

# UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

MAGAZINE  
Volume 30 • Number 2

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MILES

FROM KABUL TO CLASS: THE JOURNEY  
THAT UNLOCKED A NEW WORLD





An aerial photograph of Hillside Park. In the foreground, a large, calm stormwater basin reflects the sky and surrounding greenery. A wooden walkway leads from the basin towards a playground area in the middle ground. The playground includes a blue slide, a green climbing structure, and a picnic shelter with a green roof. The background is filled with dense, mature trees under a clear blue sky.

# RODNEY REIMAGINED

In a bittersweet move for Blue Hens with fond memories of hanging in the common room, eating in the dining hall or mudsliding just outside during Hurricane Isabel, the 1960s Rodney Residence Hall Complex has been transformed into a seven-acre Hillside Park. The new area, complete with playground and stormwater basin, opened in December 2021. The environmentally friendly space will help alleviate flooding on Main Street and improve water quality in the Christina River.

PHOTO BY EVAN KRAPE





Willard Hall  
Education Building

South Main Street  
(formerly Elkton Road)

Deer Park Tavern





FROM OUR

# PRESIDENT

## ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A BLUE HEN

Whether we are on The Green or in some far corner of the world, the power and potential of the University of Delaware experience will forever be a part of all of us. Blue Hens are explorers, artists, leaders, educators, caregivers, innovators, athletes, activists ... using the knowledge, skills and values they acquire at UD to serve their communities in countless ways every day.

We saw a thrilling reminder of that impact at our Commencement ceremony a few months ago, the first time in UD history that a sitting U.S. president delivered the address. President Joe Biden, Class of 1965, told graduates how UD gave him the skills and confidence to address the problems facing his generation, urging them to be engaged, too. Graduates like Kasiyah Tatem, president of the Student Government Association, are ready to take on that challenge: “The sky isn’t the limit,” she said, “it’s limitless.”

Indeed, those inspiring messages apply to everyone in the UD community. Our world is facing myriad and significant challenges right now, so the principles of purpose and truth—the foundations of a UD education—have never been more important. I am extraordinarily optimistic about the future knowing that there are so many talented, passionate and

determined Blue Hens out there who will always persevere in our mission to create a better world.

This fall, more than 6,000 new Blue Hen students, as well as faculty and staff members, are joining the UD community. They come from around the world and bring unique talents, backgrounds, perspectives and goals; it is this constant renewal of fresh ideas and exciting opportunities that keeps UD vibrant and growing. At the same time, we are all connected to one another and this entire institution by our shared values and our unshakable belief that true and lasting progress is driven by knowledge, understanding and cooperation.

Those special events—from Twilight Induction when we welcome new Blue Hens, to Commencement when we celebrate their achievements, to Alumni Weekend when we reunite and strengthen our bonds with one another—are great days to be a Blue Hen. In fact, so are all 365 days of the year.

Whatever day you are on UD’s beautiful campus, my wife, Eleni, and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Dennis Assanis, President



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**On the cover:** The Kabul-to-Newark mileage figure comes from [travelmath.com/distance](https://travelmath.com/distance)  
Photo composite by Christian Derr, Molly Chappell and Arya Casini

### Once upon a time in Newark

A public park now stands where the Rodney Residence Halls once did. Built in 1966, the dorms closed in 2015 and were demolished in 2019. As Darren Kane, BE95, editor of *Glory Days* at Delaware and MugNight.com, said at the time, "There was something special about...the unique layout of those floors and the tight sense of community, the collective feeling of being in the same West Campus boat together. We all knew someday Rodney and Dickinson's time would come, but the memories will live forever!"



## UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE MAGAZINE

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## BUILDING SUPPORTIVE SPACES

The Wellbeing Center at Warner Hall, which opened amid the pandemic last fall, was formally dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony earlier this spring.

The center offers relaxation spaces, multi-purpose meeting rooms and wellbeing programming. There are also plans to add a gym with exercise equipment and rooms for mindfulness and meditation.

“We want Warner Hall to be a place where students come to decompress, recharge, restore and heal,” says Helen Ann Lawless, director of strategic wellbeing and training. “We want students to feel comfortable being their most authentic selves here. We also aim to create a University-wide environment where students can access physical, mental and emotional health resources without shame or stigma.”



EVAN KRAPE

Open to students Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Wellbeing Center houses both the Center for Counseling and Student Development, as well as Student Wellness and Health Promotion. Student Health Services is conveniently located next door at Laurel Hall, creating what Lawless calls “a neighborhood of student wellbeing.”

“It’s been a difficult couple of years,” she says.

“Now more than ever, it’s essential to create environments that enhance everyone’s ability to thrive. It’s not just about individuals taking action to improve their own wellbeing; it takes an entire community to make wellbeing the default by building out supportive structures. That’s exactly what our units are working toward together.”

—Jessica Smith



EVAN KRAPE

## PROMOTING STUDENT WELLBEING

UD was the first college Rae Chresfield ever visited. At age 8, she accompanied her father to Newark to help her cousin move into her University residence hall.

With a background in nursing and expertise in mental health, psychology and counseling, Chresfield now finds herself back at UD, in the newly created role of assistant vice president in the Division of Student Life, Student Wellbeing.

In this position, “Dr. Rae,” as she is affectionately known, will integrate the University’s wellbeing units and streamline services to ensure wellbeing is a cornerstone of the Blue Hen experience.

“There must be stronger safety nets around students in university systems,” she says. “I like what UD is embarking on in this arena, and I want to contribute to it.”

—Jessica Smith



# BRINGING UD TO D.C.

*Blue Hen experts appointed to positions of national thought leadership*



**Who:** Dennis Assanis, UD president.

**What:** Appointed to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), a distinguished body charged with making science, technology and innovation policy recommendations and informing the president's perspective on issues ranging from the economy to national security.

**Why:** As a member of the National Academy of Engineering, Assanis is a highly regarded innovator, engineer and education leader. An expert in clean energy and power systems, his scientific contributions have improved fuel economy and reduced emissions of internal combustion engines.

**Fun fact:** Assanis developed his engineering passion on the high seas. The son of a commercial sea captain, he once traveled from Brazil to Romania and spent most of his time enamored with the propulsion system in the engine room.

**Who:** Rita Landgraf, EHD80, professor and director of UD's Partnership for Healthy Communities.

**What:** Nominated as assistant secretary for aging within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (awaiting Senate confirmation at press time).

**Why:** Landgraf has devoted her life to ensuring vulnerable communities, including seniors, have equal access to healthcare. As former Delaware Secretary of Health and Social Services, she reformed public mental health offerings.

**Fun fact:** To ease the burden of COVID-19 on Delaware hospitals, Landgraf spearheaded the Homeless Community Outreach Program, which provided testing for people living on the streets, found temporary hotel housing for 1,000 people during the first surge of the virus alone, and facilitated long-term care for those suffering from mental illness or substance abuse.



**Who:** Cathy McLaughlin, executive director of UD's Biden Institute.

**What:** Named to the board of directors of AmeriCorps, an independent agency of the federal government dedicated to helping Americans help their fellow citizens through thousands of nonprofit groups across the U.S.

**Why:** As leader of a world-class

intellectual center, McLaughlin oversees research and outreach programming aimed at solving the world's most pressing problems, including income inequality, criminal justice reform and environmental sustainability.

**Fun fact:** McLaughlin formerly worked as executive director of Harvard University's Institute of Politics. But before that, she served as tour manager for boy band sensation New Kids on the Block.

**Who:** Lynnette Overby, professor of theatre and deputy director of UD's Community Engagement Initiative.

**What:** Appointed to the National Council on the Humanities, a board of 26 distinguished citizens selected by the president to provide grants for museums, libraries, universities and other organizations helping us better understand our world.

**Why:** Overby creates programs to address racial justice issues. Recently, she merged art and history to tell the story of publisher and anti-slavery activist Mary Ann Shadd Cary.

**Fun fact:** Overby helped integrate Dover High School in the 1960s, a stressful and isolating experience until she discovered dance and the healing power of art. Today, as founder of UD's dance minor and director of the Founding our Legacy Dance Theatre, she pays that realization forward. 🐦



## ... AND D.C. TO UD

Sure, President Joe Biden may reside in the White House, but his home is UD. This is what the 46th commander in chief told a crowd of 20,000 people on May 28, when he became the first sitting U.S. president to deliver a Commencement

address in school history.

"This University gave me confidence in myself to engage, to get involved," said Biden, AS65, O4H, before urging the Class of 2022 to do the same. "Your generation is the most generous, most tolerant, least prejudiced, best educated generation this nation has ever known. You can make the difference." 🐦



EVAN KRAPE



# GOING THE DISTANCE

## 10 things to know about UD's 12th provost, Laura Carlson

- 1. She's inspired by ambition.** "I want to be at a place that wants to achieve and grow," she says. "That's true for me personally, too. I like to set a goal and then do the hard work to move toward it."
- 2. Her interview prep is unique.** On April 18, Carlson ran her 11th Boston Marathon. The next morning, she was in Newark. "I spent the race intrigued by the juxtaposition of a University founded in 1743 with a land, space, sea-grant mission, and cutting-edge research in biopharma, fintech, entrepreneurship. But past mile 20, my thoughts were not that coherent."
- 3. She was there.** Carlson has run 30-some marathons (including a full Ironman), but none as haunting as 2013's Boston Marathon. She was at the finish line when the bombings occurred and returned in 2014, finding strength in her hometown's "resilience and defiance."
- 4. An expert in spatial cognition.** As a psychologist, Carlson studies the way we conceptualize space, or "how we create cognitive maps of the places and spaces around us."
- 5. She values wellbeing.** She has resumed rowing, a sport she participated in as an undergraduate at Dartmouth. It is "the perfect way to empty your head and focus on the moment."
- 6. Commitment is a core value.** Prior to UD, Carlson spent 28 years at Notre Dame, where she most recently served as vice president, associate provost and dean of the graduate school.
- 7. A proud coach.** A former high school track and cross country coach, Carlson finds many life skills in sports: consistency, persistence, hard work, goal setting. Her favorite aspect of coaching is helping others see what they can achieve for themselves.
- 8. Blue Hen ties.** Her niece is a junior chemical engineering major in the Honors College who plays on the club softball team and will be "the number one dog sitter" to Carlson's black lab mix, Bean, named after her Boston hometown (Beantown).
- 9. In the family.** Carlson's husband, Rob, is a UD professor of neuroscience who researches the effects of digital technology on decision making. Their two adult children, Hazel and Grayson, have already visited campus.
- 10. She's pinching herself.** "It is a dream come true," Carlson says of being at UD. "The University community has developed an excellent strategic plan. The task now is to work together to make it happen. That will be great fun." 🐦



## LEADERSHIP UPDATES



**Terri L. Kelly, EG83**, a member of the University's Board of Trustees since 2009, was elected chair in July. A former president and CEO of W.L. Gore & Associates, she and her husband, John, BE83, are Blue Hen parents and longtime supporters of the University. Among their contributions

are an endowed faculty position in mechanical engineering. Kelly succeeds **John R. Cochran III**, who served in the role from 2015 and whose tenure saw continuous enhancement of student access,



diversity and success. Cochran will continue to serve on the board's executive committee. "It will be very hard replacing John, who has set such a high standard," says Kelly, "but I know I can count on his wisdom and support as we all work to advance the institution that we love."

Additionally, **Freeman L. Williams, EHD76, 80M, 93EdD**, was appointed to a six-year board term by Delaware Gov. John Carney. With more than 40 years of experience in education leadership at all levels, Freeman retired in 2016 as superintendent of the Christina School District. 🐦





# FOUND IN TRANSLATION

Roberta Golinkoff does not cry often. But watching Russia's attack on Ukraine, and the all-too-real news coverage of terrified children fleeing their homes, left her heart in pieces.



EVAN KRAPE

"I burst into tears," says Golinkoff, the Unidel H. Rodney Sharp Chair in UD's School of Education. "It was just too sad. These kids were snatched away at a moment's notice—they couldn't bring their toys, and they couldn't bring their books."

With a funding commitment from Switzerland's Jacobs Foundation, dedicated to

educational advocacy, Golinkoff reached out to Unite for Literacy, an organization that provides free digital access to children's books, written and audio, for kids ages 1 to 8. At the time, the Colorado-based platform offered culturally sensitive stories to various populations in nearly 40 languages, but provided very few texts on their website geared specifically for a Ukrainian diaspora. Representatives agreed to translate at least 50 more books for this community, on topics ranging from animals to sports to family life. Meanwhile, Golinkoff set to work building a portal to these books that, once complete, will live on the UD server. To spread the word, she also engaged representatives from nonprofits who work directly with this refugee population.

"I'm trying to offer these children and their mothers a moment of normalcy," Golinkoff says, adding that "reading to and with children is one of the most important things you can do for their mental and emotional development."

Beyond keeping displaced kids on track educationally, so-called bibliotherapy also helps survivors of war cope with trauma—one *PubMed* study found the activity offers psychological caregiving to returning combatants.

"It puts the child in the world of fantasy and offers a break from the present," says Golinkoff. "To get them this, I'll do whatever it takes." 🐦

—Diane Stopyra

# A MODEL FOR THE WORLD

To better serve refugees or displaced persons emerging from this crisis and others—like the fall of Afghanistan, covered on pages 18–27 of this issue—the University is exploring potential avenues to support and advise displaced students seeking undergraduate degrees. An ad hoc committee established in response to the Ukraine invasion is working to secure funding for such an initiative. The committee is also exploring the creation of a new interdisciplinary academic track to help students better understand the root causes of displacement—from armed conflict to change in climate—while equipping them to respond.

Matt Kinservik, committee chair and vice provost for faculty affairs, believes such programming could facilitate rich intersections of cultural and academic engagement, enhancing the University experience for both domestic and international Blue Hens.

"We didn't go into this intending for UD to assert some sort of leadership," he says. "But the more we talked, the more the momentum built. Especially at a time when nationalism globally is so strong, the world needs to see how connected we truly are." 🐦



# MASTERING THE POOL

When Carlos Asarta launched into an Olympic-sized pool in Pontevedra, Spain, earlier this spring, he felt pure calm. That may seem strange, given the pressure of the moment: He was moments away from breaking a Spanish national record in the 200-meter breaststroke. But, for this UD economics professor, water represents peace.

"This is where I belong," says 44-year-old Asarta, who competes in the U.S. and abroad at the Masters level, a class of the sport typically reserved for athletes 25 and older.

The swimmer's "good luck charm," a Blue Hen jacket, has served him well. Not only did Asarta break the Spanish record in his age group by 1 second and 28 tenths of a second, he



also placed second in the 200 breaststroke and 400 medley at the U.S. Masters Spring Nationals a month later.

