Dear UDARF Members,

First, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy and healthy new year.

We had a very successful fall. Our two luncheon speakers, Joyce Hill Stoner and Dan Rich, gave wonderful talks to a very enthusiastic audience. Russell Fraser was a big success as our Intellectual Journey speaker. Also, the Provost’s Office increased our subvention for research grants to $5,000.

The spring semester should be just as exciting as the fall semester. Our luncheon speaker on March 7 will be Erica Armstrong Dunbar. Erica is the Blue and Gold Professor of Black American Studies and History. She has been the recipient of Ford, Mellon and SSRC fellowships and has been named a Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians. She has participated in several documentaries, including one on PBS in 2011, Philadelphia: The Great Experiment and the Abolitionists, an American Experience. Her first book, published by Yale University Press in 2008, is A Fragile Freedom: African American Women and Emancipation in the Antebellum City. Her most recent book, Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge, will be available for purchase at our March 7 luncheon. Our second luncheon will be held on May 11. We have invited President Dennis Assanis to join us as our speaker. Our Intellectual Journey speaker this spring will be Frank Murray. This event will take place on April 13. Frank was H. Rodney Sharp Professor in the School of Education and the Department of Psychology and served as dean of the College of Education between 1979 and 1995. He has published over 200 journal articles and has served on numerous editorial boards. He is a fellow in the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society and the American Educational Research Association. In 2013 he was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award by the Johns Hopkins University.

We hope that you will join us at our spring events.

Sincerely,

Marian Lief Palley
President

Mark your calendar

The next UDARF luncheon meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, with featured speaker Erica Armstrong Dunbar, Blue and Gold Professor of Black American Studies and History.

Her topic will be “Never Caught: Ona Judge, The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave.”

The meeting is scheduled from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Clayton Hall.

Reservations may be made online here, and the absolute deadline for registration is Tuesday, Feb. 28, which is also the final date for canceling a reservation without charge.

Dennis Assanis inaugurated as UD’s 28th president on Dec. 7

The University of Delaware honored Dennis Assanis as its 28th president during a special inauguration ceremony Dec. 7 in the Thompson Theatre of the Roselle Center for the Arts.

John Cochran, chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees, welcomed members of the UD community and said, “This is a special day for our institution. A presidential inauguration signals the beginning of a new chapter in our long and very proud history. "It’s an occasion for celebration and reflection and a time to reaffirm our core values and renew our dedication to our fundamental mission of scholarship, research and service.”

Speakers at the ceremony included Mary Sue Coleman, president of the Association of American Universities, Delaware Gov. Jack Markell and Vice President Joe Biden, who is a UD alumnus.

“Universities have a special responsibility to promote thoughtful discourse, while at the same time addressing the inequalities of society that have come to the fore during the recent presidential campaign and election,” Coleman said. “That is why Dennis Assanis is an exceptional choice to lead this University at this time. This is not easy work, but that will not discourage him. It will motivate him, and he will motivate you.”

Markell recognized the new University president for his pioneering scientific research and for using that experience to impart valuable lessons that enhance the skills of future researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Biden paid special tribute to the impact on his life and political career of University of Delaware faculty members such as Paul Dolan, Yaroslav Bilinsky and David Ingersoll, and he joined the
Joyce Hill Stoner discusses art conservation

As an academic, art conservator and conservator for one of America’s most storied artistic families, Joyce Hill Stoner continues to instruct and inspire future preservation leaders.

Stoner, the Edward F. and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor of Art Conservation at the University, discussed her career and the evolution of art conservation during the Oct. 5 UDARF luncheon.

“Art conservation has always been around in some form, but it really took off as a profession during the late 19th century,” Stoner said. “It was about this time that artists, who had served in some capacity as restorers in the past, separated from the professional conservation and restoration specialists.”

The profession traces its origins to Germany in 1888, when Friedrich Rathgen was employed as a chemist by the Royal Museums of Berlin (Staatliche Museen), in Berlin.

In America, the emergence of the art conservation movement grew under the leadership of George L. Stout, Stoner said. “George Stout was the first president of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (ILC), and he also founded the Fogg Laboratory at Harvard University,” Stoner said. “There were restorers already working and there were scientists doing paint analysis, but they didn’t work together until the Fogg Laboratory was established.”

Stout, who established Technical Studies, the first technical journal of art conservation, believed that art conservation is a three-legged stool, consisting of science, art history and practical studio work, Stoner said.

While techniques have improved over the years, the role of conservators remains that of restoring works of art as close as possible to their original state, Stoner said.

“We interpret the works we are restoring so that when our work is completed, they appear as closely as possible to the way they were first painted,” Stoner said. “We don’t want to get in the way, so we remain invisible and the mediums we use are reversible when our projects are completed.”

