MASCOT GURU DAVE RAYMOND ON THE POWER OF FUN
GREECE IS THE WORD...

UD STUDENTS MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD.
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DELAWARE TO THE WORLD
Meet the trailblazers—the intrepid young men and women who were the first to take on the uniquely international college experience offered by UD’s World Scholars Program. Four years ago, as eager-but-anxious freshmen, they flew off to Rome, seeking a truly global perspective on knowledge and making subsequent trips abroad. Today, with their globetrotting journeys behind them, the first 30 graduates stand ready to embrace the world with greater understanding as others now follow in their path. Since its launch in 2015, the program has added first-year experiences in New Zealand, Spain and, most recently, Greece. “Fifty years from now, when the World Scholars Program is who-knows-how-big, we’ll be able to say that we were members of the first class,” says Aubrey Inkster, ANR19. “That’s going to be really cool.”

Above, some of UD’s inaugural class of World Scholars who graduated this spring. From left to right, bottom row: Megan Pacitti, AS19, Cayla Carter, BE19, Katherine Chassie, AS19, and Katherine Love, BE19; middle row: Emily Doris, AS19, Jedediah Hackett, AS19, Grace McKenna, AS19, Rebecca Bonder, EHD19, and Ariana Gannon, AS19; back row: Allison Chelst, AS19, Nicholas Carey, BE19, and Vincent Curatolo, BE19.
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HOMECOMING
2019
OCTOBER 26

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:
• Affinity Reunions
• Blue Hen Tailgate
• UD vs Richmond

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#UDHC
GUIDED BY MISSION IN A WORLD OF CONTINUOUS CHANGE

As a new academic year comes upon us, I am inspired by the artful contradiction that surrounds me on our beautiful campus: the foundational consistency of a rich educational heritage that sustains our institutional prominence, and the rapid pace of change and growth that is redefining the modern student experience daily. Indeed, the relevance of an institution of higher learning in today’s society relies on both its proof of progress and its promise for possibility, and I am proud to say that the University of Delaware is well positioned at the very intersection of the two.

Only a few months ago, we celebrated our 170th Commencement ceremony as excited graduates decked out in blue and gold convened to share their culminating moment of academic achievement. With proud families cheering from the stands and distinguished faculty in full academic regalia, this was a reminder to us all that our University plays an important role in fostering transition and growth for the next generation of leaders. And of course, as one class sets out to conquer the world, a new class sets foot on our campus to prepare to do the same four years from now; we’ll soon welcome about 4,200 first-year students and nearly 1,500 graduate students to campus and into the Blue Hen family. These are the constants, made possible by our outstanding applicants, our inspiring faculty, our energizing staff and our values-driven community.

But a few things are different this year. We are renovating the Delaware Stadium (with the first phase completed in time for football this fall) and building the new Whitney Athletic Center. Once finished, those facilities will benefit our students, alumni and fans for decades to come. We are also continuing to develop innovative labs and learning spaces throughout the University. By the end of 2020, we expect to have more than 1 million square feet of teaching, research, industrial and clinical space on the Science, Technology and Advanced Research (STAR) Campus. In addition, we are tearing down the aging Christiana Towers so that we can reimagine that site on the Laird Campus. Also, Worrilow Hall, McKinly Lab, Warner Hall, Morris Library and others will see updates and improvements, as well.

And yet such changes, signaling the promise for possibility that I mentioned earlier, are not just physical ones. We also are evolving through the continuous renewal of our great community. As part of our pioneering character as an institutional leader of global learning, talented and ambitious students come to UD from around the world to discover and prepare themselves for success. They bring new curiosity and a restless creativity to make the world a better place. Our faculty is growing too, with new members adding fresh perspectives to our accomplished ranks. And our alumni continue to shape the future in large and small ways by carrying their UD experience throughout their lives.

Through all of our evolutions—past, present and future—we are all fortunate to be part of a University that stays true to a shared set of institutional values, especially academic excellence, inclusion, respect and integrity. We see purpose in our relationships with each other, our commitments to society and our dedication to our home community. Certainly, our most important guideposts are the University’s fundamental missions to educate people throughout their lives, to pursue understanding through research, and to use our knowledge and skill to serve others. All of these constants have guided the University throughout its long history and will continue to serve us well in the future...with progress and promise.

Dennis Assanis, President
NEW DEANS TAKE THE LEAD

New academic leadership begins this fall, as education policy scholar Gary T. Henry has been appointed dean of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) and interim dean John A. Pelesko has been named to a permanent role in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

“Gary Henry has an impressive record of turning research into action,” says Provost Robin Morgan. “He has worked closely with local, state and regional school systems to help them improve, and this experience will serve him well as he creates an environment at Delaware that supports the development of tomorrow’s education leaders.”

Throughout his distinguished career, Henry has focused on the areas of education policy, educational evaluation, teacher quality and quantitative research methods. He most recently served as Patricia and H. Rodes Hart Chair, professor of public policy and education, and director of graduate studies at Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College.

Closer to home, Pelesko joined UD’s Department of Mathematical Sciences in 2002 and served as associate dean in CAS. In the latter role, he oversaw six departments in the natural sciences, which, combined, are home to a third of the college’s undergraduate majors, the majority of its graduate students and 160-plus faculty members.

Dr. Pelesko’s strategic vision and analytical approach, coupled with his creative thinking and inspiring commitment to education, are great assets to the College,” says UD President Dennis Assanis. “John is a leader who can build consensus with a thoughtful approach and a passionate focus in this permanent role.”

GRADUATE COLLEGE LAUNCHES THIS SUMMER

As the University increases graduate student enrollment over the next decade—adding about 1,000 doctoral students and 2,000 master’s students—UD’s newly created Graduate College will provide the organizational infrastructure to create and promote nationally competitive programs and prepare students to succeed in the 21st century global economy.

“Addressing the complex issues facing our world requires the kind of deep knowledge and interdisciplinary approach that advanced education provides,” says President Dennis Assanis. “The Graduate College will help students tackle those challenges, as well as advance research opportunities for undergraduate students.”

