

# Newsletter

of the

The University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty (UDARF)  
413 Academy Street Newark, DE 19716

**No. 71, November 2007**

---

Dear Colleagues,

Here is your Newsletter in a new format! Ed Rosenberry began the newsletter in 1990, writing the quarterly issues until 1997. Elbert Chance began where Ed left off. I know I express our collective appreciation for Elbert's long service. With this issue, the Newsletter joins the family of University of Delaware publications, alongside UDaily and the *Messenger*, among others.

Besides the Newsletter, our Web site, [[www.udel.edu/UDARF](http://www.udel.edu/UDARF)], is an increasingly useful source of information. It boasts a Wiki site, a Spousal Corner and notices of meetings and events.

Retired faculty should know that a well equipped "office" is available for their use on the lower level of Morris Library. A key can be obtained at the Circulation Desk.

President Harker has asked the University Community for ideas to chart the University's future course. To this end, a Strategic Planning Committee has been formed with Mark Barteau (ChE) and Debra Hess Norris (A&S) as Co-Chairs. The long tenures of many retired faculty help to make them a likely source of useful ideas. You can participate in a collective response by sending your ideas to the UDARF office (c/o Lynn Brock) or directly to the

Committee via a web site at [[www.udel.edu/strategicplanning](http://www.udel.edu/strategicplanning)].

With every fine wish,  
Bob Stark  
President

---

**December Luncheon Meeting  
“Ocean and Earth Studies in the 21st Century”**

Featured speaker at December’s UDARF luncheon meeting will be Nancy Targett, dean of the College of Marine and Earth Studies (CMES). The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, in Clayton Hall. A reservation form is enclosed in this issue.

This presentation will examine globally important issues such as climate change, fisheries management and coastal community development within the framework of an interconnected land, sea and atmosphere. Dr. Targett will discuss how thinking in the area of ocean and earth studies has evolved from exploration and description to a more multifaceted synthesis and integration that ultimately is being used to inform our ability to forecast and predict events. Specific examples will include El Niño/ENSO, New England Groundfish Stocks and heat transfer from tropics to the high latitudes in the North Atlantic. Additional work by UD CMES researchers will be highlighted.

---

**Provost briefs UDARF  
on strategic planning and more**

UD Provost Dan Rich and Mark Barteau, Robert R. Pigford Chair of Chemical Engineering, director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy Research, and Strategic Planning Committee member, addressed approximately 30 University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty (UDARF) members at a luncheon meeting, Oct. 23, at the Trabant University Center.

After opening remarks by UDARF President Robert Stark, Rich summarized recent administrative changes at UD and discussed how the new administration is preparing to set new goals for the University that build upon past accomplishments and how the Strategic Planning Committee, formed in July, is gathering input for changes to come.

Outlining the basic make-up of the 15-member committee and explaining its general mission--to canvass different UD sectors (students, faculty, staff and community leaders), Rich emphasized the importance of all input and encouraged all UDARF members to contribute their ideas later in the afternoon.

“There have been many changes at the University in recent months,” Rich said. “Our new president, Patrick Harker, is now in Chile with the state’s governor. Then he is off to China, to discuss possible partnerships with universities there. That information alone should give you an idea of the global outlook, scope and reach of his presidency, and of the changes that you’ll see and hear more about when he is here to talk with you in May. It is an exciting time!

“Some areas where we are raising the bar and the level of expectation and performance are very obvious,” Rich continued. “We will be very active--even more than we have been--in alumni relations and University development, and we will work hard to further strengthen UD’s academic profile.”

Rich stressed that the ingredients to do that --students, faculty, programs, facilities and resources--are the same as they always have been. “But the way we enrich those ingredients and the opportunities they create will lead UD to even greater accomplishment and stature,” he said. “Over the next decade, 40 percent of UD’s faculty will be retiring, and how those positions are filled will impact the academic development of UD for many decades to come. We have a remarkable opportunity to reconfigure a faculty that supports the continuous improvement of the University. Beyond individual appointments, we have the opportunity to cluster the faculty in domains that best support the educational achievement of our students and support the highest levels of scholarship and public service.

