

UDARF

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY



APRIL 2011

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

This is the last newsletter of the current academic year, another indication of how rapidly time passes. It seems like only yesterday that we sent our first issue of the year, and now we're thinking of summer plans and vacations. It has been a very successful year for UDARF, however. Not only did we continue our highly regarded luncheon program, but we introduced a new series of free lectures entitled "My Intellectual Journey." Our webpage has been redesigned and made significantly more relevant for our members, and we are now able to reach nearly all UD retirees by email. Knowing that the University has played an important role in all of our lives, the goal of UDARF is to help members maintain a connection to the institution while providing programs that are both educational and entertaining. We hope we're accomplishing that goal.

But, the current year is not over yet, and there is more to come this spring! On April 14, the second "My Intellectual Journey" lecture will take place at 4 p.m. in the large meeting room of the Courtyard Newark on the Laird Campus. History Professor Emeritus Willard A. Fletcher will tell us of his intellectual journey, one that saw his personal life not only influence his choice of a career but also propelled him to international recognition as a historian. You won't want to miss this presentation. A wine and cheese reception will follow the talk.

Our last luncheon of the academic year will be held on Monday, May 9, at 11:30 a.m. in Clayton Hall. Our guest will be President Patrick Harker who will speak on "The State of the University." This is an opportunity to hear about the many changes that are taking place on campus and to ask questions about issues that may be troubling us as retirees of the University. As usual, the cost of the lunch is \$15, and, as you may have noticed, thanks to Helen Morgan, the quality of the food has been improving. You may register online at the UDARF website or by sending the form included in this Newsletter to the provided address. So, come, hear the president, ask questions, enjoy the food and socialize with other UDARFers whom you may not have an opportunity to see very often.

As this year winds down, your Executive Committee is at work on the 2011-2012 program of lunches and "My Intellectual Journey" lectures. We have already decided that the luncheons will

have a theme, Celebrating the Arts, featuring entertainment and education from faculty members in the departments of Music, Theatre and Art. Plan on attending these lunches in October, December and March. The “My Intellectual Journey” series will continue with lectures and receptions in November and April. We hope to have all of the details of these events worked out soon and will inform you in the September newsletter.

I’ll look forward to seeing you in person on April 14 and May 9. In case I miss you, have a wonderful summer, stay healthy, and look in on our website (<http://www.udel.edu/UDARF/>) occasionally.

Best wishes,

Frank Scarpitti, President

Mark your calendars

The next program in the “My Intellectual Journey” series is scheduled this month, and the last UDARF luncheon of the academic year will be held in May.

Willard A. Fletcher, professor emeritus of history, will speak at 4 p.m., Thursday, April 14, as part of the “My Intellectual Journey” lecture series. The event will be held at the Courtyard Newark on the Laird Campus. Sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the series gives UDARF members the opportunity to reflect on their professional and personal lives, how the two have intersected and the personal choices they have made along the way. A wine and cheese reception will follow the talk.

UD President Patrick Harker will present the “State of the University” at UDARF’s Monday, May 9, luncheon meeting, which begins at 11:30 a.m. in Clayton Hall. A reservation form is included in this issue, or reservations can be made online at UDARF’s website, <http://www.udel.edu/UDARF/>.

Richard Hanley discusses time travel, space transport

Star Trek's Dr. Leonard H. McCoy never really liked the idea of being beamed up or down via the transporter device on the USS Enterprise, and Richard Hanley, associate professor of philosophy at the University of Delaware, tends to agree with

"There are two things that go on in Star Trek that I'm very interested in," Hanley said. "One is the transportation device, and the other is time travel. I have increasingly thought that



UH Hanley, who specializes in metaphysics, the philosophy of language, philosophy and pop culture, and ethics, said that the ship's transporter works through a process that involves scanning, deconstruction, transmission and reconstruction, or SDTR.

"The Star Trek version of SDTR is a hugely expensive process in terms of the information required and the energy needed to literally dismantle the human body and then transport it and put it back together again," Hanley said. "I think it's a terrible idea."

Hanley said that he would replace this system with one that would include scanning, destruction, transmission and replication.

"We don't try to keep the bits," Hanley said. "Instead, we kill you and replicate you. This allows us to make the leap to compression and rejuvenation."

The compression Hanley envisions would theoretically be along the lines of the way large photo files are compressed into a JPEG before being sent electronically.

"Anybody knows that you don't go sending huge files around like that," Hanley said. "What you do is convert this information into something smaller and better."

The information scanned and sent, he said, could also give the individual the option of choosing personal enhancements like new eye color, more muscles, more or less hair or perhaps a total intergalactic makeover when a replica of the compressed information is made.

“If rejuvenation is possible you won’t have to keep the same old body and just live longer,” Hanley said. “You might be able to replace your body with a younger one, or try out an old one and see what you think -- then go back.”

Problems associated with traveling to the far reaches of the universe also could be solved by this enhanced transporting system, Hanley noted.