To that end, the Graduate College aims to create new degrees and research opportunities in areas spanning energy, health, education, worldwide migration, the environment, national security, global development and more. It will also bring together UD’s current graduate programs to better support the academic, financial and career needs of graduate and professional students.
GRAD RANKINGS ARE UP

In today’s listicle-obsessed world, rank has retained its privileges, and rankings endure as an influential affirmation of prestige. They also give proud Blue Hens more reasons to boast about the school we love, as U.S. News and World Report has named 16 UD graduate programs among the 100 best in the nation for 2020—including 11 in the top 50.

This high-profile distinction supplements other notable University rankings, including a recent CNBC analysis that included UD among the top-25 public schools that provide students the highest average salaries for their tuition dollars. In fact, 95 percent of 2018 bachelor’s degree graduates are employed or pursuing further education, according to UD’s postgraduate survey and other sources from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). Moreover, UD’s job placement rates have been consistently higher than the national average since NACE began reporting the information in 2014. And UD is ranked 12th among the 50 best schools in the nation for postgraduate job placement according to career site Zippia.

More accolades seem certain in the coming years as UD moves forward with its Graduate College, and as the recently named Biden School of Public Policy and Administration gets rolling. For now, though, these top-ranked programs help confirm something we already know: Our school stands with the best.

A UDANCE RECORD (AGAIN!)

They came. They danced. And, as they do every year, they brought new hope to children in need. The indefatigable young supporters of the student-run UDance campaign have once again set a fundraising record at their annual 12-hour dance marathon, raising $1,890,337.16 for the fight against childhood cancer.

From 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on a day each March, students from across campus gather at the Bob Carpenter Center to reveal (and celebrate) the results of the past year’s campaign.

The dance marathon that provides the culminating fanfare for UD’s largest student philanthropy group, which is committed to supporting the Andrew McDonough B+ (“Be Positive”) Foundation, a Wilmington-based charity founded in honor of Andrew McDonough, a 14-year-old Delawarean who died suddenly in 2007 of leukemia.

Amid the endless dancing, there were talent shows, “hair donations” by students and a chance for the young cancer patients, dubbed “B+ Heroes,” to stand on the stage and shine in their own way. And through their efforts, positive energy flowed: Thanks to UDance, organizers say families of kids with cancer have been able to buy medicines beyond their financial reach—and even to stave off eviction.

For more on how UD stands, visit ire.udel.edu/ir/rankings.

A sampling of some of UD’s top-ranked graduate programs

- #8 - Chemical engineering (up from 9 last year)
- #12 - Homeland security and emergency management
- #17 - Public finance and budgeting
- #28 - Nonprofit management
- #44 - Biomedical engineering/bioengineering (up from 50 last year)
- #45 - Education schools
- #74 - Part-time MBA (up from 152 last year)

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Credit Where Credit is Due

When they return home, the University of Delaware will now formally recognize this unique breadth of experience and knowledge through a newly modified credit-transfer policy, offering college credits for an applicant’s equivalent military training and adding to UD’s rising status as a “veteran-friendly” school.

“This is very important for student veterans,” says Brooks Raup, UD’s student veteran services coordinator. “If they’re looking at UD and some other school, this may help them make their decision. Word of this is going to get around the veteran community.”

To qualify for credit, applicants will work with individual departments and professors to determine equivalencies between their military transcripts and UD courses. There is no cap to the number of credits a student can transfer.

Under the new policy, UD will also begin offering all students the opportunity to “test out” of certain courses through the College Level Equivalency Program (CLEP). CLEP credits aren’t necessarily linked to specific courses, and will appear on transcripts as “test credit.”

“This will be helpful not only for veterans, but for any returning students, particularly returning adult students who have a lot of life experience,” says Carolyn Quinci, senior associate registrar who helped lead the effort.

Bringing Hospitality to Veterans’ Health

A new collaboration between the University of Delaware and the Wilmington Veterans Affairs Medical Center aims to make hospitals more hospitable for veterans.

Through the Patient Experience Academy (PXA), UD experts in hospitality and business management provide five weeks of tailored education and training for hospital managers, front-line associates and health care providers, bridging academic expertise with real-world impact.

“This University is on the front lines,” says U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie, who visited campus and met with UD faculty, staff and program participants earlier this year. “It sounds simple to us that you would take the best practices from the [hotel and restaurant] industry that relies on hospitality and acceptance...But here you are on the front lines of a new part of VA’s culture.”

As Vincent Kane, director of the Wilmington VA Medical Center, adds, “The veteran is the one who really benefits from this type of partnership. It is a great privilege to work with UD, to have our staff step away from the day-to-day to be in a learning environment, and to allow that learning environment to be contagious so it comes back to the medical center and our veterans.”

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie (speaking, right), calls UD “on the frontlines” of improving health care for veterans through its interdisciplinary approach.
EDIBLE FOREST GARDENS

To a child, it might seem a bit mysterious: Mealtime arrives, and food magically appears—tucked into a fast-food bag, jammed into their little hands, plopped onto a plate.

Maybe it’s time to slow down, take a stroll outside and let children see all that nature provides: juicy peaches and crunchy pecans overhead; berries and herbs close enough for them to pluck; plump carrots and knobbly potatoes nestled beneath their feet.

Those are the kinds of experiences coming this fall to UD’s Early Learning Center (ELC) and Laboratory Preschool, where educators have begun planting five “edible food forests” on sections of the Children’s Campus that will serve as outdoor classrooms in environmental awareness.

“Our curriculum is very sensory-based: feeling, seeing, smelling, tasting,” says Kelly Freel, associate director of infants and toddlers at the ELC, part of the campus on Wyoming Road. “We want students to reflect on how we are interacting with these systems.”

The edible gardens will feature seven “layers” of food—a tall canopy of fruit and nut trees (pecans, walnuts); a layer of shorter trees (peach, apricot); fruiting bushes (blackberries, currants); an herbaceous layer to attract pollinators; ground cover (strawberries, herbs); root vegetables; and climbing plants (grapes, pole beans).

