Mark your calendar!

Fall meetings for the University of Delaware Association of Retired Faculty have been set.

Executive Committee meetings will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 17, and Tuesday, Nov. 11, in the Boardroom at the Courtyard Newark. Visitors are welcome. Those wishing to attend should contact Dana Brittingham in advance at 302-831-2101.

Luncheon meetings this fall are scheduled from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 14, and Dec. 2, in Clayton Hall. Speakers will be Willett M. Kempton, professor in the School of Marine Science and Policy and research director for UD’s Center for Carbon-free Power Integration, on Oct. 14; and Debra Hess Norris, chair of the Department of Art Conservation and Henry Francis du Pont Chair in Fine Arts, on Dec. 2.

The deadline for luncheon reservations, which may be made online, is one week prior to the event. Online registrants must pay the $17 lunch cost by check at the door.

The “My Intellectual Journey Series” resumes this fall with a talk by Raymond R. Wolters, Thomas Muncy Keith Professor of History, at 4 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30 at the Courtyard Newark. A wine and cheese reception will follow his remarks. There is no charge for this event, and reservations are not required.

Dear UDARF Members,

Welcome to the end of another summer and the beginnings of the 2014-2015 academic year for UDARF. I hope your summer has been as nice as mine, as Judy and I spent two great weeks in beautiful Scotland where it rained only one day, followed by a week in sultry St. Louis visiting relatives, which included a fascinating visit to the almost-new Lincoln Library in Springfield, Ill., followed by a week at the beach entertaining our two youngest grandsons. I think we are ready for a rest!

In starting a new academic year, it is important to thank Stu Sharkey and the other officers and board members for an outstanding last two years, as they gave us so many wonderful programs. I am excited to be President with another group of strong officers: Maxine Colm as Vice President, Jim Swasey as Treasurer, and Lou Hirsh as Secretary, along with ex-President Stu Sharkey and at-large board members Michael Arenson and Nick Simon. We believe you will enjoy our four luncheon speakers for the coming year: Willett Kempton from Marine Sciences and Policy, Debra Norris from Art Conservation, Arts and Science Dean George Watson, and President Harker. We also are pleased to have Ray Wolters and S.B. Woo presenting their own academic history in the “My Intellectual Journey” series on Oct. 30 and April 9.

Our luncheon series begins Oct. 14, followed by Dec. 2, March 3, and May 5, starting at 11:30 a.m. Please remember to get your reservations in on time so that we can provide an accurate number to the Clayton Hall staff. Meanwhile, I hope you are enjoying September, usually a warm but pleasant month in Delaware, and the beginning of another beautiful autumn.

Yours truly,
Bob Taggart, President
President Patrick Harker discussed key institutional initiatives with UDARF members at the luncheon meeting May 20 in Clayton Hall.

Topics included work on a new strategic plan, supporting the educational aspirations of students from the First State, and growing UD’s reputation as a major American research university.

“We are in the process of rebooting our strategic planning effort,” Harker said. “Domenico Grasso, our new provost, is leading that effort and there is a lot of enthusiasm about this activity.”

Harker noted that 170 faculty members have volunteered to serve on various committees to plan the next phase of the University.

“That gives you a sense that people really want to participate,” Harker said. “I encourage each and every one of you to participate, too. The committee will be more than happy to hear your views about where we are as a University.”

A series of town hall meetings also are being held in conjunction with the strategic planning process, Harker said.

“What we wanted to do is step back a little bit and take a look at where we are, what we need to do, and what we need to keep focused on,” Harker said. “We also need to look at what’s different today than it was seven years ago.”

When UD’s Path to Prominence strategic plan was launched in 2008, one of its guiding principles, Delaware First, was adopted to ensure that residents would receive an affordable, top-quality education through UD's Commitment to Delawareans program, Harker said.

“We are Delaware’s land grant university, and we are here to serve the state,” Harker said. “We actually back up that commitment in the community with real dollars.”

Harker noted that while financial aid to Delawareans attending UD has grown from $2.6 million in fiscal year 2009 to $11.6 million in fiscal year 2014, the state's commitment has remained at $7.2 million per fiscal year during the same period.

“This increase in financial aid came from our operating budget in order to help families in Delaware obtain a UD education for their children,” Harker said. “The families responded to this, and about 2,800 of our in-state students (43 percent) take advantage of this.”