“What I propose is to completely reconceive how we do long distance interstellar space travel,” Hanley said. “We should be sending information, but as a signal, something we could send into space at the speed of light.”

In dealing with the problem of who is going to receive and replicate these scanned signals, Hanley said humans might embrace the possibility that intelligent beings who are capable of building such a system might also exist somewhere in the universe.

“Because they are intelligent, they would have built such a receiver,” Hanley said. “They also would be on the lookout for individuals like us sending ourselves to them.”

Because an individual’s scanned information could be received and replicated at a distant location hundreds of years in the future, this transport system also addresses the related issues of space and time travel, Hanley said.

“It would be great to get a message from outer space, but we should be on the lookout for getting people from outer space,” Hanley said. “We should build receivers that have this replication capability because, if we build them, they may come.”

*Article by Jerry Rhodes
Photo by Ambre Alexander*

Symposium honors Nobel winner

A special symposium honoring Nobel Prize-winner Richard F. Heck will be presented by the University on May 26 in Clayton Hall.

Heck, Willis F. Harrington Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Biochemistry, received the 2010 Nobel Prize in Chemistry last December.

Featured at the day of science and celebration will be nationally prominent speakers, including Ei-ichi Negishi, one of Heck’s fellow laureates.

Symposium and registration information is available at a special UD website, www.udel.edu/nobel Symposium/.

Third Alumni Weekend planned June 3-5

Celebrate the University of Delaware's third annual Alumni Weekend with the entire UD community. Scheduled June 3, 4 and 5, Alumni Weekend is UD's premier alumni event and is an opportunity to reconnect with friends, staff and former students. In 2010, more than 3,000 people attended. The entire weekend promises to be filled with fun, friends and engaging UD activities for all ages.

Event highlights include receptions hosted by all seven colleges, as well as the Honors Program and Athletic Department, followed by the Mug Night Dela-bration. Saturday's activities feature the Blue Hen 5K run/walk, Blue Hen Picnic on The Green and President Patrick Harker's State of the University.

For more information and to view all events, visit the Alumni Weekend website at www.UDconnection.com/AlumniWeekend or see the Alumni Weekend insert in the April issue of the Messenger. You can also see who has already registered for Alumni Weekend, including fellow retired faculty and former students, at the "Who's Coming" page.

To register, please visit the special faculty page at www.UDconnection.com/faculty

Herbaceous garden honors former Dean Donald Crossan

The late Donald F. Crossan, former dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has been honored with a special section in the Herbaceous Garden behind Townsend Hall, now known as Crossan Circle.

A plaque in the garden commemorates his "career in plant pathology and his desire to share his love of horticulture."

Dr. Crossan, who died in May 2010, graduated from the University in 1950 and served as dean of the college from 1977 to 1991.



At a dedication ceremony last fall, Dean Robin Morgan said Dr. Crossan had a strong and lasting influence on agriculture in Delaware. "The reason Delaware looks like it does is because of Don

Crossan. Don gave his energy to land preservation, to farmland preservation, to making sure that open spaces are there to be enjoyed for generations. We all owe that to him.”

Dr. Crossan’s wife, Ruth, led a small campaign to provide the funds to install a handicapped accessible, paved walkway all through the garden.

John Munroe lectures on Delaware now online

The University of Delaware Library has made a 15-part series taught by the late John Munroe, H. Rodney Sharp Professor of History, available online. The re-mastered digital collection, entitled “History and Government of Delaware,” was originally broadcast in 1963 by WHYY-TV in Wilmington.

The programs are available as streaming video at a high resolution. They can be accessed globally via the Internet using the library webpage and then clicking on the digital collections option to find “History and Government of Delaware by John Munroe,” or directly at this link, <http://www.lib.udel.edu/digital/HistoryOfDE/index.html>.

“Students, faculty and scholars who study the history of Delaware will benefit greatly from this wonderful resource, and hundreds of alumni will appreciate viewing the young dynamic John Munroe who taught them,” Susan Brynteson, vice provost and May Morris Director of Libraries, said.

Website features UD books

A new UD Books website provides a centralized source of information about books written by University of Delaware faculty, staff and alumni.

The website highlights a sampling of works in a rotating display and provides a variety of quick search methods to find books of interest from among the more than 180 currently on the site. Searches can be conducted alphabetically, or by author affiliation, author name, publication year, publisher or subject.

At the bottom of the webpage are a list of resources, information about and a link to the University of Delaware Press, and submission forms for faculty and staff, which require log in, and for alumni. Retirees are invited to submit their books to the site.

The UD Books site was developed by the Office of Communications and Marketing in cooperation with the Office of the Deputy Provost.

In Memoriam

David G. R. Short, '70, a University of Delaware chemical engineering professor, died Jan. 28, 2011. After retiring from DuPont Engineering in 2002, he joined the UD faculty.

James R. Thornton, '69, who joined the Department of Economics faculty in 1969, died Feb. 11, 2011. Dr. Thornton retired as an associate professor of economics in 2002.