SAY CHEESE!

Fans of the UDairy Creamery are in for a tasty treat, as the student-run business now produces and sells cheese curds, Gouda and cheddar alongside its many flavors of frozen goodness.

The new dairy delicacies are made in the 3,600-square-foot Charles A. Genuardi ’70 and Patricia Genuardi Food Innovation Laboratory, which was gifted to support food production in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The new space includes processing utilities, vat pasteurization, cheese making and sanitation equipment, a quality assurance laboratory and a student test kitchen.

“The primary product of the Creamery is always the well-educated student,” says Mark Rieger, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “The byproduct is the ice cream, and now we will have a whole lot more byproducts with cheese, and eventually butter and yogurt.”

UDairy products are available in the Newark (535 South College Ave.) and Wilmington (815 North Market St.) storefront locations and can also be ordered online (canr.udel.edu/udairycreamery).
Can tart cherry juice lower blood pressure and bad cholesterol in older adults? Maybe. Prof. Sheau Ching Chai sought to find out.

Tart cherries are rich in phytochemicals, biologically active compounds found in plants that act as antioxidants, which protect our body from harmful molecules known as free radicals.

In a study of older adults ages 65-80, some received one cup in the morning and one cup at night. 12 weeks later, the tart cherry group participants had:

- lower blood pressure and reduced bad cholesterol
- increased protection against inflammation and cell damage
- Improved cognition and memory

What’s next for Prof. Chai?
She’s now looking at whether B vitamins and ashwagandha, an ancient medicinal herb from India, can lower stress hormones and improve physiological response, such as low blood pressure, in women between the ages of 30 and 50.
WIND POWER SCORES A WIN

Would you mind it much if a wind farm was plopped near your home? Could the family tolerate a crop of 300-foot turbines adorning the ocean view during their next beach vacation?

These are the close-to-home questions inspiring UD’s Jeremy Firestone, a biologist, attorney and public policy professor who recognizes that grassroots sentiments can often drive or destroy the global quest for cleaner power sources and renewable energy alternatives.

Fortunately, he found that would-be beach vacationers seemed fairly tolerant of offshore wind farms intruding on their view. Farms built 12.5 miles offshore would make vacation worse for 20% of respondents—the rest said they would be unfazed (67%) or thrilled (13%). Move the farm out to 20 miles, and just 10% would grumble. (A farm proposed for Delaware would be situated 17 miles off the coast of Bethany Beach.)

Firestone followed that survey with another for folks who live within 5 miles of land-based wind farms. He found that 90% prefer them to coal, natural gas or nuclear power plants; in fact, most would even pick a wind farm over a sprawling solar-panel project. Blue state or red state, rich or poor, urban or rural, the support seemed to be consistent, he found.

Until Firestone’s latest survey, no one had really bothered to ask locals their preferences among the various power sources, so their answers bode well for a future where wind energy earns our embrace.

“Even when residents might have less-than-positive attitudes toward a local project, the majority appear to conclude that their local wind power project is better than the alternatives,” says Firestone, who directs UD’s Center for Carbon-free Power Integration.

The electric grid that keeps our home lights burning and our city streets from being in the shadows is about to have a new resource at its disposal—the vehicle parked in your driveway.

A new Delaware law will allow everyday citizens with electric vehicles to connect and provide services to the broader grid, making Delaware the first state in the nation to enact such legislation. The law updates safety standards for electric vehicles equipped with vehicle-to-grid technology (V2G)—invented at the University of Delaware—to provide power from their batteries back to the electric grid.

On any given day, at any given moment, resources that provide power to the electric grid are going on and off. The larger electric grid monitors this to ensure a balanced power supply when resources go up or down, and power plants help match generation to demand. But V2G electric cars can provide this same service for less cost.

“You need a technology that can come online fast, safely and in a balanced way to replace say, solar, if the sun didn’t shine this afternoon, or wind, if it was a windless day,” says V2G pioneer and UD Prof. Willett Kempton. “V2G can do that.”
NO WRATH FOR THE GRAPES

Turning dirty water into wine

When it comes to buying food, we tend to prefer labels like “organic,” “natural,” “free-range”—snippets that tell us about their production.

Now imagine a bottle of wine. Would you want to know how the vineyard watered its grapes?

A recent UD study found that you probably don’t—especially if the global trend toward using recycled wastewater becomes more prominent in America, where it’s currently in practice, though with limited data around its prevalence.

Using recycled sewage in food production is commonplace in Israel, and the conservation method is gaining traction in arid and overpopulated regions like China and South Africa. Meanwhile, California, which has only just emerged from a 376-week drought, could save water and increase wine production by adopting similar tactics.

But would Americans buy into this environmentally friendly, potentially unappetizing method?

Yes, says economics professor Kent Messer, whose environmental scholarship frequently focuses on the variables of human behavior. “But,” he adds, “ignorance is bliss.”

In a study of more than 300 Philadelphia Food and Wine Festival attendees, Messer and his team found that people paid more for wines that used conventional water to irrigate their grapes but paid most for wines that did not reveal their water source, suggesting little incentive for vineyards to promote the method—but also little detriment against using it.

“It’s good news for the environment,” says Messer, “and for the environmentally conscientious.”

“Behold the rain which descends from heaven upon our vineyards; there it enters the roots of the vines, to be changed into wine; a constant proof that God loves us, and loves to see us happy.”

—Ben Franklin
“You are more likely to be audited in the United States of America if you make $37,000 a year and you are getting the earned income tax credit than if you are earning a billion dollars.”

Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, speaking at the 2019 Hutchinson Lecture in Macroeconomics, jointly sponsored by the Lerner College and Biden Institute.

“Without a sense of proportion, we can become overwhelmed by the problems of today. If we can realize that, in this journey to make a more perfect union, we’ve come through storm and strife, that history gives us an orienting capacity.”

Presidential historian John Meacham discussing “the soul of America” with Vice President Joseph R. Biden, AS65, 04H, at a Biden School celebration.

