

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

MAGAZINE

Volume 27 • Number 1

MAKING IT
HAPPEN

BLUE HENS LEAD THE CHARGE FOR CHANGE





NO LATE BLOOMER

PHOTO FROM UD'S BOTANIC GARDENS BY EVAN KRAPE

MILESTONE CELEBRATION:

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources celebrates 150 years of teaching, research and extension.



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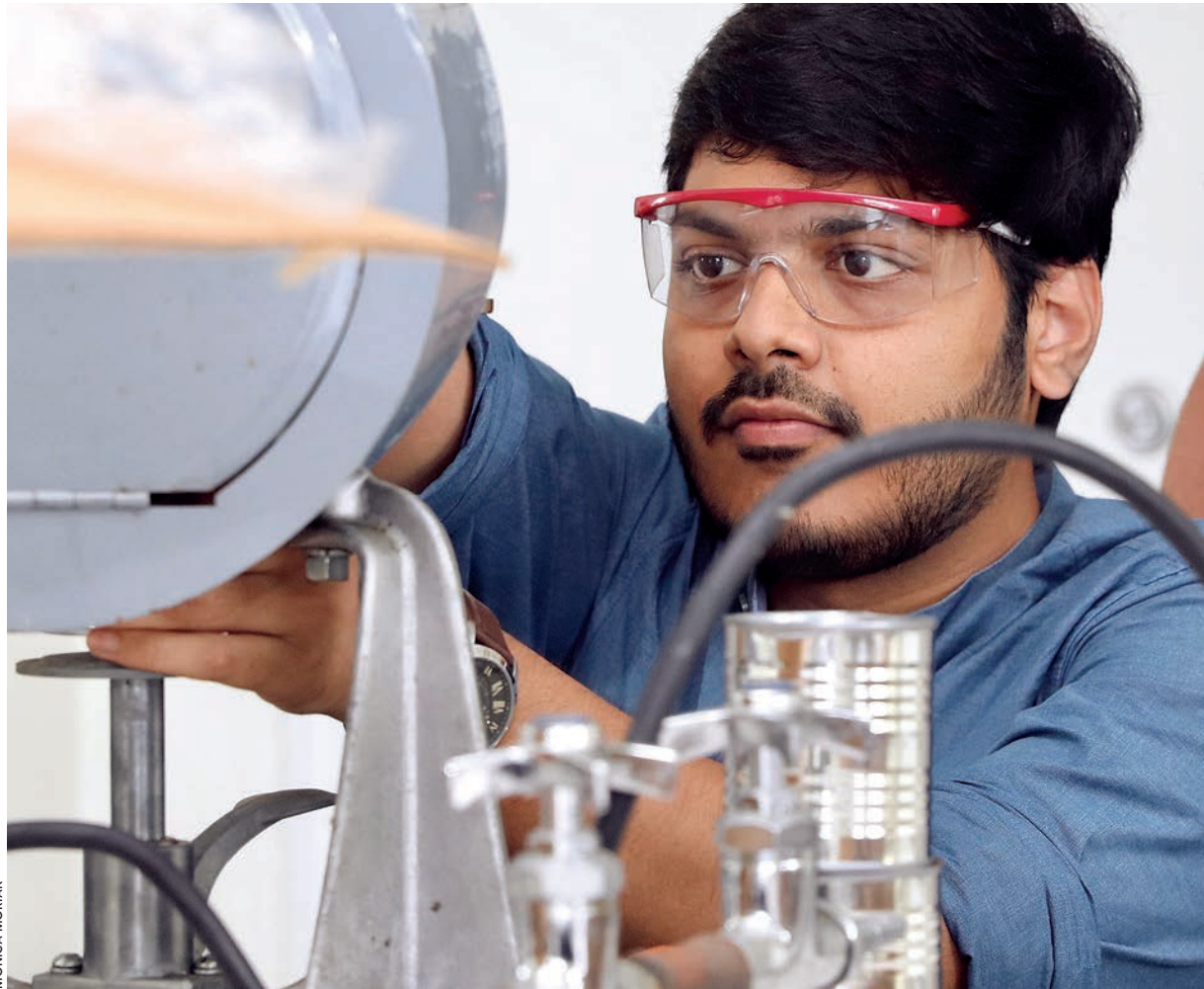
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MONICA MORIAK

150 YEARS OF RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

The University of Delaware made history 150 years ago on Jan. 12, 1869, when the Board of Trustees signed an agreement to become the state's first Land-Grant university, a designation that helped create today's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) and signaled the start of one-and-a-half centuries of teaching, service and scholarship. To celebrate the milestone, CANR will host a series of events throughout the year. More information can be found at canr.udel.edu/150years/.

Pictured above: CANR student studying food microbiology.

ON THE COVER

Photo of Kara Odom Walker by Evan Krape

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UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE MAGAZINE

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WE PUT DELAWARE FIRST

“We put Delaware first because of how much UD has shaped our lives. My professors cared, supported and taught me, and I’ve always been so appreciative of them and UD for that. Because of the lessons Kathy and I learned on campus, we were able to launch our own company. Now, through our support for UD, we are continuing our passion for sharing leadership lessons with all ages and helping to inspire tomorrow’s leaders.”—Robert Siegfried, Jr., C.P.A., BE81

Double Dels Rob and Kathy Siegfried, AS85, share a deep commitment to preparing future leaders. With their national leadership advisory and talent delivery firm, The Siegfried Group, the couple recently made a \$1.5 million gift to establish the Siegfried Initiative for Entrepreneurial Leadership. In addition to funding this program, the Siegfrieds previously established the Siegfried Award for Entrepreneurial Leadership, and Rob has served as chair of the Lerner College Advisory Board. He is also the founder of the Siegfried Youth Leadership Program to bring leadership development to school-aged children in Delaware.



DELAWARE FIRST
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

www.udel.edu/delawarefirst

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

SHARING THE LIFELONG JOURNEY OF A UD EDUCATION

Earlier this year while visiting family in Greece, Eleni and I had the joy of meeting 60 University of Delaware students who were studying there during the winter term. We both grew up in Athens, so we were delighted to show them around some of the city's amazing sites, including The Acropolis and its Parthenon. The students were awed to be standing amid 2,500-year-old ruins that are integral to the history of Western civilization. For Eleni and me, it was a unique opportunity to see something familiar through their fresh eyes.

It was also a vivid reminder of the life-changing power of a University of Delaware education. Every day, our students encounter new ideas and perspectives, meet new people, immerse themselves in new cultures and achieve new levels of excellence. Inspired and guided by our amazing faculty, students emerge truly transformed. What's more, they continue to be transformed long after graduation, as they apply their critical-thinking skills and entrepreneurial spirit to challenges and opportunities throughout their lives.

The capacity for lifelong learning is essential in the 21st century. Experts estimate that today's college graduates will hold nearly 20 jobs in five different industries during their working lives. In a

very real sense, we are preparing our students not just for their first job after graduation, but also their second job, third job and every job after that. Many of those jobs do not even exist now because they involve technology that has not been invented yet. To succeed, workers will need to continually acquire new knowledge and skills, so we believe how students learn at UD is just as important as what they learn. More than 70 percent of them get hands-on experience in an internship or clinical placement. More than a third learn the thrill of discovery by conducting original research with a faculty member. And more than half serve their community, learning the deep satisfaction of helping others.

Over the past few months, we have taken two big steps forward in fulfilling our commitment to provide the excellent education our students need. In December, we unveiled the newly named Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration, drawing inspiration from the public service legacy of our most famous alumnus. Also, our new Graduate College will create, expand, improve and promote excellent interdisciplinary programs at the master's and doctoral levels. As we seek to address the world's most complex challenges, both the Biden School and the



Graduate College, in partnership with the rest of the University, will be instrumental in building advanced education and a robust research enterprise, as well as significantly elevating our undergraduate experience by opening new avenues for teaching and innovation.

At the University of Delaware, we share the belief that learning happens every day and everywhere, whether in a classroom, a laboratory, a residence hall ... or even an ancient hilltop in Greece. Thank you for being engaged with us on this lifetime journey of knowledge and discovery.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Assanis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'D' and 'A'.

Dennis Assanis, President

ON THE GREEN

HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR UD ATHLETES




A transformation is underway on Newark's South Campus. Where the sprawling Chrysler Plant once stood, gleaming high-rises are beginning to sprout. And this fall, the 67-year-old football stadium just across South College Avenue will emerge from a months-long period of renovation, boasting chair backs on many seats in the west-side stands. Additional upgrades to come in 2020 include new restrooms and concession stands, as well as a Stadium Club featuring a bar, food and exclusive club seating.

In a year's time, the University will also unveil its new Whitney Athletic Center, a state-of-the-art facility adjacent to the stadium for training and teaching the student athletes who have long needed a central facility.

The athletic center was funded in large part by a \$10 million cornerstone gift from Board of Trustees member Kenneth C. Whitney, BE80, and his wife, Elizabeth K. Whitney.

"Before I came to UD, my whole life was focused on competitive sports," says Whitney. "The life lessons I took from that in terms of teamwork, leadership, being humble with success, dealing with adversity and, really, the connection between hard work—sometimes extremely hard work—and results played a huge role in who I am today and my character."

Both projects are part of the \$60 million Build Our Home athletics initiative, one element of UD's Delaware First fundraising campaign. 

INSIDE THE WHITNEY ATHLETIC CENTER

When it opens in 2020, the new student facility will feature many enhancements.

Student Success Center:

- Integrated space for academic support, career preparation and leadership development
- Tutoring, mentoring, academic advising and study areas
- Academic lounge to foster team bonding
- Multipurpose rooms for lectures and press conferences

Health & Well-Being Center:

- 10,000-square-foot strength and conditioning space to accommodate multiple teams simultaneously
- Enhanced athletic training space with satellite area for physical therapy partnership
- Grab-and-go healthy food options
- Sports psychology areas to provide mental health resources
- Hydrotherapy tubs for rejuvenation and therapeutic needs

NEW NAME, FAMILIAR FACE

UD's nationally ranked school of public policy has been renamed in honor of one of our most famous alumni. The Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration—or Biden School, for short—is the second entity at UD to take on the former vice president's name. In 2017, UD launched the Biden Institute, a research and policy center focusing on solutions to a wide range of issues.

The Biden School will grow programs in specialty areas, including urban and social policy, energy and

environmental policy, health policy and management, and disaster science.

"UD holds a special place in my heart. It instilled in me the belief that I could make a difference and inspired me to live a life committed to public service," says Joe Biden, AS65, 04H. "My hope is the Biden School will inspire this to future generations of young leaders." 🐦

Board chairman John Cochran, Vice President Biden and President Assanis celebrate the Biden School naming.



KATHY F. ATKINSON



EVAN KRAPE

UD's 47-year-old residence halls will close this spring.

SO LONG, TOWERS: 1971-2019

The Christiana Towers residence halls, which opened in 1972 with a design that reflected a trend toward alternative forms of student housing, will close at the end of the spring semester.

"Both buildings are reaching a point where they are beyond their useful life from both a financial and functional perspective," says José-Luis Riera, vice president for student life.

To mitigate the loss, UD has purchased the neighboring University Courtyard Apartments, which will officially become

University-provided housing for about 800 students later this year. In addition, plans are continuing for the construction of a new residence hall on South College Avenue, just west of Warner Hall.

In recent years, the University has built three new residence halls in the vicinity of Academy Street, geared toward first-year students. The closing of the Towers marks the biggest change in residence life facilities since the West Campus Rodney and Dickinson complexes were closed in 2015. 🐦

1 Fr Sa Su
Weekend



6,000
Blue Hens



60+
Events

11 Class
Reunions



UD ALUMNI WEEKEND 2019

BEST. WEEKEND. EVER.

June 7-9, 2019

#UDAW

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! CHECK OUT THE NEW EVENTS THIS YEAR:

Zoom In—DIY Microscope!

The MechE Family Cookout

The Gearhead White Clay Bike Ride

Design Studio Open House Tours

Living Library: Story Time with Live Characters

The Diamond Effect: Minerals, Materials & Society

STAR Tower Interactive Cooking Demo

The Power of STE(A)M: Science, Technology
and Art for Kids

Food for Thought—Tours of the New
Food Innovation Center

Mastering Makerspaces—Explore 3D
Printing, Laser Cutting and More!

See what all the excitement is about and
register today: www.udel.edu/alumniweekend

FORTITUDE IN A FOREIGN LAND

Life hasn't always been easy for Daniel Schaefer, AS19, but he has always persevered.

Take, for instance, his experience in Athens last summer, when he sat on a train platform, exhausted, hungry and alone. He hadn't slept or used a bathroom in 20 hours. His overseas adventure, so meticulously planned, seemed cursed by a hotel elevator that was too narrow for his wheelchair, an "accessible" subway that he couldn't always access, and now this.

Thinking about it all, he began to cry. Suddenly, storm clouds opened, sending raindrops to mingle with his tears.

At that point, the Plastino Scholar and Spanish and linguistics double major could have just abandoned his three-week quest to research the obscure and vanishing language known as Judeo-Spanish. Instead, he gave himself two choices: "Get up speed and just get my wheelchair on the train, or get back on the plane and go back to Philadelphia. So I got up some speed, and got myself on that train. I made it work."

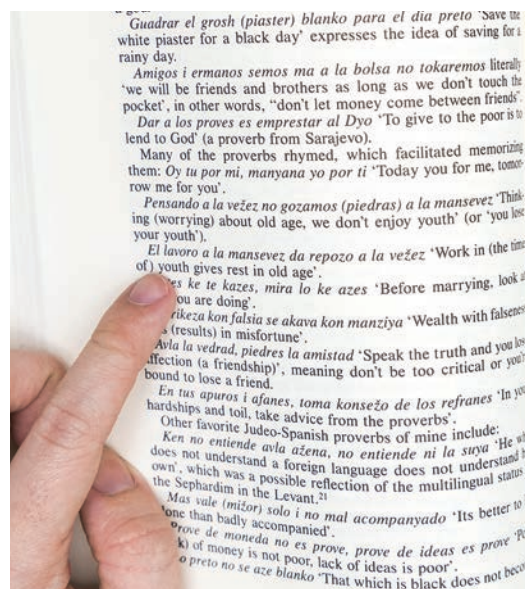
That determination helps distinguish the students of the Plastino Scholars program, which gives UD undergraduates the chance to design their own off-campus, globe-trotting learning experience. Established in 2007 by David Plastino, AS78, the selective program seeks to give students a transformational journey, one that will help extend their reach toward lofty goals.

In Schaefer's case, that meant devising a methodical itinerary—soon to be undone—of interviews, museum stops and university visits that would help clarify the sometimes-spotty research surrounding Judeo-Spanish, a language now at risk of extinction.

The information he did manage to gather—especially his long interviews with an aging Judeo-Spanish speaker in Thessaloniki, Greece—would help solidify his passion for linguistics, a fascination that has endured since childhood. But it was perhaps the trip itself—the flooded streets that threatened to short-circuit his wheelchair, the kindness he met after each small tragedy—that taught him the most memorable lessons.

"I really saw what I can endure. I found I can adapt, prevail," he says. "It's a lot harder to get me stressed out now about just about anything. It wasn't until this trip that I realized how important it is to help one another, to treat others as you would want—or need—to be treated." 🐦

— Eric Ruth, AS93



come, one must see ken perkura. El ke tiene es dev other things) is the d El gameyo no ve doesn't see his hump we never see our ow Kuando te yaman a jackass, look to se be correct, but on the need to pay attention Un anyo (dia) mas, (day) wiser. No ay mizor espej mirror than a true fr Mas se ambeza ei from (in) pain than fr Kada uno es haho his job. El kavod es de ken the person who gives Vida sin salud, la death is sweeter. Para el mal i el bi necessary to be intel Basta mi nombre i name is Abravanel in the Spanish herita The proverbs deal marriage, death, heal ily relations, morality the place of reside several variations of the proverbs themself



KATHY F. ATKINSON

On a quest to research Judeo-Spanish, Daniel Schaefer, AS19, arrived in Greece, where he learned as much about his own perseverance and grit as the vanishing language he had planned to study.

UD PHYSICAL THERAPY TO THE RESCUE

It has been more than 20 years since Tonya Avent, AS96, soaked up UD life as an undergrad. But after her daughter Kennedi suffered a serious knee injury while trying to qualify for the National Junior Olympic Track and Field Championship last summer, Avent once again became a campus regular—only this time as the mom of a patient at the Delaware Physical Therapy Clinic.

“My kids know that UD is a special place to me, but I never thought there would be this kind of connection as well,” says Avent. “I remember them having a great PT program when I was here, but I never realized how much they did.”

Because of Kennedi’s age and athletic ambitions, her family wanted to be conservative with treatment. When the orthopedist suggested physical therapy as an option instead of surgery, a friend recommended Kennedi head over to UD, home to the No. 1 graduate physical therapy program in the country, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

For Avent, it was a homecoming of sorts. “We knew the first day we got here that we had made the right choice,” she says. “I knew it wasn’t someone doing guesswork on her.”

For the month of August, Avent and Kennedi traveled three times a week from Swedesboro, New Jersey, to UD, trekking 45 minutes—or more—each way. During her first visit with senior physical therapist Greg Seymour, Kennedi worked at bending her leg.

On her first day of high school in September, she walked into class on her own.

“At first, it was pretty tough because it hurt a lot,” Kennedi says. “I was scared because I didn’t know how fast I was going to recover. It definitely made me more comfortable because my mom went to school there.”