Today, Asarta is looking to the future, including a possible World Masters Swimming Championship. But when it comes to goals, the professor is equally focused on nurturing the aspirations of others, especially his students.

This commitment to mentorship, you might say, is a lot like swimming. It requires passion and stamina. And, sometimes, it results

in the best type of win: An email from a past pupil.

"A student will let you know that you changed who they are, or that your class influenced their life in some way," he says. "That is its own kind of medal." 🐦



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# REFRESHING SKILLS, SAVING LIVES

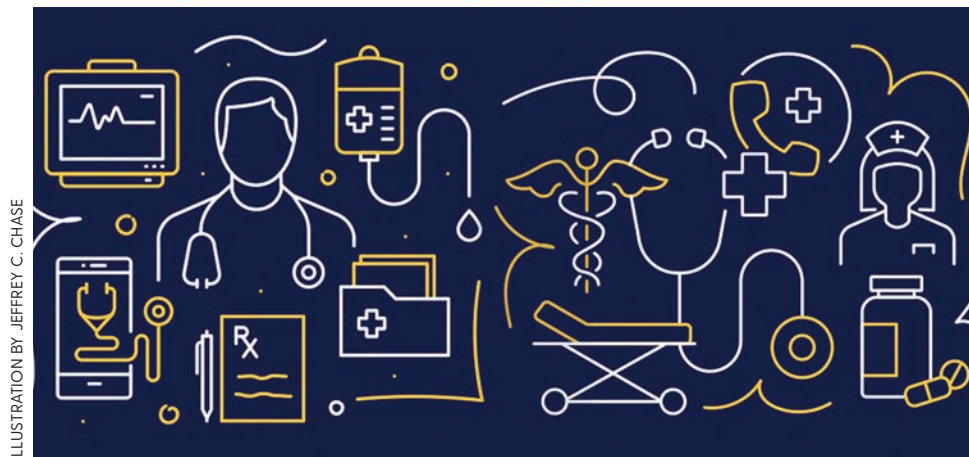


ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY C. CHASE

Long before the onslaught of the pandemic, hospitals had a pre-existing condition: They were chronically short-staffed. Now, after waves of COVID patients, surges of viral variants and the departure of thousands of nurses from the front lines, some healthcare facilities have found themselves in a critical condition, with too few nurses to meet the ongoing demand for care.

Enter UD's online RN Refresher Program, which gives experienced nurses who've been on hiatus a chance to refresh their knowledge and skills in order to re-enter the field. It's not for

beginners, new hires or those seeking advanced degrees (UD's School of Nursing caters to those individuals). Rather, it's a program for those who've left the profession to care for a loved one, raise a family, serve in the military or pursue other opportunities.

"But they miss it," says Diane Beatty, coordinator of RN Refresher, who went through the program herself as part of the third cohort in 2005, after raising three children. "It's in their hearts."

Since the initiative was developed by Kate Salvato, HS83, and then-professor (now professor emeritus) Madeline

Lambrecht, nearly 1,500 nurses have enrolled from around the country and the world.

"I loved the program," says Betsey Pierce, a graduate who now works as director of education for Avila Home Care in Towson, Maryland. "They did an excellent job with every aspect."

RN Refresher, which is held three times per year and provides the opportunity for at least 80 hours of clinical work, covers topics including: nursing trends of the 21st century, cultural competence, medical/surgical and specialty updates, pharmacology updates, end-of-life issues, legal considerations and more.

But the curriculum equips healthcare professionals with more than just technical knowledge.

"I was so impressed that Diane and Kate were not just teaching topics," Pierce says. "They are sending nurses back into the workplace with the knowledge and encouragement they need to influence the culture of the nursing profession." 🐦

—Beth Miller

## POLLUTANT-FIGHTING VEGGIES

Celery, carrots, parsnips, parsley.

Those are some of the "apiaceous vegetables" that could protect the body from irritants abundantly found in cigarette smoke and automobile exhaust, according to new research by UD Nutrition Prof. Jae Kyeom Kim.

Through a series of tests, Kim and his team analyzed how apiaceous vegetables, which are high in phytonutrients (chemical compounds produced by plants to help them resist infections), also help mitigate acrolein toxicity. Acrolein, a colorless liquid formed from the breakdown of certain pollutants, is an irritant to the lungs and skin.

He and his team determined the optimal caloric amount of apiaceous vegetables is roughly one and one-third cups per day. "It doesn't require a high intake to see a difference," Kim says, "and this is an achievable amount." 🐦

—Colin Heffinger





# POWERING THE FUTURE

We have one inexhaustible, pollution-free source of energy, the late physicist Karl Böer wrote in 1971: the sun.

Böer's proposal to develop the Institute of Energy Conversion (IEC) would establish a solar research facility at UD. Now, it is the oldest such enterprise in the world, responsible for technological advances that have made solar the least expensive way to make electricity in many places.

"The cost of generating electricity from solar will keep coming down for a long time," says IEC Director William Shafarman, professor of materials science and engineering. "Eventually, solar and wind should be the way we get all our energy."

There's plenty out there. The sun sends enough energy in an hour to power Earth for a full year.

And while there are still challenges around capturing, converting and distributing that energy, prevailing market forces, continuing advances in technology and decreasing costs all make it possible that solar energy could provide 40% of the nation's electricity demand by 2035, according to the Department of Energy.

Böer, who died in 2018, would not be surprised. Shortly after the 1972 launch of IEC, he and his team undertook a remarkable project to build the first house powered and heated by solar energy alone. A chief member of that team was inventor Maria Telkes, who developed the thermal energy storage for the two-bedroom house, known as Solar One, which was built just off South Chapel Street and still stands, though it is no longer in formal use.

But the impact of UD's solar expertise continues. Last year, UD's first solar research-focused array was installed to help integrate solar energy into the electricity grid in new ways. Researchers also are working on ways to optimize silicon solar cells that improve performance and reliability while costing less than conventional manufacturing.

And all IEC work ultimately generates global scientific leadership. A world map on a wall at the center has scores of pins on it, designating the location of IEC alumni.

"Almost anywhere you go in the ecosystem of photovoltaics you will find people who did research at IEC," says Prof. John Byrne, director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy and an affiliate of IEC. "It's what universities uniquely provide: the intellectual infrastructure that drives research and development into the future." 🐦

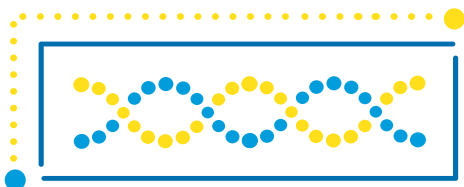
—Beth Miller

PHOTO BY EVAN KRAPE



# INVENTING TOMORROW

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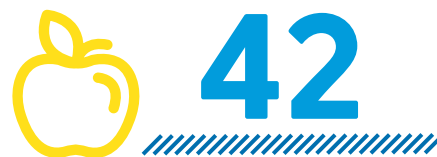


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*—Logan Kim, EG21, 24M*



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# BEHIND THE SCENES WITH BRENNAN

John Brennan doesn't want you to read this.

Not because he has anything to hide from his 50 years in UD's communications office. He just likes toiling in obscurity and wants to keep it that way.

But his story—of working directly with six presidents, nine provosts, dozens of deans, thousands of professors and staffers ... of having a hand in every major University news event since 1972 (plus countless minor ones) ... of attending more Commencement ceremonies than probably anyone in campus history—is worth hearing.

"Professors or staff members who've been here 50 years or more are very important in their areas, but John cuts across every department," says Lisa Gensel, coordinator of University Archives. "He knows everyone from the late 20th century of this University in a way no one else does."

Former provost Dan Rich joined the faculty two years before Brennan and calls him "one of these people who makes the University work, and that's not an overstatement. You don't see John, but he's always there."

Brennan came to Newark fresh out of the University of Missouri, and a few months later, he and his late wife, Susan, married in the attic chapel of UD's Methodist student center, now the Center for Black Culture.

Brennan's UD career began as an entry-level assistant news editor, typing press releases and then mailing them to local journalists who might call days later about the story.

"The speed of communications has changed dramatically," he says. "Not only are you able to do things faster

now; you're expected to do it faster, too."

Over the years, Brennan has helped document UD's growth into an international research powerhouse, written extensively about the campus evolution and even witnessed both the construction of McKinly Lab in the mid-1970s and its demolition earlier this spring. As a talented and precise writer, Brennan has been a sounding board and mentor-by-example for generations of communicators, who flock to his paper-strewn, pig-decorated office for advice, encouragement and a bite of chocolate.

Brennan's own professional role model was Mary Hempel, a fellow Missouri graduate who ran UD's communications office for 26 years. "She was a very caring person with high journalistic standards," he says.

One evening in 2005, Hempel passed away suddenly after leaving her office in the Academy Building. Brennan broke the news to the staff the next morning and spoke at her Carpenter Center memorial service. He eventually stepped into Hempel's role.

Ask Brennan for the secret to his longevity and success, and he characteristically directs the spotlight elsewhere.

"There's something about the culture of a university, being in this environment where almost everyone stays between the ages of 18 and 22," he says. "There's a level of energy and excitement that makes you feel like you're younger than you really are. You can kind of kid yourself that you don't age, either." 🐷

— Mike Chalmers, AS20M



ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY C. CHASE



# A broader

Making higher education  
accessible + affordable  
for **all** Delawareans





# vision

By Ann Manser, AS73

There is no Georgian brick here. No nose to rub when you walk into the library. No Main Street.

Instead, there are panoramic views of Wilmington's East Side neighborhood. Or of Sussex County farmland that stretches to the horizon.

This is UD, too, albeit a little different.

Long known in Delaware as the Parallel Program but reinvented in 2005 as the Associate in Arts Program (AAP), this unique pathway to a UD bachelor's degree offers an ambitious, mission-centric vision to ensure all Delawareans have access to a premier, affordable UD education.

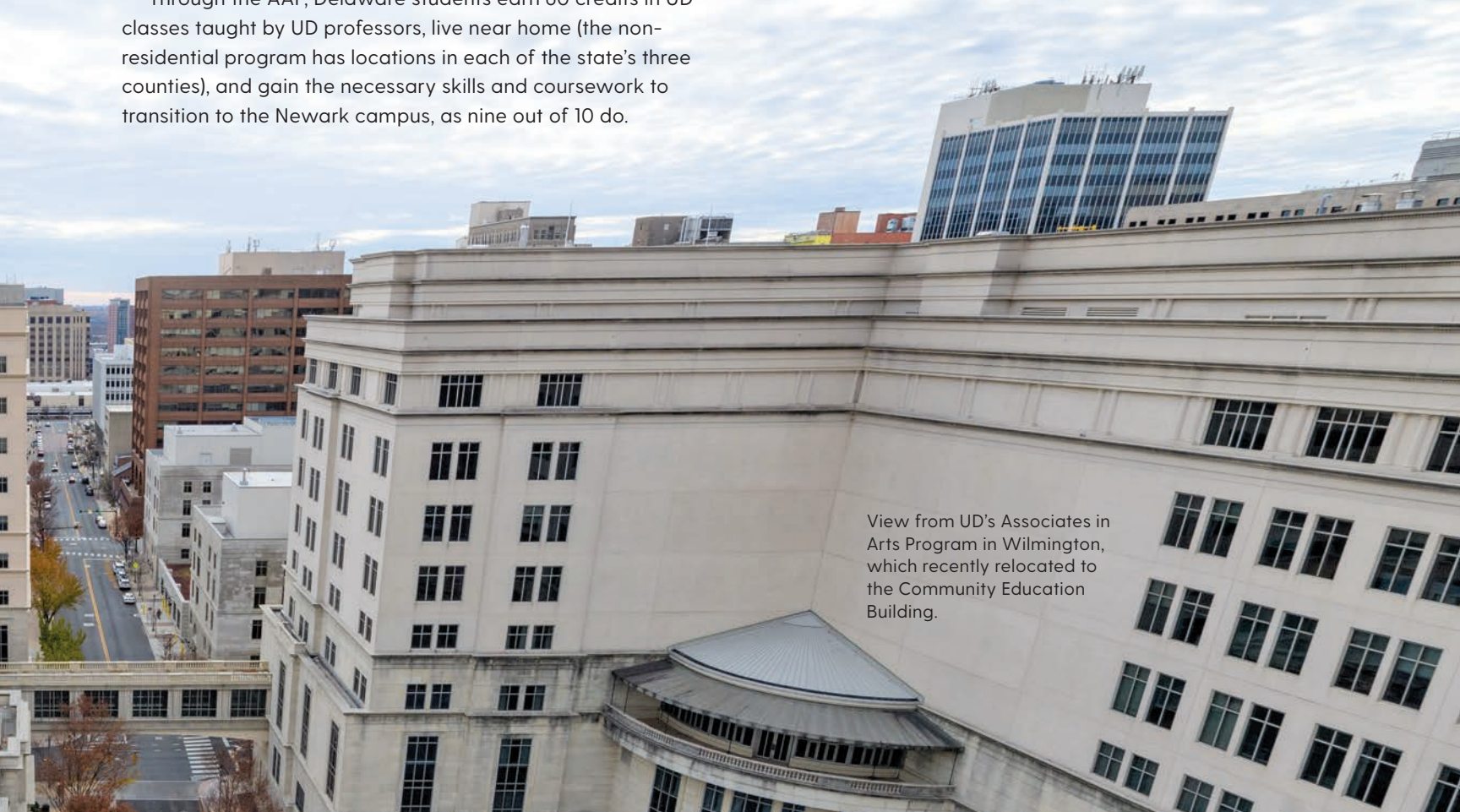
Through the AAP, Delaware students earn 60 credits in UD classes taught by UD professors, live near home (the non-residential program has locations in each of the state's three counties), and gain the necessary skills and coursework to transition to the Newark campus, as nine out of 10 do.

"It's an innovative and seamlessly integrated pathway into degree completion," says President Dennis Assanis. "The program is deliberately designed for flexible opportunity."

It is also designed for student success amidst a rapidly changing workforce. Today's AAP students conduct undergraduate research with UD faculty, receive more extensive and personalized career advising across the program's three campuses and choose from a growing number of internships and community engagement projects.

The expanded services are especially prominent in Wilmington, where AAP had been operating on the Delaware Technical Community College campus since 1971 and in its own space in the UD Downtown Center since 2004.

Now, the Wilmington AAP has relocated to the Community



View from UD's Associates in Arts Program in Wilmington, which recently relocated to the Community Education Building.