“The space of 'all possible proteins' is vast. It's largely empty and many of the possible sequences don't encode anything useful . . . but it contains the cure to cancer, the cure to death, maybe. There is everything in this conceptual space.”

2018 Nobel Laureate Frances Arnold, the fifth woman to receive the prize in chemistry for her work on enzyme evolution, delivering the Edward G. Jefferson Life Sciences Lecture at UD.


Key qualities for leadership, according to former PepsiCo. CEO and Chair Indira Nooyi, speaking at the Weinberg Center’s 2019 Corporate Governance Symposium.

“WE HAVE UNDERINVESTED IN THE PAST IN RESEARCH ON HOW TO KEEP PEOPLE HEALTHY. WE ARE TRYING TO CHANGE ALL OF THAT.”

NIH Director Francis Collins in a fireside chat with President Dennis Assanis and U.S. Sen. Chris Coons.

“We’re moving very slowly in an issue that’s moving very quickly.”

Securities and Exchange Commissioner Robert J. Jackson, Jr. speaking to the Weinberg Center about cyberattacks and whether companies should be federally required to disclose data breaches to shareholders. In 2017, only 3 percent did; by 2018, the figure jumped to 10 percent.
ON THE GREEN

ON THE GREEN

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University of Delaware Magazine

adderley charges ahead to the nfl

Adderley knows he’s fortunate for more than just the weather, or the chance to rub elbows with Hollywood celebrities. He has been drafted by a team with a legitimate shot at the Super Bowl, and he’ll be given every opportunity to start in one of the NFL’s best secondaries. Adderley will compete at free safety next to strong safety Derwin James, an All-Pro last season as a rookie. The Chargers also have two Pro Bowl cornerbacks, Desmond King and Casey Hayward, and, if everything goes to plan, Adderley will be the final piece to the puzzle.

“Nasir was a player that we really coveted,” says Chargers general manager Tom Telesco.

Adderley’s relatively humble origins at a smaller university, against supposedly lesser competition, also worked to his advantage. Playing at Delaware meant adapting to many roles, and that versatility caught the Chargers’ eye—along with his instincts and athleticism.

In fact, UD’s Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) program has produced several NFL stars throughout the years, including Rich Gannon, AS87, Joe Flacco, BE08, Scott Brunner, BE80, Mike Adams, EHD04, Paul Worrdlow, AS13, Gino Gradkowski, AS11, Nick Boyle, AS15, and many more.

“Nasir has a lot of range,” Chargers defensive coordinator Gus Bradley says. “You see him make plays from red line to red line, sideline to sideline. He’ll come up and tackle. He’s got really good ball skills. So, he has a great chance in this defense.”

—Kevin Noonan

The weather is nice, the people are friendly and the sunsets are gorgeous, although there is one thing Nasir Adderley, HS19, isn’t happy about—none of those West Coast sunsets cast their golden glow on the roof of a Wawa.

“That will be an adjustment, not being able to go to a Wawa whenever I want to,” Adderley says with a laugh from his new L.A. digs. “I guess that’s just a sacrifice I’ll have to make to pursue my dream.”

Adderley has gone from small-college star to Los Angeles Chargers rookie, and now the former UD defensive back is living the life in Southern California. The Chargers grabbed him in the second round of April’s NFL draft and Adderley finished his first mini-camp with the team in May.

Finally, the pace has eased bit for Adderley, who was swept along by a wave of postdraft meetings and press conferences while he studied a much more complex playbook and got used to new coaches and new teammates.

And, of course, he had to adapt to that idyllic Southern California lifestyle, not to mention find a place to buy milk and do laundry. Not that he’s complaining.

“I know how fortunate I am,” Adderley says, “but I also know how hard I’ve worked to get to this point. My job now is to be professional, be responsible and take care of business.”
CONFERENCE CHAMPS

The Blue Hens won the 2019 Colonial Athletic Association women’s track and field championship, taking the title for the first time since 2014.

GAME ON

This fall marks a new beginning for Delaware Athletics, as major summer renovations are expected to enhance the Blue Hen fan experience. From new chair backs in Delaware Stadium to a club space with bar, food and exclusive seating, the first phase of UD’s “Building our Home” fundraising campaign is now complete. By next summer, the full $60 million initiative to transform Delaware Athletics will include the Whitney Athletic Center for student-athletes. “As we work every day to be a national model for student success, this facility will serve as the lifeblood for those efforts, positively impacting our student-athletes and fans for years to come,” says Athletics Director Chrissi Rawak.

Women’s track and field head coach Wendy McFarlane-Smith has often marveled at the energy and camaraderie of this year’s team, and she saw those traits on full display earlier this spring, as the Blue Hens earned their first Colonial Athletic Association championship since 2014.

Student-athletes Alexis Lipnicky, ANR19 (javelin), and Jeanette Bendolph, AS19 (800m), along with Halima Scott, AS22 (200m), took home individual gold for the Blue Hens. Delaware claimed 16 different medals: three gold, six silver and seven bronze.

“From day one, this team was all in and pushing each other every single day,” says McFarlane-Smith. “We saw the benefits of that hard work, mentality and leadership. When you’re working for something bigger than yourself, that’s what it really is all about.”

—Andy Lohman

PHOTO COURTESY OF UD ATHLETICS

PHOTO COURTESY OF UD ATHLETICS
You could feel it. That palpable, intangible sense of place—the DNA of a community, its history and legacy—were all in the air when Matt Nagy, HS01, stepped onto UD’s campus, ready to make his next big stride in football.

It was 1996, and the young quarterback recruit felt an immediate connection to the University and its de facto father-figure-slash-legendary coach, Harold “Tubby” Raymond.

When the NFL Coach of the Year returned to Delaware Stadium this June to address the Class of 2019, those feelings of kinship and enduring allegiance came rushing back. “One of the top reasons I ended up at UD was the work family,” says Nagy. “You felt the family atmosphere; you felt the people were committed. If you went to Delaware, you were going to be there four to five years, you were going to build great relationships with your teammates and have a chance to win a national championship.”

