Dear UDARF Members,

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to this year’s UDARF activities. We arranged for four luncheons with interesting speakers as well as two Intellectual Journey speakers with receptions to follow.

Our first luncheon was held Oct. 3, and our speaker was Patricia Sloane-White. Prof. Sloane-White is a professor of anthropology and chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies. She has researched Islam, Malay entrepreneurship and corporate business in Malaysia for nearly 25 years. She was the recipient of a Fulbright Research Fellowship to Malaysia in 2008-09, and has engaged in collaborative research focusing on the sharia advisory industry and corporate zakat with faculty and students at University of Malaya in 2010, 2012 and 2014 as a Fulbrighter. In addition to her book, Islam, Modernity and Entrepreneurship among the Malays (Palgrave/Macmillian 1998), she has published numerous articles on the Malay middle class, gender, sharia and the Muslim workplace. Her new book is Corporate Islam: Sharia and the Modern Workplace (Cambridge University Press, 2017). Read about her talk on page 2.

Our second luncheon will take place on Dec. 5, and the speaker will be Michael Greenberg. He joined the faculty in 1969 in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. His research and teaching have been in applied mathematics and fluid mechanics. He has noted that his “heart does beat faster in an art museum than in a museum of science and industry.” He took art courses with Steve Tanis and then Victor Spiniski. He has focused some of his attention on perception, biology and psychology and since 1980 has developed the ideas he will be discussing at the UDARF luncheon raising the question “How does Art work.”

Our speaker at the March 6 luncheon will be Julie Nishimura. A pianist, she is the faculty accompanist and secondary faculty for the Department of Music at UD and on the accompanying staff of California Summer Music. She has performed in New York City’s Merkin and Weill Recital Halls, Philadelphia’s Perelman Theater and Verizon Hall in the Kimmel Center, as well as abroad in England and Hungary. She has performed on the Philadelphia Orchestra Connection Series and Chamber Music Series, the Delaware Chamber Music Festival and the Delaware Symphony’s Chamber Music Series. She has also served as music director and pianist for the joint OperaDelaware and City Theater Company world premiere production of Out of the Rain and for the Delaware Theatre Company’s production of The Gift of the Magi. She has been a guest artist with California’s Gold Coast Chamber Players.

Our Intellectual Journey speakers this year are Sandra Carberry, newly retired professor of computer and information sciences, and Jay Halio, professor emeritus of English and Jewish Studies.

Prof. Carberry, professor emerita of computer and information sciences, was our Intellectual Journey speaker on Nov. 16. She joined the UD faculty in 1970 as an instructor and by 1999 she was a professor and chair of her department. She has written three books and dozens of articles and refereed conference and workshop papers. Her research interests focus on natural language understanding, response generation, user modeling, intelligent interfaces and digital libraries. The National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Health, and the National Institute on Disability Research and Rehabilitation have supported her work.

Prof. Jay Halio will be the speaker at our spring Intellectual Journey event on April 19. He is known at home and abroad for his work on Shakespeare, but has also published extensively on modern fiction. He started teaching and research at the University of California in 1955 and came to UD in 1968 as full professor. Besides serving as Senior Fulbright Lecturer in Malaysia, Argentina and Bulgaria, he has lectured in many other countries abroad. He retired in 2003 but continues to teach occasionally, especially in our Study Abroad program, and works on editing Shakespeare’s All’s Well That Ends Well.

Sincerely,

Marian Lief Palley
UDARF President
Sloane-White discusses women in the Muslim workplace

Rules for women in the Malaysian workforce have undergone significant changes in recent decades as a result of increasing Islamic influence, Patricia Sloane-White told attendees at October’s UDARF luncheon.

Sloane-White, chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies and professor of anthropology, is engaged in a long-term study of Muslim businesses in Malaysia, and she shared some of her findings with retired faculty members in a talk titled, “Corporate Islam: Sharia in the Muslim Workplace.”

“When I first studied economic life in Malaysia in the 1990s, many Malay women were business owners, senior managers and entrepreneurs—many more were executives at the top of corporate life,” Sloane-White said.

But at the same time, Islamist movements and new kinds of Muslim politics were on the rise, meaning that “Malaysia has been vastly transformed by an enduring Islamization agenda since the 1980s,” she said.