“As a faculty, we also need to affirm expectations of performance that are consistent with our current levels of academic achievement and our commitments and aspirations for the future. To accomplish this, a review of all promotion and tenure criteria is underway,” he said.

Rich then summarized the current student profile--approximately 16,000 undergraduates and 3,400 graduate students--and said that while there is no plan to make the undergraduate enrollment larger, there is an interest in making the student body more globally diverse.

“We can hardly claim to be a global institution without having a good representation of international students,” he said. “The University already has a significant international representation among its graduate students, and we must now have a larger international representation in our undergraduate student body.”

Rich said that one question being asked--and answered--in the strategic planning campaign is: What does UD need to do to become a more prominent institution?

He said that responses range from enhancing the identity of our undergraduate programs, to expanding the graduate and research opportunities at UD (which already ranks in the top 4 percent of graduate institutions nationally), to adding one or more high-profile professional schools, such as a law school.

Barteau then explained how the strategic planning committee is going about its business.

He summarized the committee’s progress since its inception in July, said that all input would still be sought for another month and half, and predicted that by January a solid course of action would get under way.

“We’ve been charged with going out and talking with people to get ideas,” Barteau said, “and UDARF is one constituency whose input matters. All of us [on the committee] are taking notes and posting these on the committee Web site, and if you’d like to join the online discussion, you can go to the University home page and click on the “join the conversation” link.

Barteau added that while responses have run the gamut, one idea that has resonated has been that of boosting UD's global presence, including increasing opportunities for study-abroad and more international students. Two other noted suggestions have been to strengthen UD's identity and to better market its strengths.

"High on Pat Harker's list is the need to toot our own horn more," Barteau said. "What we've found is that we've got a certain lack of identity. If you ask students what is so special about the University, they are likely to say, 'It's a beautiful campus,' but that is not enough--we need to have students recognize UD as a truly outstanding academic institution."

Barteau concluded by inviting all present to join the open discussion that capped the UDARF fall luncheon.

---

## October meeting takes a philosophical turn



*At October's meeting, from left, Joachim Elterich, Robert Stark and Alan Fox.*

Alan Fox, associate professor of philosophy, discussed "Daoism: A New Look at an Old Idea," UDARF's Oct. 1 luncheon meeting in Clayton Hall. Prof. Fox has been doing research on an ancient fundamental Chinese work, Dao De Jing, an expression of Chinese thought and ideas that were put into a written form about 400-200 B.C.

The work is the basis of Daoism (also known as Taoism), which is a metaphysical philosophy with distinguishing linguistic features, Prof. Fox said. He interprets metaphysics to mean "theory of reality." Unlike Plato, who is concerned with the abstract, Daoist metaphysics is concrete, emphasizing the reality of everyday as opposed to the ideal.

Prof. Fox pointed out that Dao De Jing was impossible to translate totally. Some of the characters have become obscure with time, the text is taken out of the cultural reference of the period when it was written and also has a complicated editorial history. In classical Chinese, there are no parts of speech, he said, as nouns, verbs, adjectives, tenses, articles and capital letters do not exist. It's as far from English as you can get, he said.

There is no equivalent of the verb "to be," Prof. Fox said. In the sentence, "The book is on the table," "is" is an affirmation of existence. Daoism would express the idea by "the surface of table has a book." Instead of saying the "table is over there," the concept is "tabling is going on," meaning nothing stays the same but is in a state of processing and changing. A table was once a tree, Prof. Fox said, and is still undergoing dynamic change. All things are "Daoing," or processing.

---

## **President Harker announces planning initiative**

At the Sept. 10 meeting of the Faculty Senate, President Patrick Harker announced the formation of a committee of faculty and administrators that will examine the current capabilities of the University and define its priorities for the future.

"The goal is to have an ongoing conversation that engages the University's different stakeholders, including faculty, students, staff, alumni, community members and state leadership, in where UD needs to be headed," President Harker said.

Currently, the University is on the cusp of true national and international prominence, he said, with excellent faculty, staff and students and a top-notch campus. "I think we're an undervalued asset," he said. "We don't brag enough about what we're accomplishing."