When he came back to campus this spring he did so after guiding the Chicago Bears to a 12-4 record and a division title before a 16-15 playoff loss to the Eagles. As the first Delaware player to become an NFL head coach, Nagy knows a thing or two about exceeding expectations. But it didn’t always seem destined to be that way.

**DELAWARE DAYS**

Nagy was a force of nature at Manheim (Pa.) Central High but wasn’t heavily recruited by the big D-1 schools. At Delaware, where longtime offensive line coach Gregg Perry sought him out, he sat behind star quarterback Brian Ginn, EHD00, for his first few seasons.

Once he took the reins, however, Nagy lit up Delaware Stadium. His junior season featured a quarterback carousel with Ginn, as both dealt with injuries—but both saw significant time, and put up big numbers, too. By Nagy’s senior year, the UD offense was smashing opponents like a typhoon. His stats from 2000 still sparkle: a 12-2 record and a trip to the NCAA semifinals, along with 3,436 passing yards and 29 touchdowns. Joe Flacco, BE08 would surpass that record in 2007, but Nagy’s 8,214 passing yards and 58 touchdown passes remain Delaware career records. He once dropped 556 yards in a single game during a 59-17 wipeout at Connecticut in 1998.
A BLUE HEN
PLAYBOOK

A decade ago, Matt Nagy was selling houses. Now, he's NFL Coach of the Year, thanks to his fightin' spirit and his Blue Hen network.

BY MATT AMIS, AS05
Beyond the numbers, Nagy helped usher in a fun, lively, pass-happy era of UD football, which for decades had been defined by Raymond’s signature “Wing-T” offense and its sweeping, misdirecting, power-running approach to play-calling. Defenses hardly stood a chance.

“I was fortunate that I got to chronicle that year,” says Kevin Tresolini, AS80, who covered the team for the Delaware News Journal starting in 1998. “Matt put on one of the most incredible displays of quarterbacking that I’ve seen. And what made it so interesting was it was also the evolution of the Wing-T. For Matt, they really kinda ripped that thing up and completely rewrote it to take advantage of throwing the football. He had some great receivers to throw it to. It was really fun to watch.”

Brian Ginn, who is a year older than Nagy, was often in direct competition with him for the quarterback role. But the two pushed each other, brought out the best in one another and would ultimately become good friends and roommates in a house on South College Avenue.

“We competed hard, but we respected the way each of us worked,” Ginn says. “On Saturdays we both showed up regardless of who was playing and wanting to win.”

Ginn says there were glimmers of the future coach in Nagy, in the way he combined confidence, competitiveness and IQ to earn command of the locker room.

FROM ARENA FOOTBALL TO REAL ESTATE

Despite his eye-popping numbers at Delaware, Nagy was considered an on-the-bubble NFL prospect. He didn’t hear his name called at the 2001 NFL draft, and though small windows of opportunity would open on practice squads and third-string positions—including with the Philadelphia Eagles and then-head coach Andy Reid—he ultimately found himself on the outside looking in.

So Nagy found a home in the Arena Football League, a smaller, faster, indoor version of college football or the NFL. As leader of the New York Dragons, Nagy thrived in the pass-happy league, where the absence of out-of-bounds sidelines and fair catches creates a dizzying football-meets-pinball hybrid.

“I ended up loving it there,” Nagy says. “I found a lot of good friends, and I was playing too. But it made me learn a lot about life: Your path isn’t always what you think it’s going to be.”

In six AFL seasons, he posted more than 18,000 passing yards and 374 touchdown throws. The AFL also gave Nagy the chance to strengthen his play-calling chops. By his final few seasons, he was the ostensible offensive coordinator for his team, the Columbus Destroyers.

But the AFL is not the NFL, and by 2008, the league was being battered by the Great Recession. Owners canceled the 2009 season, and Nagy again found himself at a crossroads. He’d obtained a real estate license to supplement his AFL
paychecks during the offseason—but 2008 was not exactly a great time to sell houses, either.

“I was working in an area with new home construction, so I was sitting in a model home every day” Nagy recalls. “I did that for two years until Coach Reid called.”

BLUE HENS TO THE RESCUE

That call came thanks to Brett Veach, HS02, EHD04M, a Blue Hen who had landed a job as an Eagles assistant coach and had been Nagy’s teammate at UD. Reid and Veach urged Nagy to take a 3-week summer internship with the team. It wasn’t glamorous, to say the least, but it was the NFL.

“I remember watching Matt as a coaching intern dragging bags of balls out to practice, or warming up the QBs on the sidelines. I have this image of him in my head just throwing footballs in the air to himself on the sidelines,” Tresolini says with a laugh. “He was the lowest guy on the coaching totem pole, at the very bottom. He just did whatever he had to do; it’s an amazing credit to Matt, his diligence, his knowhow, his perceptiveness when it comes to football.”

Reid mentored Nagy, who rose through the ranks and eventually joined Reid as quarterback coach and offensive coordinator for the Kansas City Chiefs in 2013.

Five years later, Nagy was a somewhat surprise choice of the Chicago Bears, who hired him in January 2018—on the heels of a pitiful 5-11, last-place campaign and seven years of playoff futility. But Nagy’s leadership (combined with a few key roster moves) and his ability to connect with his players delivered the Bears their first playoff appearance since 2010. Had it not been for a devastating missed field goal in the closing seconds against the Eagles, he’d have landed a win, too.

“I found a lot of good friends [in arena football] and I was playing, too. But it made me learn a lot about life: Your path isn’t always what you think it’s going to be.”

Coach Andy Reid, who mentored Nagy with the Philadelphia Eagles, later brought him to the Kansas City Chiefs as quarterback coach and offensive coordinator.
just rely on what you did last year, you’ll be out of this league quicker than you can blink.”

One improvement Nagy made this winter: bringing on fellow Blue Hen Ginn as an assistant coach and Bilal Nichols, AS18, as defensive tackle.