Sloane-White defines “Corporate Islam” as a conscious Islamic paradigm for doing and organizing business in Malaysia. This comes from a set of ideas and practices pulled from Islamic law, or sharia. Malaysia’s sharia court system, which adjudicates family life and religious crimes, is now the third most extensive in the world as a result of the increased legal reach of the state-based Islamic government, Sloane-White said.

“As you look at the drift of change in sharia concerning family law over the past decade or so, you see both an escalation in sharia’s reach and increasing conservatism about the nature of family life,” she said.

“That is, sharia has become both more muscular in its scope—affecting more broadly such things as marriage, divorce, inheritance, custody of children—and more masculine in spirit.”

For example, men can proclaim divorce outside of a sharia court, meaning that their wives need not be heard before a divorce is granted. Also, men are allowed to proceed with a polygamous marriage without the consent of their current wife or wives.

“Islamic officials—and government ministers—claimed women no longer understood their primary role as Muslim females,” Sloane-White said. “They were too liberated and autonomous in their careers and lifestyles.”

Sloane-White said most of the Muslims she knows in Malaysia don’t disagree with the new sharia laws, but instead believe that they actually protect women.

“And many of the Muslim women I know in Malaysia do not question the increasingly patriarchal turn in sharia, steadfast in their sense that obedience to sharia and to men is women’s duty,” she said.

Malaysia’s changing sharia principles have also been reflected in human resource policies, Sloane-White said, and she used an example related to employee health care. While Malaysia offers universal health care, many companies also provide varying degrees of additional health benefits for employees. In all companies that Sloane-White studied, male employees received coverage for their wives and children, and many of those provided coverage for all wives and children of polygamous marriages as well.

However, many of those companies offered no additional health benefits for the spouses of female employees.

“A human resources director explained the policy to me: ‘It is clearly understood within Islam—a man must take care of his wife and children, but a woman is not required to take care of her husband,’” Sloane-White said. “It is presented as protection for women.”

While this might seem unfair to those in Western culture, she said, many in Malaysia take a different view.

“From our perspective, gender inequality is built into the benefits policies of personnel sharia,” Sloane-White said. “But in Islam, as CEOs and their sharia advisors have explained to me, the sexes are unequal.”

When Sloane-White asked why few women, and in many cases no women, in the companies she studied were promoted to high-ranking positions, the answer was that “women are not well-suited for such jobs.” And the women she spoke with generally agreed.

“They said that top management jobs require behaviors that were difficult for women to cultivate,” Sloane-White said. “And time commitments took them away from their greater responsibilities at home.”

She said women mostly embrace the changes “because they accept that sharia insists that their proper place is under the control of men, and where they are, effectively less than men.”

In conclusion, Sloane-White noted that sharia in the workplace “structures and defines the very different roles and rights granted by God to men and women. Shaping, finally, who and what men and women are and can be, mere human resources into what God most asks of them, that is, His ‘divine resources.”

Seven professors receive Emeritus honors

At the spring meeting of the University of Delaware Board of Trustees, seven professors were approved for emeritus status.

Honored were Margaret Andersen, Edward F. and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor of Sociology; David Bellamy, professor of mathematical sciences; James Dean, professor of English; David Saunders, professor of computer and information sciences; Nancy Signorielli, professor of communication; Donald Unger, professor of human development and family studies; and Jeanne Walker, professor of English.
Evelyn Hayes, Louis Hirsh awarded UD Medals of Distinction

Two distinguished and long-time members of the UD community—Evelyn Hayes and Louis L. Hirsh—have been recognized with the University’s Medal of Distinction. Hayes is Trustees’ Distinguished Professor Emerita of Nursing, and Hirsh is retired director of admissions.

Presented by the Board of Trustees, the medal honors individuals who have made humanitarian, cultural, intellectual or scientific contributions to society; have achieved noteworthy success in their professions; or have given significant service to the University, the state and the region.

The presentation of the medals was made by Board Chairman John Cochran and President Dennis Assanis at a reception following the May Board of Trustees meeting.