“You may have to imitate styles of various artists, and you need to be able to mend tears and consolidate lifting paint,” Stoner said. “But, you truly must be able to paint if you are going to go into restoring paintings.”

Dan Rich speaks about engagement, education

Delaware’s K-12 public education system is failing most low-income students in Wilmington, and thousands of others across the First State, according to UD’s Dan Rich.

What is required, Rich said, is a coordinated and unified effort that focuses in-school and out-of-school resources on meeting the needs of students in poverty and other students at risk.

Rich, University Professor of Public Policy in the School of Public Policy and Administration and a former provost and dean, suggested how this might be possible during a talk at the Dec. 13 UDARF luncheon in Clayton Hall.

Expanding UD’s contributions to solving the critical challenges facing the state and nation, including public education, is the goal of the recently formed Community Engagement Initiative led by Rich, who serves as director of community engagement, and Lynnette Overby, professor of theatre, who serves as deputy director.

The initiative has among its goals improving public education, health and environmental quality, encouraging economic development and innovation, and expanding arts and cultural programs to enrich life in Delaware communities.

Rich noted that the initiative also seeks to bolster civic and community engagement in ways that enrich the scholarship and learning of UD faculty and students while helping to address challenges facing communities, both locally and globally.

“I want to talk to you about work underway on facing the challenges of public education in the state of Delaware, concentrating initially on challenges in the city of Wilmington,” Rich said. “These challenges are really expressions of challenges that exist statewide and in many regards across the nation.”

While the number of students enrolled in public education in Delaware’s largest city and throughout the state are much lower than in school districts and counties in other states, many of the problems are especially pronounced here, he said.
Fraser Russell reflects on his life and career

During a summer as an undergraduate student, T.W. Fraser Russell chose to work in an oil refinery rather than take a lifeguard job at a world famous Canadian hostelry.

Working in the field in which he would become a respected teacher, researcher and author, Russell did, however, miss the opportunity to spend time with an iconic Hollywood star of the 1950s.

Russell, the Allan P. Colburn Professor Emeritus of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, shared his experiences during a My Intellectual Journey lecture given to UDARF members in November at the Courtyard Newark-University of Delaware.

The native of Moose Jaw in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan earned his bachelor’s degree and master of science degree in chemical engineering at the University of Alberta, Canada, in 1956 and 1958, respectively.

“From 1953 to 1955, I worked summers as a shift chemist, refinery operator and design engineer at the British American Oil Co. in Edmonton,” Russell said. “In my third summer, I was asked to help design a waste treatment system for the refinery.”

Russell also was offered a job as a lifeguard at the Banff Springs Hotel in Alberta, one of the world’s premier hotels.

After weighing the merits of both opportunities, Russell opted to work on the water treatment project during the summer of 1954, the same year that people from Hollywood came north to make a movie called The River of No Return.

“The film starred Robert Mitchum and a little-known young actress named Marilyn Monroe,” Russell said. “The man who took the lifeguard job I was offered was hired to teach the actress how to swim.”

Instead of hanging out with the legendary star, Russell went on to finish his undergraduate degree and accepted a position with the Research Council of Alberta on fluid mechanics associated with the production of oil from the Alberta tar sands.

“The council had a new program where they offered a master’s degree if you worked for them for two years,” Russell recalled. “We also were paid, so it was too good an opportunity to turn down.”

With undergraduate and master’s degrees in hand, Fraser and his wife, Shirley, and 2-year-old son, Bruce, made the trek from Edmonton to Montreal, where he had accepted a position as a design engineer with Union Carbide, Canada.

In the fall of 1961, the Russell family, which now included sons Brian and Carey, arrived at UD, where Fraser would continue until his retirement in 2009.

“The presence of Arthur Metzner and Robert Pigford, chemical engineers with both an exceptional academic and professional reputation, who understood people and how to effectively interact with them, made coming to UD seem like a good idea,” Russell said.

Russell received his doctoral degree in 1964, with the completion of his experimental doctoral thesis on “The Flow Mechanism of Two Phase Annular Flow,” supervised by David Lamb, and officially joined the UD faculty.

After receiving his doctorate, Russell partnered with colleague Morton Denn to redesign the traditional freshman chemical engineering class.

“For six years we taught the class in two sessions,” Russell said. “Mort and I would get together to compare notes on the classroom effectiveness of the course material being developed.”

This collaboration also produced Introduction to Chemical Engineering Analysis, published by John Wiley and Sons in 1972.

Promoted to associate professor in 1967 and full professor in 1970, Russell also has held various administrative positions, including associate and acting dean of the College of Engineering.