“I remember walking into the first offensive meeting in progress in January, and I saw the same kid I knew in 1999,” Ginn says. “All that success, winning coach of the year, Matt’s still the same guy. Maybe a little more driven, but he’s the same person. It’s refreshing.”

To the Class of 2019, Nagy’s message was simple, but resonant: “There’s a lot of adversity that you’re going to face,” he said. “And in order to deal with it, you’ve just got to trust what got you to that point and learn from your experiences. I really believe that the people who are successful are the ones who have dealt with adversity or some challenges, then responded in the right way.”

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BE YOU: AN EXCERPT FROM COACH NAGY’S
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS TO THE CLASS OF 2019

On game days, I carry an 11x17 play call sheet, and I always put a BE YOU in the corner. Chicago media kept asking what it means, and I told them the answer’s pretty simple.

Two years ago, I’m coaching with the Chiefs. Six games left to go in the year, Coach [Andy] Reid decided to hand me the play calling duty. He said, “This is your opportunity. Take it and run.”

We play the Titans in the playoffs; we’re doing well in the first half, winning 20-0, and they come back and beat us. It was devastating. Season’s done. Over.

Well it just so happens, in less than 12 hours, I got the biggest interview of my life to be the head coach of the Chicago Bears, followed by another with the Indianapolis Colts. And I’m crushed. I’m driving home, and all of a sudden my phone rings. It’s my oldest son Brayden, 13, and he goes, “Dad, did you call the plays in the second half?” I started laughing. I said, “Dude. Yes, I called the plays.” He goes, “Dad, tomorrow morning, just be you.”

And so that night, my agent called, and said, “The Bears are feeling bad for you and want to move the interview back an hour or two so you can get some sleep.” I said, “No, let’s move it up to 6 a.m.” (It was supposed to be at 8). My son got me fired up. At the end of the five hours, I’m telling them how bad I want to be the head coach of the Chicago Bears, and George McCaskey, our chairman, said, “Matt, stop. When you tuck Brayden into bed tonight, tell him, ‘Good advice.’”

That “being you” part didn’t happen to me from 2001, when I graduated, to 2009, when I was trying to find out who I was. It’s not going to happen right away, and it’s not always rosy. But this is what my BE YOU is now: Trust your gut. Take calculated risks. Be different. Stay humble. Learn names. And most importantly, have fun.

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Nagy received an honorary degree at Commencement. Visit udel.edu/006143 for full coverage of the event.
She was a queen like no other, the envy of jilted women and the scorn of men who wanted her dead. Her mere presence served to mock their tradition, subvert their power, affront their rituals.

Which was kind of the point, since she was a chicken.

Her name was Cynthia, a blue hen with a blackish hue, and long, white plumes that flowed regally from her head. On Oct. 10, 1970, she became UD’s first feathered Homecoming queen, though she would never get to wear her crown or accompany her king.

“It was intended as a funny political stunt,” says Judith Rossiter, AS74, who was among the many involved in the fowl plot. “But these were also very politically fraught times.”

Back then, the student experience for non-white-males wasn’t exactly warm and fuzzy. Women on campus still had a 10 p.m. curfew, and in irreverent protest against the patriarchy, John Corradin, AS72, then-president of the Commuter Association, sponsored an unlikely contestant. With friends Steve Ceci, AS74, Sami Bandak, AS72, Phil Crifis, AS71, Bill Gibson, AS73, Rossiter and others, the group printed flyers of an imaginary chicken named Cynthia, distributed them on the Mall (now The Green) and asked students to write in her name for Homecoming queen.

“It went viral, though the term was not in fashion in 1970,” says Ceci. “Before I knew it, she won.”

It was a landslide victory of 433 votes, more than twice that of her nearest human competitor at 188. But Cynthia was still a mere figment of resistance—and the group needed an actual bird to crown the following day.

Corradin and his friends managed to secure one from the UD Farm, but then the death threats began. “Unhappy frat guys were really angry that Cynthia beat out their own nominees, and said they were going to kill the chicken,” Ceci recalls.

Thus ensued her whirlwind journey to safety: Spirited from Rossiter’s (dangerously accessible) first-floor Russell dorm room, riding in an MG...
convertible, and eventually winding up in a covert apartment complex on South College Avenue.

“But we heard rumors that mad, angry mobs had discovered where the chicken was going,” says Rossiter, so Cynthia was whisked once again to the apartment beneath, where she was welcomed by kind, intoxicated strangers who kept her under their wing (and later bragged of spending the night with the Homecoming queen).

When Rossiter escorted the royal honoree onto the football field the following day—the same day that UD’s first Black Student Union Homecoming queen, Linda Marks, AS71, was crowned—the bird was met with boos and jeers. Rossiter felt the terrible sensation that “projectiles were coming our way.”

But they never did, and Cynthia went on to live a long and (mostly) happy life. Legend has it that she never laid another egg, although she did survive a fire that destroyed two chicken coops.

Rossiter, meanwhile, helped overturn UD’s curfew policy and would later spend 20-plus years as a judge in Ithaca, New York.

Looking back on the almost-50-year-old incident, she laughs.

“In our own clumsy way, we were making a point,” she says. “It was our way of taking a shot at the system, making it funny and absurd enough for people to realize that things were nuts.”

—Artika Casini, AS05

Dela-weird?

Have an idea for a quirky story from UD’s past? Email us at magazine@udel.edu so we can explore it in a future issue.

IMAGES COURTESY OF JUDY ROSSITER

Pictured from top: Cynthia, a blue hen with a blackish hue and long, white plumes, poses regally for the camera. Her crowning makes the local papers, which also recognize student Linda Marks, elected Homecoming queen by the Black Student Union. Flyers distributed across campus helped secure the chicken’s landslide victory of 433 votes, more than twice that of her runner-up.

LEGENDS & LORE

THE BEST UD STORY YOU NEVER KNEW.

