Dear Colleagues,

The family of learners, scholars, researchers and administrators that makes up the University of Delaware is now embarked on what President Patrick Harker calls our “Path to Prominence™.” Among the constituent groups that make up UD, none have a greater sense of collective memory than do the members of UDARF. Many of us recall earlier initiatives with names like “Community Design” and “Project Vision” that engaged a number of UDARF’s present members in setting the University’s agenda and created enthusiasm for development in years gone by.

The University supports UDARF precisely because the institution wishes to encourage its veterans’ continued participation. Some members may say of the present planning initiative “been there, done that.” But we are not separated from UD; we are still a vital part of it. We should, therefore, welcome opportunities to take part in setting the goals for the University’s Path to Prominence. You will notice, for example, that this year our luncheon meetings will feature discussions of two prominent themes in the pathway: energy use and the economy. In addition, our annual meetings with Provost Rich and President Harker offer forums that encourage give and take discussions about the University’s future.

As UDARF members we are still a part of this University, individually and collectively. There’s a lot of experience behind our ideas, our cautions and our suggestions. Who, if not us, know what lessons the experience of our pasts may have to teach? So learn what’s going on, and don’t hesitate to participate in the development plans for YOUR University.

With every fine wish,

Carol E. Hoffecker, President
October meeting to explore solar electricity

“Perspectives on Solar Electricity from a Solar Researcher and Homeowner” will be the focus of a talk by Steven Hegedus, scientist at the University’s Institute of Energy Conversion, at the next luncheon meeting of the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty. The meeting is scheduled at noon, Tuesday, Oct. 7, in Clayton Hall. A registration form is enclosed in this issue.

There has been accelerating growth in the development, production and application of solar electric technology (solar cells) in the past five years. Dr. Hegedus has been involved in solar research at UD for more than 25 years and was the first Newark resident to have solar panels installed. He will present results and observations about residential solar and explode some common myths about solar electricity. He will discuss the range of successful applications from rural villages to residential rooftops to acres of desert solar farms.

Learn why solar is crucial to the world’s economic and environmental future. Unlike wind, solar can be deployed nearly anywhere on any scale, and, unlike biofuels, it does not deplete the soil or increase food prices.

UDARF awards student prizes

On Aug. 12 and 13, the University of Delaware’s Undergraduate Research Program put on a show in the Trabant University Center that justified the University’s claim to be among the national leaders in undergraduate research-based learning.

The event, called “Arts, Humanities, and Social Science In View,” featured presentations by 52 students who have spent the summer conducting research, or, in a few cases, painting or making music. They chose topics of personal interest ranging so broadly as to defy simple categorization. All have worked under the guidance of faculty members, a number of whom could be seen sitting or standing quietly in the audience.

For most of the young scholars, the experience represented a first step toward what will become a senior thesis. The “In View” experience provided an excellent opportunity for these students to share their research while honing their skills as public speakers. Most presenters used visuals, and at least one, a student studying President Nixon’s decision to dissolve the Bretton-Woods monetary system, played excerpts from the famous Nixon White House tapes.

Members of UDARF will recall our decision to provide cash prizes for the best presentations. A first prize of $100 and a second prize of $50 were awarded to students in each of three categories: Arts, Humanities, and Social Science, as determined by teams of faculty judges in
each of the three general fields. Speaking as one of the judges in the Humanities section, I can attest to the extreme difficulty in selecting winners among so many deserving presenters.

The winning Arts student was Brian Bersh, a percussionist who is attempting to apply the philosophical and psychological concept of “flow” to music education. Dan Galetti, the second-place winner, is an artist who seeks the relationship of fashion and art to handmade objects.

The winners among the humanists were Keith Pluymers, a historian who is studying Irish resistance to the imposition of English agriculture in the 17th century, and Steven Beighley, who combines philosophy and neuroscience in an effort to define “the mark of the mental.”

The first prize in social science went to anthropology student Shaun Lynch, whose work is entitled “Determining the Mobility of the Inhabitants at Dunlap-Salazar Through Analysis of Lithic Materials.” Second place in social science went to Erin Sullivan, a student of marketing in business administration, who is examining the causes and effects of abusive supervisors in the workplace.

All of the presenters demonstrated intellectual commitment and abilities that can make us proud of our University and of our own individual decisions, made so many years ago, to choose careers as college faculty. One rather expects and hopes that a number of these young people will follow in our footsteps.

This was a trial run for UDARF. It must now consider whether to continue to ask its members to fund student awards, and if we do so, what should be the criteria. Bob Brown and I both attended the ceremony on behalf of UDARF and can testify to the delight in the faces of the winners. The prize money may be small, but it is symbolic of victory in a competitive field of entries. We will have an open discussion of the future of UDARF-sponsored awards at our lunch scheduled for Oct. 7.