PCL (posterior cruciate ligament) injuries account for only about 3 percent of all injured knees, Seymour says. Of those, UD’s PT Clinic, which celebrates its 25th



14-year-old Kennedi Avent, who visited UD’s PT clinic following a knee injury

ASHLEY BARNAS

anniversary this year, likely sees more than most because of its extensive history of knee-related research.

Thanks to her hard work and patience, Kennedi expects to make a full recovery. Her visits to UD have slowed to once a month. Although she isn’t yet back to her pentathlon training, she played volleyball in the winter and has plans to participate in spring track. Her rehab success has even sparked the idea of perhaps pursuing a health-related career and maybe even following in her mother’s Blue Hen tracks.

“Seeing where I am now and how fast I have recovered, it’s pretty unbelievable,” she says. “I’m grateful for it all.” 🐦

— Kelly Bothum, AS97

JORDAN BURGESS



FROM COACH TO COMMENCEMENT

NFL Coach of the Year and Blue Hen alumnus Matt Nagy, HS01, will deliver the 2019 Commencement address this June.

A former University of Delaware football standout, Nagy became the first Blue Hen ever to be named an NFL head coach. Just one year later, his impact was felt nationwide as he led the Chicago Bears to a 12-4 record and the NFC North Division Championship. Under Nagy's guidance, the Bears went from last to first in the division, earning their first playoff appearance in eight years.

A native of Manheim, Pennsylvania, Nagy started in the NFL as an intern with Andy Reid and the Philadelphia Eagles in 2007.

His work ethic and passion stood out, and he soon found himself as the Kansas City Chiefs' offensive coordinator in 2016. After the Chiefs reached the playoffs four times in five years, Nagy got his chance with the Bears, and it didn't take long for that to pay off. 🐦

— Scott Day

CHEERS TO UD

Blue Hen spirit is always on full display, but it was especially loud and proud this January, when the University took home national championships in gameday co-ed cheerleading, mascot and hip-hop dance. It marks the first time in program history that all three areas took home titles and Delaware's second straight national championship, after the dance team won the jazz title last winter.

"I felt as if this whole season, cheer, dance, and mascots have been one unified team," says Risa Levine, HS08, head coach of the dance team. "We were all so genuinely happy for one another for each win, and the fact that we made history together makes the victory even sweeter."

UD's spirit squads have now taken 18 national championships (eight for mascot, six for dance and four for cheer). 🐦

— Scott Day



COURTESY OF DELAWARE ATHLETICS

COULD TERMITES PROVIDE A CLEAN-COAL REVOLUTION?

Termites generally don't elicit a whole lot of love. But they may hold the key to transforming coal into cleaner energy for the world, according to UD researchers.

In a novel new study, Chemical Engineering Prof. Prasad Dhurjati and his team have described in detail how a community of termite-gut microbes converts coal into methane, the chief ingredient in natural gas. The study, which produced computer models of the step-by-step biochemical process, was a collaboration with ARCTECH, a Virginia-based company that has been working with these microbes for the past 30 years and provided the UD team with the experimental data used to validate the models.

"It may sound crazy at first—termite-gut microbes eating coal—but think about what coal is. It's basically wood that's been cooked for 300 million years," says Dhurjati.

Eons ago, trees and other plants from the huge forests that once covered the Earth died and fell into swamps. Layers upon

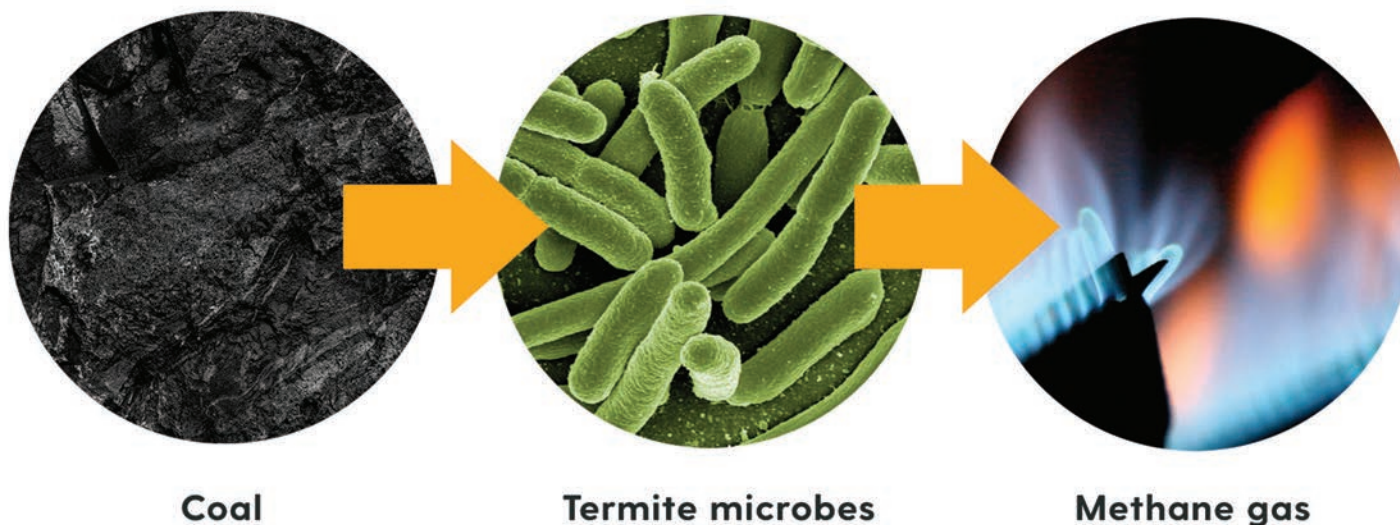
layers of this vegetation were subjected to high pressure and temperature from geologic forces, forming seams of coal.

Now, consider the termite, which causes an estimated \$5 billion in property damage each year. With the help of the microbes living inside their gut, they digest the cellulose and lignin that give plant cell walls their rigidity. These same microbes can also digest coal, releasing methane and producing humic matter, a beneficial organic fertilizer, as a byproduct.

Several companies have attempted—and failed—to commercialize this microbial breakdown until now.

The microbe-based technology already has been implemented in large tanks called biodigesters above ground, and Dhurjati is now seeking collaborators to test the technology below ground, in a deep coal mine. 🐦

— Tracey Bryant



Coal is derived from ancient wood. Microbes living in the termite gut can digest coal, releasing methane, the chief ingredient in natural gas, in the process.

BRANDING OURSELVES

How much of our self-perception is our own, and how much of it is shared by the images we admire, the people we idolize and the products whose glitz and glamour we co-opt as our own?

It might all be a matter of mind.

A new study by marketing Prof. Ji Kyung Park has found that brands have a much stronger self-enhancement effect on consumers with a fixed mindset. For instance, she found that some athletes performed better when they drank water from a Gatorade-branded cup during strenuous exercise; some female shoppers perceived themselves to be more attractive, glamorous and feminine



after using a Victoria's Secret shopping bag; and some students in a Midwestern university scored higher on their GRE exam when using a pen branded with the MIT logo.

"Consumers with a fixed mindset view brand use as a way to signal their

positive aspects on the self," Park says. "This research is the first to show that fixed-mindset consumers can benefit from brand consumption."

A better understanding of these mindsets, she adds, could help us better understand the roles that brands play in our lives. 🐦

SEE-THROUGH BREAKTHROUGHS

If you want to see through objects, you could call Superman—or just ask some UD engineers.

In the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Prof. Dennis Prather and his team have built a device that uses radio waves to "see through" soft objects. Like a scaled-down version of an airport security scanner, his camera-like tool uses powerful waves of energy to penetrate softer materials and detect concealed metallic objects, and could even be used to guide an aircraft flying blind.

"If I can penetrate boxes, if I can penetrate plywood, canvas, smoke, fog, blowing dust or sand, then I have an imaging system that's quite robust for all different environmental conditions," says Prather, who holds more than

60 patent and invention disclosures.

Meanwhile, ECE doctoral candidate Xin (Cindy) Guo, EG19PhD, leads a team that has developed an algorithm that can sense the emotions present in any group gathering just by examining photos. Elsewhere on campus, engineering Profs. Mohsen Badiy and Javier Garcia-Frias are working to identify species of fish in a river just by the sounds they make. 🐦



EVAN KRAPE

GARDEN TIPS

FROM THE MASTER GARDENERS

For the Master Gardeners of UD, no mite is too mighty, no fungus too fearsome. These intrepid volunteers from UD's Cooperative Extension educate and assist homeowners statewide with their horticultural horror stories, and after three decades of such outreach, they've had a few questions asked way more than once—giving us the chance to present **the Top 10 Garden Helpline Tips:**

HOW DO I CONTROL GNATS IN MY HOUSE PLANTS?

If you have fungus gnats (which look like fruit flies), it's good to know that they do not bite humans and do little, if any, harm to plants. But they are a nuisance. The adults came from larvae living in the top 1-2 inches of soil—they prefer moist soil—so first, cut back on watering. Don't water until the top 2 inches have dried out. Since the larvae feed on the algae and fungi that feed on decaying plant material, it is important to clean up dead leaves. Also, planting soil itself breaks down over time, so the presence of fungus gnats may be telling you it is time to repot. To get rid of the pesky flying adults, put out shallow dishes of soapy water (dish detergent works well). They are also attracted to the color yellow, so try putting out yellow sticky traps (available at stores that sell houseplants).

HOW DO I GET RID OF BAGWORMS?

Picking them off by hand is the best method because it is the cheapest, safest and most environmentally friendly. If you do spray, do it in mid-June, with a product containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), available at most garden centers. Another effective product is spinosad (active ingredient). Since sprays do not penetrate the bags, and because pupae in their cocoons cannot eat the sprayed foliage, you must cut open the bags and verify there are active caterpillars before spraying. Products such as sevin or pyrethroids (active ingredient ends in -thrin) provide effective control if coverage is adequate. Since the worms emerge to mate and lay eggs inside the bags sometime in August to the end of October, removing the bags anytime between September and May should eliminate next year's population.

HOW DO I GET RID OF JAPANESE BEETLES?

Applications of Sevin or any of the pyrethroids (active ingredient ends in "-thrin") will provide about 7-10 days of control. Neem oil also works, but may need more frequent applications and could be diluted by rain. Hand-picking the bugs and placing them in soapy water is the best non-chemical option; however, it needs to be done frequently—once in the morning and once in the evening at minimum.



WHAT IS EATING THE LEAVES ON MY KNOCKOUT ROSE BUSHES?

Your knockout roses may be suffering from hungry roseslug sawflies. Turn a leaf over and see if there are any small, pale green "caterpillar-looking" insects. If there are, you have active sawfly larvae, which are most active mid-May through early June, when they chew a thin layer off the surface, leaving a skeletonized "window pane" appearance. One of the species in the mid-Atlantic area has multiple generations annually, so watch your roses for further signs of feeding. To control, treat when larvae are feeding, using an insecticide with the active ingredient spinosad. To confirm it is roseslug sawfly, you could always bring in a sample to our Plant Diagnostic Clinic (531 South College Ave., 151 Townsend Hall, Newark, DE. 19716).

WHAT IS THE BEST GRASS SEED AND LAWN PREPARATION FOR THE NEWARK AREA?

Because the Newark area is in a transition zone, growing grass can be a challenge. Turf-type tall fescue is recommended because of its heat and drought tolerance. Check out the Livable Lawns publication at extension.udel.edu/lawngarden/lawns. We also recommend having a soil test done prior to establishment. To obtain a UD soil test kit, visit ag.udel.edu/dstp.

HOW DO I GET RID OF ENGLISH IVY THAT IS TAKING OVER MY WOODS?

Once established, English ivy takes effort to remove, and may need a combination of hand power and herbicides. For ivy that is growing up a tree, severing the vine and removing it to the base of the tree is helpful. First, make sure a vine-free band is present on the trunk. The remaining vine will eventually expire. Mechanical removal of ivy, a foliage herbicide application, or an effective cut-stem herbicide application can be used. Homeowners can use glyphosate or a brush killer containing triclopyr herbicides to aid in control.

WHAT'S THE PROPER WAY TO PRUNE CRAPE MYRTLE?

Crape myrtles should require minimal pruning if a site-appropriate cultivar has been chosen and maintained. If pruning is necessary, refrain from topping (cutting stems back at an arbitrarily chosen height rather than pruning back to a bud, side branch or main stem).

I LIVE CLOSE TO THE WOODS AND DEER SEEM TO EAT EVERYTHING I PLANT. WHAT CAN I DO?

No plants are 100 percent deer-resistant, but some are less enticing to their palate. Try ferns, ornamental grasses, bottlebrush buckeye, boxwood, spice bush, paw paw and riverbirch. Additionally, you can spray plants with one of the many repellents on the market, but remember to spray repeatedly, especially as they grow, because new growth will not be protected.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PLANT NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR HOME LANDSCAPE?

Simply put, native plants help keep the local ecosystem thriving, especially by supporting native insects, which co-evolved with those plants, and in most cases, can only feed on one specific type. Insects are the only food of baby birds, so if we don't have enough insects, we will no longer have a thriving population of songbirds.

I NEED HELP RENOVATING AND MAINTAINING MY LAWN.

A variety of tips—choosing the right sod or grass, managing diseases and more—are available at: extension.udel.edu/lawngarden/lawns. And the Master Gardeners' guide to creating more ecologically friendly lawns is available at extension.udel.edu/factsheets/delaware-livable-lawns. 🐣



Native plants (like milkweed) attract native insects and have a pleasing scent.



Picking bagworms off by hand is the cheapest non-chemical method.



A crape myrtle provides wonderful flowers if pruned correctly.



Native redbud is a fast-growing tree with great color, which also provides food for birds in winter.

HOTLINE HELP

UD's Master Gardeners are ready and waiting at the Garden Helpline to answer your home garden questions:

- New Castle County: 302-831-8862
- Kent County: 302-730-4000
- Sussex County: 302-856-2585 ext. 535

MAKING WAVES

Before he was a bestselling sportswriter, Jeff Pearlman, AS94, was something of a campus agitator. Here, he shares the memorable mistake that taught him a lesson for life.

I'd venture to guess every college student has a singular moment that dramatically shifts life's course.

Maybe it's enrolling in the class that makes you decide to become a social worker. Or sitting down to eat and meeting the man who ultimately becomes your husband. Maybe it's some sage advice.

Or, in my case, maybe it's an angry phone call from a tearful mother, threatening to have the Little People of America picket you.

Back in 1993-94, I was a UD senior, as well as editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, *The Review*. At the time I was known as something of an agitator around campus. I took pleasure in writing columns that ripped Greek life. I once called (wrongly) for the dismissal of the men's soccer coach. I had an opinion for every occurrence. I wanted the newspaper to be big and bold and loud and aggressive, much to the joy of some fellow staffers and the chagrin of our executive editor (and still one of my closest friends), Adrienne Mand, AS94.

Anyhow, in the late winter of 1994 I decided *The Review* should put out an April Fool's issue, filled only with posterous

fictional stories. Which led to this exchange between me and Adrienne:

Adrienne: "That's a terrible idea."

Me: "It's going to be great."

Adrienne: "There are so many things that can go wrong."

Me: "Trust me."

Adrienne: "This will end badly."

Her words were prophetic.

In the leadup to the issue, I thumbed through a drawer filled with archived *Review* photographs, looking for ... anything. There was a picture of Daryl Hall and John Oates posing with Wilson Goode, the former Philadelphia mayor. Perfect! There was a shirtless guy holding three large blocks. Terrific! And there was, to my eternal regret, a photo of a short-statured young man standing before a brick wall.

So—idiot me being idiot me—we ran that image above the fold on the front page of the April 1, 1994, edition. I placed a football player's head atop the body, and in the caption beneath the photograph I wrote: "Butch Romano, a former MFL star, is coming to Delaware to play nose guard for the Hens." The headline of the fictitious

piece was "MIDGETS FIGHT TO TAKE OVER NEWARK."

I will never forget the day that issue hit campus. Normally, students greeted *The Review* with something of an indifferent shrug. Yawn, ho-hum, whatever. This, however, was pure electricity. One of our main stories concerned the University inviting Snoop Dogg to speak at Commencement (I can still hear the voice of an exasperated Tim Brooks, then the dean of students, telling me he was fed up with reassuring people that Tom Clancy was, indeed, still scheduled). Another announced that Tonya Harding, the recently disgraced Olympic figure skater, was a provost candidate. On page B2 we broke the news that Elvis was not only alive, but stacking books in the basement of Morris Library. Our comics section featured such Charles Schulz-inspired classics as "Ed the Infested Pustule," "Pepperel Mitch" and "Born to Eat Salmon."

By the next morning it was impossible to find a copy of April Fool's issue. I felt vindicated, and told Adrienne that—see!—everything worked out wonderfully.

Then, the phone rang inside the newspaper office.

The woman on the other end introduced herself, and told me she was a Newark resident who always looked forward to reading the newspaper. That day, however, she couldn't believe her eyes. The short-statured man was her son; a UD graduate who ("thankfully") no longer lived locally. Without mincing words, she proceeded to tell me of all the awfulness her child had endured through the years. The teasing. The ridicule. The ostracizing. "You can't possibly imagine what it's like," she said, her voice cracking. And, indeed, this was the truth. I couldn't.

The conversation was not pleasant. She said she considered calling the Little People of America and having them picket outside our offices. "But I don't want my son to learn about this," she said.

Instead, she asked that I think long and hard about the consequences of my actions.

.....
Adrienne: "There are so many things that can go wrong."

Me: "Trust me."

Adrienne: "This will end badly."
Her words were prophetic.
.....

