“The Engaged University”

What does it mean to be an “Engaged University”? For us, it means that every person affiliated with the University of Delaware is not simply looking inward, trying to improve his or her own life or even life on this campus, but focusing outward on surrounding communities and asking, “What difference can we make?”

If our work is limited to the classroom or studio or lab, we have failed in our mission. Ingrained in UD’s historic mandate is a calling to serve the greater public good, to use our skills and knowledge to improve people’s lives.

This long tradition of community engagement infuses every area of life at UD today. Our students and faculty are bringing innovative curricula into the public schools and pioneering new approaches to health care and rehabilitation. They are partnering with businesses to produce cleaner energy and more efficient cars. UD’s musicians and actors showcase their talents on stage for the public to enjoy. UD Cooperative Extension is celebrating 100 years of sharing the University’s expertise in agriculture, gardening, animal science, nutrition, community development and family services with citizens statewide. These are just some examples of the work that has prompted UD to apply for classification as an Engaged University by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

We hope this issue of Inside Delaware inspires you, our alumni and friends, to become even more engaged in the life of UD. In so doing, you not only contribute to the life of this University, but also advance the greater good for our state and region. UD is an important source of inspiration and innovation in so many areas. Now more than ever, we have the opportunity to be the powerful partner that corporations, schools, nonprofits, farmers, social service agencies and so many other community organizations need in order to improve our world. Working together, there is no limit to the difference we can make.
The Performing ARTS

The arts draw UD’s neighbors onto this campus—sometimes from a few blocks away, more often from miles away—and invite them to experience world-class performances.

THEATRE

The Resident Ensemble Players Theatre Company (REP) brings professional actors to UD for multiyear residencies, where they perform in five productions each season and teach undergraduate classes in the Theatre Department. Last year alone, the REP sold 24,000 tickets, most purchased by people outside UD.

MUSIC

So, on any given week, one or more of UD’s many student or faculty instrumental ensembles, or its choral groups such as the UD Chorale or University Singers, are performing somewhere on campus, in the region or even overseas. At the same time, the department’s commitment to the community goes beyond performances. For example, UD’s Community Music School provides music instruction to hundreds of young people from the Newark area, while the ProjectMUSIC program sends UD students into local schools to immerse children in the joys of music.

ADVANCING THE ARTS

UD’s programs depend on the support of donors who believe in the power of the arts to enrich our community and change lives. The Reverend Marvin Hummel, who earned his master’s from UD in 1967 and taught here for 25 years, is a longtime UD theatre patron who recently established a bequest to support students majoring in theatre. Donald J. Puglisi, MBNA America Professor Emeritus of Business, and his wife, Marichu Valencia, have generously supported the music program over the years and recently made their second million-dollar gift to create the Puglisi Challenge. This challenge is designed to inspire additional donors to the music program by matching gifts over $25,000. “I view each gift to the University as an investment,” says Puglisi, who taught at UD from 1971 to 2001. “Our previous gifts to the Department of Music proved to be extremely wise investments, the returns on which can be seen in the many accomplishments of the musicians and ensembles that benefit from these funds.”

Agriculture and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As UD Cooperative Extension marks its 100th anniversary, it also is celebrating ten years of the Cooperative Extension Scholars program, which enables several undergraduates and graduate students to participate in Extension work each summer. “Extension truly is the door of the University in the community,” says Michelle Rodgers, PhD, associate dean and director of Cooperative Extension and Outreach, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources. “These scholars gain real-world experience working with Extension agents across the state, and they often begin to shape their career decisions as a result.”

In 2010, Dover grower Chet Dickerson ’62 AG, ’64 M, and his wife, Sally, established an endowed fund to provide ongoing support for students who are accepted into the program. Additional gifts would expand this opportunity to more Extension Scholars, strengthening their connections to the larger community.

The Extension Scholars program served as an excellent stepping-stone from my undergraduate career to graduate school. I worked on integrated pest management for ornamental plants, and I gained so many skills I am using today.”