Russell also recalled being tapped by then-provost Leon Campbell in 1979 to take over the directorship of UD’s Institute for Energy Conversion (IEC).

“Federal funding for photovoltaic research was being reduced from $150 million to $40 million annually,” Russell said. “Between 1979 and 1996, we were able to receive over $20 million in federal funding, $3 million from industry and over $600,000 from the state, and this set up the institute on a healthy basis.”

In addition, the Institute for Energy Conversion was recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy as a center of excellence for photovoltaic research.

This achievement, Russell noted, was due in large part to having an excellent staff through the years that included Sheri Barwick, Margaret Stallings, Linda Huber and Paula Newton.

Russell’s administrative responsibilities also included serving as the chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering from 1986 to 1991.

“In 1991, I made a firm decision not to accept any more administrative positions, either at UD or anywhere else, and to dedicate myself to teaching,” Russell said. “This resulted in two texts, Structure of the Chemical Process Industries and Mass and Heat Transfer, coauthored with faculty colleagues.”

In 1990, Russell was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering and in that same year he received the Francis Alison Award, UD’s highest faculty honor.

Article by Jerry Rhodes
Photo by Kathy F. Atkinson
Recalling Andrew Wyeth

Notable accomplishments as a conservator for Stoner, who directed the Winterthur–University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC) until 1997, and served as senior conservator for the restoration of the James McNeill Whistler Peacock Room in the Smithsonian's Freer/Sackler Museums of Asian Art in Washington, D.C., include supervising work on the Apotheosis of the Family, a 19-by-60-foot mural painted by N.C. Wyeth.

Stoner noted that the fact that Winterthur is only 13 minutes away from the Wyeth family home in Chadds Ford led to a long and rewarding relationship with the Wyeths.

“There was Howard Pyle, who taught N.C. Wyeth, who taught his son Andrew,” Stoner said. “I interviewed Andrew in Chadds Ford and in Maine. We worked together for the next 12 years, which was a wonderful experience.”

A famous American illustrator and author, Pyle taught art students, including N.C. Wyeth, at the Howard Pyle School of Illustration Art, which was located at Turner’s Mill in Chadds Ford.

Stoner recalled the time that Andrew Wyeth, who was coming in to consult when she was treating some of his paintings at Winterthur, asked if he could paint her portrait.

“Anna Kuerner, who lived on the Kuerner Farm in Chadds Ford, had just died in 1997, and Andrew’s wife Betsy gave me Anna’s pink coat,” Stoner said. “The coat, which I wear in the portrait, fit perfectly.”

During the sitting, Stoner said she resisted the temptation to watch the artist at his easel.

“He posed me looking out the window at some birds that were coming in and out of the Mill building next door,” Stoner said. “I had to be a good model and not be caught watching him paint.”

Wyeth presented Stoner with the portrait the following Christmas.

“It’s a watercolor, and it’s in my office,” Stoner said. “While most conservators might get a bit edgy having a famous artist like Andrew Wyeth watching them close up at work, Stoner fondly remembered the experience.

“Andy would come in, and if I was working on something for him, he would watch me very closely,” Stoner said. “Really, it was fabulous to have Andy Wyeth looking over my shoulder.”

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia D. Ahrens, who retired from the University in 1997 as professor of textiles, passed away on Nov. 9, 2016. She was 84. Prof. Ahrens joined the UD faculty in 1970 as an assistant professor and was named an associate professor in 1980. She was the author or coauthor of 13 published papers on flammability, toxicity of flame retardants, dyes and finishes.

Dr. Maurice V. Barnhill III, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, died Oct. 3, 2016, after a short illness. He was 76. He joined the University’s Department of Physics and Astronomy in 1968, primarily pursuing research in high energy physics. He achieved the rank of full professor in 1987 and served as associate chair of the department for five years.

T. Elbert Chance, UD alumnus, long-time director of alumni relations and the voice of the Fightin’ Blue Hens for 49 years, died Sept. 8, 2016. He was 90. From 1997-2007, he edited the UDARF newsletter. A talented writer and researcher, he wrote countless articles and stories on the history of Delaware athletics, as well as three popular book on UD football.

Ed Maloy, who dedicated nearly 50 years of excellence to UD athletics as a student-athlete, coach and administrator, passed away Nov. 18, 2016. “Mal,” who was inducted into the University of Delaware Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 28, was 82. He had recently been hospitalized at Christiana Hospital after suffering a fall.

Charles E. Robinson, professor emeritus of English literature and a member of the UD faculty since 1965, died on Nov. 20, 2016. Prof. Robinson served as director of graduate studies in English at UD, executive director of The Byron Society of America and co-chair of The Byron Society Collection at UD. He retired from teaching in 2013 but continued directing dissertations and providing service to the Department of English.