She wanted me to know that one person's gag is another person's heartache. She wanted a 22-year-old aspiring journalist to grasp the weight of words and imagery. Mostly, she wanted me to stop being the type of callous jerk who could possibly do such a thing.

In the 25 years since Tom Clancy's (excellent) Commencement speech, I have

covered more people and events than I can possibly recall. I've written on the lows of losing a child on 9/11 and the highs of hitting a home run to win the World Series. I've had people threaten to punch me and people lean in to hug me. I've jumped from a plane, walked across an icy lake in the 40-below chill of Yellowknife, Canada, lathered Yankee Stadium celebratory champagne in my hair.

It's been a dizzying and fruitful journey, but through it all I have always regretted the most piercing and immature editorial decision of my existence. I'd venture to guess every college student has a singular moment that dramatically shifts life's course.

Mine was a Ph.D.-level lesson on decency. On empathy. 🐼





LEADING THE CHARGE



In addition to her day job as Delaware's secretary of health and social services, Dr. Walker volunteers once a week as a family physician at the West Side Family Healthcare Clinic in Wilmington.

Kara Odom Walker, EG99, is on a mission to improve the lives of Delawareans—especially the most vulnerable

PHOTOS BY EVAN KRAPE

FOR CHANGE

From Delaware to the world

By Julie Stewart

A young man is gunned down in Wilmington. A woman dies from a drug overdose, alone in her car. Every time there's a tragedy in Delaware, Kara Odom Walker's phone dings.

The dings are coming too fast, and she's determined to slow the tempo. As Delaware's secretary of health and social services, Walker, EG99, wants to help Delawareans live healthier, better lives. Her first hurdle: The costs that are crippling the state's health care system.

When Walker took office as cabinet secretary in 2017, no one could tell her how much Delawareans were spending on health care—and what exactly they were getting for each dollar. Fortunately, the Delaware native is just as comfortable with numbers and spreadsheets as she is in an exam room—thanks in part to her chemical engineering background at UD, which she followed with a medical degree from Jefferson Medical College, a master's in public health from Johns Hopkins, and a master's in health services research from UCLA.

"I started looking at the data before we had consultants on board or people who knew data," she says. "I was pulling down spreadsheets from publicly available data, doing my own slides, looking at how to present the information, everything."

What she found shocked her—and later, legislators. Delaware has the third highest per capita health care costs in the nation, just behind Alaska and Massachusetts. However, Delaware is not the third healthiest state, or even close. America's Health Rankings put Delaware at No. 31 in 2018.

"The big issues remain centered on how we address rising health care costs and improve health generally," she says. "It's true not only in Delaware, but across the country: We haven't figured out how to orient our health care system toward paying for health. Our system is oriented toward taking care of people when they're really sick, but not necessarily toward keeping them healthy."



At a November 2018 meeting of Delaware's Government Efficiency and Accountability Review, Walker explained one of her signature achievements thus far: Establishing benchmarks to monitor cost and track health outcomes. For instance, reducing expensive and unnecessary emergency department visits, opioid-related overdose deaths, co-prescription of opioids and benzodiazepines, or enhancing prevention efforts around cardiovascular disease and other conditions are important goals to improve health and decrease costs simultaneously.

Although the political scene is often driven by fiery emotions and anecdotes, Walker was armed with facts, data points, charts: Spending will double by 2025 unless we do something. Healthcare costs comprise 30 percent of Delaware's budget and are rising faster than the state's economy. When interrupted by a man at the table who had his own point to make, she had a polite and thorough answer.

Unfortunately, she's used to being underestimated. As a woman of mixed race, not many of Walker's peers look like her. Of the 94,530 people who graduated from American medical schools in the past five years, just 3,401 (or 3.6 percent) were women of multiple races and just 3,323 (or 3.5 percent) were black women. Walker has been mistaken for an administrative assistant. She's been told she's too young to be a doctor. "You just take it in stride and work harder than your peers and try to speak up more often than they do, because otherwise, you might get ignored," she says. "And it's worked out, and I'm fortunate to

have people who believed in that."

Walker's accomplishments certainly haven't gone unnoticed. In 2018, she was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine, which selected her "for her career-spanning roles" that have "championed health equity and consumer and community engagement." Before she returned to Delaware, she was the deputy chief science officer at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute in Washington, D.C.

She feels fortunate for the educational opportunities she's had, and she wants to give back to those who aren't as lucky—such as at-risk youth in Wilmington. "These are often young men from communities that have guns on every corner, and I feel like we're not doing enough to help them," she says. "We know who's at risk. We know the profile of the child who's at risk probably by the time they're in third grade. We know that in Wilmington we have single-digit third-grade reading literacy levels." Walker is focusing on opportunities to intervene with at-risk youth and families, engage people in life skills and develop mentorship programs with positive role models.

Two generations ago, her own grandparents were working-class poor. Her mother's parents emigrated from the Netherlands to escape political unrest and worked in Delaware as dairy farmers; her father's parents left the southern United States to escape Jim Crow laws and worked in Delaware in blue collar jobs. "It's not that farfetched to think that if my parents hadn't gotten the chance to go to college, then maybe I would be not so different," she says.

“The economic mobility of people is very fluid and based on opportunity, and often chance.”

As the leader of about 4,500 employees of the Department of Health and Social Services, Walker also aims to inspire the hardworking members of her staff. “It’s often older African-American women who come up to me and say: ‘I don’t know you. You don’t know me, but you inspire me, and I’m rooting for you, and I believe in you and I want you to do a great job.’ That pushes me,” she says. “Sometimes you think, I’m just doing my job and it’s no big deal. But I represent something to them, and that’s bigger than me. That’s pretty motivating and lifts me up when I hear it.”

As a mother of a 6-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son, her children are a source of inspiration because she wants to make the world a better place for them, a place with more tolerance, more respect, more aspiration and a community that believes in each other. “When I get frustrated and I see my son, I think: He deserves a future that doesn’t have the likelihood of him being in jail or dead by the time he’s 18 as more likely than a positive outcome. That’s just wrong,” she says.

During her own childhood, UD provided Walker with opportunities she cherishes today. “I grew up in Newark, so from childhood, the University of Delaware was always a part of my life,” she says. “I went to reading enrichment classes at UD when I was a kid and swam at the pool near the Field House. I did summer camp for 4-H at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. During high school I was involved with the FAME (Forum to Advance Minorities in Engineering) program, the pre-engineering program, and I would go on campus to participate in summer enrichment programs which definitely helped me figure out that I wanted to study engineering in college and exposed me to science careers. The University of Delaware continues to be a big part of who I am, because it wasn’t just those four years, it was way beyond that.” 🐦

SUCCESS ON THE RISE

Walker is one of many alumni to benefit from UD’s decades-long program to support students in engineering

The University of Delaware is home to one of the nation’s earliest and most successful programs for minority students in engineering. Since 1972, UD’s Resources to Insure Successful Engineers (RISE) has recruited, encouraged, assisted and supported academically talented students who are African-American, Hispanic-American, Native-American or members of other underrepresented engineering groups. Walker is just one of the program’s many successful alumni.

“The RISE program was just so instrumental to the success of me and my colleagues,” says Walker. Mentorship from Michael Vaughan, EG17PhD, associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Engineering, and Marianne Johnson, program manager for RISE, was critical, as was the collegiality and support of fellow students. “Whether it was asking an upperclassman for tips on how to study or get through a project or think about exam questions or even sometimes to help us, almost like a tutoring arrangement, it was really incredible.”

Like many students, Walker was initially frustrated by organic chemistry. But she didn’t give up—she studied with fellow students in RISE and ended up earning an A in the course. In medical school, she held leadership roles in the Student National Medical Association, the oldest and largest student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color.

“One of the things that taught me how to succeed in other academic settings, whether it was in medical school or in my residency program or fellowship, is trying to recreate that same environment [of RISE], where I not only had the social supports in place, but also the academic supports, either through mentorship or other networks, clubs or similar activities,” she says.

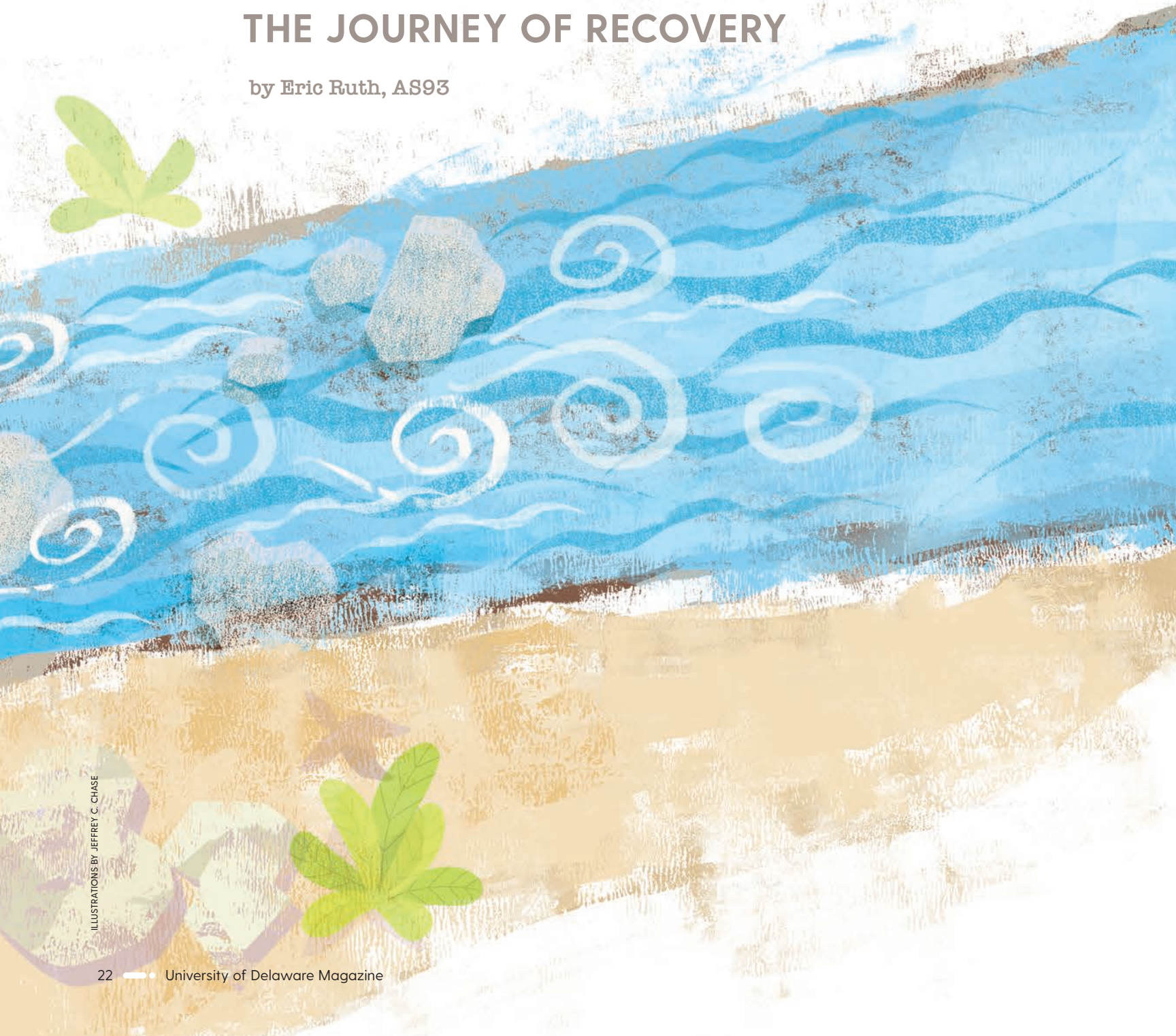


RISE student Olivia Powell, EG19, works in the laboratory of Assistant Prof. Jason Gleghorn.

Better together

THE JOURNEY OF RECOVERY

by Eric Ruth, AS93



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JEFFREY C. CHASE



There was a time in Robert Wittig's life when all he had—all he loved, all he dreamed—started to slip out of his hands and into that void where nothingness awaits.

Darkness pulled at him as he stepped closer to the edge in bleary despair: The brutal hangovers, like hammer blows to the head. The blackouts, so frightening in their ability to cloak—and reveal—some stranger within.

He survived—with the help of strangers who showed him how to be his own friend through the 12 steps of recovery. He thrived—building a career as a high-finance professional, and providing well for his family. But through 29 years of sobriety and success, he never forgot. He knows too well that a sober addict's past is often crucial to salvaging a struggling addict's future.

So when Wittig sought to help others, he turned to the place that's still in his heart, and gave in support of the Collegiate Recovery Community, UD's program for students seeking sobriety. "It's simple," says Wittig, ANR86, who established the Wittig Family Student Wellness and Health Promotion Fund with his wife, Connie, AS85. "We wanted to make sure that if a student reaches out to try to change the course of their life, someone would be there to hear their story."

Wittig is one of many Blue Hens whose ordeals with drugs and alcohol have inspired action and advocacy, on campus and off. Some help by donating money, others pledge their time and toil. All are adding crucial momentum against a sickness that tears at so many families, and which



EVAN KRAPE

“We wanted to make sure that if a student reaches out to try to change the course of their life, someone would be there to hear their story.”

—Robert, ANR86, and
Connie Wittig, AS85

is morphing into a coast-to-coast opioid epidemic, killing 4,173 Americans under age 25 in 2017—twice that of a decade ago.

At UD, the number of students who self-report opioid abuse in surveys—or who are reported because of it—has remained very low in recent years, but the numbers of students seeking recovery for other substances is rising across the nation.

Sensing the threat, and seeing that some students contend with self-harmful behaviors in need of recovery support, the University is adding resources: Three full-time drug and alcohol counselors, training programs for the opioid overdose drug Naloxone, and substance-free student housing in Sussex Hall. Group-empowerment strategies and sober social events are encouraged through the CRC, which has weekly peer-support meetings and recovery-themed yoga sessions. Even Cooperative Extension has been teaching high schoolers how to fight drug abuse in their communities.

Other schools are also gearing up as seed funding flows: In 2000, just four universities had peer-driven student recovery programs; the number today is estimated at more than 200, including UD.

There is evidence that these organized efforts pay off, for both the student and the university: Researchers have found that students who participate in recovery programs tend to have better grades than their peers, and one survey found that just 5 percent of them relapse.

Still, some factors can work against easy solutions and complicate prevention efforts, especially in a place where so many young people simultaneously find new freedoms, and far less supervision. The pressures of class are accompanied by pressure from peers to party, to “fit in” to a cultural rite of passage, making it tougher to sustain a recovery or begin one.

And often, substances aren’t the students’ only problems: Many also struggle with mental health issues that can complicate recovery or aggravate addictions. UD’s recovery support program is also mindful to keep its doors open to students contending with other behavioral dependencies—addictions to gambling, shopping or self-harm, for example—and to those coping with the crisis of a close friend or family member.

“They may walk in to our weekly meeting hesitant and unsure of what to expect that first time, but when they leave, they leave with a sense of knowing that they are not alone,” says Jessica Estok, who coordinates the CRC as assistant director of substance use recovery services for UD’s Office of Student Wellness and Health Promotion.

“There wasn’t any sort of collegiate recovery when I first tried to get sober,” says sociology grad student Rachel Ryding, AS19M,

who partly relied on support from CRC meetings to stop her steady descent into alcohol, pills and finally heroin. “College recovery programs have really exploded in the last five years or so, and it helps so much.”

A LIFEBOAT FOR OTHERS

Despite addiction’s devilish nature, and aside from the organized counteroffensives, individual contacts are what keep an addict’s recovery in motion—a supportive counselor or an understanding peer can be the best antidote to self-doubt and pain. Weekly meetings of UD’s 5-year-old CRC chapter give students refuge to relate and reveal, to share strengths and tears—each handing their spirit down to the next.

“The CRC has helped me find friends I would have never had on campus,” says Caitlin McMahon, HS19. Before joining, her longest period of sobriety was 90 days. Since joining, it’s been five months. “I’ve always been a person who says, ‘I can do it on my own, I don’t need anybody.’ Now I’m more trusting, more willing to go to somebody else for help.”

Although it’s often easier to choose solitude, support groups (either at CRC or at the 12-step programs just footsteps from main campus) can provide a welcome alternative.

“The CRC was a great way to find other students dealing with the challenge of being a student in recovery, and you don’t always find that in 12-step meetings,” says Robert Levin McGrath, EG12, currently an engineering grad student.

During his undergraduate years, McGrath says he was mostly oblivious to his drinking problem, partly because his fellow

drinkers didn’t see it as one. Yet he sensed that change was banging hard at his door; he felt his anxieties growing and his peace of mind slipping. “I had thought whatever this problem was would go away after graduation,” he says.

When it didn’t, he turned to the recovery rooms, and would eventually discover one of its happier algorithms: That by openly accepting help, he became more capable of helping others; and that by helping others, he added sturdier timbers to his own sobriety.

Robert Wittig knows that feeling well. Drugs and alcohol had fueled his undergraduate years, following him into his job after college, and finally pushing him in his desperation to the meeting rooms of AA.

From the start, he felt that the stories he heard could be his own. “Fear was the root of everything I did,” he says. “My fear of not being accepted. My fear of being ‘less-than.’”

But in confronting himself, he would recognize that to heal, he must help others as others helped him.

“Fellowship is the word. As soon as I know I’m not alone, it’s so much easier for me,” says Wittig, now father of two Blue Hen students. “I committed myself to AA, and in doing so all those things I couldn’t accept in my addiction phase started falling into place.”

