

UDARF

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY



NOVEMBER 2009

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

We may retire, but our research training always seems to live on. Thus, this past summer curiosity led me to the University Archives in Pearson Hall where I read a variety of records in an effort to reconstruct the historic development of UDARF. The first installment of my findings appears in this issue of the Newsletter. Others will follow. Among the most important discoveries that I have made about the organization's origins was the interconnection of UDARF to the Faculty Senate's Subcommittee on Retiring, Retired, and Emeriti Faculty and the sense that UDARF was perceived as an important employee benefit. Other features that will become more pronounced in the next installment concerning the 1990s were the variety of activities that UDARF members tried and the rather free-form democracy that underlay the relationship of the organization to its constituent members.

It is this theme of democracy that I ask you to consider now. UDARF was conceived as a participatory group activity that encouraged everyone to make suggestions and to play leadership roles. This does not mean that UDARF can be so freeform as to require no officers or executive committee. But it does mean that the officers are there to fulfill the will of the majority. With that concept in mind, I remind you that my two-year term as president will conclude next May. I do not intend to seek a second term. Others should have a chance to lead and help shape this organization.

Now comes the part where you can help. Under the bylaws, the president must establish a nominating committee "with the advice of the executive committee" by Feb. 1 to nominate our next president. I'd like to name that committee in advance of that date if possible to give them the maximum time to make their recommendation to the executive committee by March 1, as the bylaws require. To ensure that this is as democratic as possible, I invite you, the members, to contact me directly with suggestions for members of the Nominating Committee for president. The executive committee may not choose the person you suggest, but at least you will know that somebody listened to you and considered your view. You can reach me at bcde1@verizon.net. Thanks in advance for your thoughts.

Carol E. Hoffecker
President

Establishing a new community network

A new University group—UDCN or UD Community Network—was discussed at the October UDARF meeting by Ulrike Diedenhofen and Clella Murray.

UDCN was initiated by Anne Apple, who is married to UD Provost Tom Apple, and the mission of the group is to connect, support and inform spouses and partners of UD hires through personal outreach and a web-facilitated network. A Web site, still to be established, will be a source of information about the region and will provide support for individuals who are relocating or seeking employment, and more.

The ultimate goal, they said, is to evolve into a network that provides information and support to all UD spouses and partners, with the Web site expanding, as dictated by the needs of the community.

At present, UDCN hopes to assist newcomers, that is faculty spouses and partners of the newly hired, before and after they arrive, and to be a source of information and companionship during their first year.

In order to achieve that goal, UDCN will be relying heavily on volunteers, and will, as a “social group,” add the personal touch to make spouses and partners feel welcome, thus building on what the individual departments and UD’s Human Resources can provide.

“Most of us know from personal experience how challenging and lonely it can be to relocate within the U.S.,” Diedenhofen said. “As the University becomes more and more international, UD will also have more newcomers or visitors from abroad, who will be even more in need of assistance and friendship. When I arrived at the University of Kansas from Germany in the last century, I took advantage of opting for a Host Family. They introduced me to ‘things American’ and were my ‘safety-pin’ in case of need. We remain in touch today.”

Murray cited the type of questions newcomers ask: “The movers tore upholstery. Who does repairs?” “The chair of the department invited us to dinner. Where can I find a baby sitter?” “The in-laws plan to move near us. Where are local retirement facilities available?” These are the kinds of questions a family could answer. To fill that function and get help to the spouses and partners of the new hires, UDCN needs help. That help could be a lot or a little.

When who had planned to stay a short time when they came to UD, most of the attendees at the meeting raised their hands. “The reason you stayed at UD was because you felt you had found a home, a family,” Murray said. “That is what UDCN hopes to provide.”

If you are interested in helping with UDCN, please send e-mail to thescope@udel.edu.

Faculty Senate marks 40th anniversary



Joining current Faculty Senate President Cihan Cobanoglu (right) at the September meeting of the Faculty Senate are (from left) past presidents Jon Olson, Judy VanName, Frank Dilley, Karen Stein, Michael Keefe, Robert Taggart, Ludwig Mosberg, Ken Lomax, David Smith, Avron Abraham, Charles Boncelet, James Richards, Ted Braun, Alan Fox and Amy Johnson.

The University's Faculty Senate celebrated 40 years of faculty governance during the first meeting of the 2009-10 academic year, held Sept. 14 in Mitchell Hall.

Jon Olson, professor emeritus of chemical engineering and the first president of the Faculty Senate, recalled the evolution of the UD Faculty Senate. "In the later part of the 1960s, when Art Trabant became president, things were changing, and this became a fortuitous time to try and draw up a constitution for the senate," he said. "This was done in the fall of 1969 and approved by the faculty. We had our first meeting on March 16, 1970."

Upcoming UDARF luncheons

- Tuesday, March 2, with Debra Hess Norris, vice provost for graduate and professional education and Henry Francis du Pont Professor of Art Conservation
 - Tuesday, May 4, with President Patrick Harker
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In Memoriam

Richard P. Brown, who was a professor in the Department of Theatre, died June 24, 2009.