Harker also lauded the UD Associate in Arts Program (AAP), where students take courses taught by UD faculty on the campuses of Delaware Technical Community College in Wilmington, Dover and Georgetown.

Delaware SEED scholarships are provided by the state of Delaware and cover tuition for full time students enrolled in the AAP.

Students completing the required coursework earn an associate’s degree. Courses taken are recorded on the student’s UD transcript and count toward completion of a UD bachelor's degree.

“This has been an absolute success, and provides a low cost path to a high quality degree,” Harker said. “We have gone from 52 percent of students who complete the course requirements in three years to 65 percent, which is almost triple the national average.”

About 96 percent of students who began their AAP enrollment in 2010 have gone on to enroll at UD's Newark campus, Harker said.

“For those families who are struggling, this is an incredible path toward an education, because the AAP students receive state grant money and then they come here to complete their college education,” Harker said. “I’m very proud of the University and I think we and the community do an exceptional job in providing access to Delawareans.”

Harker also noted that the prolonged recession has coincided with a rapid increase in the number of first generation and low-income students, raising issues of financial aid and continuing student support.

“This isn’t just about admissions, but it’s about making sure students are successful while they are here,” Harker said. “It’s not just about bringing them to campus, but making sure that they leave here and that they are successful in whatever career they want to pursue.”

Retired faculty members also were briefed on the need for increased efforts in gender equity and diversity and growing UD’s presence reputation as a major American research university.

“There will always be things on our to-do list, like diversity and other areas like our graduate student program,” Harker said. “We also need to step back and look at the landscape of American education and see how we are going to change because we are a part of it.”

*Article by Jerry Rhodes
Photo by Evan Krape*
Senior leadership

Carol Henderson, Matt Kinservik named vice provosts

Two UD professors assumed new senior leadership posts, effective July 1.

Carol Henderson, chairperson of the Department of Black American Studies and professor of Black American studies and English, became vice provost for diversity, and Matt Kinservik, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of English, became vice provost for faculty affairs.

The vice provost for diversity is charged with advancing the University's academic mission and goals in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion and human rights by leading efforts to define, assess and cultivate diversity as both an institutional value and an academic priority. Henderson, who will serve as senior advisor to the provost on matters of diversity, will advise and collaborate with vice provosts, vice presidents, academic deans, chairs, directors, and other groups regarding the development and implementation of initiatives designed to support UD’s diversity efforts. She will also develop, direct and support initiatives that promote a welcoming and inclusive campus climate.

The vice provost for faculty affairs works to ensure that the University recruits, nurtures, and retains highly quality faculty and advises the provost on such matters as promotion and tenure, grievances, conflicts of interest and other academic personnel matters. Kinservik will assist academic departments in implementing excellent recruitment and mentoring practices and will work closely with the Faculty Senate in development of faculty policies. In addition, he will oversee faculty development initiatives, including resources for new faculty.

26 granted emeritus status for distinguished contributions

Twenty-six members of the full-time faculty have been granted the title “emeritus,” with the recommendation of their department chairperson and the dean of the college and the approval of the University provost.

This recognition is presented to individuals who have made distinguished contributions to teaching, scholarship and service during their tenure at the University of Delaware.

New emeriti faculty are Rick Agnello, Economics; Lee Anderson, School of Marine Science & Policy; Linda Bucher, School of Nursing; Kenneth Campbell, Political Science & International Relations; John Case, Computer & Information Sciences; Joan Delfattore, English; David Ermann, Sociology & Criminal Justice; William Gehrlein, Business Administration; Robert Hodson, Biological Sciences; Nina Kallmyer, Art History; Dennis Kirwan, School of Marine Science & Policy; Rosetta LaFleur, Fashion & Apparel Studies; Sharron Lennon, Fashion & Apparel Studies; Jeffrey Miller, Economics; Frederick Nelson, Geography; Peter Rees, Geography; Charles Robinson, English; Fred Schueler, Philosophy; Daniel T. Simmons, Biological Sciences; Rivers Singleton, Biological Sciences; David Smith, Biological Sciences; Cruce Stark, English; Jewel Walker, Theatre; Robert Warren, School of Public Policy & Administration; John Wehmiller, Geological Sciences; and Cort Wilmott, Geography.