As Ryding says, “You only keep what you have by giving it away.”

As the Wittigs’ endowment grows, UD expects to make even more services available, including a beefed-up staff for greater student outreach, and possibly a roomier campus location for recovering students to congregate and find support. Organizers are already developing an “ally” program where students, staff and faculty can enlist to support students who are struggling with substance use or have suffered loss because of it.

“When [students] leave [our weekly meeting], they leave with a sense of knowing that they are not alone.”

—Jessica Estok



KATHY F. ATKINSON





KATHY E. ATKINSON

“I’ve always been a person who says, ‘I can do it on my own, I don’t need anybody.’ Now I’m more trusting, more willing to go to somebody else for help.”

—Caitlin McMahon, HS19

FORGING AHEAD

By the unspoken traditions of 12-step meetings, members share their deepest shames with flinty-edged self-honesty—but without expecting or getting any advice from those who listen. Laying bare their troubled pasts, they come to sense that the mere act of speaking long-submerged truths—of admitting alcohol’s power, of acknowledging and making amends for the pain they have caused—has its own recuperative power.

The way to sobriety often demands a journey down these painful old paths, rutted and jarring, and nearly intolerable, if not for the guidance of fellow travelers.

“We don’t always have that ability to look in from the outside and see how our behavior is destroying our lives,” Ryding says. “I was blacking out all the time and I never knew when it was going to happen. I was never actively suicidal in terms of planning or wanting to kill myself, but I had this thought that, in the end, if I don’t come back from this, it’s OK. Which is a really scary thought. I didn’t want to take action. I didn’t really care anymore.”

In the snug old room at Student Wellness and Health Promotion where CRC members gather, the dynamic relies far more on dialogue, and the services of counselors are never far away. “The first time I went, I felt instant relief, because I saw there were people like me on campus,” McMahon says. “It gives me something to look forward to, knowing there were people who cared about me.”

Even recovering UD alumni have called and offered to chat with students in need. Other alumni offer help that’s less direct—but just as crucial.

One of them is Evan Wechman, AS95, who still isn’t certain he qualified for the “alcoholic” label during college, but knew after four years of partying that his drinking needed to stop.

“College was the first time I ever really experimented with alcohol, because I was kind of sheltered in high school and didn’t see a lot of it,” Wechman says. “It resulted in some binge drinking. At the end of the semester in ’95 I said, ‘I can no longer go on with this type of life.’”

At first, he gave up just for the summer. “Then, I gave up for a year, and I’ve never come back.”

Looking back on those times, Wechman could see clearly that his collegiate experience was far from unique, inspiring

him to find room in his budget for a monthly donation that is directed toward the CRC. “Seeing in the media so many deaths occurring on college campuses unnecessarily because of drinking, I thought I could make a difference,” he says.

Around the state, other Blue Hens already are. Caravel Academy Headmaster Don Keister, HS67, co-founded the nonprofit group AtTAcK Addiction after his son Tyler died in an accidental overdose, and has lobbied relentlessly in Delaware for laws that he believes will help others avoid that tragedy.

“My son was lying there on life support and I was thinking, ‘What can I do to try to stop this?’” says Keister, whose group has notched such successes as Delaware’s 9-1-1/Good Samaritan Law (allowing people to call 911 for an overdose without being arrested for minor drug crimes); and approval of over-the-counter Naloxone sales.

He and his family-style team—which includes wife Jeanne, daughter Courtney Keister Clark, EHD07, and several other Blue Hens—have also managed to open four sober-living houses, with more to come. The stakes in this fight are no less than society’s future, he believes.

“There was a time when it wasn’t a common thing to see an overdose in the obituaries,” he says. “But it is becoming more common. People are realizing there are some issues out there that need taking care of, for the sake of us all.”

Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long, a UD nursing professor, who researches Delaware’s action plan on addiction and treatment, agrees. Through the Behavioral Health Consortium, which she chairs, Hall-Long is working with hundreds of statewide stakeholders to increase access to treatment, streamline resources and breakdown barriers to care. “We can’t do this alone,” she says. “People are dying in real time.”

College of Health Sciences Prof. Rita Landgraf, EHD80, has fought the disease of addiction as both secretary of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services and as a mother. When her daughter phoned her from college three years ago to acknowledge her drinking problem, Landgraf learned firsthand the power of recovery communities. Today, her daughter is back in school, having completed her first year with honors.

“Addiction is such an isolating disease—from yourself, from your family,” says Landgraf, who directs UD’s Partnership for Healthy Communities, an initiative that aims to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations. “But treatment works. Hope exists. Through support communities, we heal and grow together.” 🐦



SAVE THE DATE

For the second year, UD’s Collegiate Recovery Community is hosting an alcohol-free gathering as part of Alumni Weekend activities, giving recovering Blue Hens a chance to meet and eat. All are invited to stop by for coffee and breakfast from 10 a.m.–noon on June 8 at the offices of Student Wellness and Health Promotion, 231 South College Ave., Newark. To learn more, contact Jessica Estok at jestok@udel.edu or 302-831-3457.

ON THE WEB

For more information, visit: sites.udel.edu/collegiate-recovery

For help, visit: www.helpisherede.com

THE WAY TO SOBRIETY OFTEN DEMANDS A JOURNEY DOWN THESE PAINFUL OLD PATHS, RUTTED AND JARRING, AND NEARLY INTOLERABLE, IF NOT FOR THE GUIDANCE OF FELLOW TRAVELERS.

Research from the frontlines

UD ADDRESSES A REAL-WORLD CRISIS

by Artika Rangan Casini, AS05, and Eric Ruth, AS93

There once was a time when the nation's most devastating drug problems always seemed to be other people's problems, and addiction was seen as a regrettable consequence of poverty or poor character.

Those days are now over—if they were ever real at all.

As an opioid epidemic casts a deepening shadow over 21st century America, the realization is dawning that all of society shares in this peril, and already bears its deadly repercussions. From the country-style towns of western Sussex County to the bleaker streets of Wilmington, Delaware is tied for the 5th highest overdose rate in the nation, with 345 fatal overdoses in 2017.

Between 2016 and 2017, overdoses in Delaware jumped 106 percent—more than three times the average of the 16 states participating in an opioid overdose surveillance program, and higher than any of the 16 states other than Wisconsin.

Sensing the peril, many are pledging their commitment: The state has set aside more than \$23 million in addiction-fighting funds. The U.S. government is pouring money into multiple prevention and treatment efforts. And at UD, earnest scholars—alarmed and anguished—are devoting substantial scholarly assets to the battle, sensing now that the stakes are nothing less than society itself.

MAKING SCIENCE MEANINGFUL

For Prof. Tammy Anderson, the current crisis gives her a shivering sense of déjà vu. As one of the University's foremost scholars on drugs and crime, Anderson began her career with a street-level study of crack cocaine

in the 1980s, a crisis that seems to have faded from social consciousness. "Nobody wants to be reminded of a history lesson," she says, "but this is not our first drug epidemic."

And yet she watches as the faces of addiction grow younger, death rates climb higher, and resources pass by the places that need them most.



EVAN KRAPE

So she has been busy finding ways to put a tighter focus on the hotspots in Delaware where overdoses occur—and contrast them to the areas where most services reside—in an online map database she calls the Delaware Opioid Metric Intelligence Project. By correlating overdose deaths with community characteristics, from population size to poverty rate, she hopes her research will help guide allocation of resources and services. “We want to put information in everyone’s hands in a meaningful way,” she says.

That mission has been joined by colleagues across the University: Physical therapy Profs. Gregory Hicks and Stuart Binder-Macleod are helping her examine the relationship between chronic back pain and opioid addiction. Engineering Profs. Cathy Wu and Hui Fang have been enlisted to develop a mobile app called “HENN”—Help Near and Now—that shows the availability of real-time treatment services. And fellow sociologist Mieke Eeckhaut is helping to enhance contraceptive access and reduce neonatal addiction.

“As scholars, it’s our job to generate science and disseminate knowledge to improve communities and help people,” Anderson says.

THE COMPLEXITY OF EXPERIENCE

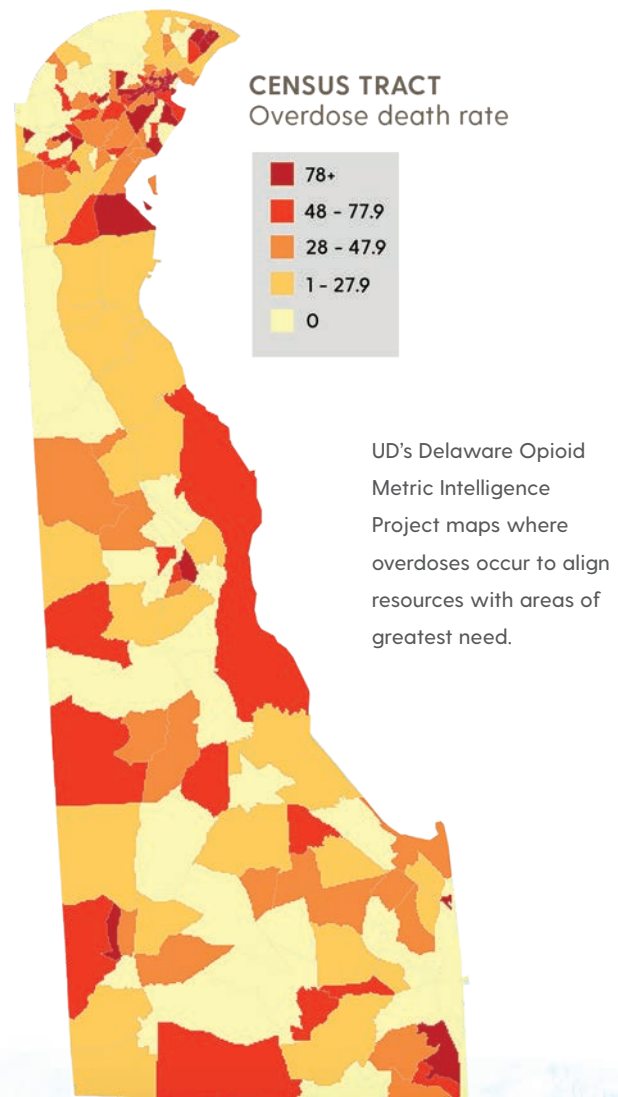
As Anderson and her peers sketch out a macro strategy, sociology Prof. Ben Fleury-Steiner is in the trenches, working with the local AtTACK Addiction nonprofit to interview parents who have lost children to overdoses. His long-term goal is to understand the full depth of their experiences to develop tailored, peer-based bereavement services. “We don’t live in a culture that helps people grieve in healthy ways, especially when there is a level of stigma around the death,” he says. “In the conventional narrative of parents who have lost a child to addiction, the story tends to end there, with powerless victims.”

And yet, after conducting nearly three dozen interviews, Fleury-Steiner has found overwhelming stories of hope



Ben Fleury-Steiner

KATHY F. ATKINSON



and resilience, of parents profoundly knowledgeable in the neurological aspects of addiction, of people eager to help those who share their pain. Time may never heal the wound, he has learned, but it provides a newfound clarity and purpose for families to educate and advocate.

Although the research around such peer-to-peer support groups is largely limited to parents who have lost children to suicide, Fleury-Steiner sees tremendous potential in promoting healthy grieving around substance abuse. Ultimately, he believes, the conversation itself must change.

“The human condition is so much more than a tragedy story,” he says. “The focus on the helpless, angry, fatalistic narrative leads to helpless, angry, fatalistic responses that don’t speak to real possibilities for change.”

EARLY INTERVENTIONS

To stop today's crisis from tumbling headlong through tomorrow's generations, our children must learn.

Lindsay Hughes is convinced of that. As an educator in UD's Cooperative Extension, she takes her message to elementary and middle schools across the state, showing kids the pathways to confidence, assertiveness and healthy decision-making.

Since 2013, she has brought that message to more than 2,700 students through the Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST) Program. Backed by more than 30 scientific studies, the evidence-based lessons are careful to dispel myths, even as the hard facts are dispensed.

"Sometimes kids know a lot," Hughes says. "My job is to make sure they know the truth."

Across campus, Laura Rapp, AS11PhD, also keeps her focus on separating the effective from the ineffectual. As an associate scientist in UD's Center for Drug and Health Studies (CDHS), Rapp's research examines and evaluates the success of different interventions and methods, which tend to morph and shift with every social and political evolution.

"As the landscape has changed, prevention efforts have changed," Rapp says.



UD's Lindsay Hughes uses drunk goggles to expose middle and high school students to the risks of drug and alcohol abuse.

Ten years ago, prevention was primarily focused on the substances themselves, from alcohol to marijuana to heroin. Today, she says, there is a shift toward the broader person and the community they live in, with a heightened focus on factors that serve to protect or mitigate, such as supportive adult and peer networks, self-esteem and academic success.

It's all part of a coordinated approach, says CDHS Director Christy Visher. "Delaware is a small but complex state," she says. "We want to work on the whole problem, and that requires examining all of its pieces." 🐦

Fighting the stigma of addiction

Addiction is a disease marred by stigma, often leaving those who suffer from it feeling shame and despair. That fear of stigma—of judgment, rejection and discrimination, both overt and subliminal—can become a formidable barrier to treatment, says social psychologist Valerie Earnshaw.

Having worked for years to address HIV stigma through research and advocacy, the UD professor is now turning her attention to substance abuse

and how to minimize the risk of stigma when disclosing one's status to family members, friends, coworkers and others.

Here, she offers advice to anyone on the receiving end of such disclosures, as "our response could go a long way in our ability to help."

- **Be mindful of stigmatizing language to reduce stigma within our social circles.** In particular, it's helpful to talk about substance use disorders using medical terminology and avoid terms like "clean" (the flipside of which is dirty) and "addict." The Addiction-ary is a great resource: www.recoveryanswers.org/addiction-ary/
- **Learn more about treatment and recovery.** Statements such as,

"methadone is just replacing one drug with another" are false, harmful and stigmatizing, says Earnshaw. Education around evidence-based treatment can help to bust some of these myths. Recovery from substance use disorders can take years, and like any other chronic illness, it's normal for people to have relapses.

- **Provide social support.** People in recovery, especially at the beginning stages, often have heightened concerns surrounding stigma. Friends and family can help by spending time, offering to talk or providing transportation to doctor's appointments. 🐦



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A MIGHTY FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

by Matt Amis, ASO5

Jayme Smaldone says he always knows a home run when he sees one.

He knew he had one on his hands when he and some colleagues invented the Mighty Mug—a travel coffee mug with a sliding suction cup built into its base that's virtually impossible to knock over. Since debuting his product in 2011, Smaldone has sold more than 3 million.

The alum had the same feeling a few years ago, when counterfeit Mighty Mugs produced in China began hitting American shores. “We always knew that there were knock-offs being made in China,” Smaldone says. “Everything is made in China.”

Problem was, the Chinese knock-offs were cheap—really cheap. Smaldone could buy a fake version of his product online for \$5.69 with free shipping. How could Chinese merchants ship a one-pound box 7,000 miles across the world for next to nothing when Smaldone pays \$6.30 just to ship the real deal across town in Rahway, New Jersey?

He did more research, on platforms like eBay and Alibaba, and found the issue was widespread. “So, we got in the car right away,” Smaldone remembers. “I said, ‘Let’s go to the post office.’”

From James A. Farley Post Office in New York, where he harangued the staff and demanded the same shipping rate as his overseas competitors, Smaldone’s odyssey began.

He discovered that countries like China can ship overseas for so little thanks to an outdated policy set by the Universal Postal Union (UPU), a 145-year-old intergovernmental organization that coordinates global mail. It establishes the standards for “terminal dues”—the rates and fees that one country pays another for processing and delivering a letter or package.

But China receives a steep discount because the UPU still recognizes it as a “developing country,” thanks to an agreement made during the 1960s, well before China emerged as an economic powerhouse.

Smaldone learned, to his horror, that the U.S. essentially subsidizes cheap overseas shipping, hurting domestic businesses in the process—everyone from Amazon to Mighty Mug.

He made his way from the National Housewares Manufacturers Association to the National Association of Manufacturers to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where shock and awe followed.

Says Smaldone: “[The president of the Housewares Association] was like, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me. That’s what’s going on here?’”

Smaldone’s advocacy eventually reached the U.S. Department of State, which hosted him for public testimony during a special hearing.

“I said, I’m in this country. I’m trying to create jobs. I’m paying income tax. I’m



paying employee tax. I’m doing all these things and I’m trying to create a business here. And, I said, ‘How dare you guys give a rate to my competitor that contributes nothing to this society, that’s five times lower than my rate. How can you do that?’

“It was like air came out of the room,” Smaldone says.

Jim Campbell, a Washington, D.C.-based attorney and postal service expert who’s advised the State Department on the matter, was at that hearing. “What he was saying was exactly right,” he says. “It’s a problem that a number of us have been complaining about for many years.

PHOTOS BY GYMS DUNBAR



"To have this kid speak up and say this is absurd—a lot of us were saying, 'Yes! You tell 'em!' We were very happy to hear from him. In fact, we took him out for a beer afterward."

Smaldone continued his full-court press. He wrote op-eds in *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Atlantic*. He appeared on NPR's financial podcast *Planet Money* to discuss what the hosts dubbed the "Postal Illuminati." A congressman from Texas and a senator from Louisiana even drafted legislation as a direct result of Smaldone's outreach.

And there just so happened to be a

president in the White House with some strong feelings toward Chinese trade.