Education Building (CEB) in the heart of the city's business district, where it occupies 50,000 square feet on the eighth and ninth floors and shares building space with other educational programs, including two charter schools, Kuumba Academy and Great Oaks.

The CEB mission aligns well with UD's. Or as David Satran, faculty director of UD's Associate in Arts Program, puts it, "Our mandate is equity. For a long time, higher education has asked: Are our students prepared for us? Now, we're asking: How well are we prepared for our students?"

To answer that question, AAP faculty and staff are trained to assist with food insecurity, housing, internet and laptop access, transportation and wellness. The new location also provides space for students to study with amenities they may otherwise lack at home, from baskets of healthy snacks to quiet spaces to reliable internet service.

"You can't just assume that every family has access to all the resources that support student success," says AAP Associate Director David Teague.

And student success is fundamental to the AAP mission. Tuition costs are roughly one-third of those on the Newark campus; however, nearly all students attend for free, either through federal Pell Grants or through SEED, the Delaware scholarship program that covers tuition for eligible state residents.



Art instructor Rayna DeReus teaches a section on cartooning in her ART113 Drawing for Non-Majors class.

Current student Isaiah Gerard, AS24, puts it more bluntly: "I'm saving a ton of money here."

The affordability factor helps attract Delaware students, he and his classmates agree, but so do the small classes.

"It feels like high school, but it's a transition," says AAP student Avery Ruebush, AS25. "I've taken classes in entomology, leadership, gender studies. They don't really go together, but they give me a good sense of what I want to do."

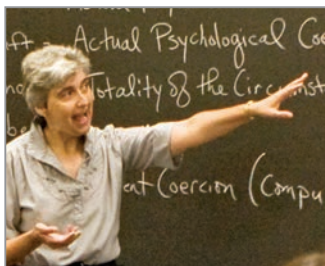
That process of discovery requires a climate of support that "meets students where they are," says Teague.

Rony Baltazar-Lopez, AS17, BSPA22, for instance, had responsibilities at home—taking care of his siblings, helping with the family business, serving as "unofficial translator" for his immigrant parents. With only an eighth-grade education, his mother and father viewed higher education as a crucial ticket into the middle class, but Baltazar-Lopez knew that enrolling at a campus far from his Milford home would prove difficult.

AAP would offer the perfect solution, allowing him to meet his familial obligations while earning a bachelor's degree in political science. Now, Baltazar-Lopez has earned his master's in public administration from the University. He also serves

## 1968

The UD Parallel Program opens its doors on the Georgetown campus of Delaware Technical Community College. Housed at DTCC but administered by UD and staffed solely by UD faculty, it offers southern Delaware students the opportunity to earn



their first two years of a UD education locally and at a substantially reduced tuition.

# AAP through the years

## 1967

The University and the state of Delaware establish a partnership to give Sussex County residents access to a UD degree without having to go to Newark.

## 1971

The Parallel Program expands to space at DTCC in Wilmington.

## 1985

A third location is established at DTCC's Dover campus.



## 2004

Wilmington campus expanded to offer classes at the UD Downtown Center in addition to its location with Wilmington's DTCC campus.

as policy and communications director for the Delaware Department of State and is vice president of the Milford School Board, inspiring other first-generation students of color into leadership positions.

"It never felt like you were just going to class or just trying to pass," he says of the AAP experience that laid this career foundation. "It felt like you were fostering relationships."

Fellow alumni echo these sentiments. "The program set me up for success," says Polytech School District's 2021 Teacher of the Year Cameron Sweeney, AS11, BE21M, who went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees at UD and now teaches social studies at Polytech High School. "It allowed me to adapt to college in a way that fit my needs."

Cody Prang, AS12, didn't even know what a Ph.D. was when he first enrolled in AAP. Today, the professor of anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., credits his rigorous Associate in Arts preparation as foundational for his journey.

"The material was the same as in Newark and the expectations were high," he says, "but the classes were small, and there was a lot of individual attention."

For Zoë Read, AS11, taking classes in Wilmington for two years didn't prevent her deep involvement in UD's Newark campus, where she joined the skating club and wrote for the student newspaper, eventually becoming features editor.

"Students came from Newark to Wilmington to tell us

about all the activities we could be part of, so that made it easy to be involved," says Read, who went on to earn a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and is now a news reporter back in Delaware.

The success stories go on and on. Since its inception in 1967, the program has graduated thousands of UD alumni who have made immeasurable contributions to the state and beyond. Looking ahead, the AAP plans to broaden curricular offerings in health, business and other fields (and has already expanded offerings to include a track to degrees in elementary teacher education and nursing).

"But our perspective is the same," Satran says. "We are going to be ready for our students."

Stay tuned. 🐦



AAP students in Daniel McDevitt's BISC103 Principles of Biology class get out of the classroom for some gloves-on experience with bees and beekeeping at the Wilmington YWCA.

## 2005

The Parallel Program becomes the UD Associate in Arts Program (AAP), offering similar benefits and opportunities, including reduced tuition costs, small class sizes and the path to a four-year UD degree. In AAP, however, students earn an associate degree after completing 60 credits in the core courses required of all undergraduates; they can then transition to Newark for their final two years of study and earn a bachelor's degree.



## 2006

The AAP in Georgetown offers an associate degree program that prepares students to earn their bachelor's degree in elementary education.

## 2017

A new partnership with Beebe Healthcare allows students at the AAP in



Georgetown to follow a curriculum preparing them to enter the Registered Nurse Program at Margaret H. Rollins School of Nursing in Lewes.

## 2019

► The elementary teacher education program is offered on the Wilmington AAP campus as well as in southern Delaware.

► After years of steady growth, total AAP enrollment in the state's three counties tops 900, with an official Fall 2019 head count of 912.

## 2021

The AAP's Wilmington campus moves to the eighth and ninth floors of the Community Education Building, located in the heart of Wilmington's business district.











# AGAINST ALL ODDS

Afghan women find hope in the freedom to dream big

STORY BY DIANE STOPYRA | ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAILEY WHITMAN

They call it a graveyard of empires.

The forbidding peaks and deep river gorges of Afghanistan have witnessed the collapse of five tumultuous regimes in four decades. The most recent coup, last August, saw a U.S.-backed republic dissolve like snow on the base of Noshaq mountain. As feral Taliban jihadists descended, women suffered the loss of their dignity, their access to education, their ability to leave home without a male chaperone, on penalty of death.

While a horrified world watched this nightmare unfold online, Scott Stevens, director of UD's English Language Institute (ELI), recalled an encounter on the east bank of the Nile River in 1979, when a disheveled girl holding a baby goat yanked on his camera case. He could take her photo—for a price. The 21-year-old Stevens had spent all of his savings on this trip, but as he handed over his last few dollars, the girl's expression relayed one thing: *You owe me.*

"This interaction has haunted me, because I *did* owe her," Stevens says now. "I knew that this girl, in that part of Egypt, would grow up with no more than a sixth-grade education. Her photo has been on my desk ever since, reminding me of the debt we owe half the world's population, to ensure that girls and women have opportunity for education, opportunity for a future."

Last summer, Stevens recognized one potential pathway for making good on this debt. In a news article, he read about 148 female college students who'd engineered their own escape out of Afghanistan, evading bullets and bombs before boarding a Spartan military transport. With the full support of

UD's administration, Stevens spearheaded an effort to help, establishing a collaborative of new academic homes around the country for the most vulnerable women.

Now, 14 of these students, the largest cohort, are reclaiming their lives as Blue Hens. Since arriving at UD in December, they've participated in a year-long program meant to prepare them for undergraduate matriculation. While the ELI has facilitated language and cultural education of students from 150 countries over the course of 40-plus years, this effort marks the first intentional focus on displaced war victims.

Known as the Women's Initiative in Service and Education, the WISE program includes intensive English-language coursework, individual tutoring and specialized workshops on financial literacy, time management and more. For everything else, there is Rebecca Boyle, WISE program coordinator. On call 24/7, she liaises with a partnering resettlement agency and counsels students, providing companionship, rides to the doctor, even personalized shampoo recommendations.

"I strive to convey: *You are safe here, you are welcome,*" Boyle says. "But I am learning as much from these women as they are from me. They will change the world."

In the following pages, three of UD's Afghan students share their stories—of fear, faith and, perhaps most crucially, freedom.

For Stevens, these stories speak to a mission 43 years in the making.

"I think of her often," he says of the child from his picture. "I can imagine her children cheering on our UD Afghan scholars. And I can imagine their mother grumbling, with a wry smile: 'About time.'"





## A SONG OF FREEDOM



YOU ARE NOT  
MEANT TO  
STAY WITH  
YOUR PARENTS  
FOR 15 OR 20  
YEARS, MOVE  
INTO YOUR  
HUSBAND'S  
HOUSE, GIVE  
BIRTH AND  
DIE WITHOUT  
DOING  
ANYTHING FOR  
YOURSELF.

From the peak of Forty-Girl Mountain overlooking Kabul, Hajar Ahmed\* gazed upon symbols of progress in Afghanistan's capital city: universities, shopping centers and restored gardens lush with apricot trees and rose bushes. A high school student at the time, she'd made the hourlong ascent to celebrate the Afghan new year, Nowruz, which coincides with the start of spring. The sky was clear—residents had stowed their coal-burning furnaces for the season—and a friend encouraged her to take advantage of this moment and all its promise by making a wish for her future.

Perhaps inspired by the 40 girls who, according to Afghan legend, flung themselves from the side of this mountain one century ago to avoid slavery at the hands of a tyrannical government, Ahmed made an empowered choice of her own: She wished for knowledge, for fulfillment and for a scholarship to a university where she might achieve both.

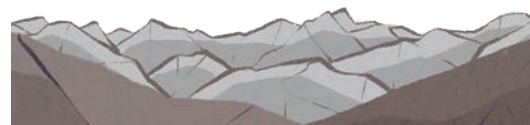
"From a very young age, I had this idea of dreaming big," she says. "I was not afraid."

Ahmed was born a displaced person in Iran, the country where her parents fled after escaping the extremist Taliban movement in the 90s. When she was three, her grandmother's health deteriorated, and the elderly woman decided she wanted to die in her home country. The family moved back to their native Afghanistan, a nation no longer under jihadist control.

In Kabul, Ahmed grew up with many siblings (although she prefers not to reveal how many, she uses both hands when listing them). Coming of age in their patriarchal society, she and her sisters were expected to play house, to imagine themselves as mothers and wives. But Ahmed gleaned no joy from pretending to be something that, to her, held little aspiration. Instead, she pleaded with friends to join her for rounds of *jozbazzi*, a more physical game involving stones and a dirt court.

"I value family," she says. "But you are not meant to stay with your parents for 15 or 20 years, move into your husband's house, give birth and die without doing anything for yourself."

In her family's two-room home, as she grew older, Ahmed managed many tasks. She helped her mother make the daily bread in an outdoor clay oven, and she prepared jam from a crop of



apple trees in the backyard. When extended family visited for the Islamic holidays known as Eid, her father sometimes slaughtered a sheep for the meal (never a cow, as "that was for rich people"), while she kept a watchful eye on rambunctious, kite-flying cousins.

Between volleyball games and posting to Instagram, a teenage Ahmed developed a passion for learning. She joined a cultural group organized by a government official, which allowed for reading original poetry and essays in front of progressive community members. With a scholarship, she also took English language classes at a local educational center, eventually becoming so fluent, she taught these classes herself. The income helped support her family—a necessity, since partners in a sheep-selling business regularly swindled her illiterate father.

Ahmed's older brother, conditioned to believe women belong at home, repeatedly asked their mother: "Aren't you afraid of your daughter's big dreams?" But this matriarch encouraged her girls to pursue a life beyond cleaning and childrearing, a life more robust than her own.

Ahmed took the message to heart. After a three-month application process, she received a scholarship to Bangladesh's Asian University for Women (AUW), an institution dedicated to the empowerment of female leaders. The dream she'd manifested on top of a mountain just a few years before finally felt within reach.

"I watched each of my peers marry another illiterate man," she says. "But I am different. I see education as a powerful weapon."

The month Ahmed was set to leave for this new opportunity, the Taliban unleashed a wave of reprisal killings and regained Kabul. Her home, once the site of happy celebrations and kite flying between apple trees, became a prison. As the streets turned to bedlam, she traded her jeans for a floor-length dress from her wardrobe (anything shorter might now get her killed) and did something she'd never been inclined to do before, something prohibited under Taliban rule.

"I started singing," she says. "Singing while crying."

With the words of Afghan songwriter Dawood Sarkhosh in her head—*My land, so tired of persecution; My land, anonymous and silenced; My land, suffering without a cure*—Ahmed planned her escape. Coordinating with University officials, she and AUW peers around the capital chartered seven city busses and, with nothing but the clothes on their backs, made their way to the Kabul Airport.

“My mother pushed me and encouraged me, and even my brother believed I should take this chance,” she says. “They told me: ‘Even if you don’t make it, God forbid, at least you will have tried.’”

Ahmed and the others spent four days circling the airport grounds, navigating through a stampeding crowd 10,000 strong. At one point, bullets pierced one of the busses and, when a suicide bomb killed 170 civilians, some passengers witnessed the flames. The students slept—and prayed—in shifts.

Sensing their window of opportunity would soon close, Ahmed and her classmates decided to fling themselves from the proverbial mountain, risking everything to approach a Taliban-controlled gate and plead their case. Unmoved, a guard fired his gun into the air as warning. All seven buses turned around at midnight, and the women returned home.

“I told myself: ‘You are stupid to have faith in this situation,’” Ahmed said.

But the following morning, the women steeled themselves for another attempt. This time, just before dawn, U.S. soldiers escorted the students onto a Spartan military transport. Only then did relief untangle the fear and anger knotting inside Ahmed. She called her brother, who had not been eating or sleeping in her absence, to let him know she had survived—her big, frightening dreams still intact.

Now, as she adjusts to life at UD, Ahmed worries daily about the safety of her community, especially fearful that her sisters and other girls, as young as 15, will be forced into marriage. But she did not escape that reality to lose herself in grief.

When she’s not working toward a degree in physical therapy, Ahmed spends her free time finding threads of cultural connection. Now in Newark, she and three of her fellow evacuees experiment with what they call AA, or



\* Names have been changed to protect the students and their families.





I AM  
GOING  
TO FIND  
MYSELF  
HERE.

Afghan-American cooking. To a soundtrack of Justin Bieber, a sensation even in the Middle East, they infuse English-muffin pizzas with Afghan spices or bake a type of flatbread known as bolani. The dough Ahmed still makes by hand, but it's not quite the same as the clay-oven version she learned from her mother as a girl.

Nothing, she realizes, will ever be the same.