Strategic planning initiative website unveiled

The University’s strategic planning initiative, “Delaware Will Shine: Creating Our Future,” now has a bright, interactive website at www.udel.edu/shine.

“Delaware Will Shine” is a great name that reflects the strength of this institution as a nationally recognized research university that is growing even stronger,” said UD Provost Domenico Grasso. “The name was chosen after considerable discussion and was the collective decision of our strategic planning executive committee. Working together as a University community, I’m confident that we will define where UD can have its most significant impact in addressing the world’s most pressing problems while keeping our programs affordable, accessible and transformative.”

The website identifies the executive committee and three working groups that are leading the effort. They have been busy meeting throughout the summer developing concept papers, organizing communications and planning activities for the fall semester to engage the University community in digging deep into UD’s mission and thinking boldly about how to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

The working groups are focusing on “Sustaining and Accelerating the Advance,” “Grand Challenges, Great Debates and Big Ideas,” and “Models for the New American Research University.”

In addition to an overview and timeframe for the planning process, the website includes an “Ideas” page to solicit and share input through a blog and future concept papers. The University community also is invited to submit the words that come to mind when they think of the UD of the future—these words will be used to generate word clouds, which will be shared on the website and via social media on a frequent basis.
In Brief

Nina Athanassoglou-Kallmyer, professor emerita of art history, has been appointed Professeure Invitée at the Université de Paris XIII for fall 2014. Her appointment includes research, seminar presentations and participating in faculty-student activities for the semester.

Joan DelFattore, professor emerita of English and legal studies, wrote “A Professor Emerita Seeks Her New Identity,” looking at the keys to a successful retirement, in the July 14 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education’s Chronicle Review.

A special issue of the journal Mathematical Methods in the Applied Sciences has been dedicated to Robert Pertsch Gilbert, Unidel Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Sciences, in honor of his retirement. An editorial in the journal cited Gilbert’s “lifelong achievement in mathematics and its applications and computation” and said the issue can be considered a supplement to a 2012 special issue of Complex Variables and Elliptic Equations that celebrated his 80th birthday.

Philip Goldstein, professor emeritus of English, Associate in Arts Program, Wilmington, presented a paper titled “Mark Twain’s Detective Fiction: From Pudd’nHead Wilson to The Double-Barreled Detective Story” at the American Literature Association convention in Washington, D.C., May 23.

David Pong, professor emeritus of history and Asian studies, delivered a lecture on “China’s First Railway: International Relations and China’s Modern Development—Conflict and Contradictions” in Mandarin Chinese as part of the University of Delaware-Peking University Exchange Program on May 7 at the Center for Classical Chinese Studies at Peking University. He also has been appointed Overseas Senior Research Fellow at the Modern History Centre of the Hong Kong Baptist University. He will serve as an academic adviser for research and publication for the center, and participate in its academic activities for the next five years.

In Memoriam

Merle R. Teel, the first chairperson of what is now UD’s Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, died May 6. He was 94. Dr. Teel joined the UD faculty in 1968 as the first chairperson of the newly formed department. He remained at UD until his retirement in 1989 as a full professor.

W. David Teter, former assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering from 1968-99, died July 12 at the age of 77. Dr. Teter was a local computer-aided design pioneer, and he introduced the software’s capabilities to many at UD.

Richard M. Weiss, who joined UD’s business administration department in 1980, died July 16 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He taught courses at UD in management, organization design and organizational behavior until he was diagnosed this spring.

Enjoy Courtyard Newark at the University of Delaware

Bill Sullivan, managing director of the Courtyard Newark on the Laird Campus, has generously renewed a special rate for UDARF members, their families and friends.

The special rate is half off of the prevailing room rate for the dates of travel, based on room availability. Reservations must be made personally with Bill at 302-218-4541 or billsull@udel.edu. Do not ask at the hotel main desk.
Luncheon Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014
11:30 A.M., Clayton Hall

Your Name: _______________________________________  $17.00

Guest: _______________________________________  $17.00

Total Amount Enclosed $ _____________

Reservations can be made in either of two ways: by mail or electronically.

By mail: Send check payable to the University of Delaware with this form

Electronically: Go to www.udel.edu/UDARF, click on Reservation for Next Luncheon meeting

All reservations due by Oct. 7, 2014

E-mail address (only if new): __________________________________________________________

Please use remaining space for news and address change.