"This administration's platform has been: American businesses are getting a bad deal all around. So, I thought, this deal is so bad, that if I just get this in front of one of these guys, they're going to read it and call up the Postal Service and say, 'Come in here and explain this to me.'"

In October, the Trump administration announced it would begin the process of pulling the U.S. out of the Universal Postal Union—thanks in part to the small but mighty business owner from Jersey.

When Jayme Smaldone, BE02, discovered a centuries-old postal agreement that hurts small business owners like himself, he took his outrage and advocacy to Washington, D.C.

"[Smaldone has] been forthright, outspoken, even courageous," Campbell says. "A lot of us have worked on this issue for a lot of years. But Jayme is a perfect story, a perfect example of a small ecommerce business owner that didn't exist before. He's particularly articulate, he's great on radio. He's had a significant impact." 🐦

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OFFICE HOURS

(and Duck Tales)

with **CHRIS WILLIAMS**

Here sits a man in an office of ducks—some of them wooden, most of them stuffed, all of them cherished. He wishes there were some profound story he could tell about where the fascination began, but “sometimes you stumble across something in life, and it just speaks to you.”

Growing up in Juneau, Alaska, a stroll away from the face of a glacier, Chris Williams spent a childhood surrounded by nature, learning the truth that only the wild outdoors can teach: That the greatest wonders of the world belong to no one; they belong to all. His father was the state demographer for Alaska, tracking and studying census change and growth; and today, as professor of wildlife ecology and director of UD's Waterfowl and Upland Gamebird Program, Williams also studies populations. But his subjects happen to waddle and quack.

“Waterfowl and upland gamebirds provide a unique insight into the health of an ecosystem,” says Williams. “They help us to better understand some of our greatest environmental threats, from human-induced habitat change to climate change and sea-level rise.”

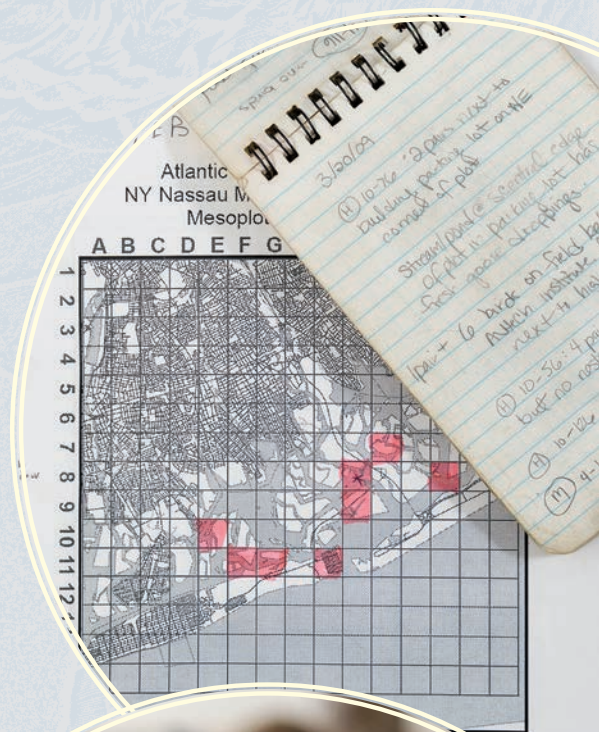
Take, for example, the American black duck, which is a species of conservation concern. Quantifying their nesting habits can help illustrate changes in the coastal landscape. And by studying the decline of upland game birds, like the northern bobwhite, we see how suburban and agricultural expansion threatens their habitats.

Through his Waterfowl and Upland Gamebird Program—a central hub for research and conservation that stretches from coastal New York to North Carolina—Williams and his students ask these very questions, seeking to inform the decisions that will affect habitats now and into the future.

“Successful conservation requires not only making efforts to improve an ecosystem and its wildlife inhabitants, but integrating people and politics,” he says. “It's a wonderful extension of our democracy, and a reminder that we are a part of nature, not apart from it.”

Welcome to the wild, waterfowl-laden office of Chris Williams. 🦆

— Artika Rangan Casini, ASO5





5

6

1

WOOD DUCKS

"Wood ducks populations have been increasing for the last 50 years. Partly because of nest boxes that supplement tree cavities. Our undergraduate researchers have worked with Delaware Wildlands to help understand how nest box placement can continue to increase populations."

2

BOBWHITE QUAIL

Over the last four years, Williams has been leading a project to import bobwhite quail from Georgia into New Jersey in hopes of "restarting the engine" for the No. 1 bird species in decline in America. Preliminary research suggests that the efforts have had marginal success and have provided valuable information for future habitat management.

4

ARCTIC SOUVENIR

While Williams and his student team researched the dwindling Atlantic brant geese breeding in the Canadian Arctic, they stumbled upon a number of caribou antlers. "We rented an airport cart and stacked about five of them onto each other and checked them in as baggage."

5

MID-ATLANTIC TREASURE

"The Chesapeake Bay and its salt marshes are a critical source of food and habitat for migratory birds. Indeed, the largest numbers of wintering waterfowl on the East Coast can be found in its regional marshes."

3

ON EXTINCTION AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

"Negative human impacts on the land and climate are occurring at a record pace. Are there species that will go extinct? Of course! If top predators like wolves, cougars or polar bears were to go extinct, their prey populations would be left unchecked and alter entire ecosystems. The whole chain starts to collapse. But, as good as we are as scientists, we'll never know which species we can lose and which will cause major damage. That's why we take a liberal view of conservation: Let's try our best as conserving all species within entire ecosystems and hope for a sustainable future."

6

OFFICE MATES

"I'm an 1800s natural history buff at heart, and I feel a connection to having the birds here—to celebrate their beauty and their conservation. There's something special about having a tangible sense of nature surrounding me inside the concrete walls of Townsend Hall."





GAME CHANGERS

A CONNECTION ON THE BASKETBALL COURT LEADS TO GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS IN THE SCIENCES

BY BETH MILLER

Chad Starks couldn't help but laugh. He laughed respectfully, mind you. But he really laughed when he heard the Delaware Space Grant program was having trouble attracting minority students to apply for its scholarship and research programs.

"Wait, wait," he said. "There is free money for students who have been historically marginalized and isolated from real opportunity and advantage—and you can't get people to take it? No one needs \$5,000 or \$10,000?"

"Oh," he begged, "let me help with that."

Not that Starks is into astrophysics or what happens in the plasma-filled atmosphere of the sun, as his friend, Bill Matthaeus, is. Matthaeus, Unidel Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Delaware, has helped to lay the foundation of multiple NASA missions, including the Parker Solar Probe, now orbiting the sun at a distance closer than any previous spacecraft.

That's all fascinating stuff, but Starks, AS12PhD, is a criminologist. He studies crime and the societal contexts in which it occurs, the things that prompt people to commit them, the powerful forces that so often cripple communities. His analysis focuses more on the impact of broken societal structures than the dynamics of colliding magnetic fields.

He has the credentials needed to navigate academic environments, too—a bachelor's (sociology, Wofford College), two master's degrees (criminology, alcohol and drug studies, University of South Carolina) and a Ph.D. in criminology from the University of Delaware.

It's something else, though, that converts that intellectual strength into real power. Starks and Matthaeus are connectors. In engineering contexts, connectors are devices that bring two disparate things together to make a new thing possible. A connector makes electric circuits possible, for example. Power happens.



**“IF I REPRESENT
PROGRESS, THEN THIS
IS A TEAM EFFORT. THE
POINT GUARD DOESN'T
DO WHAT THE SHOOTING
GUARD DOES...GIVE
ME A SHOT.”**

— CHAD STARKS, AS12PHD

CHANCE ENCOUNTERS

With his long locks and colorful clothes, Starks stands in stark contrast to the white-haired Matthaeus. The two met on the basketball court at the Little Bob—as the Carpenter Sports Building is known in the Blue Hen orbit—and struck an immediate friendship.

During games, Matthaeus would sometimes ask other players their opinions of various news events. Or he'd hear someone mention they were a math major or an engineering major and he'd ask them if they were aware of the Space Grant program.

“He was like a sideline reporter,” Starks says, shaking his head. “And he would be talking about things that have nothing to do with basketball. Dude, we're playing ball. Why bring in class and politics and health and opportunities?”

“And the next thing I know, I realized I was doing the exact same thing. I walk to the water fountain, ‘Hey man, what's your major?’”

Matthaeus was intrigued by this criminologist. Starks was intrigued by this physicist. What happened next nobody—not even a theoretical physicist—could have predicted.

As they talked, they realized they had common objectives. Matthaeus and NASA wanted to see more students of color applying for Space Grant scholarships and programs. Starks wanted to kick open doors of opportunity to help people stay out of his criminology research statistics.

Maybe they could work this out together.

A SEAT AT THE TABLE

The Space Grant program, created by Congress in 1987, promotes interest in space and provides scholarship support in much the same way as the nation's Land Grant and Sea Grant programs do for agriculture and marine studies. It supports educators, students and researchers in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—and helps develop the highly skilled workforce NASA needs.

UD is the lead institution in Delaware's Space Grant Consortium, which includes Delaware State University, Delaware Technical and Community College, Wesley College, Wilmington University, Villanova University and Swarthmore College.

Matthaeus says the tipping point for the Delaware Space Grant came in 2012, after he urged one of the students playing in the Little Bob pick-up games to apply for a Space Grant scholarship. The student—an engineering major who was great at math—did so, but Matthaeus was told the student's grade-point average wasn't high enough for consideration.

He talked with Starks and they discussed other ways to evaluate students. Matthaeus also proposed a lunch with Dermott Mullan, director of Delaware's Space Grant program from 2005-15. By the end of that lunch, new ideas were emerging. Like maybe Starks should be on the Space Grant's board of directors.

A formal invitation came shortly after Starks received his doctorate.

For Starks, it was “an opportunity to live out my purpose. I'm out here trying to get homeboys and homegirls to stop selling crack and drugs and get on a journey of success. These opportunities are generational changers. And I'm going to have conversations with people who never thought they could do some of the things the University is offering.... We're talking about changing the way people think.”

And changing the face—and professional make-up—of leadership, too.

It seemed like cosmic timing just a month later, when Mullan got a letter from the national Space Grant program manager saying Delaware's Space Grant Program wasn't doing well as far as diversity was concerned. An improvement plan must be submitted or funding could be in jeopardy.

Mullan thought Starks could make a continued, long-lasting difference as an associate director of the program, but his role on the Space Grant board required buy-in from the other consortium directors.

So when Mullan called a meeting of the board to discuss the letter, Starks was there.

At that meeting Starks took upon himself the job of writing a significant part of the required improvement plan—and NASA ultimately approved Delaware for further funding.

Starks says he has encountered some skepticism along the way.

“We don't have a [diversity] problem,” he heard some say.

DELAWARE SPACE GRANT

NUMBER OF APPLICANTS FROM
UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS BY YEAR



"Yes, that's why I'm here," he replied.

Starks thinks the skepticism wasn't just about his race.

"It was about STEM compared to social science, too," he says now. "The 'S' in STEM was real science. I had to make sure they were comfortable about what I was going to bring. If I represent progress, then this is a team effort. The point guard doesn't do what the shooting guard does. The quarterback doesn't do what the center does. I can bring an element you haven't been trained in. Give me a shot."

They did.

As Matthaeus, who became director of the Delaware Space Grant in 2016, puts it, "The University of Delaware could be at the forefront of the intersection between sociology and STEM subjects. It's a natural thing if you think about it. Physicists and mathematicians and biologists know nothing about the sociology of their own subjects."

OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE

Making better connections requires more than good intentions.

"Putting up a flyer in the hallway isn't the best way to reach under-represented minorities," Starks says. "You have to get out of your comfort zone, get faculty members or industry affiliates to interact with them in a social way. These students have a right to be intimidated or afraid

to walk into your office and have a conversation. And I don't think faculty have understood the power they have to make students feel comfortable about talking about these opportunities."

Starks opens the door to some uncomfortable conversations, too. And he didn't agree to join this work just so the Delaware Space Grant could get NASA off its back and check the diversity box. He is nobody's token. He knows race is not a welcome topic of conversation. He said as much last fall when talking to students in Prof. Ed Nowak's physics class. "You don't think I get tired of talking about race?" he asked the students. "I do. And you all get tired of hearing it, don't you? But why should we stop talking about it if we haven't gotten it right?"

"Come on STEM scientists. Y'all don't quit when the project isn't what you expected, do you? You go right back in the lab and you get it right. Because the outcome is the only thing that shows you have a level of expertise."

He looked around the room and saw just one female student. "I appreciate this courage to step outside a comfortable box," he told her. "I wonder why the numbers look like they do. Women aren't as smart as men, right? We wouldn't need the Civil Rights Act or the Women's Suffrage Act to think differently on something we should assume from the get-go," he continued. "But public policy created the opportunities to marginalize certain groups."

You can't change that through indifference or silence. Marginalized groups must be acknowledged, valued and welcomed to the mainstream. Attempting to be color blind is not the solution.

"Acknowledging one's race is not racism," he said. "Using it against them is. If you don't give kids access to resources, eventually some of them commit crimes, which means they're going to be part of my research study instead of Mr. Bill [Matthaeus] and Dr. Nowak's."

THE POWER OF CONNECTION

Applications from under-represented minorities have increased significantly since Starks joined this effort in 2013: Of the 119 applications from African-American students between 2000-2018, more than 70 percent were submitted since Starks arrived. More than 70 percent of the 24 applications from Hispanic students have come in that time, too.

But the mission is far from done. Starks continues to meet with students, decision-makers, advisers and faculty to help them connect with and understand each other.

"THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COULD BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN SOCIOLOGY AND STEM SUBJECTS."

— BILL MATTHAEUS

Harry Burton, who is studying adaptive optics and pursuing his doctorate at Delaware State University, says Starks, the sociologist, helped him get an extension of his NASA grant. That gave him another semester to continue his research, work on his dissertation and also present his work at the Optics Photonics West conference. Burton expects to complete his doctoral studies this spring.

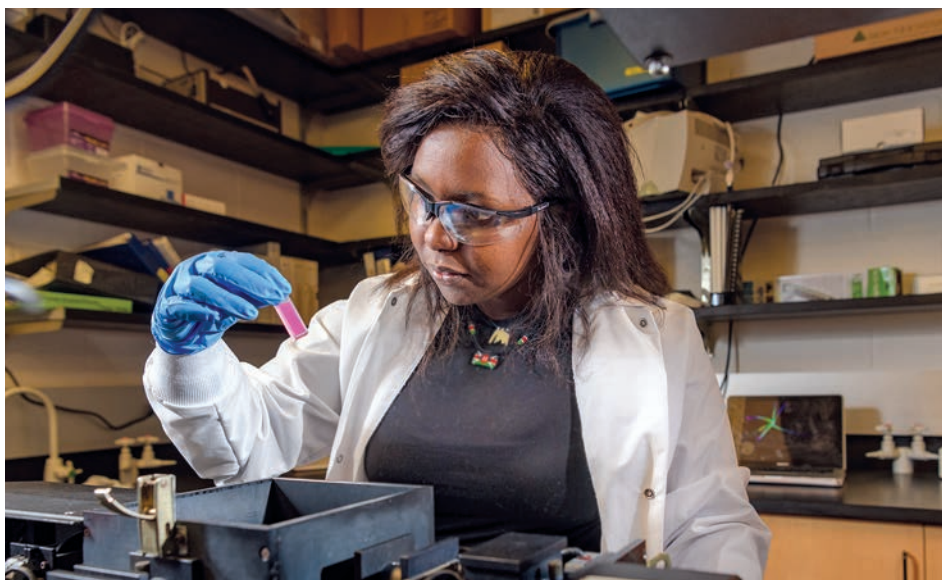
"Sometimes you don't need people to be in the same field as you—just somebody who is willing to pull their weight for you," says Burton, who has been part of Space Grant programs since he was an undergraduate.

His work in the NASA program reinforced his goal to work with the world's premier space agency.

"My dream job is NASA," he says. "And it was really important to get an idea of how their researchers work and how they conduct themselves on a daily basis."

Joy Muthami, EG19, a senior chemical engineering major at UD, heard about Space Grant when Starks talked about it last spring at a meeting of the RISE—Resources to Insure Successful Engineers—Program (Read more about RISE on page 21).

"I thought it was just for those in astronomy," she says. "But when I got to talk to them and found out who they are looking for, I was motivated to apply for the grant."



And she got it.

"It was a phenomenal help," she says of the \$5,000 award.

Now she hopes to pursue a doctorate and apply for one of Space Grant's fellowships, worth \$27,600 per year.

"There are a lot of different opportunities I would never have known about if it weren't for him and his recommendation," she says of Starks.

The Space Grant helped Manuel Cuesta, AS18, 21M, earn his bachelor's in physics while working in Matthaeus' research group. Cuesta is now doing graduate-level work at UD, hoping to get his doctorate. In addition to the financial support, he appreciated the friendship he found in Matthaeus' team and the opportunities to attend conferences and present his research.

"The first year I was working with him, he invited us to his house for his birthday and I got to meet everybody in a different setting," he says. "I was the only undergrad and socially that was so beneficial. A lot of the members of his group are foreign nationals and they

Chemical engineering student Joy Muthami, EG19, was able to quit a part-time job after receiving financial support from Delaware's Space Grant Program.

bring wherever they are from. It's a huge ethnic mix."

The mix is essential, but Starks says he usually hears the word "diversity" as a pejorative. It devolves too often, he says, into a box that must be checked. The real power of diversity is in the discovery, the interaction, the exchange, the communication, the mutual learning, the relational connections, the trust-building.