Calling this project the "most important project of the year ahead," Harker said the committee has been asked to consider any and all ideas about what the University could become. "The committee will then narrow them down to the handful of things that will allow UD to move rapidly ahead," he said.

The Strategic Planning Committee, which began meeting in July, is co-chaired by Mark Barteau, Robert L. Pigford Chair of Chemical Engineering and former chairperson of the Department of Chemical Engineering; and Debra Hess Norris, Henry Francis du Pont Chair in Fine Arts, chairperson of the Department of Art Conservation and associate dean for social sciences and history of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"The Strategic Planning Committee's timeframe is an aggressive one," President Harker said. Initial recommendations are to be provided to the president in January, with final results around the end of March.

“Our plan is to conclude this planning process with what we are now calling a University of Delaware Forum in early May. The event will be an opportunity for alumni and others to reconnect to the University and to discuss the ideas that have emerged from the process,” he said.

For information on the Strategic Planning Committee and an online form for submitting suggestions and ideas, visit [[www.udel.edu/strategicplanning](http://www.udel.edu/strategicplanning)].

---

## **Administrative changes**

Several additions have been made to the University’s senior administrative team: Patricia Wilson has been named vice president and chief of staff. Scott Douglass is senior vice president, and he will become executive vice president when David Hollowell retires at the end of this year. Michael Gilbert is serving as vice president for student life. Monica Taylor has been named vice president for development and alumni relations.

Searches are under way for two deans. In August, Timothy K. Barnekov announced his plans to retire as dean of the College of Human Services, Education and Public Policy at the end of the current academic year. Nancy Targett, dean of the College of Marine and Earth Studies, is chairing the search committee for his successor. In October, Eric W. Kaler, dean of the College of Engineering, became provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Stony Brook University. Michael Chajes is serving as interim dean of the college, and the search committee is being chaired by Tom Apple, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

---

## **Exhibitions highlights recent gifts**

The current photography exhibition in the University Gallery highlights recent gifts to the University, including a gift of 17 works by Dr. William I. Homer, photography historian, author and H. Rodney Sharp Professor Emeritus of Art History. Dr. Homer attended the opening reception on Oct. 11. The exhibition, “Recent Gifts of Photography to University Museums,” is on display concurrently with “Bill Brandt: Shadow of Light” through Dec. 9 at the gallery in Old College.

---

# Keep up to date on the Web

You can stay informed at the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty Web site. Check it out at [[www.udel.edu/UDARF](http://www.udel.edu/UDARF)]. In addition to a calendar of upcoming events, the site includes UDARF bylaws, copies of past newsletters and information specifically for spouses.

---

## In Memoriam

**Norman E. Collins Jr.**, professor emeritus of bioresource engineering, died Sept. 29. Dr. Collins taught for 40 years at UD before retiring in 2005. During his tenure, he served as department chairperson for 11 years.

**Helen Gouldner**, the first woman dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, died on July 24. She served as dean of the College from 1974-90 and was professor emerita of sociology and criminal justice. Contributions in Dr. Gouldner's memory may be made to the Dean Helen P. Gouldner Scholarship Fund at the University of Delaware.

**Dorothy A. Kennedy**, a member of the UD faculty from 1967-88, died Aug. 10. During her tenure on the faculty, she held several positions, including coordinator of maternal child nursing, associate professor of pediatric nursing, chair of the Department of Advanced Nursing Science and acting assistant dean of the College of Nursing.

**Mary K. Norton**, who taught in both the Parallel Program and the College of Education, died Aug. 26. She also worked in the University's Academic Studies Assistance Program. Together with her husband, the late David L. Norton, UD professor of philosophy, she authored *Philosophies of Love*.

**Marvin B. Sussman**, Unidel Professor Emeritus of Human Behavior, died Aug. 5. He joined the UD faculty in 1979, with an appointment in the Department of Individual and Family Studies and a secondary appointment in urban affairs, and he endowed annual dissertation prizes in both programs. He remained active on the campus after his retirement in 1988.