Despite this heartbreak, Ahemd has hope—hope that the Taliban might self-destruct under the weight of its own evil, and that she might someday see her family again. In the meantime, she'll continue video chatting with her parents and siblings every few weeks, sharing with them odd perceptions people in this strange new land hold about her home: "They ask if we have shopping malls and even doorbells in Afghanistan," she says. "Of course we do. My country developed rapidly, and I believe this would have continued... if only we'd been allowed peace."

Last spring, Ahmed once again observed another Afghan new year. This time, she could not climb the mountains of her beloved Kabul, and she could not celebrate with family. But she has not given up on making wishes for her future.

"I believe no one is created without a purpose," she says. "I still have faith I can accomplish something positive with my life. And I still have faith in humanity."



## LONGING FOR PEACE

Ferwadin Serat can still taste the fresh watermelon she shared with her sister on a bank of the Kokcha River. She can still picture the snapping fish that chased them out of the water. And she can still hear their laughter, rising above the rapids.

It is one of many fond memories Serat carries from her days growing up in this river valley, surrounded by fields of saffron, fruit trees and roaming livestock on her family's land, roughly the size of the UD campus. The recollections bring a sense of inner peace, which, coincidentally, is

said to be a side effect of lapis lazuli, the precious, celestial-blue stones mined from this fertile earth for thousands of years.

But not even magical stones can ward off evil.

For the 20 years that the U.S. occupied Afghanistan, Serat's northern province withstood violent attacks from the Taliban. The evenings brought a cacophony of mortar shelling that drowned the sounds of the river. In the mornings, Serat braced for the insurgents who regularly climbed onto the roof of her school building to protest the rights of girls receiving an education. Due to overcrowding, she endured these disturbances from inside an adjacent tent that served as a makeshift classroom, often hiding under a table with fellow pupils or abandoning written examinations to flee to safety when the shouting turned menacing.

The war took a toll on Serat's family. A relative had been forced to marry a Taliban soldier at the age of 17. Then there was the beloved 22-year-old cousin killed by a bomb at his Afghan university in 2016. She learned about his death while watching news broadcasts, a cherished ritual that provided a conduit to the world outside her mountain-ringed province. In her grief, Serat feared a similar fate, but she clung to hope.

"I still had belief in my future," she says. "I still dreamed of what my life could be."

Serat persisted with her lessons in the tent, getting soaked during the rainy season and nearly passing out in the summer heat, her requisite burqa making the latter especially difficult to endure. Upon graduation, she became the only one of her peers to enter a university, studying in a less remote part of the same province. But when she returned years later, a college graduate with a degree in literature, the realities of her conservative region set in. As a woman, her work options were severely restricted.

Fortunately, Serat's parents were relatively progressive. Her mother had also managed to obtain a university degree, and she served as a teacher while secretly dreaming of life as a performer. Around the house and garden, she sang the lyrics of Farhad Darya, a formerly exiled music composer and peace activist considered the Elvis of Afghanistan. Serat's father, meanwhile, worked

for the government's agricultural sector, teaching members of the community how to tend their land. He enjoyed his career but, when he saw his daughter consumed by sadness over her limited post-college prospects, he decided to move all five of his children, aged 14 to 24, to the more contemporary capital city of Kabul.

Even 12 hours removed from their province, the family could not escape war. Sporadic bombings executed by Taliban insurgents prevented Serat from ever fully exhaling. A music fan like her mother, she considered taking advantage of a nearby guitar class but worried that such a gathering would attract militants looking to make an example of progressive young women who dared sing in public. "Always, there was fear in my heart," she says.

Even so, Serat relished other aspects of her new life, like trading in her burqa for jeans and a smaller head scarf. She also found a rewarding job within the government's energy sector and, for one year, she basked in the feeling of a long-but-fulfilling day at work. The aromatic rice in her family's kabli pulao dish tasted somehow better knowing that her income had helped purchase the ingredients.

This brush with empowerment left Serat wanting more. Following the lead of an older sister, she and another sibling applied for scholarships to Bangladesh's Asian University for Women (AUW). With the COVID-19 pandemic raging, all three women were admitted, and they waited patiently for a return to normalcy so they could seize this ticket out of Afghanistan.

Their departure came sooner than expected.

When the Taliban wrested control of Kabul in August 2021, Serat watched from a window in her family's ninth-story apartment as her street descended into chaos. Neighbors ran from the encroaching insurgents, and two people just behind her building were killed. From her television set, a BBC news anchor narrated the unfolding nightmare, and she learned that her president had fled the country. Deep within the Arg, Kabul's presidential palace, men with automatic weapons slung over their arms snapped iPhone photos of one another sitting behind the former leader's ornate wooden desk.

"It was like being in hell," she says. "I thought: 'This is it. Everything is finished.'"



I STILL.  
HAD  
BELIEF  
IN MY  
FUTURE.  
I STILL.  
DREAMED  
OF WHAT  
MY LIFE  
COULD BE







I WANT TO  
CHANGE  
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FREEDOM.  
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PEACE.

Serat held her breath as, one by one, her mother and siblings returned from their respective jobs, having survived the pandemonium. She watched her 14-year-old sister run home from school in tears, knowing she might never set foot in another classroom. Her father paced the room, voicing the worry that regularly kept him awake at night: “What will I do if the Taliban forces one of my daughters into marriage?”

After one hour, the street turned eerily quiet. Serat’s home had lost power and water, outages that would last weeks. The female siblings spent the following days sleeping and crying, losing track of the hours as they retreated from the world.

“I felt sick,” Serat says. “Every thought, every word, every social media post—it was all about the Taliban. I called my boss and told him I was coming back to work, but he said, ‘Do you want to die? Women can no longer enter, and men with guns are standing outside the door.’”

Her parents tried to console her—“We’ve lived this life before; we can do it again”—but, for Serat, there could be no going back to a time when laughing in the street might result in death. Instead, she and her two college-bound siblings decided to risk the escape plan conceived by AUW peers, with help from school officials who’d been coordinating with U.S. military on the ground.

After an emotional goodbye to their family, the sisters boarded one of seven chartered busses to the airport. As they circled the grounds for four days, desperate strangers approached their vehicle, hoping for their own shot at a flight out, but the driver turned them away. In the middle of the night, when Serat’s mother texted for updates, she had to cut off contact—she could not risk light from her cell phone illuminating her face and drawing the attention of passing militants.

Eventually, the students made it to an airport checkpoint, where a member of the Taliban asked a designated leader to hand over a list of passengers. But, with shaking hands, this woman failed to produce the information quickly enough. The man commanded the students to get lost—they had wasted his time. For a moment, Serat saw her future crumble before her eyes. But neither she nor any of the other women moved; they had not come

this far to turn around. After a pleading intervention from the leader of another bus, the exasperated Taliban finally waved the students through.

“You cannot imagine what it is like to be face to face with one of them until it happens to you,” Serat says. “It’s indescribable.”

After a flight to Saudi Arabia, then Spain and finally Wisconsin’s Fort McCoy, a U.S. Army installation where the women spent four uncertain months, Serat is now at UD, working toward a degree in international relations. She dreams of becoming a U.N. ambassador with power to advocate for her country.

“I want to change minds,” she says. “When people ask me where I am from and I answer Afghanistan, I can read the words behind their eyes. They think maybe we are all terrorists, or that we come from a no-good place. But most of us are just like you. We want a life without risk. We want freedom. Most of all, we want peace.”

While one of Serat’s sisters is studying at New York’s Cornell University, the other has become a fellow Blue Hen. Together, the women explore UD’s campus, where they are continually taken aback by the almost pathological optimism of the student body. It’s a mentality that has rubbed off on Serat, whose water bottle bears a “Life is good” sticker.

“Sometimes, I feel like I’m 80 years old because of everything I’ve experienced,” she says. “With friends at home, we would talk only about our problems. But here, I see the students discussing their futures and their hopes. I realize that I can be happy.”

Since arriving, the women have also taken part in the activity Serat never felt safe committing to in Kabul: guitar club. On certain weekday afternoons, if you happen to stroll the halls of the University’s English Language Institute, you might just hear the gentle refrain of Farhad Darya, the same lyrics Serat’s mother once sang amidst the lush foliage of their family’s home by the water: *I am in a timely journey of wandering... far away from the skirt of Kabul River... weary hearts’ pilgrimage is calling me.*

Serat doesn’t yet know whether she’ll ever see this home by the water again, but, when she closes her eyes, she can still taste the fresh watermelon grown on her family’s land. For now, at least, this is enough.



## ASSERTING HER POWER

One mild evening in the gritty Pakistan neighborhood where she grew up, 16-year-old Tamanna Salehi did something vulgar and unthinkable for a young woman: She rode a bicycle.

This was not her first offense. Salehi often paid her little brother 20 rupees, the equivalent of 26 cents, to borrow his red set of wheels. On those occasions, she made sure not to violate cultural norms too egregiously, staying on her street and never losing sight of the modest home where she shared one bedroom with her parents and three siblings.

But this day was different.

As Salehi pedaled, a neighborhood woman scolded her for careening down this path of certain moral decay and social ignominy. And she instructed the teenager to go back inside and put on a longer head scarf, one that would drape past her knees in a show of modesty and submission to Allah.

"So I rode even farther," says Salehi, now 21, giggling as she recalls disappearing onto a neighboring street. "I wanted to prove to this woman that I can do this—I *am* doing this—and nothing bad is going to happen."

Resistance, you could say, is built into her DNA.

In 1998, Salehi's parents escaped the terror of the extremist Taliban movement by fleeing their native Afghanistan. They resettled in a southwestern area of Pakistan populated by fellow displaced Hazaras, members of a Persian-speaking minority community ruthlessly targeted by the militant group. Although they never studied beyond fifth grade themselves, the couple valued education—even for young girls who were routinely denied access. After starting a family, Salehi's father committed to saving for his children's school tuition but, since he could not work in the country without citizenship, he regularly traveled more than 2,000 miles to Kuwait, where he cooked in a restaurant for two-year stretches.

Despite this relatively progressive mission, more conservative values manifested in Salehi's childhood home. Unlike her younger brother, she was prohibited from speaking with peers of the opposite sex, from seeing friends outside of school, even from playing outside. Her father controlled all the money in the house, often meeting requests for everyday items by dramatically shouting his thoughts on proper spending "just to show his power." Meanwhile, her mother was not permitted to work outside the home, and "she felt dissatisfied with her life, which was so sad for me," says Salehi, vowing, "I will not become that."

When she began asking at the age of nine to take classes in wushu, a type of martial arts, her parents said no. Their eldest daughter jumping and kicking in front of a male instructor registered as inconceivable. But after seven years and much pleading, they finally acquiesced. Members of the community were less understanding. One woman insisted the activity is not meant for "girls with no muscles and no power." But Salehi wore black bruises on her knees with pride.

Following high school, she dreamed of something even more shocking: higher education. To achieve her goal, her refugee status left her with no choice but to resettle in Afghanistan. Neighbors once again whispered about the dangerous independence of this young girl and the inevitable promiscuity and corruption that would befall her, should she leave her family.

"Do not think about those people," Salehi urged her worried mother. "Think about how bright my future will be: I won't have to be a servant for a man; I can earn for myself. Think about that moment." Her mother would take in those words and reluctantly reply: "You are right."

In Afghanistan's capital, Salehi faced myriad hardships, including hostel life with sporadic water and 10 girls to a single room. Yet she felt invigorated by the vibrancy of her Kabul University campus, by her computer science courses and by a city that, unlike her own sleepy town, came to life daily at 5:30 a.m. Mostly, she felt intoxicated with freedom.

"In Pakistan, I was thinking that Afghanistan is all about war," she says. "But then I saw the beauty



FROM A  
VERY YOUNG  
AGE, I HAD  
THIS IDEA OF  
DREAMING  
BIG. I WAS  
NOT AFRAID.





of Kabul. I saw how hard people work, and how the girls seek education. Even though it is also an Islamic country, it was less strict—we wore jeans and smaller head scarves. Girls and boys worked together, and young people were empowering themselves and creating chances for others to do the same. I thought it was beautiful.”

As part of her own mission toward empowerment, Salehi pursued hobbies, like skateboarding and dancing to hip hop. And, with her hijab haphazardly tucked beneath a metallic blue helmet, she took her favorite, formerly taboo pastime to a new level: She joined a club for young people interested in learning bicycle tricks. In one photo she saves on her phone, she wears a plaid shirt and jeans while standing atop a red bike. One sneaker is perched on the handlebars, the other is planted just in front of the saddle, and her arms are outstretched.

“When I’m riding, I feel free,” she says. “I feel like myself.”

In November of 2020, an act of terrorism sent shockwaves through this blissful reality. The Taliban blasted the gate of Kabul University with an explosive, allowing three gunmen to kill 32 people and wound 50 more.

The institution closed its doors for one week and, when classes resumed, undeterred scholars eagerly filed onto the geranium and cherry blossom-lined paths of campus—Salehi included. For a time, attending classes felt “a little scary,” she admits, noting that protocol for handling a future attack became part of her regular curriculum. But the experience made Salehi feel something else, too: powerful. The Taliban, she believes, fear educated women: “I told myself: I am so lucky that I am able to come to this classroom.”

The fortunate feeling was short-lived. Last August, insurgents once again entered the capital. Only this time, they took control of the city, a reality Salehi never imagined possible.

“I woke up that day and went shopping,” she says. “I even went to a restaurant with a friend. Later, everyone started saying the Taliban were all around Kabul, and on social media you saw people closing their shops. This wasn’t making any sense. A country that developed over 20 years—a country that was working—a bunch of crazy people can just come and take it? It all happened so quickly.”

Unable to return to her hostel for fear of an attack, Salehi stayed with an uncle. From the window of his home, she processed a jarring scene: disheveled, gun-wielding members of the Taliban driving in confiscated police cars, the vehicles “that were supposed to protect us, that were supposed to protect our freedom.”

She had one glimmer of hope.

Looking for ways to make her education more affordable, Salehi had applied for a scholarship to the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh. At the time of the attack, she was mere weeks away from a transfer. This new academic institution, she knew, was working on a plan to get their incoming Afghan students safely out of the country. But while her peers had their passports ready to go, Salehi’s was still being processed.

After much back-and-forth, representatives from AUW ultimately decided there was nothing they could do. The risk of trying to get through a Taliban checkpoint without proper forms was too great; they would have to leave Salehi behind. For three days, as her classmates circled Kabul Airport on chartered buses, praying for a path through chaos on the ground, she sat at home, pleading her case to AUW: “Oh, God. I can’t stay here. This is my only hope.”

Then came an answer to prayer.