Robert Warren, an internationally respected scholar and outstanding graduate educator who was professor emeritus in the University’s School of Public Policy and Administration (SPPA), passed away on Oct. 3, 2016. A member of the SPPA faculty since 1975, he retired from the University in 2013.

Col. Paul E. Wise Jr., founding chair of the University’s hospitality department, passed away on Dec. 27, 2016. He was 81. In 2008, upon his retirement from UD, the Prof. P. E. Wise Scholarship was established in his honor, as was the Paul Wise Executive-In-Residence Program and distinguished speaker series at UD.

IN BRIEF


Theodore E.D. Braun, professor emeritus of French and comparative literature, planned and chaired two related sessions at the annual meeting of the East-Central/ American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Oct. 27-29, 2016. The sessions were titled “Not Really One of Us (I): Scientists, Others, and Mothers” and “Not Really One of Us (II): Actresses and Animals.” He also read a communication at the annual meeting “Olympe de Gouges, Anti-Slavery Author.”

Richard Davison, professor emeritus of English, presented “A Visit With John Updike and Anonymous” on Oct. 24, 2016, at the Newark Senior Center. He discussed and read from selected writing of Updike and works of Anonymous, the most prolific of all writers. On Dec. 12, 2016, Davison presented “A Visit with Dylan Thomas and ‘A Child’s Christmas in Wales’” at the Newark Senior Center, reading and discussing selected poems by Thomas and the famed writer’s holiday masterpiece.

Douglass F. Taber, professor emeritus of chemistry, presented an invited lecture at the 23rd Conference on Isoprenoids in Minsk, Belarus, Sept. 5, 2016, on “Organocatalysis for the 21st Century.”

Peter Weil, associate professor emeritus of the Department of Anthropology, has published a book with co-author Paul Robert titled Typewriter: A Celebration of the Ultimate Writing Machine. It is published and being sold worldwide by Sterling Publishing Co., New York, New York, a branch of Barnes and Noble. The 218-page hardbound volume examines the history of typewriters and features more than 175 color portraits of typewriters, tracing the machine’s evolution from the 19th through the 20th centuries, along with print advertisements, vintage photographs, patents and other memorabilia.
Improving education in Delaware

Rich, who also serves as policy director for the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission, pointed out that the governance of public education in Wilmington is especially fragmented, with 23 separate entities governing the education of the city’s 11,500 public education students. Rich explained that the absence of any coordinated effort on how to improve the education of these students has serious consequences, reflected not only in low levels of academic achievement but over the long-term in high rates of unemployment, violence, incarceration and social despair.

The costs of this failure are immense, whether counted in life opportunities lost or in dollars devoted to social support services and prisons rather than education and community revitalization, Rich added.

“Despite more than 40 years of recommendations from earlier commissions, thousands of Wilmington children, mostly poor, black and Latino, still do not have access to high-quality public education,” Rich said. “The debate about this condition focuses more on who is to blame, and it is more fractious and confrontational than ever.”

A new unified approach is needed, one that mobilizes the resources from all sectors to systematically meet the developmental needs of all Delaware children, from early childhood to entry into college and the workforce, Rich said.

“That is the focus of the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission and of UD,” Rich said. “We have evidence that this can be successful, as it has been in early childhood education where coordinated efforts have increased the access of low-income Delaware children to high-quality early childhood programs from five percent to 78 percent in about five years.”

Rich also highlighted current community engagement efforts by UD, including the work of the Institute for Public Administration in support of the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission and the Partnership for Public Education, which is part of the Community Engagement Initiative.

“The UD Partnership for Public Education will apply the knowledge resources of the University to help strengthen Delaware public education, and it also will help develop pathways for more Delaware students to come to UD,” he said. “The Partnership for Public Education is just one example of how we are working to enable our community partners to better access the knowledge, resources and energy of the University to address challenges facing our communities.”

Such efforts include creating stronger partnerships with Delaware cities and towns, starting with Newark and Wilmington, Rich said.

“UD is an engaged university, as befitting its designation as a land grant, sea grant and space grant university,” Rich said.

“Community engagement is fundamental to our responsibilities as a research university.”

Rich also remarked that this engagement is of central importance to student learning at UD.

“As the only research university in a small state, UD bears a special responsibilities to use the knowledge generated to improve the quality of life in our communities,” Rich said. “We want learning through community engagement to be part of the defining character of a UD education.”

UD’s new president

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Grant application deadline

If you plan to apply for a UDARF Research Grant, please keep the following in mind:

- The deadline for all grant submissions is March 1, 2017.
- Send your application for a grant to Ron Martin at rmartin@udel.edu.
- The maximum grant will be $500.

Any questions regarding the application process should be sent to Ron Martin.