Dear Colleagues,

In our former roles as faculty members, we taught our students to evaluate evidence before drawing conclusions. The Award Program Survey, which is discussed elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter, provides evidence of what our members do not want UDARF to be or to do. The results demonstrated that a majority of our members do not want this organization to expand its reach into fund-raising. We can each decide where our gift dollars will go without UDARF playing a role as middleman. As we disengage from fund-raising, however, I do want to take this opportunity to thank the members who made donations. The student winners appreciated your benevolence.

By contrast to the survey of the fund-raising initiative, our earlier survey of “Favorite Topics” told us what you, our members, do want: good speakers capable of expanding our understanding of the world around us. In short, we are all lifelong learners. As the Executive Committee looks forward to selecting speakers for next year we will keep our focus on that main responsibility. You have come to expect this organization to provide speakers whose topics are timely and whose presentations are stimulating. Fortunately, the University of Delaware has an abundance of past and present faculty members who meet those criteria. As we choose speakers for the 2009-2010 year, we will strive to maintain the high standard that has been set and hope that you will respond by attending the lunches both to meet friends and to engage in the activity that universities are all about: thinking and learning.

Best Wishes and thanks for your participation.

Carol E. Hoffecker
President

P.S. Bring a friend who should be an active member of UDARF and doesn’t know what he or she is missing.
UD President Pat Harker will speak at the next luncheon meeting of the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty, scheduled at noon, Tuesday, May 5, in Clayton Hall. A reservation form is enclosed in this issue.

Forum & Reunion Weekend 2009

All retired faculty members are invited to attend the first-ever Forum & Reunion Weekend on June 5-7, at no charge. Alumni say that one of the things they most enjoy when returning to campus is reconnecting with their professors. While the weekend events are free to retired faculty, registration is still needed.

To qualify for this rate, call the Office of Alumni Relations at (302) 831-8741. Family members may be registered at the normal rate by using the online registration form at [http://udconnection.com/ReunionWeekend].

The festive weekend will feature special programs and events combing intellectual discovery with entertainment, recreation and fun.

The full schedule is available online at udconnection.com.
Dealing with climate change will require reducing energy demands, increasing the use of renewable energy and the creation of a workable energy policy at the national level, according to John Byrne, director of the University of Delaware’s Center for Energy and Environmental Policy, who spoke at UDARF’s March meeting in Clayton Hall.

A member of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Byrne said “Recent observations in the Antarctic, including the 2002 collapse of the Larsen B ice shelf—which was about the size of the state of Delaware—have changed the way scientists think about how ice melts.”

“From 1973-2003, we’ve lost approximately 20 percent by area and approximately 60 percent by volume of sea ice in the Arctic,” Byrne said. “I guess these are phenomena that could happen in long stretches of time, but this is so rapid that folks are quite concerned about what the implications are.”

Such studies, including one on Greenland from 1992-2005, have caused many in the scientific community to believe that the problem might be worse than what had previously been forecast.

Things are not going to change anytime soon, Byrne said, because a molecule of carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for anywhere from 50-200 years.

“The answer is that you need to reduce your greenhouse emissions 60 percent below 1990 levels, and you have roughly until mid-century to do it, given the lifetime of the molecule,” Byrne said. Because about 80 percent of greenhouse gases come from fossil fuel combustion, one of the things that must be done, Byrne said, is to cut back substantially on the amount of such fuels used for energy production.

“Basically, we need a ski-slope experience, a serious reduction if we are going to hit our target of a 60 percent emissions cut by 2050,” Byrne said. “The problem is only
going to get more difficult; it is not going to get easier. We have to figure out how to act, and act quickly over a long period of time.”

While the development and use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power will continue to increase, the use of such energy sources alone will not be enough to reduce emission levels to targeted goals by the year 2050, Byrne said.

“Briefly, the best estimates we have from the International Panel for Climate Change about what has to be done is that we need to take out about 24 gigatons of CO2 by 2030, and the most likely sources for doing that in the near term are energy efficiency and energy conservation,” Byrne said. “Translated, this means that we need to use a whole lot less energy than we do now and still find happiness in our lives. Only if we work on both the supply side and the demand side can we possibly solve this problem.”

Energy conservation and the efficient use of renewable energy sources make sense from and individual and large investor standpoint, Byrne said.

“Energy efficiency has historically beat—in terms of greater returns on investment—the stock market and the bond market,” Byrne said. “It is a very good financial strategy, but we just have not had in this country a national policy to make this work.”