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**About the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Scholars Program**

The University of Delaware’s Arts, Humanities and Social Science Scholars Program each year enables about 50 talented undergraduates to engage in research collaborations with faculty, using the summer before the junior and/or senior year to develop unusual depth of knowledge in their research areas and sophistication in the skills of their disciplines.

Summer stipends ensure that Scholars are able to devote full time for 10 weeks to their research or creative work. All Scholars conduct research for at least three credits during the academic year following their funded summer, and many continue their work in senior honors theses, making original contributions to their chosen fields.
While working with their individual faculty mentors, the Scholars meet together weekly during the summer in small groups to discuss their ongoing projects and other aspects of the research endeavor. These group meetings, facilitated by program alumni, also prepare the Scholars to make public presentations of their research-in-progress at the summer’s end in the two-day-long symposium “Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences In View.” This year, 52 scholars presented at this summer’s “In View,” held Aug. 12-13 in the Trabant University Center.

The Arts, Humanities and Social Science Scholars Program is paralleled in the sciences by the Science and Engineering Scholars Program for rising juniors and the Life Science Scholars Program for rising seniors. Scholars in the sciences and engineering present their work-in-progress at a summer science symposium, held this year on Aug. 13, with eight talks and more than 122 posters.

For several years, prizes have been awarded by faculty groups for particularly outstanding presentations in the sciences and engineering. This year for the first time, awards for outstanding presentations in the arts, humanities, and social sciences were made possible by a gift from UDARF. In addition to receiving a small cash award, the prize winners will represent UD at next year’s Colonial Academic Association’s undergraduate research conference, to be held in Baltimore in spring 2009.

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**President discusses goals at May luncheon**

Where the University of Delaware stands and where it is headed were among the chief topics addressed by UD President Patrick Harker at the May 6 luncheon meeting of the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty.

“You are the heart and soul of UD,” Harker said. “We would not even be able to think about the future and where we go from here without all of the hard work of all the people in this room and many others who have brought the University to where it is today.”

The next step, Harker said, involves taking UD to a position of national and international recognition that truly reflects its standing as a leading public university.

“During the last nine months we have been conducting a strategic planning initiative,” Harker said. “In addition, I also have been running around, covering every inch of the University, trying to get my own sense of what people want.”
Harker told UDARF members that he also has been meeting with the UD Board of Trustees to discuss the recommendations outlined in the recently published Report of the Strategic Planning Committee. While all UD colleges and significant units have been asked to come up with a list of five strategic goals to help move UD forward, a comprehensive review of campus facilities also has been initiated.

“There has not been a review of the campus master plan since 1972,” Harker said. “The campus is beautiful, and a lot of great things have been done. We need to bring all of these things together and to create an intellectual cohesion between departments and schools around campus.”

A review of the University’s athletic and recreational facilities by HOK Architects, one of the leading sports architectural groups in the country, also is under way, Harker said. “We have a very active group of students, and we want to encourage our young people to become involved,” Harker said. “Our facilities have not kept up at the varsity and the club level. Doing these things does not mean we are going to win every game and land every research grant, but we have to be competitive. We should always be in the game.”

Harker also said that the University is working to welcome its more than 135,000 alumni as part of its overall plan for future success and visibility at the national and international level. “Our overall general fund contributions are up by 28 percent over last year, and we did this just by going out and inviting people to come to a series of alumni events,” Harker said. “People are excited about these things, and they want to be invited. People like this University because it helped to change their lives.”

The rewards of voluntarism

Many UDARF members are actively involved in volunteer activities.

Marcia Halio and Mark Sharnoff volunteer at Nativity Prep, a middle school in Wilmington established to help talented young lower-income boys from the inner city prepare for high school. “Mark and I tutor these students once or twice a week in reading, writing, math and science,” Halio said. “We find this work very rewarding, but the school could use much more help from volunteers and we thought that the UDARF might be an excellent source of experienced teachers who care about young people.”

To learn more about the school, the tutor program or other volunteer possibilities, visit the school’s Web site at www.nativitywilmington.org or contact Dan Young, Graduate Support Director (dyoung@nativitywilmington.org) or Jenee Walker, Dean of Students (jwalker@nativitywilmington.org).
Mark your calendar

The annual Provost’s Forum will be held Tuesday, Oct. 28, at the Trabant University Center. A noon luncheon is scheduled.

Keep up to date on the Web

Visit the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty Web site 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

**Camille Schiffman**, who taught at UD from 1963 to 1984, died Aug. 31, 2008. She taught child development courses, supervised student teachers in the pre-school program and had responsibility for the development and administration of the pre-school.

**Juan A. Villamarin**, who joined the UD anthropology faculty in 1970, died June 17, 2008. He served as chairperson of the department for 25 years and also directed the Latin American Studies Program. Before and after his retirement in 2004, he served as a mentor in the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program.