Evelyn Hayes

“Upon hearing from Jeff Garland [vice president and University secretary] that I was selected I told him I was very surprised, honored, humbled and delighted—all at the same time,” said Hayes.

Although retired, she is busier than ever, working with the American/Delaware Nurses Associations, Newark Morning Rotary Club, Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners, Delaware Medical Reserve Corps and Philanthropic Educational Organization, to name a few. She established the Evelyn Hayes Innovations in Healthcare Symposium Series at the University of Delaware and is an avid supporter of the STAR Health Nurse Managed Primary Care Center.

Very early on as an undergraduate student at Cornell, Hayes recalls being drawn to a stained glass window of the Good Samaritan. The image contained the words, “Go, and Do Thou Likewise.” Her motivation toward helping others guided her over a long, distinguished career at UD and now into retirement.

“I tend to involve myself in mission-driven opportunities. Over the years, I have developed a sense of perseverance,” she said with a laugh. “Volunteering is an important part of life. We are meant

Honorary degree for Maggie Andersen presented in May

At the University of Delaware’s 168th Commencement exercises, held May 27 in Delaware Stadium, Margaret L. Andersen, Edward F. and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor Emerita, was one of four distinguished individuals to be presented with honorary degrees, the highest honor bestowed by the University.

At the ceremony, Andersen was recognized as a talented teacher and mentor, pioneering scholar and a dedicated UD faculty member and administrator. Her teaching has brought her numerous awards including the Excellence in Teaching Award, the Faculty Mentor Award in the McNair Scholars Program and the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award.

Her first book on the subject of gender, the highly influential Thinking About Women: Sociological Perspectives on Sex and Gender, went into 10 editions and was used consistently in college classrooms for many years. The American Sociological Association honored her with its Jessie Barnard Career Award.

During her UD career, she has served as director of the Women's Studies Program, director of graduate studies for the department of sociology, vice provost for academic affairs, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, associate provost for academic affairs and executive director of the President’s Diversity Initiative.

In bestowing upon her the honorary degree, John Cochran, chairman of the Board of Trustees, said, “You have excelled in teaching, research and writing, and academic service. More than that, you have made lasting contributions to the conversation on race, class, and gender—contributions that advance our understanding and, ultimately, we hope, our society as well... Margaret L. Andersen, your research in understanding the power structures in society evidences your optimism that we can, indeed, improve the human condition.”

Other honorees were James Wagner, UD alumnus and president emeritus of Emory University; Marna Whittington, UD alumna and retired CEO of Allianz Global Investors Capital; and former Delaware Gov. Jack Markell.
IN BRIEF

Anne M. Boylan, professor emerita of history and women and gender studies, has been elected to the Society of American Historians (SAH). She participated in a roundtable at the triennial Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities, June 1-4, 2017, at Hofstra University. At the roundtable, “Listening to Lucretia Mott: New Directions in Religion, Rights and Activism,” she gave a presentation entitled “Lucretia Mott: Remembered.”

“Illustrados y Afrecacidos: A Session in Honor of Prof. Theodore E. D. Braun” was held at the American Society for 18th Century Studies, from March 30–April 2, in Minneapolis. The session honored work by Braun, professor emeritus of French and comparative literature, in establishing and helping to forward the goals of the Ibero-American Society for 18th Century Studies. Braun offered his “Reflections on my Life,” in which he spoke of his extremely impoverished origins, his education and academic awards, such as a scholarship to attend Bishop Loughlin High School and a full-tuition scholarship to attend Teachers College of St. John’s University where he was to become the valedictorian. Braun also discussed his career as a high school teacher at his alma mater and at the Lycée Émilie–Loubet in Valence, France, his work at the Army Education Center in Ludwigsburg, Germany, as a graduate student and teaching assistant at the University of California at Berkeley, and his career as assistant and associate professor at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and professor at the University of Delaware. Also, he discussed his establishing and ending an award for French undergraduate and graduate students at UD and a travel grant for French researchers with the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. He also discussed some of his teaching, scholarship and service activities, and aspects of his personal life, including his marriage and his fatherhood. In addition, he presented “Savinen de Cyranó de Bergecar: A Model for Fontenelle, Swift, and Voltaire?” at Southeastern American Society for 18th Century Studies, Montgomery, Alabama, March 2-4, and “Cyranó de Bergecar: Precursor of Swift and Voltaire” at the American Society for 18th Century Studies, Minneapolis, March 30-April 2. Also at the Minneapolis event, Braun organized and chair a session on “Science Fiction—II.”

