of liberal and conservative justices of the Supreme Court, Dr. Haas said, and the decisions of so-called moderate

judges do not always provide desirable clarity. While the Supreme Court should not interfere with laws enacted by state legislators, he concurred with a statement made by the late Chief Justice Earl Warren who said the Court should not be bound by an 18th century straitjacket and should observe “evolving standards of decency.”

Medals Presented

UD Professor of Physics Stephen Barr received the Benemerenti Medal, a papal award recognizing service to the Catholic Church, during a mass on December 3, 2006, at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Wilmington. Bishop Michael A. Salterelli presented the medal.

Dr. Barr has written extensively about the relationship of science and religion and is a reviewer and writer for the ecumenical journal *First Things*. He is author of the book, *Modern Physics and Ancient Faith*, published in 2004 by the University of Notre Dame Press. He has worked at the UD’s Bartol Research Institute since 1987.

Lawrence Kazmerski, a leader in the field of solar electricity, has been chosen to receive the Karl W. Boer Solar Energy Medal, which will be presented in April in a ceremony at the UD Center for the Arts. The award was established in honor of Dr. Boer, founder of the UD Institute of Energy Conversion.

Dr. Kazmerski, director of the U. S. Department of Energy’s National Center for Photovoltaics at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, is the author of more than 300 technical papers dealing with solar energy and related subjects.

The Boer medal, first awarded in 1993, is presented every two years. Recipients receive a bronze medal and a \$40,000 stipend.

Middle East Problems

Higher education in Iraq has been severely damaged by the war, Dr. Gerald Turkel, professor of sociology and legal studies, reported in a March Delaware Voice column in *The News Journal*. Dr. Turkel describes how the decline of university

research and education in Iraq began under Saddam Hussein in 1979 and has continued to the present. Nearly 200 professors have been killed and many others have fled to other countries. Rebuilding higher education in that troubled nation should be “a top priority of U. S. policy,” Dr. Turkel concludes.

In another Delaware Voice column that appeared several days later, co-authors Muqtedar Khan and Kamran Bokhari discussed important relationships between the United States and Pakistan. Mr. Khan is a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution who teaches at the University of Delaware.

Future Speakers Booked

These interesting Quarterly Luncheons are planned for 2007-2008:

October 2, 2007 - Alan D. Fox
Associate Professor, Philosophy

December 4, 2007- Nancy M. Targett
Dean, Marine and Earth Studies

March 4, 2008 - To be announced.

May 6, 2008 - Dr. Patrick Harker
President

Opportunities Abound

UDARF members should be aware of advantages available to them. The Morris Library continues to maintain the Retired Faculty Room (031C) for retirees interested in conducting research. It is wheel-chair accessible and has a computer, printer and fax machine. Library staff members are available to offer assistance.

President Robert Stark has participated in, and is an advocate of, the Lifelong Learning programs offered on the UD Pennsylvania Avenue campus in Wilmington. A variety of stimulating courses awaits participants.

Women's Team Excels

Delaware's athletic teams have had little cause for celebration in 2006-2007, but the women's basketball team under Coach Tina Martin is a notable exception. The Blue Hens posted a 26-6 record and received an invitation to the Women's NCAA Tournament—a significant achievement. The Delaware women played valiantly in a first round, 69-58 loss to the host Michigan State Spartans, the nation's 23rd ranked women's team.

Women's varsity basketball made its debut at Delaware under Coach Mary Ann Campbell in 1971-72. Coach Joyce Perry succeeded her in 1978-79 and current Coach Martin arrived in 1996-97. This coaching trio was consistently successful and Coach Martin has had seven 20-plus winning seasons. Her teams annually challenge the top competitors in the Colonial Athletic Conference.

UDARF Officer Busy

Professor Emeritus Theodore Braun was invited to participate in a fall 2006 conference devoted to the life and work of Jean-Jacques LeFranc de Pompignan, a French 18th century poet about whom he has written extensively. During sessions in Toulouse, Mantauban and Pompignan, he read a paper entitled *Chansons sans musique: les Hymnes de LeFranc de Pompignan*. Several months later he participated in a conference in Gettysburg, Pa., sponsored by the East-Central/American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. There he also presented a paper and co-chaired several panels.

In Memoriam

Dr. Maurice E. Cope, 81, Professor Emeritus of Art History, died on February 26, 2007. During his 20 years at Delaware he received the E. Wayne Craven Excellence in Teaching Award. He traveled extensively in Europe and spent 18 months in Italy helping to restore some of the great works of art that were damaged by floods in 1966.

Word was also received of the following deaths:

Professor Emeritus Mel Carriker, in the College of Marine and Earth Studies, on February 25, 2007

Associate Professor Emeritus of Nursing Mary Ann Miller on March 31, 2007

Professor Emeritus of Mathematics David Hallenbeck on April 13, 2007

Professor Emeritus of History William Williams (University Parallel Program-Georgetown) on April 14, 2007

Members Continue to Teach

Dr. Frank Dilley and his wife Jane have recently moved to Jenner's Pond. Since his retirement. Dr. Dilley has taught several courses at the Newark Senior Center.

Dr. Jay Halio will visit the University of Sofia again this year as a Fulbright Senior Consultant to the English Department. He has been invited to teach at the Bulgarian university on several occasions.

Thoughts for the Day

When someone shares something of value with you and you benefit from it, you have a moral obligation to share it with others.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.