“A fowl plot”
SUNDAY, OCT. 6, 2019
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MAKING ROOM:
Wander along Main Street anytime soon, and you’ll likely be greeted by the rattle of construction and the seemingly unceasing signs of change. Two beefy new hotels are planned: The dignified Green Mansion [1] at Academy and Main is about to have its 137-year-old facade incorporated into a seven-story, 140-room Hyatt Hotel with a 244-space parking garage. Lost in the process will be the old building that once was home to the now-shuttered Abbott’s Shoes. And the storefront cluster that’s currently inhabited by Tasty Wok, Playa Bowls and the already-relocated Margherita’s Pizza could be leveled in favor of a 108-room hotel with 15 apartments, retail space and another parking garage. It would stand as the tallest building downtown. [3]

ON AND AROUND CAMPUS:
UD residence halls keep going up—and coming down. Christiana Towers will be closed and torn down in the next few years; 105-year-old Warner Hall will soon house UD’s counseling and wellness services; and the old Dickinson/Rodney complex, closed since 2015, looks likely to become a new public recreational site (possibly including a pond with fishing pier for Rodney, and new apartment units being considered for Dickinson). On the fringes of the STAR Campus, Newark’s new train station is approaching completion. [4] And in the Morris Library Commons, a new eatery called The Nest offers a grab-and-go market, coffee bar and made-to-order station.

SHOPPING SHUFFLE:
Remember sleepy old College Square Shopping Center? Well, the winds of retail realignment are fluttering at the former location of Kmart (now dark) and Pathmark (now an Acme): Plans are underway to replace some of its shop space with apartments and other amenities, making the location a “vibrant, walkable, bikeable,
active-lifestyle center.” [5] At the other end of Main, on Elkton Road (whoops, we mean “South Main Street”), a shuttered bank building in the Park N Shop center will be replaced by 12 apartments and new retail space.

NEW EATS AND TREATS:
It must seem like musical chairs at times for businesses on and around Main Street, Newark’s ceaselessly shape-shifting Boulevard of Burritos. The former Catherine Rooney’s is now Finn McCool’s, but its pubby Irish accent lingers. The 1885 Newark Opera House storefront at Academy and Main that long ago housed Café Sbarro and Machiavelli’s did a good stint as Grassroots before that retailer downsized and handed the spot to Calio’s strombolis—which itself has now been replaced (seemingly in minutes) by the resurgent D.P. Dough. [6] Other new spots include a College Avenue outpost of Hockessin’s Drip Café, along with Main Street’s second Vietnamese spot, Pho Ever, in the Newark Shopping Center.

In the Main Street spot where Fusion Fitness once stood, vinyl records will be accompanied by hot coffee at the planned Long Play Café. Over on Delaware Avenue near the Burger King, the new Newark outpost of Halal Gyro Kabob House is open, and just outside of town, in the Capitol Trail strip-center where Soffritto Italian Grill and Evero once served diners, a new restaurant called Captain Crab and Seafood has opened with 4-foot robots that show diners to their tables and serve the food.

AND AS THE RESTAURANT MERRY-GO-ROUND SPINS, so does the ever-churning mix of retail goods: Wooden Wheels bike shop has been replaced by Performance Bicycle; and Fresh Cannabis, Newark’s first medical marijuana dispensary, has opened its doors after a long wait. Others met their demise after a long and admirable run, including Minster’s Jewelers (123 years), the Bookateria (40 years), and Saxby’s Coffee Shop (10 years).
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Back in the days when telephones had cords and most mail arrived in a canvas sack, communication was a fairly straightforward social phenomenon. People spoke—and others listened. Writers wrote—and readers read. Of course, the dynamics of cultural communication have never exactly been simple, and today’s satellite-tethered smartphones have only made our connections more complex (and more perilous): That incendiary Tweet you just posted? It could be tomorrow’s viral sensation. That smartphone you hold? It connects the world—but might also be making it a lonelier place.

It’s time to have a conversation about our conversations. The series of articles captured on the next few pages follow the twisting trail of contemporary communications, from the obsolete-but-beloved (antique typewriters) to the cherished-but-fragile (free-speech rights).

Consider it food for thought—or even an actual conversation.
Go ahead, call it old-fashioned. Dismiss it as some dead-and-gone dinosaur from a primitive age, best left in history’s rust-heap alongside fondue forks and phone booths.

But before you do, take a moment to see the vintage typewriter through the eyes of Peter Weil.
There’s a certain poetic narrative running through the soul of these clanking mechanical contraptions, a human sort of heartbeat that taps in staccato counterpoint to our bit-streaming world. Clutching our mobile screens like lifelines, we swipe, we peck, we post—but do we still contemplate, still pause to make measured leaps from thought to thoughtful comment, from instinct to intellect?

As a retired professor of cultural anthropology at UD for 46 years—and something of an international luminary among vintage typewriter collectors—Weil looks at these chunky beauties and wonders: How many profound revelations have flowed through their QWERTY keys over the last 141 years? How many great novels have been hard-wrought here amid piles of crumpled paper? And how many love letters, sealed with kisses and worn soft by caresses, still abide in secret places?

Looking back over the convoluted mechanical evolution and purposeful steam-punk aesthetics of these old contraptions, Weil sees a progression that also pushed forward America’s cultural evolution, fostered exponential increases in business efficiency and helped pave the way for more women to join the work force.

And even today, the typewriter lives, works, creates: Street-corner authors in New Orleans will, for a small donation, write an impromptu personalized poem on their old Royal portables. Musicians inclined toward experimental excursions happily burrow into the micro-niche of “typewriter music,” performed in clickety-clackety harmony by typewriter orchestras. Others seek to mesh old with new, electronically connecting old typewriters into computers that preserve each word.

Nostalgia clearly plays some role in their continuing relevance and in Weil’s passion; for him, the machines he collected over the years represent a labor of love he shared with his late wife Cornelia, former editor of this publication: Happy days hunting flea markets for some new treasure; hours spent researching the early makers’ history and ferreting out the photos, advertisements and other ephemera that add a human touch to the machine’s mechanical history. All of it would turn eventually into one of the vintage typewriter field’s seminal books: Typewriter: A Celebration of the Ultimate Writing Machine, cowritten with Paul Robert.