Ray Callahan, professor emeritus of history, is the author of a new book, Triumph at Imphal–Kohima: How the Indian Army Finally Stopped the Japanese Juggernaut, published by the University Press of Kansas. In spring 1944, the Japanese Army suffered the worst defeat in its history on the eastern front of India near the Burma border at the hands of Lt. Gen. William Slim’s British XIV Army, most of whose units were drawn from the Indian Army. This book tells the largely unknown story of that critical victory for the Allied forces in World War II. British military historian Robert Lyman has called Triumph at Imphal–Kohima “an astonishingly good and much-needed book, written by a master in his field who is blessed with the rare skill of brevity. The book is lively and beautifully written.” Author Edward J. Drea said, “This superb account of one of the great battles of World War II by a master of his craft sets new standards for future historians.” In addition, this fall he delivered a free series of six lectures at UD’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Wilmington about Britain’s Special Operations Executive (SOG), one of World War II’s first organized resistance initiatives.

UD’s Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALs) program sponsored a half-day experience on the Newark campus for all members of the community craving intellectual stimulation. Speakers included Joan Delfatorte, professor emerita of English, “The Healer Within: Psychological Research on the Use of Writing to Relieve Stress” and Raymond Callahan, professor emeritus of history, on “Why Study History?”

Richard Davison, professor emeritus of English, discussed and read from the theatre version of Edgar Lee Master’s classic Spoon River Anthology and Beat poems from Lawrence Ferlinghetti at the Newark Senior Center on Oct. 23.

Joan Delfatorte, professor emerita of English, hosted “The Right to Lie” on Nov. 15 in Memorial Hall. She outlined current constitutional protections for untruthful political speech. The event was sponsored by the Legal Studies program.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert L. Boord, professor emeritus in the Department of Biological Sciences, died Feb. 17, 2017, at age 90. At UD from 1962 until his retirement in 1992, Dr. Boord supported the Delta Tau Delta chapter and served the Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Gordon J. DiRienzo, professor emeritus of sociology and social psychology, died April 30, 2017. He was 82. He joined the UD faculty in 1970 as Unidel Professor of Sociology and retired after 35 years of service. He also conducted a private practice as a licensed clinical psychologist for many years.

Alexander R. Doberenz, professor emeritus and former dean, died Feb. 8, 2017, at the age of 80. He came to UD in 1976 as professor of food and nutrition and dean of what was then the College of Home Economics, later becoming the College of Human Resources. He stepped down as dean in 1993, was special assistant to the president from 1993-94 and served as interim vice president for student life from 1994-95. He retired in 1999.

Swend E. Holsoe, associate professor emeritus of anthropology, died May 4, 2017, at the age of 78. A renowned scholar of Liberian history and culture, he came to UD in 1970 and served on the anthropology faculty until his retirement in 1995.

Carroll (Cal) E. Izard, Trustees Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Psychological and Brain Sciences, died Feb. 5, 2017. He was 93. A pioneer in the field of human emotions, he joined the UD faculty in 1976 and retired in 2014. A UD festschrift was held in honor of his academic career in 2012.

Mahendra K. Jain, professor emeritus of chemistry and biochemistry, died Sept. 22, 2017. He came to UD in 1973, and his collaborations with faculty at UD and elsewhere enabled him to make major contributions to understanding catalysis by enzymes embedded in membranes. He retired in 2009 and continued to work in the department until he moved to Virginia in 2015.

Enrico (Henry) L. Quantrelli, professor emeritus of sociology and co-founder of UD’s Disaster Research Center, died April 2, 2017, at the age of 92. Internationally known for his work in the field of disaster research, he came to UD in 1984 when the Disaster Research Center moved here from Ohio State. At UD, he taught until 1989 and conducted research until 1998.

Jeanne Stockdale Rymer, an interior design professional, died May 29, 2017. She joined the faculty in 1979 and directed the bachelor’s program in interior design, retiring in 1994 as an associate professor of fashion and apparel studies. During her tenure, more than 200 professionally qualified interior designers graduated from the program.