Byrne said future generations will judge this one by how it acted in addressing the issue of climate change and the need to reduce the level of harmful greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by the target date of 2050 and beyond.

“Our grandchildren are watching,” Byrne said. “The decisions we make will affect what kind of air they breathe and what kind of life they have.”

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**Mark your calendar**

The following luncheon dates have been set for UDARF meetings for 2009-2010:

- Oct. 6
- Dec. 1
- March 2
- May 4
Survey says…

Members of UDARF will recall the attachment of the Award Program Survey to the lunch form in the February Newsletter. Its purpose was to guide the organization’s executive committee decision over whether or not UDARF should continue its fund raising efforts, and, if so, toward what financial and philanthropic goals. Previous articles in the Newsletter, together with past president Bob Stark’s presentations at UDARF lunches, have explained the concept and potential benefits of raising money for a UDARF fund. Last year, the idea was floated of creating a substantial endowment to support University purposes of UDARF’s choosing.

Actual fund-raising efforts began on a less ambitious note, however, with requests for modest sums of $5 and upwards that were attached to the payment form for lunches. The money thus raised was sufficient to provide three $100 and three $50 awards to student competitors in the Undergraduate Research Office’s Arts, Humanities and Social Science summer program of 2008. The winners of those awards have appeared at UDARF lunches throughout this year to give brief accounts of their prize-winning research.

As promised, the fund-raising and prize-giving activities took place on a trial basis. By February of this year, members had read, seen and heard enough about those efforts to draw their own conclusions and were prepared to give the Executive Committee their informed opinions. The survey provided that opportunity.

The results were mixed, yet conclusive. To the lead question “Should UDARF raise money from its members to offer awards to anybody (students, faculty, etc)?” a small majority voted “No.” Several respondents noted that they preferred to give their personal contributions directly to the University to support areas of their own choosing, rather than to funnel their gifts through UDARF.

Immediately following the lunch on March 3, the Executive Committee met to consider those survey results. After a brief discussion, the committee voted unanimously to discontinue UDARF’s fund raising activities. Henceforth, there will be no requests for donations attached to the lunch form. The fund-raising that has been going on all year has given us a surplus of $300. That money will be used as our final gift to the Undergraduate Research Office’s summer program for 2009 where it can provide $100 awards to the three best presenters. We thank those whose contributions have made those awards possible.
UD now a member of UCAR

The University of Delaware is now a member of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR).

This nonprofit consortium of major research universities in North America serves as a hub for research, education, and public outreach in the atmospheric and Earth sciences.

Headquartered in Boulder, Colo., UCAR manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) on behalf of the university community and the National Science Foundation, and the Office of Programs, which collectively provide member universities with a variety of collaborative research opportunities, services, and tools, from data modeling and visiting scientist programs, to aircraft, radar, and supercomputing facilities.

NCAR addresses pressing scientific and societal needs involving the atmosphere and its interactions with the ocean, land, and sun—referred to as “Earth system science.

Alliance to focus on health

The University of Delaware has joined forces with Christiana Care Health System, Nemours and Thomas Jefferson University to form the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance, which is designed to provide leadership in the improvement of health and health services to all Delawareans, while nurturing research and advanced technology development that will be key to Delaware’s economic future.

The alliance was announced March 24 at the University’s “Stronger Health-Based Partnership” conference. Building on years of cooperative efforts among the four institutions, the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance is dedicated to providing the finest health-care education for all health professionals; conducting interdisciplinary clinical and translational research that generates new knowledge to address today’s most pressing health concerns; and improving state and regional health and health-care services.
In Memoriam

Dr. Charles B. Cooper, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, died on Aug. 15, 2008. He retired from UD in 1990 after 32 years of service.

Dr. William Markell, Arthur Andersen Alumni Professor Emeritus, died March 11. The first chairperson of the University's Department of Accounting, he retired from UD in 1993 after a 35-year career as professor and administrator. He was named the Arthur Andersen Alumni Professor of Accounting in 1991, in honor of his distinguished service and reputation.

Dr. Anne McCourt-Lewis, who retired in 1994 as an associate professor of educational development in the then College of Education, died Dec. 26, 2008. She lived in Ocean Pines-Berlin, Md., for many years after her retirement.

Dr. Maurice Young, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, died Nov. 3, 2008. After a career in industry, he joined the UD faculty in 1968 and retired in 1988.