Representatives from the school relented, alerting Salehi she could take the risk after all. It was 4:30 p.m., and one of the buses would pick her up in 30 minutes for yet another attempt at escape. She packed only her phone, important travel documents and, because she was on her period at the time, menstrual pads. Her hijab, she made sure, covered everything but her eyes.

Salehi and the others spent the night on their respective buses, parked outside of an airport gate. At first, the sound of nearby gunfire led to screaming from the women, but eventually the noise simply “became normal,” she says. Just before dawn, the Taliban finally let the women through, but they scolded them as they passed: *Good Muslim girls would never abandon their country. You don’t need independence; you need a man.*

Leveraging one final indignity, the guards forced Salehi to leave her menstrual pads behind. Considering everything she’d abandoned for this chance at a future, this final humiliation felt trivial. But it was also symbolic: men who feared and detested her womanhood weaponizing a symbol of this womanhood in the most empowered yet vulnerable hour of her life. They would not break her spirit.

“I welcome hardships in my life,” she says. “I like taking risks, and I like danger, because I know how strong I will be in the face of obstacles.”

Since arriving at UD, Salehi has taken part in a self-defense class put on by the University Police Department, affording an opportunity to reflect on how far she’s come since her days in Pakistan, when her passion for fighting felt illicit. Neighbors from her hometown who once lamented her independence also marvel at her unlikely journey.

“They are happy I’m here,” she says. “People who called me a bad person are now saying how lucky I am, and how wonderful it is that I’m in a position to maybe help my family.”

Salehi hopes to prove them right by working diligently at UD, potentially in a public health program. To arrive at her classes, naturally, she will ride a bicycle.

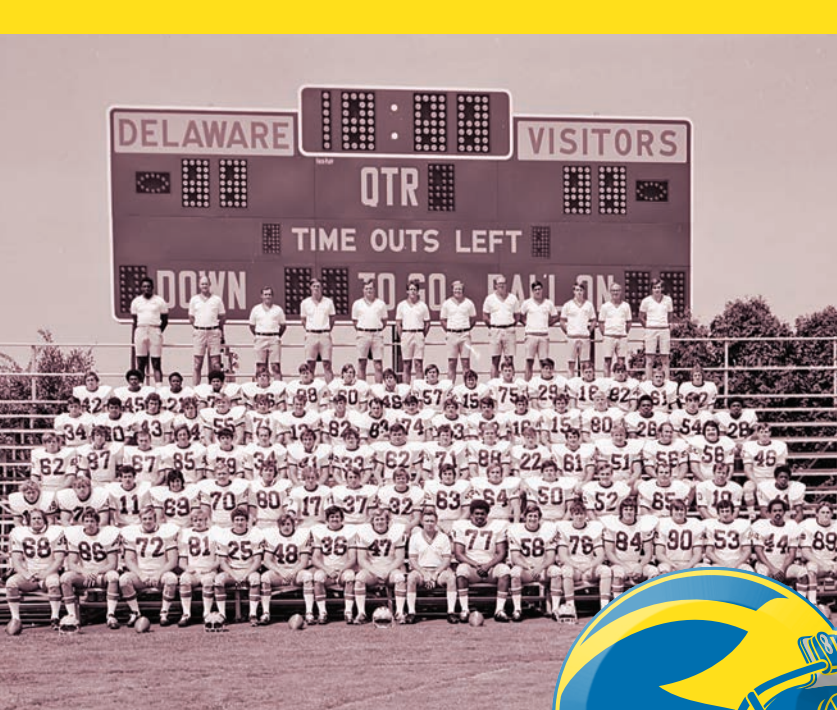
While she respects those in her cohort who feel differently, she has decided to shed her hijab, believing the head scarf not to be a legitimate requirement of Islam, but a misguided directive imposed by those who’ve misinterpreted the faith. As she rides to campus, pulling a trick or two along the way, Salehi will feel the wind in her hair—and the endless possibilities at her fingertips.

“I am going to find myself here,” she says, a hint of a smile beginning to play across her face. “I am going to improve what is already inside of me.” 🌸



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these women, visit  
[udel.edu/afghansupport](https://udel.edu/afghansupport)**





# SMELLS LIKE TEAM SPIRIT

REFLECTIONS FROM DELAWARE FOOTBALL'S UNDEFEATED 1972 SEASON

BY ARTIKA RANGAN CASINI, AS05

It was the era of Nixon and 'Nam, of protests and countercultural movements. And somewhere, somehow, in a small, placid town, a college football team forgot how to lose.

There we were in *Sports Illustrated*. And on all the national nightly news channels. "Their official name is the Fightin' Blue Hens, but the University of Delaware football team is anything but chicken," a Nov. 20, 1972, *TIME* article began.

That year, Delaware Football would boast its fifth undefeated season in program history\*. The 1972 victory would come on the heels of the near-perfect '71 season, when the Hens suffered one agonizing loss but gained much praise: They were voted the nation's top college division team by both the *Associated Press* and *United Press International*, received the fourth consecutive Lambert Cup for mid-sized Eastern colleges and won yet another Boardwalk Bowl (then the equivalent of a national championship title).

Astonishingly, 1972 would prove even better. Fifty years later, players from that historic season look back on their milestone year and their unfailing ability to touch down on greatness.

**Dan Morgan, BE74, offensive tackle:** As a student, you want to go where you're going to play, and you want to go where you're going to win. Delaware won. Our 1971 team led the country in scoring, running the ball. We did it all. Our defense was younger, but the next year, they were the old, experienced ones, and nobody could get first downs on us, let alone score points.

**Bob Depew, AS72, defensive end:** We won for the same reason any team wins. We had good players and we were well coached. We played with a lot of confidence.

**Ed Clark, ANR76, linebacker:** Much of that was Tubby [late Head Coach Harold "Tubby" Raymond, who would amass 300 victories and a loyal following over his nearly 50-year UD career]. Tubby was short in stature but big in life. Bigger than life. He knew how to recruit and put teams together. You never questioned his thought process.

**Robert Cvornyek, AS75, offensive tackle:** It's no secret that he was a student of psychology.

\*The other undefeated seasons include: 1941 (7-0-1), 1942 (8-0), 1946 (10-0) and 1963 (8-0).



**Depew:** His Friday afternoon and pregame Saturday talks were quite effective. I don't know how to describe it, but you had to be in the locker room to feel the excitement and how it built to a crescendo and then boom, you go out onto a field and there's 20,000 people in the stands, and it was just a wild, crazy atmosphere. It was really a lot of fun.

**Morgan:** Tubby was an artist. Even when he drew his plays, the little circles were perfect. And we were catching everyone's imagination with our Wing-T [offense]. People knew we were going to run that play, yet they had such a hard time stopping it.

**Scott Reihm, BE75, quarterback:** There's several aspects to the Wing-T, but the main thing is deception. We'd have motion, and the blockers all had angles—trap, cross-block. Never zone block, which they mostly do now. I still remember all the numbers and plays. We had a particular play—the 933-counter crisscross—where I hand off to the right halfback, he hands off to the left wingback, and I trail the wingback who then has the option of pitching to me. You got three people handling the ball. That was real successful.

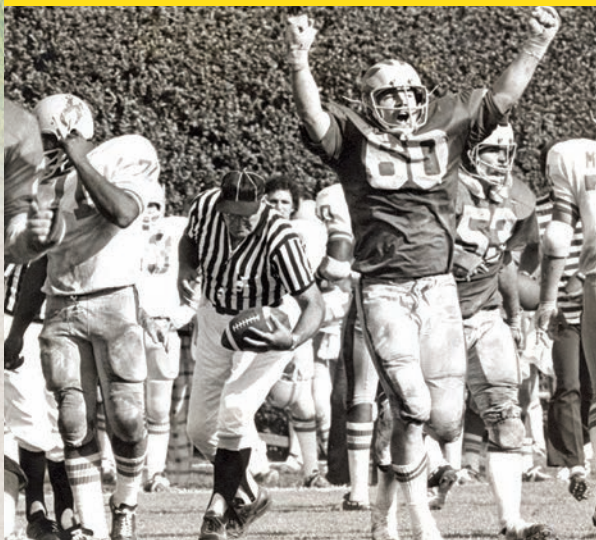
*While the Fightin' Blue Hens battled teams across the Eastern Seaboard, their greatest rivalries played out against teams from the City of Brotherly Love. In 1971, on a hot Homecoming afternoon honoring Delaware's 1946 Cigar Bowl team, Temple and Delaware played a back-and-forth affair in Newark, with UD owning a 27-19 second-half advantage before Temple retook the lead. With less than five minutes left, an injured Roger Mason, AS73, ran a pass to the*

*eight-yard line when a Temple defender knocked the ball loose, and the Owls recovered the fumble. Four plays later, the game was over, 32-27, Delaware's only loss of the season. One year later, on the rainiest day of 1972, the Blue Hens found themselves on enemy turf.*

**Mason, halfback:** I woke up thinking, "I hope they don't cancel this game." It was a torrential downpour in Philly. Their quarterback said, "Delaware would never beat Temple." Those headlines were plastered all over the locker room, and I sat there thinking, "We'll see."

**Depew:** After we won, a newspaper put [the Temple quarterback's] quote beside his new [1972] quote: "It's always tough to lose to Delaware." That said it all.

**Mason:** I concentrated on the game and just ran like a fool, and they kept giving me the ball. I was picking up three, four yards, first down; three, four yards, first down.



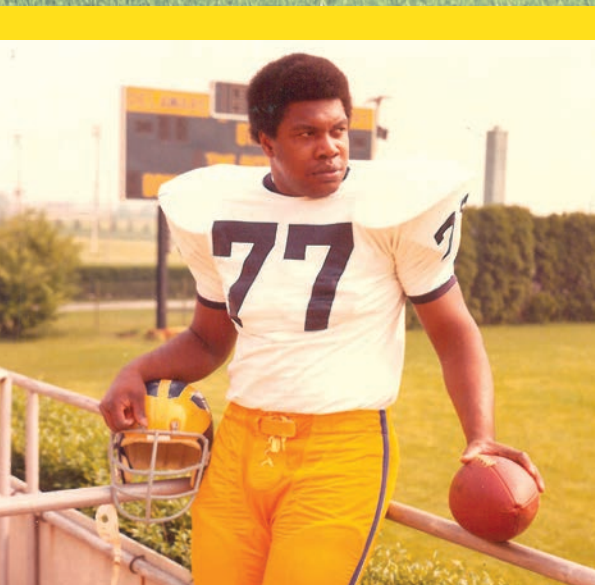
**Depew:** We just ground them down. Roger Mason gained 182 yards on 45 carries. I don't think they thought we could do that. I'm not sure we thought we could do that so effectively. It was revenge for the year before, which was the difference between us having back-to-back undefeated seasons. We came out of that game thinking nobody can beat us.

**Reihm:** The next week, we played Villanova up at their stadium. It was 7-7, and we had a drive in the fourth

## 1972 SCOREBOARD

| DEL. SCORE | OPPONENT          | OPP. SCORE |
|------------|-------------------|------------|
| 28         | Lehigh            | 22         |
| 64         | Gettysburg        | 7          |
| 49         | Boston University | 12         |
| 27         | Lafayette         | 0          |
| 32         | Connecticut       | 7          |
| 31         | West Chester      | 14         |
| 28         | Temple            | 9          |
| 14         | Villanova         | 7          |
| 62         | Maine             | 0          |
| 20         | Bucknell          | 3          |





As captain, Dennis Johnson, BE73, was “the anchor” for the team.

quarter. It was 3rd and 10. We ran a waggle, which was basically a fake. I turned my back and got to the center line, and I had the option of running or hitting the tight end for a touchdown, which **Vern Roberts, EHD76**, masterfully caught. It was one of the best games we played.

**Cvornyek:** In practices leading up to ‘Nova, we heard a lot about a wide receiver they had named Mike Siani, who was eventually drafted by the Oakland Raiders. Tubby was interested in neutralizing Siani with our safety [**Johnny Bush, BE74**]. I got the feeling that Bush had a heavy weight on his shoulders the whole week. Then game time comes, and you wonder if he’ll be able to execute, and he did. We won that game as a team, but in this instance, there may have been an individual player who carried an uneven burden, and that was Johnny Bush.

**Clark:** Our success really came down to the leadership of the team. **Joe Carbone, BE73**, and **Bobby Depew** as defensive ends. One was All-American for football, one for scholastics. And **Dennis Johnson, BE73** [who passed away in 1997]. Everybody looked up to Dennis. He was the anchor. He was a guy you never wanted to disappoint because he was that good.

**Reihm:** Dennis was in my same pledge class at Theta Chi. He was a gentle giant. Off the field, he was the kindest soul. On the field, he was a terror.

**Morgan:** When we got here, the football team had only been desegregated a year or two, but we didn’t know that. The only issue we had was the music in the locker room. We had the old 45s, and there was one song we’d play every day. Finally, one of the guys said, “Can we have something else? Play some Motown.”

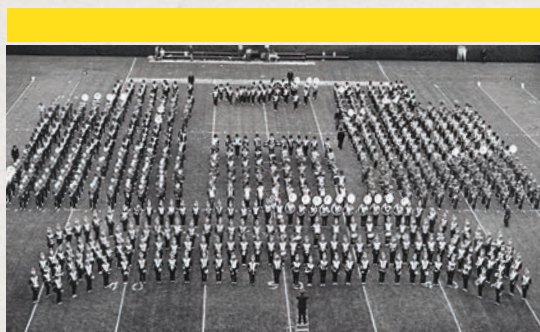
**Cvornyek:** “Maggie May” was always on. It’s been 50 years, but as soon as I hear Rod Stewart, it takes me right back to the locker room.

*After the season ended, the 1972 team had the opportunity to play the Boardwalk Bowl for the fifth year in a row. They declined.*

**Morgan:** We had been in the Boardwalk Bowl for four straight years, and we’d won all four. And the last game we won 72-22. The national papers put our score in the basketball section because it was so high. We all thought we maybe deserved a shot at something else, something a little bigger.

**Reihm:** We met as a team on the Sunday after our last game. As underclassmen, we looked to the seniors for their leadership.