Thomas R. Scott, professor emeritus of psychological and brain sciences, died May 15, 2017. He joined UD in 1970, serving as department chair from 1983-92 and as associate dean for Research and Graduate Studies from 1992 until his retirement in 1997. At the time of his death, he was dean and vice president at San Diego State University. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Kime Scott, a UD professor emerita of English.

William Allen Spry, custodial technician, died Nov. 4 after an automobile accident. He was 21. Mr. Spry was the son of Karen Helsel-Spry, administrative assistant to the Faculty Senate.

Mary Jane Strattner-Gregory, associate professor emerita in the Department of Individual and Family Studies (now Human Development and Family Studies), died on Feb. 26, 2017. She was 94. Upon joining UD in 1963, Dr. Strattner-Gregory’s work focused on early childhood development with attention to children’s socialization experiences. She taught both undergraduate and graduate students and advised graduate research and was active in promoting quality early childhood education in Delaware.

Marenes R. (Bud) Tripp, professor emeritus in life sciences, died Jan. 25, 2017. He was 85. After a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health, he joined UD, where he taught microbiology for 35 years until his retirement in 1995. He also served for several years as director of the then-School of Life and Health Sciences.

John Weiss, retired art professor who had a distinguished career in photography, died May 27, 2017. He retired from Delaware in 2005 after a 30-year career as professor of art and coordinator of photography. He led several photography tours around the globe.

continued on page 5
to share the gifts that we have. I believe faculty and staff serve as ambassadors for the University.”

Hayes said she is particularly inspired by innovations and changes taking place in the STAR Health Sciences Complex. “Seeing the change in people’s and families’ lives as a result of research, education and clinical care is truly motivating. The future is bright here. I’m so proud to see the growth and depth of the University’s mission for teaching scholarship, service and its impact on the community. We really are partnering with the community and the opportunities are limitless.”

Louis L. Hirsh

Hirsh served as director of admissions at the University from 2003-12, a period that saw steady growth in undergraduate admissions as well as the implementation of the Commitment to Delawareans. He came to Delaware in 1984, as assistant director of the Honors Program and academic adviser for honors admissions. He was named associate director of admissions in 1986, deputy director in 2002 and director the following year.

The board resolution awarding Hirsh the Medal of Distinction said, in part, “under his leadership, the University of Delaware Office of Admissions was recognized for setting the highest standards of excellence and integrity in its efforts to increase the academic quality of the University’s undergraduate student body,” and it noted that he “continues to be held in high esteem and admiration by his University colleagues for his passionate support and outstanding service to the University.”

About the honor, Hirsh said, “I expected to feel moved and honored by the Medal of Distinction ceremony, but it was an even more emotional experience for me than I expected. Partly it was hearing John Cochran, the chairman of UD’s Board of Trustees, and Dennis Ansari, UD’s president, say so many gracious things about me. Partly it was seeing at the ceremony David and Louise Roselle, Dan and Nancy Rich, Burnaby Munson, Fred Siegel, Michael Arnold, Christine Schultz, Amy Foley, Bill Bickley, and (of course!) my wife, Peg — people who played such a major role in my career and life.

“When my colleagues and I admitted students into the University of Delaware, we knew we were admitting them into one of the best undergraduate experiences our country has to offer,” he said. “The Medal of Distinction ceremony and the people I saw at that ceremony reminded me of that important truth.”

IN BRIEF

Guang Gao, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has received the 2017 B. Ramakrishna (Bob) Rau Award from the IEEE Computer Society. Established in 2010 to honor the late Dr. Rau, it is awarded annually for an outstanding, innovative contribution to microarchitecture, use of novel microarchitectural techniques or compiler/ architecture interfacing. Gao was recognized for significant contributions to the field of computer microarchitecture and compiler code generation.