"It's race, class, gender, yes, but it's really different ways of thinking, being, knowing, living," he says. "Get past checking the box. There are people behind those boxes."

And real connections to make. 🐦



Ms. Johnson. In the

If you happen to see *New York Times* bestselling author Maureen Johnson as she's heading into the ladies' room, be warned. The look on her face—part hopeful, part curious, part sly—is likely the manifestation of some crime unfolding in her head: What if I open this door and find a dead body?

"I always wonder, 'What if this is the time?'" Johnson says.

Sounds macabre. But it's the stuff that put Johnson, AS95, on just about every prestigious "Young Adult" (YA) fiction list in 2018 for *Truly Devious*, the first book in her three-part series starring Stevie Bell, a 16-year-old detective in the rough.

Bell, a student of true crime blessed with Veronica Mars-esque contemporary wit, is long obsessed with a 1936 kidnapping and murder that happened on the grounds of a posh high school in Vermont. Now a 21st-century incubator for brainy disrupters, artists and scholars, the school accepts Bell, who lets her true-crime freak flag fly as she resolves to solve the decades-old murder, plus one on the side—her classmate is killed, too. The second book, *The Vanishing Stair*, dropped in January and immediately made noise in YA circles.

If there's any readership that makes noise, it's YA.

"They are so passionate," Johnson says. "They bring buckets—I do mean literal buckets—of books to signings. They read across genre. They read wisely. And if they like or don't like something, they let you know."

Johnson, who moved to New York after leaving UD—notably, with her best friend from campus and longtime literary agent, Kate Testerman, AS95—almost missed the YA boat completely. After she picked up her MFA from Columbia, she thought she'd write essays. "Then Kate came to me one day and said, 'You should try writing YA.' And I said, 'Uh, what is that?'"

It was around 2003, and Testerman was one of the only agents in her big Manhattan publishing firm tapped into the YA scene. "She had an idea of what it was about to become," Johnson says. "So I said, 'Ok. I will give you a writing sample to show you just how terrible I will be at writing YA.'"

A Philadelphia native who went to an all-girls Catholic school, Johnson didn't do typical teenage things. Hooked on mystery and crime novels from go, she was more likely to spend her nights curled up with *The Westing Game* or any Agatha Christie book—"slamming two a day," as she did one summer. Told to go outside and play, she

would find the last book she had stashed in the yard. "What fun stuff would I possibly have to write about?"

Yet within a year of trying YA, she had a five-book deal: a two-book series with one publisher and a three-book series with another. That was 15 years ago.

"It all happened so fast," she says. "And it was self-taught—before I was a full-time writer, when I had other jobs, I'd not do those jobs and instead spend four to 10 hours a day practice-noveling until I got it."

Her debut landed just before Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight* saga blew the lid off YA in 2005. Since then, a lot within the genre has changed.

But not enough, says Johnson, who doesn't skirt political talk and in 2018 edited an ACLU-backed essay compilation aimed at young adults called *How I Resist*.

"I'll go to readings or panels, and something as simple as having chairs for the women authors... they're not there," she says. "The male authors at the event—even those who don't have as high a profile as some of the women—are the main focus. I think there is this romantic myth of the male writer: black jacket, smoking, leaning over a typewriter and only he will tell you the truth. Women-dominated genres, like romance, so often get sniffed at. I tolerate no sniffing."

While Johnson finishes the third installment of *Truly Devious* this year, Netflix is filming a book she co-wrote 10 years ago with *The Fault in Our Stars* author John Green and Lauren Myracle, *Let it Snow*.

When not writing, Johnson nurses her other love: podcasts. On her top list? *My Favorite Murder*. "I wouldn't say Stevie Bell is inspired by the whole 'True crime is hip!' thing, but even with [its] popularity, I can look around and say, 'Finally! My people are here!' It's like everyone finally decided to start eating my favorite food."

She also helms her own podcast, *Says Who?*, with journalist pal Dan Sinker. "Our tagline is, 'It's not a podcast. It's a coping strategy,'" Johnson says of their quest to "make sense" of the current political climate.

Her solution? Let her readers run the world.

"I have a lot of faith in them as great leaders," she says. "I've watched it happen. Look at the Parkland teens, at young people running for office. I came into YA backwards, having no idea what I was getting in to, but it wasn't long before I realized it's time to start giving these kids the credit they're due." 🐦

library. With the...

By Amy White, AS05

ALUMNI NEWS

THE PET DOCTOR

Courtney Campbell, ANR01, is no stranger to microphones, cameras and long work days. He has appeared on *Live with Kelly*, hosted the *National Geographic* show *Pet Talk* and makes regular trips down the 101 for media appearances in Los Angeles.

Then there's his day job. As a surgical associate at VetSurg, a veterinary surgical center in Ventura, Calif., Campbell heals a wide array of complications, often performing shoulder, skin or abdominal surgeries.

"There are long days where I'm doing consultations, surgery, media and then back to veterinary medicine," he says. "It's always different and that's what makes it fun."

Campbell particularly enjoys minimally invasive surgeries like arthroscopies for joints and laparoscopies within the abdomen, which are not yet a common practice in the veterinary world. And his entrée to the veterinary world stemmed from his scientific pursuits.

"If you love medicine and you like people, become a physician. If you love medicine and animals, like I do, become a veterinarian," says Campbell, who was the first to investigate the relationship between the severity of patella luxation



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/JUSTIN OGDEN

and the frequency of ACL injuries in dogs. "At the end of the day, it's one health. Everybody is a part of it."

Human health is connected to the health of animals and the environment. Whether it's the inspection of animal food products or spread of infectious disease, Campbell stresses that animals are connected to our everyday lives.

It's a connection he experienced firsthand as a UD student. "I worked at small veterinary practices before college and felt pretty comfortable in the dog and cat realm," he remembers. "But at Webb Farm, working with large animals was brand new to me. You have to be humble out there or you'll be humbled quickly."

Because of UD, he adds, "I tried a lot of things that I would have never tried before. It truly helped me with everything in life."

Veterinarian to the stars Courtney Campbell, ANR01, got his start on UD's Webb Farm.

Speaking to pre-vet students and alumni last fall, Campbell encouraged them to use their education as a process for self-discovery.

"Don't normalize your gifts. You are talented in the abilities that you bring to the table. Those gifts should be celebrated," he said. "In preparation for your career, you must find out what those gifts are. The only way to do that is to be adventurous and fearless. Luck is being prepared when opportunity arises. Opportunity is always around the corner. The question is: Will you be prepared? The UD experience is your preparation. Always have that intrepid spirit where nothing dissuades you." 🐦

— Dante LaPenta, AS12M

3, 2, 1... IT'S STARMAN!

At UD, they taught Peter DeLuce how to chase the muses that tantalize all true artists. Outside of painting class, in the Blue Hen pool, he studied the sinewy art of competitive swimming, spending oh-so-many waterlogged mornings in pursuit of a few milliseconds.

But it wasn't until he graduated that he found his most peculiar, most powerful, most profitable lesson. And after all those years of chasing things, it seemed to tumble into his lap, like a gift from the skies.

It all began with the click of a "like" button—from none other than space-and-auto entrepreneur Elon Musk—on a painting by DeLuce that depicted the now-famous "Starman" chilling on the hood of a Tesla Roadster, sipping coffee and enjoying the interplanetary view from Mars.

At this point, the actual Starman—the unlucky mannequin who was clad in a spacesuit, strapped into a Tesla Roadster and launched aboard SpaceX last February—was on his way to the red planet, generating his own form of heat on social media. In this heady atmosphere, Musk's fingertip endorsement served to boost DeLuce's career into the next orbit.

"I basically went into heart failure," DeLuce, AS17, quipped to the media after the event. "It was a surprise, but I had a goal," DeLuce, 24, told *UD Magazine*. "I was actually targeting the space enthusiasts, and I already had a following from some of the space-related fans."



This painting by alumnus Peter DeLuce, AS17, went viral after a "like" from Elon Musk.

That fan base would blossom as the image blew up DeLuce's various social media platforms and began its viral orbit through Reddit, Imgur and beyond. Then, the inevitable: A torrent of requests for prints, phone cases, posters, T-shirts—anything adorned with DeLuce's digital painting, entitled "Red Car on the Red Planet." There was even a call about licensing rights from a well-known coffee company—the kind of calls that prompted DeLuce to seek copyright guidance from his former visual communications professors, Robyn

Phillips-Pendleton and Amy Hicks.

The streak of fame, so brief but furious, bodes well for DeLuce and his graphic style of art, keenly focused on a David Bowie-sings-Starman style of space fantasy. Several licensing agreements are in place, and he's moved up to a larger studio in his hometown of Hershey, Pennsylvania, to handle business.

"It was a huge boost, first financially and then for my morale. I thought 'I'm going to the right place here.'" 🐦

— Eric Ruth, AS93



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BEHIND THE SCENES WITH *THE BLUE BOY*

Art conservator Christina O'Connell has been studying and conserving one of the world's most famous paintings to uncover what lies beneath the surface—and the public gets to watch.

With O'Connell, AS04, and curator Melinda McCurdy at the helm, *The Blue Boy*, made around 1770 by English painter Thomas Gainsborough, has undergone its first major technical examination and conservation treatment in public view in the Huntington Art Gallery in San Marino, California.

"There are both structural and visual condition issues that need to be addressed with the treatment," she says of the two-year conservation project, which began in fall 2017 when the painting underwent preliminary conservation analysis in O'Connell's lab. "Essentially, we understand the original materials and layers and how they've aged over time, as well as the past conservation history and materials that have been added, and how those materials have aged over time."

The treatment of the Huntington's most iconic painting is being carried out in phases, some of which are on public view, giving visitors a behind-the-scenes view of the careful and systematic process of conservation. Visitors can even see the conservator's magnified view through a microscope projected on a large screen.

"This provides visitors with an in-depth understanding of the study of the painting, the process of the treatment and the decision-making that goes into this type of work. Visitors also get a



FREDRIK NILSEN STUDIO, THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

chance to ask questions," O'Connell says. "This open conversation brings a deeper understanding of the project."

O'Connell has worked as the senior painting conservator at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens since 2013. In fact, her first project at the Huntington was transferring *The Blue Boy* to an 18th century frame from an early 20th century one.

Railroad magnate Henry Huntington bought *The Blue Boy* from the Duke of Westminster in 1921. The painting has been conserved six times since, and research conducted in the past revealed an unfinished man's portrait and dog in the painting that were covered up.

"The treatment is a process of discovery," O'Connell says. "Removing the layers applied over the original surface reveals minute details of the painting that were previously obscured."

That includes an L-shaped tear in the canvas, and O'Connell will conduct more archival research to pin down when the damage occurred.

She nurtured these skills earning her degree in art conservation. As a student, O'Connell worked on a thorough technical study and treatment plan for a panel painting by Medieval artist Antonio Vivarini that was part of a larger altarpiece from the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore.

"That project gave me the opportunity to work alongside conservation scientists and curators to fully understand the materials and structure of this panel painting, and it also fostered the important partnership between colleagues," she says. "It was a strong foundation that set the pace for my career." 🐦

— Mike Fox, AS05



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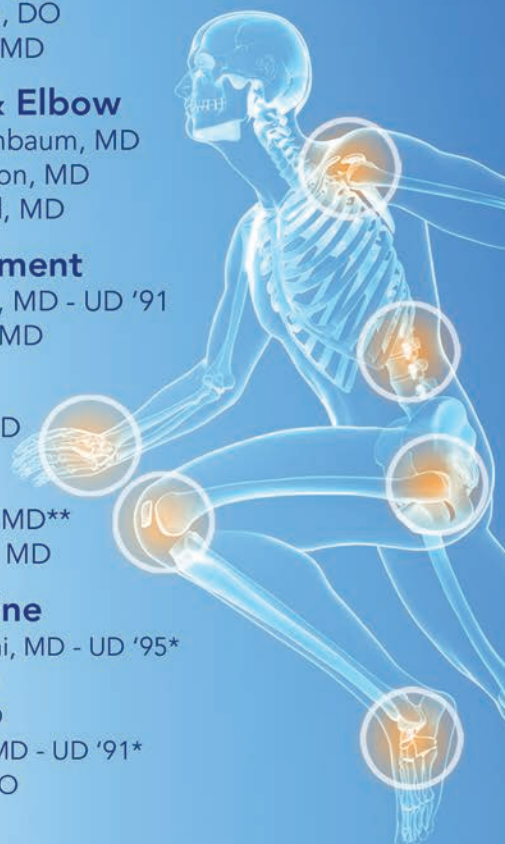
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Ask the UDAA

I'd like to get more engaged with my Blue Hen family, but I'm busy with work and my personal life. What are some manageable ways to stay connected?

—Rebecca Jaeger, AS16

This is a question that I get a lot—limited in time but wanting to share in the fun and impact that others have enjoyed as part of their story! Here are a few suggestions that will allow you to find something that works for you and your life:

Stay in touch through simple things you may already do every day: Read the University's *Magazine* (as you are right now!), follow us on social media (/UDalumni on Facebook and @UDalumni on Twitter) and make sure we have your correct email address at udconnection.com/update in order to receive the alumni e-newsletter, messages from UD President Dennis Assanis and event announcements.

Another great option is to attend UD events and invite your classmates to do the same. The UD Alumni Association supports all types of events, from

cultural and family-friendly gatherings to happy hours in your local area. We also sponsor career development webinars you can participate in during your lunch break, and of course, the incredible Homecoming and Alumni Weekend events on campus.

If your career is limiting your available time, perhaps you can incorporate your work into your connections back to campus. You may want to offer an internship to a high caliber student or hire a Blue Hen. The best way to support these future candidates is through the UD Career Acceleration Network (CAN) at udcan.udel.edu, where you will gain access to thousands of diverse and motivated Blue Hens, broken down by shared interests, job aspirations and more. It allows alumni and students to connect with each other for mentoring, networking and professional opportunities.

I hope you can see that any connection is impactful and rewarding, and just like me, you find a way to take advantage of these opportunities. Our alumni network grows stronger each time you do! 🐔



Steve Beattie, BE87, is president of the UD Alumni Association

Do you have a question you want answered? Send it to alumni-association@udel.edu and it could be featured in a future issue.

ALUMNI DIRECTORY TO HELP CLASSMATES STAY IN TOUCH

To help Blue Hens stay better connected with one another and to the University, UD has contracted with PCI (Publishing Concepts) to update contact information for all alumni around the world.

Alumni will be contacted over the next few months by email, postcard and phone to update and confirm their information for the new directory, which will be available in early 2020 as a print edition, with an optional digital, downloadable counterpart.

"The new directory will help alumni contact former classmates, teammates and roommates, while also helping to forge new connections based on geographic networks and professional interests," says Alumni Engagement Director Justine Talley-Beck, BE98. "We hope it will be a valuable resource to help strengthen Blue Hen connections."

For more details or if you have questions about the project, contact Alumni Engagement at alumnet@udel.edu or 302-831-2341. If you are interested in purchasing a directory, or to update your listing, call 866-647-8629.

BLUE HENS IN LOS ANGELES



The warm, sunny beaches, the sprawling Beverly Hills mansions and the iconic Hollywood sign put Los Angeles on almost everyone's travel bucket list. Unfortunately, this Southern California city has also faced two recent heartbreaks: The wildfires that ripped through 153,000 acres last fall, and the mass shooting that took place at a Thousand Oaks bar last November. As the rest of the country followed these stories, we witnessed the resilience of the LA people. They came together to lift each other up, lend a helping hand and begin to rebuild the homes and communities that had so drastically and unexpectedly changed. That is what's at the heart of the City of Angels—a determination to realize dreams, no matter what roadblocks may stand in the way.



MEET TOM VOZZO, AS83

After retiring from his role as president of Aramark Uniforms and Career Apparel, he turned his focus toward helping others in the Los Angeles community as the first-ever CEO of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang intervention program in the world.

What is at the heart of Homeboy Industries?

Our core clients are former felons and gang members who want to change their lives. We offer a sanctuary where they can work on themselves, work on the challenges they have, heal from the past conflicts and trauma—and gain resiliency to become contributing members of society.

What inspires you most?

The stories of transformation. Our folks talk about the trauma they've lived through and the pain they've experienced, and yet they are able to look forward and know there is something better out there. They marshal their own resources to move forward. God put goodness in all of us, and it's that goodness our clients hold onto.

What advice would you give fellow Blue Hens who want to do more for their own communities?

To sustain and succeed as an organization, nonprofits need skill sets of people who have worked in for-profit organizations, government or healthcare industries. My advice is: Don't think that your skill set is not needed. I didn't grow up on the streets of LA or in gang life, but my contribution to Homeboy Industries as a former for-profit executive has helped the organization with strategy, design and funding resources. So take what's successful in your world today and help bring that to the nonprofit world.

Why have you stayed connected to UD?

I'm thankful for the education I received and the support that I had as an undergraduate. I received quite a bit of financial aid in order to stay in school which enabled me to launch into a successful career. I feel good that now I'm able to give back and allow others to receive a higher education. Lastly, having our local alumni club participate in service activities and with local organizations like ours helps spread awareness to more potential UD students.