*Team captain Dennis Johnson would release the following statement: “The 75 members of the 1972 University of Delaware football team have voted unanimously not to play in the December 9th Boardwalk Bowl for the following reasons: First, the current system does not provide an opponent commensurate with our national ranking, and second, the NCAA allows only 38 players to dress for the game, and that does not convey a team effort. It was this team concept that enabled our team to finish with a 10-0 regular season record.”*



**“The members of the Marching Band got so bored because we won every game, so we sometimes cheered for the other team. It was the ‘70s, and we were smart-ass hippies.”**

**- Susan Eleuterio, AS74**



**Clark:** You never know you're making history while it's going on. You get so focused on playing the next game and then the next game, and suddenly you're saying, "We're 7 and 0." "Holy shit, we're 8 and 0." Then you're really playing for something that could be a mark in Delaware history for years and years to come. It's about teamwork and leadership. Once you're in the locker room, you know you depend on 40, 50 guys. In business, it's the same way. You can't be the lone ranger. You gotta bring everybody together. That's what football taught: Be a good teammate and look out for the other guy all the time.

**Cvornyek:** There was a constant reminder from Tubby that this was a critical point in your life. And if we win this championship, this was going to be

a defining moment in our life. When you're 18, 19, you don't think of defining moments because there's so much of life ahead of you. Now that I look back after 50 years, I understand what he meant: There's something larger that you need to be a part of. In 1972, it was football, but as you move through life, it becomes other things—family, social justice, those bigger, broader issues that need your participation.

**Morgan:** You really learn the value of synergy. As you work together, you see how the sum of the parts are so much greater than the individual pieces.

**Depew:** Aside from the championships and the media attention, that's what I remember most. How football was an

**"Winning is secondary to providing an academic interest for the kids and giving them a program where they can get the thrills and excitement of college football."**

— Late coach Tubby Raymond in the Nov. 20, 1972, issue of *TIME*

integral part of our education; how it shaped work ethic, taught resiliency, how to deal with disappointment and inevitable failure. There were so many attitudes and behaviors we could learn from Delaware Football, and we did. 🐦



CHRISTOPHER PERMAR

Pictured here: Members of the undefeated 1972 team returned to campus in 2012 for their season's 40-year anniversary. This fall, they will be recognized again, along with other UD championship programs, during Delaware's "Celebrations of Champions" ceremony at the Oct. 22 Homecoming game.



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UD's first Black sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, donates memorabilia to University Archives

# ALUMNI NEWS

## PRESERVING HISTORY

Newsletters, T-shirts, door knockers, paddles. These are among the many items donated to the University of Delaware Archives by alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta, helping to tell the story and preserve the legacy of UD's first African American sorority.

Denise R. Hayman, one of the 11 charter line sisters who established the sorority's Mu Pi chapter at UD in 1975, spearheaded the donation.

"The history of African Americans is often not recorded," says Hayman, AS77. "We can talk about it, but if we actually pull together some material archives—papers and documents and artifacts—that we are willing to give the University, then whether we're here or not, the history of the organization remains."

That is indeed the sorority's goal.

"Most people don't know about our legacy, so it's important to preserve it so others will understand the important role African American women played on campus," adds fellow charter line member Marlene Hurtt, EHD76.

In matching white shirts, wrap-around skirts, crimson scarves and platform red Payless shoes, the Mu Pi ladies walked in solidarity around campus. They put on step shows. They studied at the library each night. They created a community for each other and for the University, helping the wider campus see and understand why their voices mattered.

Now, their items will be available for research. Their historic donation—the first of its kind at UD—will also serve as the foundation for an oral history series the Department of History plans to conduct with Mu Pi members.

Edith Moyer, EHD76, hopes these contributions will help the broader University community learn and understand its past. "All history should be preserved," she says. "Documenting your history is the best gift you can give to help make the world a better place." 🐦

—Amy Wolf



PHOTOS BY EVAN KRAPE

University archivists and Anti-racism Initiative members meet with six Mu Pi alumnae to mark the donation. Pictured from left to right: Ian Janssen, AS96, Lisa Gensel, AS01M, Jamett Garlick, BE87, Lethia Asare, EHD77, Denise R. Hayman, AS77, Edith Moyer, EHD76, Alison Parker, Marlene Hurtt, EHD76, and Tara Williams, EHD76.



# *Welcome back,* **BLUE HENS!**

*Hens and friends of all ages returned to campus for Alumni Weekend 2022*

By Megan Maccherone

Photos by Evan Krape and Kathy Atkinson

It's official—Alumni Weekend truly is a weekend for all. At this year's event, held June 3–5, alumni brought their future Blue Hens—some as young as 2 months old—to the Double Del Social and college receptions. And a 99-year-old alumna from the Class of 1943 attended a Buzz with Beekeeping event and a UDairy Creamery ice cream tour. In total, nine decades of graduates, from the 1940s through to the 2020s, returned to Newark to celebrate the place and the people that have shaped their lives. 🐔



While alumni and friends are encouraged to stay engaged year-round, the largest alumni event of the year will be held again on **June 2–4, 2023**. See you there!





"It was surreal to be back on campus, listening to the cover band we used to see at the Deer Park, side by side with some of our best friends—our roommates, boyfriends or girlfriends who became our spouses, our favorite people for life. We even stayed overnight in the dorms, to really bring back the memories. It was the best night ever."

- Molly Sullivan Donnelly, BSPA12



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# HEN TO HEN, COAST TO COAST

Blue Hens can be found in every corner of the globe, and we have 20-plus networks across the country (and world!) to help alumni stay connected.

In each region, graduates volunteer to plan events, maintain a social media presence and generally spread the word about opportunities to connect. Such events include

happy hours, outdoor activities (hiking and paddle boarding, anyone?), sports games, cooking classes, professional networking events and much, much more. Beyond these activities, alumni also connect through regional Facebook groups, where they can find restaurant suggestions, career opportunities, even roommates. 🐦



Boat tour in Houston



Blue Hens in Atlanta visit the Iron Hill Brewery... yep, the same one that originated on Main Street.



Festivities in Pittsburgh



L.A. beach cleanup



Baltimore alumni at an Earth Day cleanup



Alumni attend an exclusive, after-hours event at Philadelphia's Reading Terminal Market

Visit [udel.edu/alumni-friends/blue-hen-networks](https://udel.edu/alumni-friends/blue-hen-networks) to learn more.



# ALUMNI HONORS

Blue Hen graduates are hitting the wall... in a good way. Seven distinguished alumni have been honored with the most prestigious accolades given by the UD Alumni Association (UDAA): the 2022 Alumni Wall of Fame and Outstanding Alumni Awards. The recipients were honored earlier this summer at Alumni Weekend.

## ALUMNI WALL OF FAME

In recognition of the many notable achievements of its alumni, the UDAA, in partnership with the University, established the Alumni Wall of Fame in 1984. This year's recipients are Michael J. Carragher, EG84; Robert L. Hilliard, AS48; Cynthia Primo Martin, AS69, EHD71M; David G. Raymond, HS79; and Jacqueline Richter-Menge, EG79, 81M. (pictured below from left to right)



**MICHAEL J. CARRAGHER, EG84**, is board chairman, chief executive officer and president of VHB, a multidisciplinary civil engineering consulting and design firm. He is the first non-founder president in the company's 43-year history.

"Mike has led VHB through one of its most transformational, successful and strategic periods of growth and technological advancement," says VHB co-founder and retired CEO Richard E. Hangen, EG62. "His leadership is propelling a diverse team forward to meet the increasing challenges of climate change, the pandemic and the need for social equity in our built environment."

In 2021, Carragher was named CEO of the year by Environmental Financial Consulting Group, the leading adviser to architecture, engineering and construction firms.

At UD, Carragher supports various diversity and first-generation student



initiatives. He received an Outstanding Alumni Award from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2016, and has also chaired the department's advisory council.

**ROBERT L. HILLIARD, AS48**, transferred to UD from the City University of New York in 1942 to take advantage of the University's renowned faculty mentoring.

Then, his studies took a hiatus. During his service in World War II, Hilliard saved the lives of thousands of Holocaust survivors and earned a Purple Heart in combat. He has relayed his experience in both a PBS documentary, *A Force for Freedom: The Robert Hilliard Story*, and his memoir, *Surviving the Americans: The Continued Struggle of the Jews After Liberation*. He was also featured in the Winter 2018 issue of *UD Magazine*.

At Emerson College, where Hilliard is professor emeritus of communications,



he introduced courses that became international focal points, serving as models for replication in higher education. At UD, he has given lectures and speeches and has maintained professional and personal relationships with alumni, participating in numerous regional alumni events. He is also a Delaware Diamonds Society donor.

**CYNTHIA PRIMO MARTIN, AS69, EHD71M**, is a retired nonprofit executive specializing in agency management, fund development and marketing.

Martin founded Trustees of Color, an organization that works to ensure board diversity by expanding the pool of people of color to serve on Delaware's nonprofit boards through recruitment, training and support to boards and candidates. At UD, she served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2013. In 2021, she wrote and published *The Handbook*





*for Nonprofit Leadership: Recruiting, Training and Engaging Trustees of Color.*

In 2017, Martin was awarded the University's Medal of Distinction for serving as a change agent for inclusion of women and people of color.

"Cynthia's commitment to insisting structural racism and implicit bias be confronted is vital to our institutions and our country living up to the ideals upon which democracy stands," Raye Jones Avery, AS77, wrote in her nomination of Martin for the award.

**DAVID G. RAYMOND, HS79**, is best known for originating the role of the Phillie Phanatic.

"During his 16 years performing in 48 states and five countries, Dave's charismatic showmanship carried the Phillies to World Series victories and unimagined levels of popularity, sparking a revolution in the mascot industry," says Thomas Shumovic, AS06.

Raymond is founder of Raymond Entertainment Group, which has designed and rehabilitated hundreds of character brands for Fortune 500 companies, sports teams, colleges and universities. In 2005, Raymond established the Mascot Hall of Fame.

He has remained active with Delaware Football—a successful punter himself,

he played for his father, the legendary Tubby Raymond—and makes frequent appearances on campus with the sports marketing major, economic classes as well as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. He was previously featured in the Fall 2019 issue of *UD Magazine*.

**JACQUELINE RICHTER-MENGE, EG79, 81M**, is a civil engineer whose research focuses on the impact of a warming climate on the Arctic, with an emphasis on sea ice cover.

She made her first trip to the Arctic in 1982 and would work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory for more than 35 years. To date, Richter-Menge has led or participated in more than 25 field programs to the region.

She was appointed by Presidents Obama and Biden to serve on the U.S. Arctic Research Commission 2016–2020 and 2021–present. She is also a three-time recipient of the U.S. Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

At UD, she served on the Board of Trustees as a graduate student from 1979 to 1981 and on the College of Engineering Advisory Board from 1997 to 2008. She is also a third-generation Blue Hen. 🐓

## OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS

The Outstanding Alumni Awards are presented annually to alumni in recognition of their exemplary work on behalf of the University of Delaware and/or the UDAA. Meet this year's recipients:

**ANNE GIACOMA BARRETTA, AS83**, is an award-winning instructor and professor at William Paterson University and Ramapo College in New Jersey, where she teaches journalism, media, strategic writing and public relations. She has worked externally with commercial public relations firms to enhance student practical learning outside the class and has served as faculty liaison for many student organizations.



Growing up, Barretta attended football games with her parents, who were season ticket holders. Her love for the University continued first as a student and then as an alumna and Double Del herself. She served on the UDAA Board of Directors in many roles, including president from 2015 to 2017. She also served with the Volunteer Admissions Support Team and actively participates in regional alumni events.

"Anne continues to be a great role model for giving back and leading UD causes," says Charles J. Hanna, EG84.

**STEVEN C. BEATTIE, BE87**, is partner and principal at Ernst & Young. With more than 30 years of financial services experience, he was one of the original architects of the company's anti-money laundering and sanctions practice and has served as risk leader for issues related to digital assets and cryptocurrencies.



At the University, he served on the UDAA Board of Directors for eight years, including a term as president. He is also a member of the Audit Visiting Committee for the UD Board of Trustees.

As a student, Beattie received the Alexander J. Taylor Award for Outstanding Senior. As an alumnus, his UD involvement is seemingly limitless: He mentors students, served as ambassador for his class's 25th reunion and is a member of the Delaware Diamonds Society. As a former UD varsity swimmer, he also funded an Athletics scholarship.

Beattie is a Double Del with Kimberly Beattie, BE87. 🐓

—Megan Maccherone

# CLASS NOTES

## 1970s

**JOANN S. DAWSON, ANR79**, of

North East, Md., wrote *Cream of the Crop*, a feature film that premiered at Baltimore's Senator Theatre in May. The somewhat autobiographical story revolves around a young woman determined to save her family farm from foreclosure. Filmed in Maryland, the movie features drama, romance, action and themes about family, second chances and farm awareness. It is now available on Amazon Prime.

**ART MCLAUGHLIN, AS71, AS10, AS18M**, of Dover, Del., wrote *Art and the Nazis 1933-1945: Looting, Propaganda and Seizure*, published by McFarland & Co. Publishers in January. He developed the manuscript from a course he's taught at the UD Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. It is McLaughlin's seventh published book.

**SUSAN ELEUTERIO, AS74**, of Highland, Ind., was elected in December as chair of the board of Illinois Humanities, a statewide nonprofit offering grants, free public programs and educational opportunities that foster reflection, spark conversation and build community. She is also a professional folklorist.

**JEFFERY M. LEWIS, BE71**, of Greenville, Del., a senior vice president in Morgan Stanley's wealth management office has been named to the prestigious Century Club, an elite group comprising the firm's top financial advisers.

**LAURA KALPAKIAN, AS71M**, formerly known as Peggy Ann Johnson, of Bellingham, Wash.,



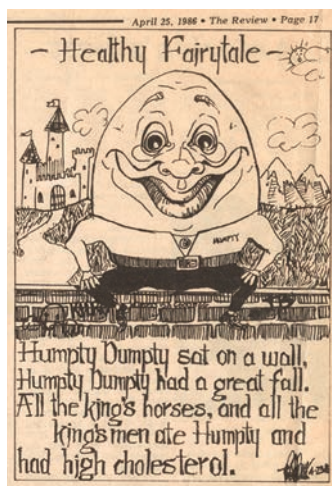
**BUNNY LOVE:** Even as a UD student, **JoAnn Dawson** had to complete chores for her family's nearby dairy farm on Ogletown Road. One day on campus, she walked up to her roommate's brother, a student named Ted whom she had never met, and asked for help moving 120 rabbits. "He didn't ask any questions," Dawson says. "He just said 'Sure'. And I thought: This guy is really cool." Now, the couple's been married 37 years.



has written two novels that have found new life. Her 1998 book *Caveat*, a story of rain, greed and revenge, was reissued in a uniform trade paperback in April by the independent Paint Creek Press. In June, the same publisher reissued Kalpakian's 1992 novel, *Graced Land*. Total, Kalpakian has written 16 novels and four collections of short fiction.