At the 2017 National Conference of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) retired director of admissions Lou Hirsh was awarded the Margaret E. Addis Service to NACAC Award. NACAC has over 16,000 members who include school counselors who advise students about applying to college and college admission professionals: “The Addis Award recognizes a NACAC member who has provided the association with unique and outstanding service.” Hirsh just completed a two-year term as chairman of NACAC’s Admission Practices Committee and served as a member of its Steering Committee on Admission Practices, where he helped draft the new SPGP: NACAC’s Code of Ethics of Professional Practices, which was approved unanimously by the NACAC Assembly at its Sept. 16 meeting. Earlier in the year, Hirsh received the Richard L. Apperson Award from the Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling (PCACAC) during the organization’s 2017 annual conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, on April 24. The Richard L. Apperson Award, named in honor of PCACAC’s first president, is the association’s highest honor presented to a PCACAC member. It is awarded annually to a member whose career embodies the ideals of the association—providing extraordinary service to students, to PCACAC, and to the college counseling profession. Also in April, Hirsh conducted a session together with Jim Jump, academic dean and director of guidance at St. Christopher’s School in Richmond, Virginia, on “A Preview of the Work of the National Association for College Admission Counseling’s Steering Committee on Admission Practices” at the Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling, on April 25. He also gave a presentation for the Delaware School Counselor Association Spring Conference on “College Admission Ethics, Student Rights and the National Association for College Admission Counseling’s Statement of Principles of Good Practice” at Dover Downs on April 10.

Havidán Rodríguez, a former UD faculty member and administrator, has been named president of the University of Albany, effective this September. Rodríguez came to UD in 2003 as director of the Disaster Research Center, and he served as vice provost for academic affairs and international programs from 2006-09 and as deputy provost from 2009-10.

Elms return The Green to its original design

For almost 100 years, the tall elms of The Green stood in proud defiance of the sickness that stalked them, shading students from sun and shielding them from rain. Through countless semesters, they helped define UD’s leafy character, its cozy ambience, its sense of seclusion.

Now, a younger generation is ready to carry on the tradition of UD’s grand elms. For the first time in many years, the northernmost section of The Green between Delaware Avenue and Main Street is again lined by 14 healthy American elm trees—including the 11 youngsters that were planted in late October as part of UD’s ongoing efforts to heed the vision of its early 20th century landscape designers.

For now, the 20- to 30-foot upstarts can’t hope to match the grandeur of the mature broad-canopy elms that once rose in two rows above the pathways, but in time, UD’s North Green will regain its shady feel and leafy vistas.

“These new trees are the ‘Princeton’ cultivar, which is more resistant to disease, and will do a lot to emphasize that historic feel,” said Sue Wyndham, UD’s landscape planner. “That’s important for UD. I feel like the campus really belongs to a lot of people.”

American elm trees first became integral to UD’s identity in 1917, when Philadelphia architect Frank Miles Day unveiled his plan for the school’s then-new central campus, an area meant to physically and symbolically join the old men’s and women’s campuses. Soon after construction of The Green’s early buildings, students helped plant the elms that lined its length, and eventually 160 of them across the campus would grow happily until the 1970s.

That’s when the elms began to fall ill, starved of food and water by a fungus carried by the elm bark beetle, an invading pest that would eventually devastate millions of trees and essentially doom the American elm. In the 1930s, before the disease took hold, there were an estimated 77 million elms in the United States. By 1989, more than 75 percent had been killed.

When the disease struck, UD scrambled to save their specimens. Crews trapped beetles, sprayed and pruned, even destroyed beetle breeding grounds. Still, one by one, UD’s elms would wither and succumb, and today, less than a handful remain north of Memorial Hall. Those trees are in good health today, and UD ground crews keep constant watch against beetle incursions.

UD’s landscaping squad eventually would launch an effort to replicate the elms’ stately presence by planting a tree with a similar shape, the Japanese zelkova. It soon would become clear that in terms of stature and grandeur, the zelkovas were falling short.

And in recent months, two of the surviving old elms on the North Green were pulled down, one due to damage, the other because of declining health.

“The Green is iconic, and it’s a place that people are free to use, so it’s important to preserve that sense of historic presence while still keeping it accessible,” said Mike Loftus, UD’s assistant director of grounds services, noting that his staff must work year-round to ensure The Green fulfills its aesthetic and functional roles. “There are 6,000 people on it, just for Alumni Weekend.”

