

Newsletter

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

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Dear Colleagues,

Here is our first newsletter of 2008! The March 4 Luncheon Meeting impends and we await colleague Ray Callahan's discourse based on his new book, Churchill and His Generals. It has a particular ring for me and perhaps others who well remember that time.

We enjoyed Nancy Targett's presentation at the December Meeting, and you can read about it elsewhere in these pages and on our web site. Indeed, our growing web presence is worth your attention at [www.udel.edu/UDARF] (UDARF is case sensitive here). Check your listing in the UDARF Directory. If no e-mail address is indicated, or if a change is needed, please send it to our UDARF Secretary, Lynn Brock at [lbrock@udel.edu].

Your Executive Committee is working on plans for a UDARF-sponsored scholarship prize. As a start, the last Luncheon Reservation Form, as well as the one enclosed, makes provision for a modest and optional \$5 contribution to a scholarship fund. Larger contributions, as well as suggestions, are welcome!

In accord with the By-Laws you approved about a year ago, a Nominating Committee (Professors Halio, Hoffecker and Markell) is at work and scheduled to soon report to the Executive Committee. Your suggestions and nominations are welcome. Please send them to Lynn Brock.

Finally, President Harker's Strategic Planning Committee is active. (See the UD web site.) It is important that provision be made for the engagement of retired faculty and the University in mutually beneficial ways. To this end, UDARF plans to provide an input. I invite your suggestions, or at least an expression of interest.

With every fine wish,
Bob Stark
President

March Luncheon Meeting “Churchill and His Generals”

Featured speaker at March’s UDARF luncheon meeting will be Raymond Callahan, professor emeritus of history. The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 4, in Clayton Hall. A reservation form is enclosed in this issue.

Prof. Callahan will discuss his recent book, *Churchill and His Generals*, published by the University of Kansas Press. In the book, he shows how Winston Churchill had to balance the demands of empire and politics against the reality of the state of the British military, especially during the early years of the war. Prof. Callahan’s earlier books include *The Worst Disaster: The Fall of Singapore, Burma 1942-45* and *Churchill: Retreat from Europe*.

Dean Targett Takes a Global View at December Luncheon

Nancy Targett, dean of UD’s College of Marine and Earth Studies, discussed the symbiosis between the oceans, the atmosphere and planet Earth, as well as the importance of good stewardship in staving off pollution and stemming the tide of global warming at the Dec. 4 UDARF luncheon, Dec. 4 in Clayton Hall.



Dean Targett began her presentation by emphasizing human impact on the environment—oceans in particular—and by quoting some impressive projections and statistics.

“The first thing we have to address when we look at the health of our oceans is the human factor,” she said. “Two and a half billion people live within a one-hour’s drive of the coast worldwide, and by 2025, it’s estimated that 75 percent of the population in the United States will live near the coast.”

Dean Targett added that roughly 25 percent of the population in the United States lives within 200 miles of Delaware, due to the densely packed Eastern seaboard, which

includes metropolitan clusters stretching from Washington, D.C., to New York City and southeastern Connecticut. “No other place in the country has that same pattern,” she said.

Using the example of Delaware to frame a larger point, Dean Targett emphasized the need for understanding basic principles of the dynamic between human actions and environmental consequences. “As we try to think about issues that relate to Delaware, we can’t do it in a vacuum,” she said. “The oceans, the atmosphere and Earth are all linked together, and they all affect the climate.”

Oceans, in addition to producing 50 percent of Earth’s oxygen, act as sinks for heat and carbon, thereby controlling the planet’s climate. They also, she said, provide important sources of protein for much of the world’s population.

Dean Targett moved quickly through different phases of oceanic navigation, exploration, cartography and study, beginning in 2,000 B.C with Polynesian fishermen, through Renaissance explorations in the 1400s to the British heyday of seamanship and finally to the invention and use in the early 1930s of tethered bathyspheres.

The half-mile ocean descent in 1934 by William Beebe, she said, opened a new realm of oceanic study and gave rise quickly to underwater exploration.

“No longer was research confined to two dimensions,” she said, adding that today’s oceanic study instruments include motorized bathyspheres, remote sensing satellites and autonomous benthic explorers.

After talking about modern sea exploration tools, Dean Targett noted their importance to research, but emphasized that in making predictions about such climactic events as El Niño, the focus really remains on charting the interplay between oceans, atmosphere and Earth.

“I come back to the idea that the oceans, Earth and the atmosphere are linked together,” she said, “and I want to give a couple of examples of situations in which we’ve been able to make predictions about things because we figured out that it’s all linked together and make a case for that. If we’d just looked at a small slice of the question, we wouldn’t have been able to come up with the prediction and forecast capabilities that we now have.”

After talking about the El Niño of 1996-97 and its impact on the fishery industry, Dean Targett closed by restating the importance of education and good stewardship.