## 1980s

**TRACY FEDERICO, AS86**, of Charlottesville, Va., has come a long way since her days illustrating Humpty Dumpty for 10 cents in *The Review*. In April, her work as a graphic designer for the *C-VILLE Weekly*, was awarded the Virginia Press Association's Best in Show honor for top advertising



## COOL TEACH

**PETER KRAVITZ, BE83**, loathed accounting.

So much so that when a virus nearly derailed his college wrestling career and the stress put him over the edge, his parents had him committed to a mental hospital.

But, when Kravitz recovered and came back to school after a missed semester, he switched his major to finance and spent time exploring courses outside of the Business School, ultimately discovering an affinity for writing.

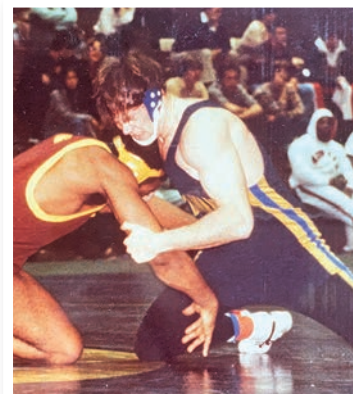
It is a passion that led Kravitz into a 32-year career teaching high school English. And, now, it has manifested in the form of a new memoir, *So You Wanna Be a Teacher*, published last year by the California-based Sager Group.

The book recounts Kravitz's adventures—or, in some cases, misadventures—navigating the educational trenches in inner-city New York, then Long Island. Some anecdotes are funny, some extremely sobering, like helping students navigate the aftermath of 9/11 or the shooting at Columbine High School. According to a review in *Silver Sage Magazine*, it's this juxtaposition that makes for a "lively, sometimes unruly and candid memoir."

As challenging as the job may have been, the rewards are greater. Kravitz, or "Krav" as he's affectionately known, is still hearing from students whose lives were positively impacted by his unorthodox teaching. (That Charles Bukowski unit wasn't exactly sanctioned in the curriculum).

It's an impact he owes largely to the example set for him at UD.

"It's really easy to help a bright, motivated student, but I was really good with the other ones," he says. "In part, I think this is due to some of the amazing professors who helped me at Delaware."





design in a nondaily publication, in addition to a first and second place win for design.



Tracks, 2022 by Noreen Scott-Garrity

**NOREEN SCOTT-GARRITY, AS86**, of Penns Grove, N.J., curated *Passages—8 Women Painters*, an exhibition in the Stedman Gallery at Rutgers University, Camden, featuring her own work as well as the work of former classmates, including **LISA BARTOLOZZI, AS85**, **DIANE CROSSAN LAWLER, AS85**, and **PEG CURTIN, AS83**. Scott-Garrity has overseen the Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts' education and community arts program for more than 30 years.

**CORINNE LITZENBERG, EDH85**, of Lewes, Del., has written the 50-page, hardback book *L is for Lewes, An A to Z Maritime History*, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Lewes Historical Society. (Check out the special nod to UD's College of Earth, Ocean and Environment.) This is the 13th book for Litzenberg, a teacher of 32 years, and "the one I am most proud of publishing." It can be purchased at the Lewes History Museum, from local Lewes shops or by visiting [corinnelitzenberg.com](http://corinnelitzenberg.com).

## 1990s

**STEVE KRAMARCK, AS93, AS11M**, of Newark, Del., filled in for long-time Philadelphia Flyers (NHL) Public Address Announcer Lou Nolan for games against the New York Rangers and New York Islanders this past season. He also completed two games for the National Lacrosse League's Philadelphia Wings. Kramarck has served as announcer for various teams over the years, including UD Hockey and Basketball, the Philadelphia Phantoms and Trenton Devils, and he's worked at venues such as The Spectrum and Citizens Bank Park.

**ELENA SACCA SMITH, EHD98**, of Oak Point, Texas, is among the newest board members of New



**BLUE HEN BROADCAST:** Today, **Steve Kramarck** works as manager of WVUD, the University radio station, but as an undergraduate, he served as DJ. He and a student engineer took Jon and Steve in the Morning on the road, broadcasting from a moving Winnebago "just to show that we could." Launching near the University Farm, they drove all over campus, reaching arms out the window to adjust their antenna between stops to chat with students and hand out doughnuts. The memorable experience prepared Kramarck for the future: "In this business, you need to be ready for anything."



Friends New Life, a Dallas-based organization that restores and empowers trafficked and sexually exploited teen girls, women and their children. She is also the

group manager for the Office of Social Innovation at Toyota North America, where she advances the company's social impact as well as diversity and inclusion efforts.



## DIFFERENT STROKES

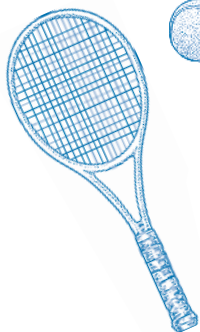
When nine former Blue Hen rowers took to the water for a race that regularly draws around 40,000 spectators, they hadn't competed together in more than a decade. Some gripped an oar for the first time since graduation.

"Our goal was to not come in last," says **COURTNEY FORRESTER, EOE99**.

The year was 2013, and Forrester noticed that the acclaimed Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in Philadelphia—a 2.5-mile fall race drawing university crews as well as elite and master rowers from around the world—had added an alumni event for post-college athletes. Although still a national competitor herself, most of her peers had long ago bid farewell to the sport... and their hard-earned calluses. Still, she inquired on social media: Would any fellow, former UD rowers like to put together a team? Within 24 hours, she had enough interest for an eight (rowing-speak for a boat that seats eight people, plus a coxswain).

The Blue Hen team, comprising graduates from the Class of 1997 through the Class of 2001, placed far from last in its debut. The women took home a silver medal and, even more importantly, they kicked off a beloved tradition still going strong. Now, nearly a decade later, the team is gearing up for its 10th regatta, set for the last weekend of October.

The women medal in about half their races. (They even managed to secure gold during 2020's virtual iteration, in which the pandemic forced contestants out of the water and onto rowing machines.) But for these Blue Hens, motivation does not come from winning hardware or bragging rights (okay, it doesn't come only from these things). This experience is about nurturing a special bond forged over four years and countless sunrises experienced from the river.



**JASON SCHWARTZ, HS98**, of Hollywood, Fla., competed in Israel in July for team U.S.A. in The Maccabiah Games, the third largest international sporting event in the world, after the Olympics and the Pan American Games. While he played tennis (singles and doubles) in the over-45 category, his 81-one-year-old father competed in the over-80 tennis category and his brother in the over-40 tennis category, making the experience “once in a lifetime,” Schwartz says. The athlete, who refined his game as a member of UD’s tennis team, is an elementary and middle school teacher in Miami-Dade County.



Darryll Lewis, EG98

**MAN ON A MISSION:** At 18, Darryll Lewis was determined to become the first member of his family to go to college. But because he hadn’t realized that he needed to apply for financial aid separately, he couldn’t accept any offers of admission. Instead, he joined the U.S. Air Force, working toward a GI Bill that would help him pay his way through school. At 24, he entered UD a married man with a child at home in Dover, trekking 50 minutes each way by bus, then working at night as a telemarketer to support his family.



Joe Naylor, AS96

**BETH GARDNER, HS96**, of Pittsburgh, wrote *One Rowing Stroke at a Time—Surviving Stage 3 Breast Cancer for 20 Years*. In the book, available on Amazon, Gardner details how having a special needs older sibling gave her the courage to persevere, how lessons learned as an endurance athlete helped her reach remission milestones and how an unwavering faith



**DANCE PARTY:** Latoya Watson’s family hails from Trinidad and Tobago, so her junior year, as a member of the Dark Arts dance company, she performed a 14-minute Carnival piece, honoring the nation’s epic annual street festival. “We could barely move through the aisles because the audience was on their feet dancing and waving,” recalls Watson, who now serves as adviser to the popular student group.

in God gave her strength to press on.

**DARRYLL LEWIS, EG98**, of Suffolk, Va., has been named his city’s assistant director of public works, engineering.

**JOE NAYLOR, AS96**, of Wilmington, Del., has been elected to equity partnership in the Swartz Campbell law firm. He represents clients in product-liability litigation, corporate/complex commercial litigation, insurance defense and appellate matters, and he has more than 20 years experience litigating before all of Delaware’s state and federal courts.

## 2000s

**LAURA CARNEY, AS03**, of Montclair, N.J., sold her book, *My Father’s List: How Living in My Dad’s Dream’s Set Me Free*, recounting her moving quest to finish the bucket list of her late father, **MICK CARNEY, AS71**, killed nearly 20 years ago by a distracted driver. *UD Magazine* first wrote about this journey—which includes 60 tasks ranging from skydiving to meeting a sitting U.S. president to growing a watermelon—in 2020. The book, set for distribution by Simon & Schuster, will be published in the summer of 2023.

**LATOYA WATSON, BE04, BSPA08M, EHD19EDD**, of Middletown, Del., has been named the assistant dean for student success for the College for Arts and Sciences at UD.

**ANNE (WYSZOMIERSKI) LACKNER, AS07**, is celebrating a new career and a new baby. She graduated from nursing school in December of 2021 and welcomed baby girl Hayes Lackner on June 6, 2021, promoting siblings Jason and Drew to big brother status.

**JONATHAN PATTERSON, BE08**, of Hockessin, Del., has been named a 40 Under 40 honoree for 2021 by the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts and the Consultants Training Institute. Patterson works for the Belfint, Lyons and Shuman, PA, firm in litigation support and valuation practice, and he is the company’s go-to team member for providing expert testimony in court related to tax compliance. He also has extensive experience in martial law consulting.

**LISA JANE MANDRACHIA, HS04**, and **KYLE EDWARD ANGLIN, AS12**, of Newark, Del., welcomed baby boy Luke Edward Anglin in November 2021. The future Blue Hen has already been to Ag



Latoya Watson, BE04, BSPA08M, EHD19edD



Hayes, Jason and Drew Lackner



Jonathan Patterson, BE08

Yum, UDairy ice cream.

Luke Edward Anglin







Nicola Vali, BE11

Day and the UDairy Creamery. As for what's resulted in more sleep deprivation, parenting an infant or studying for her junior year accounting class with Prof. Michael Van Leer? "Definitely the accounting," Lisa says.



Quinn and Claire Davis

**JOY HUNT, AS01, BSPA04M**, of Middletown, Del., runs the Elite Feet specialty running store, named Delaware's Minority Owned Business of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration and co-owned with her husband, Jason.

## 2010s

**ALEXANDRA DAVIS, HRIM11**, of Harrisburg, Pa., and **TREVOR DAVIS, HS11**, of Hockessin, Del., welcomed Quinn to their family on Sept. 21. The couple's second child joins Claire, age 3.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without her," says **Taylor Matyas** about **UD Prof. Stephanie Kotch-Jester, EHD03, 09M**, her student-teaching supervisor and mentor. "She's the best."



**ANDREA BIRCH NAUGHTON, AS13**, and **SEAN NAUGHTON, COE13**, of Philadelphia welcomed baby girl Kiera Joy on Dec. 6. This is the couple's second child—future Blue Hen Riley is 3 years old.

**NICOLAS VALI, BE11**, of Middletown, Del., has been named associate partner with Diamond State Financial Group, a financial services firm located in Newark.

**TAYLOR MATYAS, EHD13**, of Freehold, N.J., has won a distinctive honor, specifically

for teaching. In a surprise ceremony in April, as part of the nation's preeminent teacher recognition program, she was honored with a Milken Educator Award and \$25,000 to spend however she wishes. Matyas, an instructional coach at Laura Donovan Elementary School in Freehold, N.J., is not yet sure how she'll spend her reward money, but she says she's earmarked a few dollars for a tasty treat from UDairy Creamery.

Happiness is being a future Blue Hen!



Kiera Joy Naughton

## SURVEY SAYS...

For her television debut, **RENEE ROBERTS** sported blue and gold.

From Oct. 31 through Nov. 4, 2021, the Blue Hen and her family (three sisters and one brother-in-law) claimed victory on five episodes of the internationally syndicated *Family Feud*, bringing home a grand total of \$61,745, plus a brand-new Jeep Cherokee.

The group's journey to game-show celebrity began more than six months earlier, when they auditioned for the iconic program via an iPad in Renee's living room in Bear, Del. As a neonatal ICU nurse coming off a night shift, she hadn't had time to do her hair, so she and her sisters opted instead for fancy "church hats." The fashion statement grabbed the attention of show producers on Zoom and helped land the family on a studio set near Atlanta.

While on the air, Renee, HS82, earned a following for her hard-to-contain enthusiasm—comments on the show's YouTube channel include "Renee's feet must be killing her after jumping around in them heels" and "I thought Renee was gonna lay an egg!" At one point during a particularly impassioned huddle celebration, her fake ponytail came undone, causing her to bend over in laughter—a moment she didn't realize cameras caught until she watched it play out on television with her mother, **ALICE ROBERTS**, a 25-year secretary within UD's music program.

For her ability to keep her nerves in check while fielding questions such as "When does a woman feel most beautiful?" and "Name an organ in your body that might pop out if you squeeze too hard," Renee credits her time studying nursing at UD.



"Going through clinicals, you had to remain calm," she says. "You couldn't show the patient your nerves, and that's just how you need to perform on television."

Host Steve Harvey gently ribbed the family throughout their segments, making fun of Renee's sister **EUGENIA ROBERTS, AS85**, for failing to answer more than a couple of questions correctly. At one point, when asked to name something a "really small cowboy would have that's really small," Renee offered the correct, if laughable, "little wee-wee," leading the comedian to throw his cards in the air and exclaim: "I thought you were church-going people!"

In the end, the family returned to Delaware with funds to pay off some bills, donate to charity and, in Renee's case, buy herself a new license plate frame from the UD Bookstore—in blue and gold, naturally.

As for whether these colors might have been her lucky charm, that's a given.

"Definitely," she says. "I wish we could do it all over again."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NIKE

**ELENA DELLE DONNE, EHD13**, of Wilmington, Del., has collaborated with Nike to release the Air Deldon 1 this October. Inspired by the Washington Mystics forward, the shoe incorporates elements that pay homage to her time at UD, and it marks the first signature model for a WNBA player in 11 years.

**KEVIN WALSH, AS14**, of Clark, N.J., and **ERICA SANTOS, AS14, BE14, BE21**, of Queens, N.Y., were married in September 2021. In attendance were Blue Hens from the classes of 2019, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2006, 1976... and YoUDee!

**DANIEL NEESON, BE12, BE16M**, and **AMANDA (CALDWELL) NEESON, AS12**, Audubon, N.J., married in Lovettsville, Va., in October 2021.