Loftus says the planting of the new elms was in itself a testament to the teamwork and commitment of UD’s landscape crew, a 39-person squad made up of certified arborists, ground technicians and others. Their responsibility includes 500 acres of UD property in Newark and Wilmington, comprising 150 acres of grass and more than 6,000 trees.

The new elms have already had their share of care, even before the late-October planting spree. The UD crew would even drive north to Ticklewood Nursery in Cochranville, Pennsylvania, tagging their selections and ensuring their 10-year-old babies were prepped with root stimulant, fertilizer and some judicious pruning.

Once summer’s swelter eased, it was time to load the trees one by one onto a 10-wheeler truck and make the 15-mile trip to Newark, where a 5-foot-deep hole for each awaited.

“We’ve been waiting for fall, when the trees are in the process of shutting down for the year and are able to endure the transplant,” said Kevin Heitzenroder, a UD alumnus and president of Turf Pro, the Newark firm that was hired by UD to install the trees and nurture them through the critical early stages.

Now, Wyndham said, UD’s elms are well on their way to a full, thriving life.

–Article by Eric Ruth
UD launches historic Delaware First campaign

The University of Delaware has launched Delaware First: The Campaign for the University of Delaware, the largest engagement and fundraising campaign in its history with a goal of $750 million.

Delaware First seeks to create extraordinary student experiences at UD and extend the University’s impact on the region and the world. A true “community campaign,” Delaware First is designed to rally Blue Hens everywhere to raise funds for student scholarships, endowed professorships, graduate fellowships, research, facilities and experiential learning opportunities across UD.

“UD has the passion, the character and intellectual power to help solve some of the world’s most complex challenges,” said UD President Dennis Assanis. “This is our moment to look toward the future and help create solutions for today and tomorrow. I ask students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, families and friends of this great University to help us build on our promise and potential... and it all starts by working together.”

The Delaware First campaign includes multiple initiatives aimed at transforming UD’s campus, such as the advancement of graduate education, support for innovation and entrepreneurship programs like the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL), the creation of new partnerships in public policy through the Biden Institute, and enhancement of UD Athletics facilities.

To stay updated on the campaign or learn how to get involved, visit www.udel.edu/delawarefirst.

UD welcomes largest-ever first-year class

Enrollment at the University of Delaware reached 23,774 this fall, the highest on record in the University’s history and an increase of 765 students over last fall.

The Newark campus set enrollment records for both undergraduate and graduate student populations: Undergraduates total 18,144, up from 17,669 in fall 2016, and graduate students total 4,024, an increase from 3,930 last fall.

The University also welcomed the largest-ever first-year class on the Newark campus—4,306 students, up from 3,952 in fall 2016.

The Newark campus is also becoming more diverse, with 2,206 international students, the highest since the University began collecting global enrollment data in 1994. These students represent 96 countries.

The undergraduate student population includes 2,777 domestic underrepresented minority students, a 62 percent increase over 10 years ago. What’s more, over half of the 2,500 UD undergraduate students receiving Pell grants are Delaware residents—the most since 2007—demonstrating the University’s commitment to providing access and removing barriers, particularly for Delawareans.

“We are continuously looking at ways to open access to the University of Delaware for all high-achieving students, particularly residents of our state,” said Chris Lucier, vice president of Enrollment Management at UD. “This year’s enrollment is a testament to the strong programming we have in place to prepare and encourage students to apply, coupled with the superb academics and student outcomes that the University provides.”

Article by Cindy Hall

Administrative update

The national search for the University’s next provost is underway with the appointment of the search committee, chaired by Estella Atekwana, dean of the College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, and John Pelesko, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Robin Morgan is serving as interim provost after Domenico Grasso stepped down Oct. 15.

Sharon Pitt, chief information officer and associate vice president of Information Technology Services at Binghamton University, will become vice president of information technologies, effective Dec. 1.

James Dicker, formerly vice president for institutional advancement at Temple University, became vice president for development and alumni relations, effective July 17.

José-Luis Riera is serving as interim vice president for student life, since Dawn Thompson retired Sept. 15.

Tom LaPenta, chief human resources officer, retired July 1, and a search is now underway for the vice president of human resources. Darcell Griffith is serving as interim chief human resources officer.