Clifford Sloyer Jr., professor emeritus of mathematical sciences, died Nov. 4, 2009. He retired in 2006 after 42 years at UD.

Maxine Colm honored at October luncheon

Maxine Colm, director of the University of Delaware Associate in Arts Program and former vice president for administration, was honored by the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty (UDARF) at its Oct. 6 luncheon in Clayton Hall.

UDARF President Carol Hoffecker thanked Colm for her past support of UDARF and said how important she had been to the organization, which is now associated with the Office of the Provost.

Hoffecker presented Colm with two historical Wedgwood plates, featuring Old College and Memorial Hall, ordered by the last Women's College class for alumnae in the 1940s.

Colm talked about the Associate in Arts Program, which is located in Wilmington, Dover and Georgetown. There are currently 464 students at the Wilmington campus, she said.

Students at all three locations take the same classes as students on the Newark campus, and 90 percent graduate with associate of arts degrees and can then come to the Newark campus.



“You would be amazed at the level of education in the program, and the students are terrific,” Colm said. The program is housed within UD’s College of Arts and Sciences, which is led by Interim Dean George Watson.

Also at the Oct. 6 meeting, Clella Murray and Ulrike Diedenhofen spoke about UDCN. Their mission is to welcome and help the partners of new faculty as they relocate in Newark. They asked for volunteers. (Please see page 4.)

Ted Braun announced that a room with a computer and other equipment is now available for the use of retired faculty on the lower level of Morris Library (Room 040D). A key is available at the main desk.

The speaker originally scheduled for the meeting, Wunyabari Maloba, was unable to attend.

A message from Maxine Colm

Note from Carol Hoffecker: Those of you who attended the lunch on Oct. 6 will recall that we presented a gift to Maxine Colm to thank her for her enduring and enthusiastic support for UDARF. The gift consisted of two commemorative plates that were manufactured by the Wedgwood Company in the 1940s at the behest of the Delaware Women’s College alumnae. Since the gift came from all of our members, you should regard Maxine’s note of thanks as directed to you.

Oct. 7, 2009

Dear Members of UDARF Executive Committee,

Thank you all for making yesterday’s UDARF luncheon so memorable. It was a treat to be with all my good UDARF friends and an unexpected joy to receive such magnificent plates of Old College and Memorial Hall Library. My first task on Saturday morning will be to purchase easels so that the plates can be prominently displayed on my bookshelf in our den as a constant reminder of your generosity and friendship.

It has been wonderful working with UDARF for the past 20 years and I look forward to our continued friendship in the future.

Sincerely,

Maxine

Media and elections to be discussed at December luncheon

New Frontier in Media and Elections: How Digital Media Affected the 2008 Presidential Election” will be the topic of a talk by Ralph J. Begleiter, Edward and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor of Communication and Distinguished Journalist in Residence at the University, at UDARF’s December luncheon.



The meeting is scheduled at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 1, in Clayton Hall.

Prof. Begleiter will explore how new media developments, including social networking and other Internet-based media, affected the 2008 U.S. Presidential election, and how they are likely to change the communication landscape for future elections both in the United States and abroad.

With more than 30 years of broadcast journalism experience, Prof. Begleiter is an award-winning instructor in communication, journalism and political science.

UDARF at Twenty: A Short History

Chapter 1: How UDARF came into existence

A search in the University’s Archives revealed a wealth of materials relating to the creation of UDARF. Our organization has its origins in the 1980s when the Faculty Senate’s Subcommittee on Retiring, Retired and Emeriti Faculty sought to discover the needs of its constituents. Following a meeting with Vice President for Employee Relations Dennis Carey in November 1986, the subcommittee drafted and mailed a questionnaire to the retired faculty asking them to rate the importance of various possible benefit options. The options included a dental-care plan, the University mortgage plan, the use of University recreational facilities, study space and secretarial services, among other benefits. The forty people who responded rated dental-care insurance and long-term catastrophic health care as their top priorities. The level of response encouraged the subcommittee to compile a directory of retired faculty and to plan a “get together” lunch for retirees. Using their newly created directory, the subcommittee polled retirees about their interest in attending a lunch meeting and their desire to form a permanent association of retired faculty. The subcommittee received 79 replies affirming these goals.

The inaugural “get together” lunch took place in Clayton Hall on May 8, 1989. It came at a propitious time in the University’s history. Those among our readers who were here then will recall that in the fall of 1988, after President Russel Jones had launched a major development effort called “Project Vision,” he made a rather sudden departure from the University. Former President E. Arthur Trabant, who was semi-retired and was teaching in the mathematics department, suddenly returned to the President’s office.

Art Trabant knew the retirees, and he took a great personal interest in their welfare. He hosted the lunch in May and, as the report of the subcommittee put it, “graciously offered to hold a regular monthly lunch for retired and emeriti faculty during fall semester, 1989.” The subcommittee added that “it is hoped that during the course of these meetings, our retired faculty will develop a formal organization to address issues they deem important.” It was from this hope that UDARF was born.

In our next installment, those of you who have retired during the present century will learn about the early days of UDARF in the 1990s.