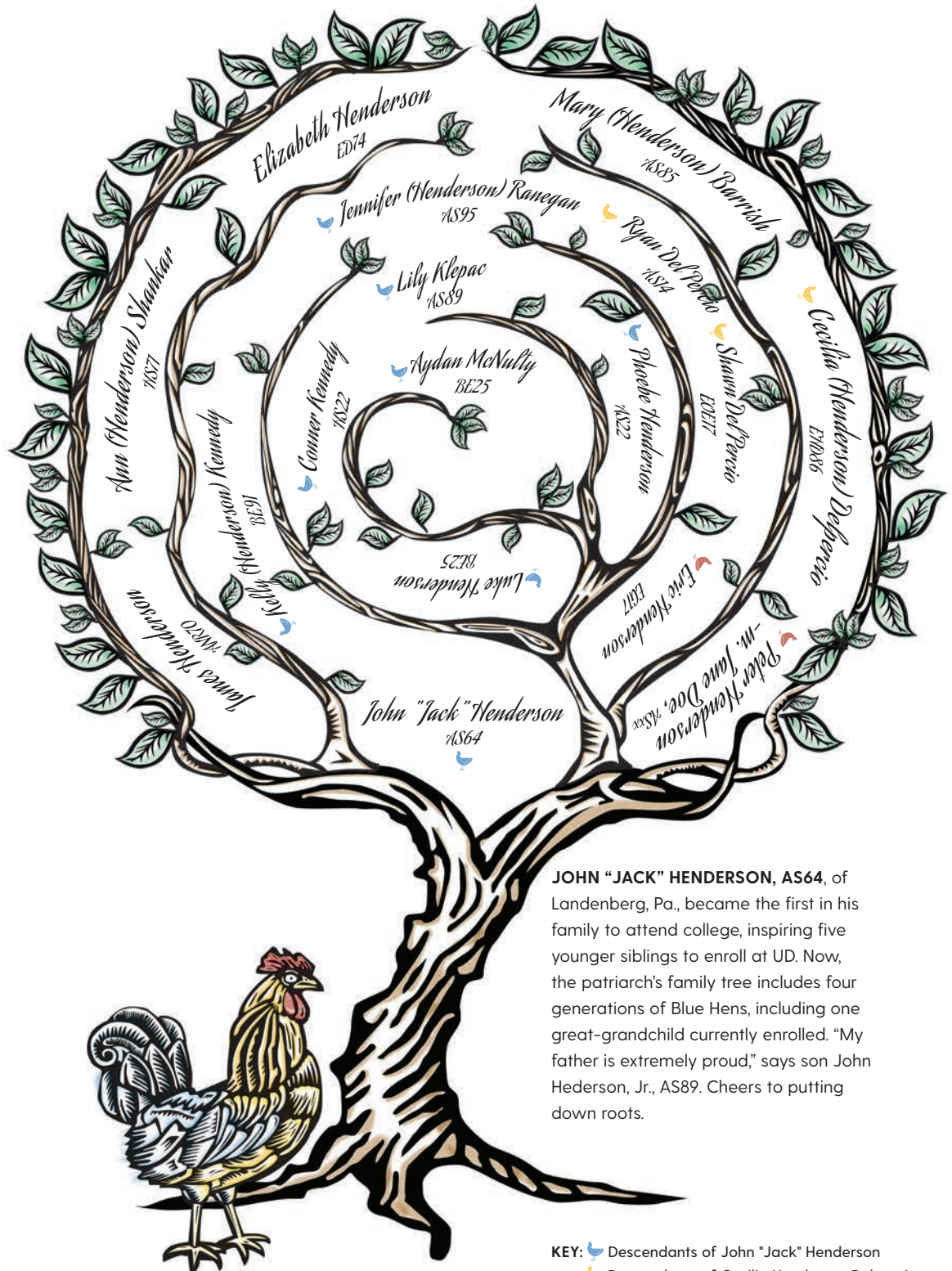
**SEQUOIA BARNES, AS15**, of Smyrna, Del., has been awarded the prestigious Gerald and Mary Ellen Ritter Memorial Fund Fellow at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. During her time at the MET Costume Institute, she is turning her research on the design aesthetic and techniques of the late Patrick Kelly—a Black, queer fashion designer whose work incorporated humor and famously confronted racial stereotypes—into a book manuscript.

## 2020s

**KRISTIAN SCHEMBRI, AS21**, of Newark, Del., composed a piece for symphony orchestra that premiered at the Malta Philharmonic at the Dubai Opera House in Dubai.

## DEEP ROOTS

HERE'S HOPING THIS FAMILY OF **BLUE HENDERSONS** WILL NEVER LEAF UD



**JOHN "JACK" HENDERSON, AS64**, of Landenberg, Pa., became the first in his family to attend college, inspiring five younger siblings to enroll at UD. Now, the patriarch's family tree includes four generations of Blue Hens, including one great-grandchild currently enrolled. "My father is extremely proud," says son John Hederson, Jr., AS89. Cheers to putting down roots.

**KEY:** Descendants of John "Jack" Henderson  
 Descendants of Cecilia Henderson Delpercio  
 Descendants of Peter Henderson

ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY CHAPPELL



# IN MEMORIAM

**Frank J. Ficadenti, EG43**, June 4, 2022

**Shirley Deats Callaway, EHD58**, Nov. 15, 2021

**Louise Lattomus Dick, EHD59**, Jan. 30, 2022

**Phyllis A. Woodmansee, AS63**, March 5, 2022

**James H. Smith, EHD64M**, Feb. 15, 2022

**Patrick L. Herron, EHD67**, 72M, April 25, 2022

**Paul J. Skobel, EG70**, Dec. 31, 2021

**Donald P. Raff, EHD74M**, Jan. 9, 2022

**J. Linden Sanders Jr., BE75M**, April 1, 2022

**Karen Conti Bengston, BE81**, Sept. 10, 2021

**Laura Madara, HS87**, April 9, 2022

**Richard P. Sargent, BE93**, Oct. 11, 2021

**Mary Beth Capik, AS93**, Feb. 5, 2022 🐦

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**Louis Paul Bolgiano**, professor emeritus of electrical engineering, Jan. 12, 2022

**Marvin R. Brams**, retired associate professor of urban affairs, April 20, 2022

**Julio DaCunha**, professor emeritus of art, Feb. 4, 2022

**Patricia Davis**, retired associate director of Information Technologies-Management Information Services, May 23, 2022

**Robert Eisenberger**, retired professor of psychological and brain sciences, May 2, 2022

**Thomas Korff Gaisser**, Martin A. Pomerantz Professor Emeritus of Physics, Feb. 20, 2022

**Nancy Schafer Hall, AS64**, 69M, longtime math and statistics professor in the Associates in Arts Program, Feb. 6, 2022

**Jeffrey Stafford Kuhn II, AS12**, dining services manager, March 22, 2022

**Beverly McLain**, retired senior secretary in the School of Education, May 16, 2022

**Robert Nicholls**, professor emeritus of civil engineering, April 22, 2022

**Robert "Bob" Rothman**, professor emeritus of sociology and former department chair, April 20, 2022

**Russell Settle**, retired professor of economics, June 20, 2022

**Edgar Small**, founding director of UD's construction engineering program, Feb. 11, 2022

**Nenad Spoljaric**, retired senior scientist, Delaware Geological Survey, April 20, 2022 🐦

## JAMES E. NEWTON



James E. Newton, an award-winning artist, leader in Black American studies, revered mentor and "anchor for Black life at UD," died on May 24, 2022. He was 80 years old.

"Dr. Newton was a guiding force in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, which today is a key priority of our institution," said UD President Dennis Assanis. "We are all indebted to him."

Dr. Newton joined the UD faculty in 1972 as an assistant professor of education and became associate professor and director of the fledgling Black American Studies Program the following year. During his UD career, he amassed numerous honors, including the Excellence in Teaching Award and Black Student Union Faculty Award. The Department of Africana Studies annually gives the James E. Newton Student Award to a student who exhibits the qualities of excellence in community service and scholastic achievement he embodied.

Though he retired in 2005, Dr. Newton continued to teach as supplemental faculty until 2016.

In 2009, the University presented an exhibition of his artwork, highlighting the techniques and images through which he addressed lifelong themes of self, race and legacy.

Born in Bridgeton, New Jersey, Dr. Newton earned his bachelor's degree in art and German from North Carolina Central University and his master of fine arts degree from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, where he was the first African American to receive an MFA. He received his doctorate in curriculum development in Black studies and education from Illinois State University.

Earlier this year, the University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press and Department of Africana Studies established a collection featuring a wealth of material Dr. Newton amassed throughout his life—articles, leaflets, books and literature relating to the struggle for social justice in Delaware and the struggles for change at UD.

On May 19, UD's Board of Trustees voted to award Dr. Newton the University's highest accolade, an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, reserved for individuals who reflect the University's mission and serve as exemplars for the community and world.

As W.O. Maloba, chair and professor of Africana Studies, said upon his passing, "Dr. Jim Newton will be remembered by all of us whose lives he touched and made better. He remains in our minds and, more importantly, in our hearts. In this way, therefore, Dr. Jim Newton still lives, and he will always live." 🐦

Please share news of a loved one's passing with us at  
<https://inmemoriam.udel.edu>

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

The Magazine encourages alumni to send us news to share with your fellow Blue Hens. A new job, a promotion, a personal or professional award ... they're all accomplishments we want to announce. Email a note or a press release to [magazine@udel.edu](mailto:magazine@udel.edu). Please include your hometown, graduation year and college or major.

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## A CONVERSATION with...

For 10 years, UD's Horn Entrepreneurship program has nurtured innovators and their ideas—from food trucks to fuel cells, sustainability to social justice. But the nationally ranked program is itself a grand vision, spearheaded by Charlie Horn, AS75, and supported by leaders from across campus to empower the change makers of tomorrow. Here, founding director **Dan Freeman** reflects on some of Horn's milestone moments, that reality show you love to binge, and why there's no such thing as a million-dollar idea...

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**The innovations to come out of Horn run the gamut—new technology for reducing pesticide use to next-generation martial arts clothing. Do you have a favorite?** When the U.S. was still involved in Iraq and Afghanistan, Blue Hen veterans sat in classrooms with 18- or 19-year-old knuckleheads and had a hard time feeling like they fit, so they put together a veteran-specific orientation to the University, eventually disseminated beyond campus.

**What separates a good idea from a dud?** That's a deeply ingrained mythology of entrepreneurship: the notion of the great idea. More important is finding a problem you're in love with solving.

**What's your bucket-list problem?** My dream is helping students understand they have power to control their own circumstances. They can challenge the status quo.

**Can anyone do this, or does entrepreneurship require something innate?** Some are more predisposed, but everyone can develop an entrepreneurial mindset and skillset.

**Charlie Horn believed that it's possible, but... how?** First step is recognizing that things don't have to be the way they are.

**What's the value of higher education when so many famous entrepreneurs lack a college degree?** At Horn, we offer experiential learning in a sandbox where it's okay to fail. You can incubate an idea in a supportive place that equalizes the playing field if you don't have a lot of resources. You can leverage all the University has to offer in terms of interdisciplinary expertise, facilities, equipment. And baked into our programs are limitless opportunities to make valuable connections.

**What distinguishes entrepreneurs?** They take action. You can't be afraid to fail.

**Being unafraid to fail requires... what? Bravery? Naiveté? Arrogance?** It can be hubris—but more often there's a profound sense of purpose involved in solving a problem.

**What do you think of Shark Tank?** It perpetuates that mythology of the great idea and romanticizes venture capital

in a way that's not particularly healthy. I'd opt for *The Profit* instead.

**You have a background in consumer psychology. Tell me something mind-blowing about consumer behavior.** Most would be shocked to know how much digital exhaust they're producing. Your clicks and purchases are used to create robust profiles. If I'm buying candy from Walgreens, I won't use my loyalty card, because I don't want it on my permanent record—it's a matter of time before insurance rates are based on how healthy your purchases are.

**Ten years in, what's on your highlight reel?** Definitely that Horn's been among the fastest—if not the fastest—to gain recognition as a top school for entrepreneurship. Then there's our award-winning youth program that brings together high school student innovators from around the world. Another huge highlight has been all of the amazing, accomplished people who have been inspired to commit time, talent and treasure to help empower students through entrepreneurship education. It's humbling.

**Where do you see Horn in another 10 years?** Right now, we engage with about 1,500 UD students in a given year. By 2032, I think we can easily double that, add graduate programs, launch a venture fund and become our own independent school of innovation within the University. With leadership support, Horn can help position UD and the state of Delaware at the forefront of innovation and entrepreneurship. 🐦



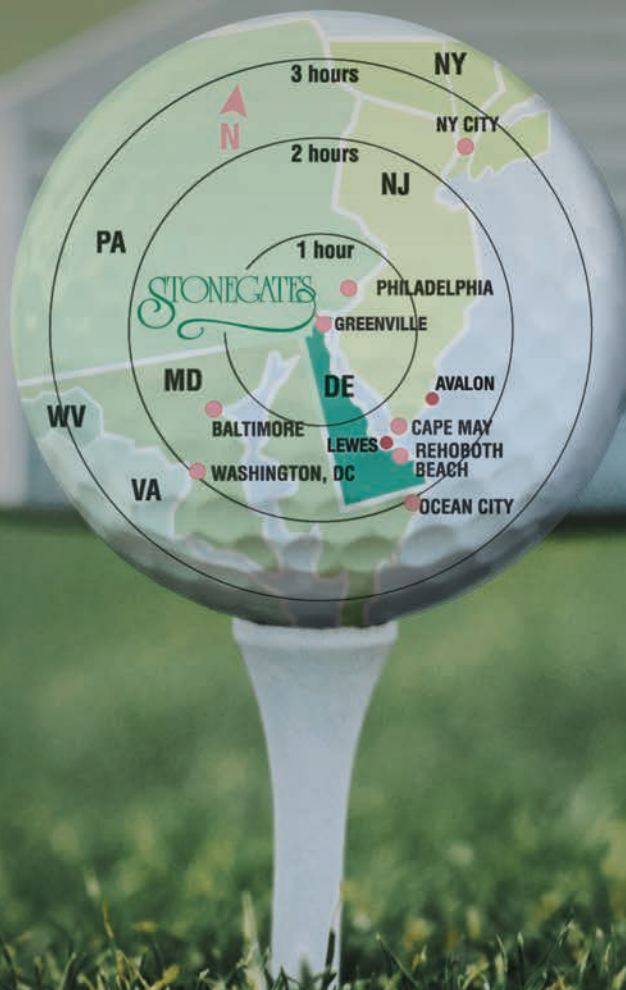
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