Andrew Kness ’12 AG, UD master’s candidate in plant pathology

“I knew very little about Extension going in, but the whole experience was easily the best thing my UD education provided me. I worked with agents in horticulture and agronomy, I saw the difference they make, and I might even pursue Extension as a career.”

Donald Swift ’12 AG, UD master’s candidate in plant science

“I literally grew up in the University of Maryland Extension’s 4-H program, so I know what 4-H does for kids. The opportunity to work for UD’s 4-H summer program in Kent County felt like it was made just for me.”

Alyssa McCormick ’14 AG, UD agricultural education major

Discovery Learning

Deanna Lentini ’15 AG, of Mohagen Lake, NY, grew up riding horses and working at equine therapy centers, and she raises guide dogs for the blind. An agriculture and natural resources major, she loves animals but doesn’t want to be a veterinarian. So what else is there? Deanna found some answers as an Extension Scholar last summer, working with UD equine specialist Dr. Carlissa Wickens. Deanna helped plan the International Society for Equine Science conference at UD and created a unit on horse nutrition for a 4-H youth camp. She also worked with the Cooperative Extension communications office on the rollout of its online “Ask an Expert” program at the Delaware State Fair. “I have a much broader view of where my agriculture major could take me, and I see more opportunities than I ever imagined,” Deanna says. She now has a part-time job with Extension communications and is helping Dr. Wickens with an equine short course in the Kent County (DE) Extension office.
Health > AND WELLNESS

Our state and region need universities and medical centers to figure out how to make health care better, more patient-centered and more efficient while also harnessing the power of new technologies to improve patients’ lives. A walk through the first newly opened building of the Health Sciences Complex on the STAR Campus illustrates how deeply UD clinicians, researchers and students are engaged in this challenge. Not only does the facility expand their ability to serve community members with medical care and therapy services, but it also places them in an environment of cross-disciplinary collaboration—critical for bringing discoveries from the laboratory to the bedside. www.udel.edu/chs

**Physical Therapy**
UD’s Physical Therapy Department has one of the highest-ranked doctoral programs in the nation, a clinic known for helping patients recover from injury and illness, and research programs that are pioneering new rehabilitation approaches. In the new complex, our Physical Therapy Clinic will expand by 40 percent and the academic program will grow from 30 students to 60. www.udel.edu/pt

**Nurse Managed Health Center**
With its move to the Health Sciences Complex, the UD Nurse Managed Health Center (NMHC) will expand from 500 square feet to 5,000, helping our physicians and nurse practitioners serve more patients more effectively. Offering easy access and same-day appointments for UD employees and the wider community, NMHC is a model of how efficient primary care should work. It also creates an ideal teaching environment for UD’s graduate nurse practitioner program. www.udel.edu/nmhc

**Rehabilitation Research**
UD has a unique strength in rehabilitation sciences, with more than 50 faculty members across many departments engaged in such research. The University leads the BADRE Consortium (Bricking Advanced Development for Exceptional Rehabilitation), a group of trauma centers, military treatment facilities and other affiliates working on better tools for improving orthopedic function after combat injuries. The Health Sciences Complex will create shared core labs that enable biologists, engineers and clinical researchers to collaborate on this important work. www.udel.edu/dri

**Go Baby Go!**
Go Baby Go!, known more formally as the Pediatric Mobility Lab and Design Studio, has received national attention for engineering kid-sized robots and adapting off-the-shelf toy race cars to help young children with crawling and walking problems “go mobile.” They can then be part of the action at home, in the daycare center or on the playground— which is essential for their cognitive and social development. A new and larger lab for this program will accelerate the pace of innovation and partnership beyond UD’s campus. www.udel.edu/gobabys

**LIST OF PROJECTS**

**PUBLIC COMMONS** A central pathway that literally provides windows into our work, opening research to public view and encouraging like-minded researchers to work together.

**THE NURSE MANAGED HEALTH CENTER** A model primary-care facility for training a new generation of health care providers and leaders while providing walk-in access for the wider community.