“In talking about this, what I want to drive home is the importance of educating the public,” she said. “We get a lot of recreational use and a lot of multiple use from beaches, and we need to educate the public about [the impact this has] so that they become partners and stewards of the environment, as well.

“There are a lot of natural fluctuations in the world,” Dean Targett added. “Things are always changing. What we want to know is whether they’re changing as a result of what we do, and if

they are, we need to know what the time scale is and what impact this is going to have on our world.”

Strategic Planning Update

At the Dec. 10 meeting of the University’s Board of Trustees, President Harker discussed the work of the Strategic Planning Committee and reported that the committee has met with more than 100 stakeholder groups and reviewed over 400 email submissions.

“Helping shape that plan will be six basic principles,” President Harker said. “It is our continuing goal to cultivate and nurture a culture of excellence, one that focuses on creative imagination and impact through teaching, through research and through service.”

The six principles are

1. To recruit, develop and retain the finest faculty and staff;
2. To attract students of high ability and passion and nurture them as leaders with a lifelong attachment to and involvement with UD;
3. To ensure high quality in all of our academic programs, and to continue to develop signature strengths in undergraduate, graduate and professional education;
4. To conduct research and scholarship that significantly impact the world, and to disseminate results to a wider public audience;
5. To take the lead in higher education innovation and to develop knowledge-based partnerships; and
6. To strengthen the infrastructure and financial base for UD’s path to prominence.

The results of the strategic planning process will be announced at a special forum set for May 10 on the campus.

Retirees Contribute to Successful United Way Campaign

This year’s United Way campaign at UD raised a net total of \$182,000, far surpassing the \$175,000 goal and UD’s 2006 campaign total of \$173,040.

The successful effort included \$7,900 raised through the Retiree Campaign.

The strong showing of generosity across campus reflects the strong tradition of giving among University employees, according to Richie Holland, manager of human resources and affirmative action and a chief organizer of UD's United Way campaign.

Nobel Prize-winning Professors Honored

John Byrne, Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and director of UD's Center for Energy and Environmental Policy, and Frederick "Fritz" Nelson, professor of geography and director of UD's Permafrost Group, were presented with commemorative plaques during a campus ceremony in November, held in recognition of their roles as members of working groups within the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize jointly with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. IPCC, a science body advising the United Nations on the dangers of global warming, was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in recognition of the problem of potential global climate change.

Winter Commencement Celebrates New Graduates

The University celebrated its newest graduates at Winter Commencement, held Jan. 5 at the Bob Carpenter Center. U.S. Sen. Thomas R. Carper, who delivered the Commencement address, received an honorary doctor of laws at the ceremony. In his remarks, Sen. Carper, who received his MBA at UD in 1975, said, "Not a week goes by that I don't put to practical use something I learned as a graduate student here, so to all who taught me both in the classroom and outside of it, I thank you." Conferred at the ceremony were 146 doctoral degrees, 324 master's degrees, 843 bachelor's degrees and 70 associate's degrees. The day before, a special hooding ceremony honoring the doctoral degree candidates was held in the Roselle Center for the Arts.

Learn About New UD Research at New Web Site

A new Web site at [www.udel.edu/research] showcases the world-class research under way at the University. Developed by the Research Communications Initiative in UD's Office of Public Relations, the site includes information for a broad range of audiences, from industries seeking information on UD technologies, to schoolchildren eager to learn more about science and technology, business, the arts and the humanities. Among the site's special features are major portals for "Research News," the "Technology Marketplace" and "Cool Clips," highlighting research videos and podcasts.

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]. In addition to a calendar of upcoming events, the site includes UDARF bylaws, copies of past newsletters and information specifically for spouses.

In Memoriam

Richard W. Garvine, Maxwell P. and Mildred H. Harrington Professor of Marine Studies, died Dec. 10, 2007. He joined the Delaware faculty in 1977 and helped establish the College of Marine and Earth Studies' Physical Ocean Sciences and Engineering Program.

Lucia M. Palmer, professor of philosophy, died Dec. 11, 2007. A member of the UD faculty since 1964, she was a member of the core faculty of the University Honors Program and an affiliated faculty member in the Women's Studies Program.

Blaine G. Schmidt, who was a professor in UD's Department of Business Administration for 27 years, died Nov. 13, 2007. He served as chairperson of the department from 1967-72 and retired in 1986. Dr. Schmidt was active in the University's Academy of Lifelong Learning.

Jin Wu, H. Fletcher Brown Professor Emeritus of Marine Studies and Civil Engineering, died Jan. 14, 2008. Dr. Wu, who joined the UD faculty in 1974, was named H. Fletcher Brown Professor in 1980. In 1994, he took a leave of absence to serve a three-year term as president of National Cheng Kung University in Tainan. He retired from UD in 1998.