Tom Vozzo is a dedicated supporter of UD as a True Blue Hen (an alum who makes a gift to UD for three or more consecutive years) and also as a Delaware Diamonds Society donor (an individual who makes a gift of \$1,000 or more to UD). 🐓

...AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

ATLANTA

Aug. 3 – Atlanta United vs. Los Angeles Galaxy soccer game

BALTIMORE

July 20 – Baltimore Orioles vs. Boston Red Sox baseball game

July 28 – New Student Send-Off/Welcome to the Neighborhood Crab Feast

BAY AREA

June 7 – Dela-Bratton Nation Happy Hour

Aug. 10 – San Francisco Giants vs. Philadelphia Phillies baseball game

BOSTON

Aug. 21 – Boston Red Sox vs. Philadelphia Phillies baseball game

CHICAGO

July 7 – Chicago White Sox vs. Chicago Cubs baseball game

DENVER

Aug. 3 – Colorado Rockies baseball game

HOUSTON

June 1 – Houston Dynamo vs. Sporting Kansas City soccer game
Summer TBD – Tour of NASA Space Station

LEHIGH VALLEY

July 7 – Lehigh Valley IronPigs vs. Pawtucket Red Sox baseball game

LOS ANGELES

June 7 – Dela-Bratton Nation Happy Hour

Aug. 23 – Los Angeles Dodgers vs. New York Yankees baseball game

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

May 9 – Delaware to the World tour

July 13 – Wilmington Blue Rocks vs. Carolina Mudcats baseball game

NEW YORK CITY

May 7 – Delaware to the World Tour

June 29 – A Day at the Boardwalk at Coney Island

Aug. 17 – New York Yankees vs. Cleveland Indians baseball game (with UD hat giveaway)

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

July TBD – Blue Hen Beach Party at Bar Anticipation

PHILADELPHIA

June TBD – Tour of the Philadelphia Art Museum

Aug. 18 – Philadelphia Phillies baseball game

PHOENIX

July TBD – Wine bottling at Su Vino Winery

PITTSBURGH

August TBD – Narcisi Winery event

RALEIGH-DURHAM

June 2 – Durham Bulls vs. Columbus Clippers baseball game

RICHMOND

Aug. 1 – Richmond Flying Squirrels vs. Portland Sea Dogs baseball game

SAN DIEGO

June 7 – Dela-Bratton Nation Happy Hour

Sept. 21 – San Salvador cruise on San Diego Harbor

SEATTLE

Aug. 2 – Seattle Storm vs. Washington Mystics basketball game

SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

June 23 – Lunch and tour at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

For event updates, details and registration, please visit
www.udconnection.com/events



Remember to join your regional alumni club group on Facebook!



CLASS REUNION CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

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Remember to connect with your classmates in your reunion year Facebook group!

CLASS NOTES

1950s

Alan M. Mann, EHD56M, of Woodbury, N.J., has been inducted into the South Jersey Coaches' Association Hall of Fame for his service as a basketball coach.

Joan Henderson Hodous, EHD57, of Bel Air, Md., had her work featured in an art museum exhibition called *Harford County Barns: A Retrospective Spanning 65 Years*, as a fundraiser for the Maryland Center for the Arts. She also won the Jeffrey J. Plum Legacy in the Arts Award in 2018.

1960s

Pete Cloud, EG64, of Wilmington, Del., has been inducted into the 2019 Delaware Basketball Hall of Fame. His career total 881 points scored is the 17th highest in UD history, and he still holds several rebounding records.

Edward D. Cohen, AS64PhD, of Fountain Hills, Ariz., has been recognized by the American Chemical Society's Central Arizona Section for 60 years of involvement with the organization.

Diana Davis, EHD67, AS74M, of Annapolis, Md., has retired after 30 years of public policy research and 10 years of college teaching. Now a University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener, she is also active in her 55-plus planned community overlooking the South River.

Jack Braunlein, AS68, 75M, of Port Ewen, N.Y., is now executive director of the D&H Canal Historical Society and Museum in High Falls, N.Y.

1970s

Joe Purzycki, HS71, EHD77M, has co-authored a book about his tenure as Delaware State University football coach titled *Mr. Townsend and The Polish Prince: An American Story of Race, Redemption and Football*. Purzycki was captain and an all-American defensive back at UD in 1969 and went on to become a top executive in Delaware's financial services sector.

David J. Starr, EG72, of Franconia, N.H., has been elected to the New Hampshire Senate for District 1.

Fellow alumnae **Joanne (Zeager) Force, HS76**, of Downingtown, Pa., and **Jane (Graebner) Votaw, HS70**, of Sheridan, Wyo., somehow discovered two fellow Blue Hens, **Janet Lyons Balderson, HS76**, of Wilmington, Del., and **Ginger Greene Tannenbaum, AS62**, of Fairfield, Ohio, while on a Danube River cruise in October 2018.

Robert Cohen, AS78, of Clemson, S.C., has been named head of the Department of Biological Sciences at Virginia Tech College of Science. He most recently was chair of the Biological Sciences Department at Clemson University.

Susan Gkonos Weisberg, HS79, of Ocean View, N.J., has published her first fiction novel, *Chester Midshipmouse* (Brass Button Books). While working as a nurse, Weisberg has also written food articles for a large city newspaper.

1980s

Philip Brady, AS81M, of New York City, has published a new collection of essays, *Phantom Signs: The Muse in Universe City* (University of Tennessee Press), which offers diverse perspectives on the creative tension between sound and sign. Brady is a distinguished professor at Youngstown State University and executive director of Etruscan Press. He also serves on the MFA faculty at Wilkes University.

Karen Olmstead, ANR81, 84M, of Salisbury, Md., has been named provost and senior vice president of student affairs at Salisbury University. Olmstead is a recipient of the 2001 UD Presidential Citation for Outstanding Achievement.

Ann L. Martino Frazier, AS82, of Pennsville, N.J., has joined the Wilmington, Del., office of law firm Gawthrop Greenwood as an estate planning attorney for high-net-worth individuals.

Donald Ullman, BE83, of Fairfield, Conn., is the first professional in the toy and game industry to be named Game Innovator of the Year two years in a row—2017 and 2018. Ullman's most recent commercial successes are the games *Soggy Doggy* and *Don't Step in It*.



From left, Jane Graebner Votaw, HS70, Joanne Zeager Force, HS76, Janet Lyons Balderson, HS76, and (sitting), Ginger Greene Tannenbaum, AS62



Robert Cohen, AS78



Karen Olmstead, ANR81, 84M

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

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- HS • Health Sciences
- M • master's degree
- PhD
- EdD • doctoral degrees
- DPT
- H • honorary degree



Guests in attendance at the wedding of Ashley Ferguson and Sean Gallagher, EG99, included, from left to right: Megan Ritter, Ben Accurti, AS99, Dave Bergstein, EG99, Dave Rubin, EG99, Catie Spellky, Justin Schaffer, EG99, Angie Schaffer, Matt Harker, BE99, Leslie Donato, Sean, Ashley, Justin Donato, AS99, Nate Smith, EG99, Glenn Gardner, EG99, O2M, Ali McGonigal, AS99, Dan McGonigal, Jason Dickey, EG99 and Maria Maranto.



Angela White, AS93



Kathy-Lynn Eriksson, AS92



Steven Bondy, AS84 (left) and James Hendrickson, EOE00

Susan Frank, AS84, of Wilmington, Del., has been named executive vice president for business development at Cinnaire, a nonprofit that has provided more than \$3.9 billion in community development funds in the past 25 years.

Mike Epstein, BE85, of River Vale, N.J., was recognized by U.S. Congressman Josh Gottheimer as one of 42 North Jersey "Hometown Heroes." Epstein is co-owner of Gold's Gym Paramus, which he runs with fellow Blue Hen **Art Carril, EG84**, of Old Tappan, N.J.

Douglas W. Mann, EG85, of Lake Worth, Fla., has been promoted to lead costal engineer at APTIM Environmental and Infrastructure Inc.

Robert C. Jackson, BEE86, of Kennett Square, Pa., has established himself as a full-time still-life painter after initially aligning his career with his electrical engineering major. Today, his work can be seen in museum exhibitions nationwide.

Karen Smith, BE86, of Tempe, Ariz., successfully completed the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon in October 2018. She has finished 16 triathlons.

Lisa Wilkinson, AS86, ANR88M, of Hockessin, Del., has accepted a position as lab benefit management program analyst at Kentmere Healthcare Consulting Corp. in Wilmington, Del.

Deborah Brenner, AS88, of Tappan, N.Y., has won *Wine Enthusiast* magazine's inaugural Social Visionary Wine Star Award. She is the founder of the Women of the Vine and Spirits organization and wrote the bestselling 2006 book, *Women*

of the Vine: Inside the World of Women Who Make, Taste and Enjoy Wine.

1990s

Tim Tobin, AS90, of Washington, D.C., has published his second book, *Peak Leadership Fitness: Elevating Your Leadership Game* (ATD Press). Tobin is vice president for franchisee onboarding and learning at Choice Hotels.

Kathy-Lynn Eriksson, AS92, of Lambertville, N.J., has been hired as a teacher at the Pennington School in Pennington, N.J. She is teaching communication skills in the school's Cervone Center for Learning.

Jocelyn DeVance Warren, AS92, O4PhD, of Raleigh, N.C., has been named director of field education for the North Carolina State Department of Social Work.

Kennard R. Wiggins, AS92, of Elkton, Md., has written a new book, *America's Anchor: A Naval History of the Delaware River and Bay* (McFarland Publishers).

Deborah (Hillegass) Bieler, AS93, 97M, of Wilmington, Del., has published her newest book, *The Power of Teacher Talk: Promoting Equity and Retention Through Student Interactions*. She is an associate professor of English education at UD and a former high school English teacher, writing center director and mentor of student teachers.

Angela White, AS93, of Camden, N.J., has produced a film titled *A Question of Faith*, which explores the issue of organ donation among families struck by tragedy.

Marc Lucenius, BE94, and **Kathleen Lucenius, EHD96**, of West Chester, Pa., have started a nondenominational church for the greater West Chester community called Project 938, focused on giving people hope that "church can be different than the one they gave up on."

Carrie Ida Edinger, AS97, of Newark, Del., has published her book, *An Artist Crossing Disciplines* (A Currier and Rice), a first-person account "to expand the 20-year-old dialog concerning cross-discipline practice within art and anthropology." The publication's book cover and layout were designed by **Kelly M. Carter, AS91**.

Michelle Marks, AS97, of Naples, Fla., has published her first book, *Enrichment Is Not A Packet! Valuable and Realistic Strategies to Enrich Your High-Level Students in a Truly Differentiated Classroom*, which

focuses on giving teachers effective strategies to differentiate and implement enrichment in their classrooms.

Ashley Ferguson and **Sean Gallagher, EG99**, of Philadelphia, were married in summer 2018. Both are in the U.S. Navy.

Greg Lavine, AS99, of Glen Cove, N.Y., has joined the New York office of Mercury Public Affairs as senior vice president.

2000s

Air Force **Lt. Col. James Hendrickson, EOE00**, had a Thanksgiving surprise when he discovered that the person serving him turkey was fellow Blue Hen **Steven Bondy, AS84**, the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in the United Arab Emirates. Hendrickson is deployed with the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing at Al Dhafra Air Base in UAE. "I had luckily brought one of my UD shirts with me on my deployment," Hendrickson said. "It was great catching up and talking about the differences of campus between the two 'eras' we were at UD."

Kathy Corcoran, BE01, of Newark, Del., has been promoted to director of Wheeler Wolfenden and Dwares, CPA, where she specializes in tax, accounting and auditing, forensic accounting and litigation support.

Kevin Hascup, AS01, of Springfield, Ill., is part of a laboratory team at Southern Illinois University that has been awarded two National Institute on Aging grants totaling \$6.3 million to explore the causes of Alzheimer's disease.

Matthew Camp, AS02, of New York City, has been named to the media website City and State's 40 Under 40 list. Camp is a government relations expert and founding director of government relations for Teachers College, Columbia University.

Shannon Giordano, AS04, of Landenberg, Pa., was featured on *Cake Boss* Buddy Valastro's baking competition, *Bake it Like Buddy*, earlier this fall, in a special episode about Halloween cakes.

Stephanie M. Chaissan, AS05, has joined the Dispute Resolution Team of the Miami, Fla., law firm Berger Singerman as of-counsel and associate.

John D. Hosler, AS05PhD, of Kansas City, Kan., has had his book named as one of 2018's best by the *Times Literary Supplement* and *The Financial Times*. The



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book is titled *The Siege of Acre, 1189-1191: Saladin, Richard the Lionheart and the Battle that Decided the Third Crusade* (Yale University Press).

Derek N. Lacarrubba, BE05, of New York City, has been promoted to special counsel in the broker-dealer regulatory and enforcement group of Schulte Roth and Zabel, where he advises broker-dealers and ATSS on SEC and SRO rules and represents them in regulatory investigations and enforcement actions.

Myunghee Geerts, BE06M, of Aston, Pa., has been hired as principal in the Tax Department at the Wilmington, Del., CPA firm Cover and Rossiter.

Kelly (Strayer) Puza, AS07, and **Nathan Puza, BE05**, of Damascus, Md., welcomed baby Jacob Oliver Puza on Feb. 20, 2018.

Tyresa Smith, HS07, of Dover, Del., was inducted to the 2019 Delaware Basketball Hall of Fame for her many achievements, including a CAA title and the all-time record for steals with the Blue Hens. She also played with the WNBA.

2010s

James Sargianis, EG10, of Marlton, N.J., and **Tyler Gravatt, EG17**, of Allentown, N.J., paused for a photo op in front of an F-14 fighter at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Both are part of the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) at Lakehurst.

Luci Roseman, BE11, of West Grove, Pa., was recently elected president of her local Toastmasters International club, CSC Incorporators Toastmasters Club. Roseman is a tax department supervisor with the CPA firm Cover and Rossiter.

Andrés Cerpa, AS12, of Staten Island, N.Y., has published his debut collection of poetry, *Bicycle in a Ransacked City: An Elegy*, which follows the struggles of a son attempting to care for his ill father.

Kelsey Crane, EOE14, of Washington, D.C. is working to find renewable energy solutions as a manager with ForeFront Power.

Michael Hilles Abernathy, BE15, of Middletown, Del., has been promoted to senior accountant at Belfint, Lyons & Shuman, P.A.

Jenna Albi, EHD15, of Philadelphia, was surprised while attending *The Ellen Show* by two gifts in support of her teaching career. The TV host brought Albi on stage to present her a \$25,000 check from Cheerios in support of her school, Hardy Williams Academy, and another \$25,000 check for Albi herself.

Emily Schmidt, BE15, of Quarryville, Pa., successfully earned her Certified Fraud Examiner certification.

Jackie Zhang, BE15, 16M, of Newark, Del., has been promoted to senior staff accountant at the Wilmington CPA firm Cover and Rossiter.

Sophie Drossman, ANR16, and **Shane Harper, EG16**, of Baltimore, Md., were married on Oct. 13, 2018.

Samantha Maiorano, BE16, of Newark, Del., has been promoted to senior staff accountant at the Wilmington CPA firm Cover and Rossiter.

Samuel Boehm, AS17MFA, and **Michele Hanigan**, of Brooklyn, N.Y., were married Sept. 15, 2018.

Nadar Makarious, EHD17M, of Wilmington, Del., has been honored for excellence in teaching by the American Chemistry Society's Middle Atlantic Region. He is a chemistry teacher at Brandywine High School near Wilmington, Del. 🐦



James Sargianis, EG10, and Tyler Gravatt, EG17 | Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy



Jenna Albi, EHD15, with Ellen DeGeneres

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Guests in attendance at the wedding of Sophie Drossman, ANR16, and Shane Harper, EG16, included fellow alumni Laura Steimer, ANR16, Barbara Hahn, ANR16, Erin Trees, EG16, Sarah Collinge, ANR16 and Aaron Tribbitt, EOE16.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SPOTLIGHT

Updates from Blue Hen creators, innovators and entrepreneurs

Lyndon Barton, EG72M, of Newark, Del., has developed Times Table Shuffle, a mobile app to help students in elementary and middle school sharpen their multiplication and division skills, and a brain game that can be enjoyed by players of all ages.

Rick Biddle, EG78, and his wife **Anne Biddle, HS80**, of Newark, have opened Rosewood Farms, a wedding and private event venue in Elkton, Md. The staff includes their daughter, **Katie, HS09**, who works as sales manager.

Janis (Diggs) Harlow, EG79, BE91M, of Landenberg, Pa., founder of Paper Tigress Personal Care, has a new book, the *Legacy Organizer and Executor Handbook*, which helps older people document their financial affairs before they die (see more at PaperTigressPFC.com). She also has been recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow (Rotary).

Rob Siegfried, BE84, of Wilmington, Del., celebrated the 30th anniversary of The Siegfried Group in 2018. The company was also recognized as both the fastest growing and the 28th largest CPA firm by *INSIDE Public Accounting* and made the *Inc. 5000* list in 2018.

Scott Krawitz, BE96, of Solana Beach, Calif., and founder of People Driven Solutions, was named one of the 50 most influential leaders in San Diego. His company also made the *Inc. 5000* list in 2018.

Audrey Walters-Moore, EHD02, of Metuchen, N.J., launched a nonprofit in 2018 called Lift Up the Vulnerable (LUV), aiming to help children and women at risk of human trafficking and oppression in the warzones of Sudan and South Sudan.

Brittany Schwartz, AS08, BE09M, of Maplewood, N.J., has founded a fundraising consulting company, Hillcrest Advancement Strategies, specializing in prospect research and database consulting for nonprofit organizations.

Brothers and co-founders **Seyar Baqi, AS10**, and **Farhad Baqi, BE17**, of Smyrna, Del., recently welcomed the 1,000th customer to their practice, Blue Hen Dental.