**SPECIALIZED LABS** State-of-the-art research settings, with everything our scientists and engineers need—from digital instrumentation to generous ceiling clearances.

**THE STUDENT COMMONS** An open space that invites people to linger and connect, fostering a sense of community.

**CLASSROOMS AND CONFERENCE ROOMS** Ample, accessible spaces in which to meet, teach and collaborate.

**TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**
A STAR Campus Q & A with President Patrick T. Harker

**Q:** The opening of the first building in the Health Sciences Complex is an exciting milestone. What are some other important STAR milestones?

**A:** Fuel cell manufacturer Bloom Energy now has a 178,000-square-foot manufacturing and research facility there. And just north of the Bloom site is Energy Focus, our joint venture with NRG, which is developing electric vehicles with batteries that can send power back to the grid. We believe we can make Delaware “ground zero” for fuel cell research, grid-integrated vehicles and energy storage. These are growth industries. And if we keep doing R&D right, they’re industries that Delaware can lead.

**Q:** So how would you describe the overall strategy for the STAR Campus?

**A:** It’s a key part of UD’s “3 + 1 strategy” for economic development. The 3 are UD’s key science and technology strengths: health sciences, energy and the environment, and national security and defense. The 1 is the enabling infrastructure that will make UD a destination for cutting-edge companies, industries and partners. You simply can’t overstate the importance of the “perfect triangle”—public, private and academic partnership—in research innovation, technology transfer and sustained economic development.

**Q:** Clearly this is a decades-long project, but what will be the end result be?

**A:** The result will be a historic leap forward in regional economic development, with UD playing a central role. We don’t only have to connect innovators with industry; we also have to connect academics with entrepreneurs. We have to patent and license inventions and launch and nurture new firms. We have to cultivate academic fields that contribute to technological advancement. We have to develop—and explain—the new ideas, technologies, products and processes that transform local, state and regional economies.
Education >

AND YOUTH

When residents of Delaware and surrounding states arrive here as new undergraduates, they often share memories of childhood experiences at the University of Delaware: attending summer camps, taking music lessons, coming to Ag Day or Coast Day, cheering on the Blue Hens, talking with UD staff at the Delaware State Fair. Nearly one-half of Delaware’s young people participate in Cooperative Extension’s 4-H programs in any given year. Opening children’s eyes to new pathways and new possibilities is an essential part of what we do at UD.

UD Alternative Spring Break

Working with Homeless Children in Washington, DC

This spring, the third straight year, a group of UD students will spend their break in Washington, DC, at Bright Beginnings, a daycare center and preschool serving homeless children and their families. The trip got started thanks to a UD student who had a connection at the center—and the first year was so successful that two students have returned as summer teaching assistants. The spring break helpers live in a nearby church hostel and spend their days assisting teachers at the school. For many, and especially those aspiring to be teachers or social service professionals, the experience is both eye-opening and life-changing.

College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment

Exciting Students about Coastal Research

Every year, thousands of young people come to the Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes for class trips, marine science lessons, the annual fall Coastal Day, summer tours of TIDE Camp (Taking an Interest in Delaware’s Estuaries). The Cannon Marine Studies Laboratory is often their first up close encounter with the world of coastal and ocean research. Now they will be greeted by an amazing museum-quality exhibit along the lab’s walls that uses large photos, educational content and flat panel screens to orient them to the impact of this research and UD’s role in it. Alumnus Nick Vohl’s ‘81 PhD, funded the project. “I saw this as an opportunity to reinvet in the institution that supported my development as a scientist and led to my professional success, and to help create an educational tool that makes marine science accessible to the public.”

ArtsBridge

Using the Arts to Bring Learning to Life

How can you use dance, drama, music and the visual arts to engage students in math and reading, science and social studies? As the arts lose ground in low-income and urban public schools, the ArtsBridge Program has 31 universities nationwide—including UD—working to integrate the arts into everyday subjects. Every year, six to eight UD ArtsBridge Scholars develop their own original arts-based curriculum and then teach it to a public school class in Delaware or Maryland over the course of a semester. Recent projects have used music to teach poetry, movement to teach fractions, and dance to teach Delaware history.

Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship

Building Financial Literacy among Delaware Schoolchildren

“The impact we have in Delaware in terms of the number of teachers we reach, and the students they in turn reach, is amazing.”

Bonnie Marinaro ‘80 M, ‘86 PhD, Associate Director, CEEE

Every college at UD has students and faculty out in the community working with children of all ages, from preschool to high school.

Idea Leadership

Mary Dozier, the Amy E. du Pont Chair in Child Development, has spent nearly two decades researching the most effective ways to improve parenting skills among foster parents, high-risk birth parents and those who adopt internationally. She and her research team have developed an intervention called ABC—“Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up”—which coaches parents to interact with children in ways that enhance self-regulation of emotions and behaviors. Although Dr. Dozier’s work has earned multimillion dollar grants from the National Institutes of Health, some of its key funding has come from Greenville, DE, resident Edna Bennett Pierce, who met Dozier at a dinner several years ago and was immediately intrigued by her work. Pierce’s support funded the pilot studies that helped Dozier successfully apply for large federal grants, and now it is jump-starting her graduate students’ research into whether the ABC intervention has measurable epigenetic and biological effects in children. “Edna has provided funding for us to conduct whatever research projects make sense—and that frees us to ask questions that are high risk and high payoff,” Dozier says. “As a result, we have some important findings that otherwise would not have been possible.”
Q&A WITH DARELLE RIABOV ’73 AS
Past University of Delaware Alumni Association president,
UDAA Board member, endowed scholarship donor, former
cheerleader and Double Del (pictured here with her
husband, John Riabov ’75 AG)

She asked us to photograph the paper doll in different places, so we
took Flat Stanley to the UD campus. John and I also were invited
to attend Delaware Diamonds Society events. We’d been away from
the campus for many years, and being there again impressed us and
made us feel proud. Shortly after that, I became involved with the
UD Alumni Association. Of note, my niece ended up at UD, too.

Q: When and how did you decide to “reengage” with UD as an alumna?
A: A few key things happened in the late 1990s. My husband
won UD football tickets at a silent auction. Then, my niece
sent me Flat Stanley, who comes from a children’s book.

Q: What were some of your initial involvements?
A: As the corporate communications executive at Blue Cross
Blue Shield of Delaware, I worked with a UD professor to set up
an internship for her Business English students. As part of UDAA,
I served on different committees. I also volunteered for Blue Hen
Leadership Etiquette Dinners for students, where alumni come
to campus and let students practice their networking skills on
business people. More recently, the focus turned to UD athletics.

Q: You recently finished a two-year term as UDAA president. How did you work to motivate alumni to engage with UD?
A: It was fun. I would just share how I felt about UD. I had a great
undergrad experience and have truly enjoyed reengaging these past
15 years. My message to alumni was consistent: “Come back to
campus. Once you come back to UD, you’ll feel that pride and see
that UD can still benefit from your time and energy.”

Q: What advice do you have for alumni who might want to
get involved with UD?
A: First, it doesn’t matter if they’ve lost touch with UD or their
classmates. There is a tremendous opportunity to enrich their lives
and form a new network of Blue Hen contacts. It’s not just about
getting involved financially either. You can be a mentor, hire a
Blue Hen, set up an internship, get involved with UDAA or attend
regional alumni club events. Find the commitment level that suits
your life now and then enjoy it.

Alumni engagement can critically impact students, faculty, other
graduates and the University as a whole. Alumni can support
projects that make a difference, not only on campus but around
the world. When alumni engage with UD, they help create a much
larger footprint.

This is a special time for UD, and the challenges are real—but
surmountable. What a great opportunity for our alumni and our
community to become part of the University’s future success. If we
work together, we can be unstoppable and create a university that
will be even more impressive in the years ahead.