Mac Nagaswami, BE14, and **Greg Star, BE13**, both of Wilmington, Del., and co-founders of Carvertise, outgrew their coworking space at 1313 Innovation and moved to a new, 7,500-square-foot facility on the Riverfront in Wilmington. Carvertise has also been named Small Business of the Year by the Chester County (Pa.) Chamber of Commerce.

Angela Nadeau, AS82, of Medford, N.J., and CEO of CompuData, was named one of the Most Admired CEOs in the Greater Philadelphia Region by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. 🐦

Have you launched a new product, company or social venture? Reached a business milestone? Received an award around entrepreneurship and innovation?

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IN MEMORIAM

Thomas C. Roe, EG35, of Seaford, Del., Sept. 28, 2016

Zoe Griffith Warwick, AS39, of Sebring, Fla., Jan. 9, 2016

Thomas L. Skripps, AS43, of Anderson, S.C., Feb. 22, 2018

Harry M. Zutz, AS44, of Rockville, Md., Oct. 8, 2016

Doris McCloskey Brostrom, HS45, of Tinton Falls, N.J., Dec. 23, 2018

Betty Fryling Young, EHD45, of Seaford, Del., Oct. 7, 2018

Dorothy Smyth MacLean, AS46, of Quarryville, Pa., Sept. 28, 2018

Grace Dukes Wolfe, EHD48, 73M, of Millville, Del., Nov. 26, 2018

Louis A. Meli Jr., EG49, of New Canaan, Conn., Feb. 14, 2017

Herbert S. Slack, EG49, of Severna Park, Md., Nov. 12, 2018

Candie Barr Walter, AS49, of Ellicott City, Md., Nov. 1, 2018

Ralph J. Carrington, BE50, of Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 10, 2018

John F. Kulp, AS50M, of Mesa, Ariz., Oct. 26, 2018

Leroy Manlove, AS50, of Newark, Del., Sept. 23, 2018

Thomas E. Runk, AS50, of Takoma Park, Md., Nov. 8, 2018

Dorothy Mathews Sparks, AS50, of Greenville, Del., April 17, 2016

Harry S. Stanton Jr., EG50, of Louisville, Ky., Nov. 30, 2018

John J. Hood, ANR51M, of Exeter, R.I., Dec. 11, 2018

John R. Kaiser, BE51, of Wilmington, Del., Jan. 8, 2016

Barbara Beck Martin, AS51, of Gaithersburg, Md., Nov. 8, 2016

Joanne Pollari, EHD51, of Wilmington, Del., Oct. 12, 2017

William S. Hearn, BE52, of Wilmington, Del., Oct. 24, 2018

Larry L. Lipstein, BE52, of Wilmington, Del., Dec. 4, 2018

Clarke A. Pardee, EG52, of Livermore, Calif., Jan. 11, 2018

Stephen Antkiw, AS53M, of Ridgefield, Conn., Dec. 28, 2018

Richard E. Berl, BE53, of Hockessin, Del., Jan. 15, 2019

Joanna Newton Conaway, EHD53, of Ocean View, Del., June 21, 2018

William D. Eisenberg, AS53, of Safford, Ariz., Sept. 22, 2018

Norma Hamstead Obier, EHD53, of Seaford, Del., March 8, 2018

Donald R. Reath, HS53, of Blue Bell, Pa., Oct. 27, 2018

Dorothy Melick Runk, EHD53, of Takoma Park, Md., April 9, 2018

Omar W. Steward, AS53, of Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 17, 2018

Joan Liebert Balick, EHD54, of Kennett Square, Pa., Dec. 1, 2018

Anthony J. DiMaio, AS54, of Clayton, Del., Jan. 13, 2019

Phyllis Dobb Haley, HS54, of Fulton, Texas, Aug. 28, 2018

Hugh Martin V, ANR54, of Lewes, Del., Oct. 5, 2018

Claire Lilley Warrington, EHD54, of Landenberg, Pa., Feb. 11, 2018

William H. Correll, ANR55, of Raleigh, N.C., Dec. 10, 2018

Levin R. Heath Jr., EHD55M, of Street, Md., Oct. 26, 2018

Mary Simpson Teller, EHD55, of Dover, Del., Jan. 3, 2019

Clayton T. Bradley Jr., AS56M, of Hattiesburg, Miss., Oct. 14, 2018

Joseph F. Campanella, ANR56, of Wilmington, Del., Sept. 26, 2018

Edward M. Hobbs Jr., AS56, of Canfield, Ohio, Nov. 1, 2018

Walter J. Lafferty, AS56, of Silver Spring, Md., Dec. 27, 2018

Frank Michel Sr., EG56M, of Swarthmore, Pa., Oct. 19, 2018

John E. Richter, EG56, of Dover, Del., Sept. 25, 2018

Charles G. Todderud, EG56M, of West Grove, Pa., Nov. 12, 2018

Mildred Minner Warrington, EHD56, of Felton, Del., Nov. 18, 2018

Kay E. Fariss, EHD57, of Wilmington, Del., Aug. 8, 2018

Barton K. Frederick, AS57, of Woodbury, N.J., Nov. 27, 2018

Richard C. Haines, EG57, of Summit, N.J., Nov. 23, 2018

James E. Shelton, AS57, of North Port, Fla., Oct. 3, 2018

James R. Stewart, EH57M, of Lookout Mountain, Ga., June 4, 2018

Marie Connor Bifferato, AS58, of Wilmington, Del., Jan. 8, 2019

Marie Delikat Ciliberti, AS58, of Leesburg, Va., Oct. 22, 2018

L. Philip Reiss, EG58, of Sonora, Calif., Sept. 28, 2018

Raymond C. Sneller Jr., EG58, of Seaford, Del., Nov. 20, 2018

William J. Tidey, EHD58M, of Hatfield, Pa., Nov. 3, 2018

James W. Berwick Jr., EG60, of Oak Harbor, Wash., Oct. 21, 2018

Louis Fedele, EHD60, 69M, of Smyrna, Del., Feb. 16, 2018

Gordon H. Howatt Jr., BE60, 67M, of Doylestown, Pa., Nov. 16, 2018

Donald K. Taber, AS60, of Wilmington, Del., Nov. 19, 2018

Stephen R. Welch, AS60, of Milford, Del., Dec. 19, 2018

Eugene C. Capaldi, AS61M, 64PhD, of Newtown Square, Pa., Jan. 21, 2018

Judith Cleek Kohl, AS61, of Betterton, Md., Dec. 4, 2018

William S. Scarborough, EG61, of Frederica, Del., Nov. 30, 2018

Randolph B. Schiller, AS61, of Saint George, Utah, Sept. 23, 2018

Edward Z. Sobocinski, AS61, of Elkton, Md., Nov. 7, 2018

Chester T. Dickerson Jr., ANR62, 64M, of Dover, Del., Oct. 20, 2018

Ralph O. Orendorf, ANR62, of Newark, Del., Dec. 23, 2018

Phoebe Poulterer Hall, AS63, of Henrico, Va., Jan. 4, 2019

Sara Angelo Scanlon, EHD63, of Wilmington, Del., Oct. 17, 2018

John C. Crelling, EOE64, of Carbondale, Ill., Sept. 27, 2018

Judith L. Sanders, HS64, of Columbia, Mo., Jan. 23, 2018

FACULTY AND STAFF

Jerry M. Adams, former classroom technology technician, Nov. 26, 2018.

John Cavazos Jr., associate professor of computer and information sciences and electrical and computer engineering, Nov. 3, 2018.

Donald M. Ennis, utility operator and mechanic, Dec. 15, 2018

Slobodan Jaric, professor emeritus of kinesiology and applied physiology, Aug. 18, 2018.

Bertram Levin, professor emeritus of economics, July 23, 2018.

Joe F. Moss, professor emeritus of art and design and a widely respected sculptor, painter and multimedia artist, Nov. 14, 2018.

Richard B. Murray, former provost, vice president of academic affairs and professor emeritus of physics, Jan. 6, 2019.

Jerold (Jerry) Schultz, C. Ernest Birchenall Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering, Oct. 20, 2018.

Robert H. Wood, professor emeritus of chemistry and biochemistry, Feb. 3, 2019.

Marvin Zuckerman, professor emeritus of psychology and international expert in sensation-seeking behavior, Nov. 8, 2018. 🐦



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Carl J. Berninger, AS65PhD, of Los Gatos, Calif., Oct. 2, 2018

Carl D. Price, EG65, of Vancouver, Wash., Oct. 21, 2018

Michael F. Wilson, EG66, of Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov. 24, 2018

Susan McVaugh Bennett, AS67, of Milford, Del., Dec. 5, 2018

Leona Weiss Brownell, AS67PhD, of Wilmington, Del., Dec. 16, 2018

Wilton B. Jackson, BE67M, of Orange Park, Fla., Aug. 21, 2018

Thomas G. Lewis III, AS67, of Landenberg, Pa., Nov. 14, 2018

Richard J. Ruth, AS67M, of Lake Saint Louis, Mo., April 1, 2017

Mary Vannoy Priestley, AS68, of Lincoln University, Pa., Oct. 9, 2018

David O. Robbins, AS68M, 70PhD, of Delaware, Ohio, Sept. 28, 2018

Francis X. Subach, HS68, of Millsboro, Del., Dec. 29, 2018

John E. DeLaney, EG69M, of Baton Rouge, La., Oct. 2, 2018

William C. Newill Jr., BE69, of Trabuco Canyon, Calif., Oct. 3, 2018

Victor R. Sadot, AS69, of Berkeley, Calif., Oct. 6, 2018

Edward L. Swartz, BE69, of Davidsonville, Md., Dec. 6, 2018

David R. Wiley, EG69, of Hudson, Mass., Sept. 27, 2018

Daniel P. Anstine, AS70, of Houston, Del., Oct. 17, 2018

James R. Henderson, AG70, of Lewisville, Pa., Oct. 1, 2018

Betty Brooks Wheel, EHD70, of Newark, Del., Sept. 26, 2018

Donna Stepp D'Amico, EHD71, 73M, of Saint Augustine, Fla., Dec. 13, 2018

Alice MacPherson Ryan, AS71M, of Newark, Del., Oct. 11, 2018

Richard E. Henderson, EHD72, of Laurel, Del., Oct. 3, 2018

Randy K. Murray, BE72, of Millsboro, Del., Sept. 24, 2018

Joseph N. Chicosky, EG73, of Somerset, N.J., May 4, 2017

Bonnie D. Russell, AS73, BE79M, of Milford, Del., Oct. 13, 2018

Christine Comegys Bode, AS74, of Plano, Texas, Nov. 21, 2018



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Virginia Payne Burt, AS74M, of Columbia, Md., Dec. 3, 2018

Temple Connolly Jr., BE74, of Landenberg, Pa., Dec. 20, 2018

Nancy Nason Gretzinger, AS74, of High Point, N.C., Nov. 5, 2018

Raymond W. Keen, AS74M, of Perryville, Md., Nov. 15, 2018

Diane Valencik Reksten, EHD74, of Hockessin, Del., Oct. 31, 2018

Bernard M. Smith, EHD74, of Estero, Fla., Oct. 22, 2018

Margaret Maloy Thomas, AS74, EHD88M, of Newark, Del., Dec. 2, 2018

Joseph S. Cardile, AS75, of Malvern, Pa., Dec. 20, 2018

Scharron Shy Clayton, EHD75M, of Waterloo, Iowa, June 11, 2017

Darl Rohas Culver, EHD75, of Seaford, Del., Dec. 30, 2018

Marilyn Marner Emmert, HS75, of Wilmington, Del., Oct. 12, 2018

Michael J. Scott, BE75, of Montchanin, Del., Sept. 28, 2018

Debra Jackson Spence, EHD75M, of Wilmington, Del., Nov. 3, 2018

William F. Windett, EHD75, BE96M, of Magnolia, Del., Nov. 14, 2018

Ronald E. Clough, AS76, of Union, N.J., Jan. 5, 2019

Susan Zullitti Prylucki, AS76, of Newark, Del., Feb. 8, 2018

Susan Baron, HS77, of Manchester, N.J., Feb. 19, 2018

William C. Bryan, BE77, of Wilmington, Del., April 30, 2018

Edward M. Edelson, BE77, of Peapack, N.J., Dec. 16, 2018

Walter E. Martley, AS77M, of Fredericksburg, Va., Nov. 26, 2018

David F. Granville Jr., HS78, of Cleveland, Miss., Oct. 3, 2018

Sylvania Parker Holden, AS79, of Wilmington, Del., Aug. 28, 2017

Rosemarie Panza, BE79, of Philadelphia, Pa., June 5, 2018

Gerald P. Young, EG79, of New York, N.Y., Aug. 22, 2018

Alan M. Horowitz, AS80M, of Wilmington, Del., Oct. 1, 2018

Patrick T. Carter, BE81, of Wilmington, Del., Dec. 27, 2018

Katrina M. Catron, AS81, of Middlebury, Conn., Dec. 6, 2018

Carey DeGeer Cowles, AS82, of Woodbury, N.J., Nov. 14, 2018

Lynn M. Schmidt, HS82, of Timonium, Md., Nov. 7, 2017

James C. Morris Jr., EOE82, of Wilmington, Del., Sept. 26, 2018

Susan Buda Ritchie, HS82, of Cherry Hill, N.J., Oct. 30, 2018

Mary Jane Koontz Horstman, ANR84, 89M, of Wilmington, Del., Dec. 25, 2018

Joseph C. Rose, AS87, of Newark, Del., Dec. 4, 2018

Cynthia Moore Piazza, EHD88, of Alpharetta, Ga., Oct. 31, 2018

Julia Bloom Maslansky, AS90, of Boyds, Md., Oct. 5, 2018

Laureen M. Valentine, AS92, of Newark, Del., Oct. 5, 2018

Philip J. Ward, EG92, BE95M, of Wilmington, Del., Oct. 12, 2018

Ivan S. Johnson, EG93, of Plainfield, N.J., April 22, 2017

Mark E. Cotton, BE96M, of Parrish, Fla., Oct. 27, 2018

Jacqueline Coss Dean, EHD96, of Newark, Del., Nov. 7, 2018

Donald G. Downs, AS96M, of Claymont, Del., Sept. 27, 2018

Peter L. Osgood, AS97, of Thornton, Pa., Feb. 13, 2019

Katherine Fisher Rolle, BE99M, of San Antonio, Texas, Sept. 22, 2018

David Lunn Jr., AS05, of Baltimore, Md., Jan. 5, 2019

Jamie Blau, HS16, of Framingham, Mass., Nov. 12, 2018

Matthew J. Hogan, BE20, of Wilmington, Del., Nov. 27, 2018 🐦



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- Ravi Dattani, CFP®, CPA – 1996
- Karen Rencevicz Malchione, CPA – 1987
- Ryan Cross, CFP® – 1995
- Heather Bell Margolin, AAMS® – 1989
- Amit Suchak – 2007
- Heidi Santora O'Malley – 1983

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A CONVERSATION WITH...

Hollywood dreams can come true. Just ask **WILL FETTERS, BE03**, who has turned his young ambitions into a true Tinseltown success story, including his recent Academy Award nomination for co-writing the script for the 21st century remake of *A Star is Born*, starring Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga.

A Star is Born has been remade three times now.

What attracted you to the project?

I love a good love story. I like to get in deep with a character. And I love music. It seemed like a challenge, too—the fact that the script had been stuck so long. I'm also at my best when I can find something in a story or character that I'm thinking a lot about. When you struggle in obscurity, and you get the opportunity, it's very easy to lose yourself. That's where Ally [Lady Gaga's character] is in the movie, and I could relate. I literally drove across the country with my first script on my front seat, it was as cliché as you can get.

What were your favorite scenes to write?

There's one sequence I'll always remember. We had just gotten Lady Gaga for the role and we were starting over from page one. On one of the first days, Bradley [Cooper] and I were talking through the part where she quits her job and gets pulled up on the stage. We talked that through down to the frame. That sequence—everything we wrote, even him hitting the solo when she walks on the stage—it was the coolest. The first time I saw that sequence I started crying. It was so gratifying seeing it on screen as I had it in my head.

If you were going to write a movie about UD, what would it need to include?

Klondike Kates' crab dip would have to be in there. The Stone Balloon, or at least the version that includes Mug Night. I was a night owl, I would always be up late studying or I would be out with friends, so I probably would write about going to the library late at night. I could see doing a *Superbad* movie set at UD. There are so many things.

How about on the academic side?

You kind of get to remake yourself at a very interesting point in your life in college. My professors were a huge influence on me, especially Charles Elson [finance] and

James Magee [political science].

I remember vividly Prof. Magee asking me to come speak to him after class. I thought I did something wrong, but he wanted to tell me I was a very good writer. I had never even considered the idea that I was or could be a good writer until he pointed that out.

Is it true that your career stems from a Main Street brawl?

It was the old days of the Stone Balloon, on Mug Night. We'd gone out and the bar was emptying, and we basically stepped into a really violent fight in the alley. When the police came to sort through the mess, I watched this officer grab another kid by the face and push him back aggressively. I said, 'That's unnecessary,' but in a voice that was probably antagonistic and condescending, and I got charged with a bunch of stuff.

At the time, it was the worst thing that had ever happened to me. I was trying to get into law school, but ended up taking a year off as we were working the charges out. So I came out here and I told my dad I was going to try to sell my script. It turned out to be the best thing that ever happened: I met my wife, I wrote this movie. That is the moment my life changed. 🐦



PHOTO BY ROB LATOUR/REX (0056067DC)

Will and Amanda Fetters

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