But Weil—now happily retired in Houston, Texas, and unapologetically fond of his computer keyboard’s relative prowess—says we should be careful not to over-glamorize those myopic “good old days” perspectives.

“Some people basically argue that computers allow you to be a sloppy writer,” says Weil, who has had as many as 100 typewriters in his collection at any given time—and whose Peter M. Weil Anthropology Travel Award still supports UD students. “They believe you have to ‘think more’ when you use a typewriter. But when typewriters were introduced, the same thing was said about pencils and pens.”

So, things change. People adapt. The world spins on, but even in these days of relentless progress, it can be nice to look fondly toward the past that benefited us all—whether we realize it or not.
Prof. Dawn Fallik sees loneliness everywhere. She sees it in journalism classes, where her endlessly texting students recoil at the thought of face-to-face interactions, and she sees it on the streets of Melbourne and Sydney, where this veteran medical reporter has been exploring the depths of people’s disconnection. Her findings are the basis of a book she’s writing, Generation Lonely: 10,000 Followers and No Friends, and for a popular talk she gave at South By Southwest.

The title refers to the group most ensnared in isolation—the 18- to 35-year-olds of the millennials and Gen Z, born into technology and in some ways stunted by its dynamics. “They are the loneliest generation ever,” she says, citing a recent Cigna study of more than 20,000 U.S. adults. “And they admit it.”

She would soon discover that the predicament knows no generational bounds, that many of us are experiencing a new sort of self-isolation, of feeling alone in the crowd—stresses that are nudging us closer to depression and its physiological toll. “That’s what technology has done—taken away those micro-connections, even if it’s just saying something to someone at the bus stop,” she says.

Technological isolation is amplified by our frantic pace, by days so full that when calm finally prevails, there’s a sense of discomfort in the absence of chaos.

And, because today’s generation never knew the long-ago world of routine community connections—volunteering in churches, visiting someone in grief—they lack some of the confidence needed to cope. “They haven’t learned those social cues, so when something happens, they don’t know what to do,” says the associate professor of English.

In her classes, that unease is plain. She now offers “cyber” office hours because of students’ reluctance to endure face-to-face contact. And sometimes that disconnection can be solved with a simple lesson: After learning that one of her student’s parents had passed away (and that fellow classmates suggested sending their sympathies via text), Fallik stopped the class to teach them how to write a condolence card.

In our increasingly self-centered culture, people find themselves less equipped to help, and less willing to try. She saw that firsthand, during her 100-plus book interviews, where she asked people, “When was the last time you asked someone about their day?” For most, it had been a long time.

“Interaction has to come from both sides,” says Fallik. “People really do want to connect to one another. They just don’t know how.”

Prof. Dawn Fallik worries that our high-tech culture is depriving people of crucial social connections—and making us more vulnerable to psychological and physiological suffering.
Campus voices see an America where debate over free speech is seldom quiet

WOMEN’S VOICES
It was the week after the [Brett Kavanaugh] hearing, and my public policy class was fired up. Every woman had something to say, and in the midst of what began to sound like a broken record, a young man raised his hand. He told us that he felt scared and powerless in the #meToo era. Once again, every girl in class had her hand raised. Even I asked, “If you haven’t done anything wrong, why be afraid?” But now I wonder.

Women’s voices are louder than ever, showing strength and combating centuries of silence. But, somewhere in our chants for equality, we may have drowned out other perspectives. This idea that people can’t play devil’s advocate or express their unfavored opinions is gaining prevalence beyond the modern women’s movement. In nearly every debate, political or not, those with minority opinions are often scared to speak up. And that poses an important question: Where is the line between things we don’t want to hear and things that shouldn’t be said?

Mia Carbone, AS21, is a political science and communication double major

CORPORATE SPEECH
In America today, public companies enjoy broad leeway in speaking freely on whatever matter they choose, whether it’s in support of legislation that might help them, or against a candidate who seems poised to do them harm—as we saw in the Citizens United case that expanded corporations’ ability to fund political ads.

But even in the politically charged free-for-all that characterizes 21st century public discourse, companies would be smart to watch what they say, for the sake of their own success. That means avoiding statements or taking political stands that are potentially contrary to the views of their shareholder owners, or their clients and customers. That means limiting “speech” to matters that are narrowly tailored to the company’s purpose. It means resisting the temptation to make overly polarizing or politicized declarations—such as BlackRock CEO Larry Fink’s decision to issue broadsides on altering corporate purpose.

It’s a temptation that some CEOs—from Tim Cook of Apple to Howard Schultz of Starbucks—cannot resist. In the zeal to mix personal ideologies with company interests, there’s the risk that these two different worlds will collide—sometimes disastrously for the bottom line.

Charles M. Elson directs UD’s John L. Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance

HATEFUL WORDS
Hate speech and free speech are not mutually exclusive. They intersect, requiring us to balance competing social and individual values.

It is imperative for universities to prepare students to interact with a diverse range of ideas and thoughts, including expression that is hateful. The human tendency to view the world as “us” and “them” is being heightened in our current media environment. As educators, we must engage students to consider why it is important to protect freedom of expression, perhaps especially for ideas we find deeply offensive.

But we must also acknowledge that freedom of expression isn’t free. There is a cost—and in the case of hate speech, that cost is frequently borne by groups who are already deeply marginalized.

Jenny Lambe is an associate professor of communication

WORDS OR WEAPONS?
A Cherokee folk tale describes good and evil as wolves warring within the human soul. Which side will win? The one we feed. With respect to free speech, we might think of the free marketplace of ideas as a good wolf, and public lying as the bad one.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that with a few exceptions, such as fraud and perjury, the Constitution protects speech regardless of whether it’s true. Political speech enjoys an especially high level of protection, and federal courts have overturned state laws against political lying. Although not impossible, criminalizing untruthful political speech would be extremely difficult.

And necessarily so, lest political majorities weaponize poorly written laws to hamper the expression of ideas they dislike, while defining “truth” as what they themselves believe.

Protecting the speech we value sometimes means tolerating speech we detest. Fair enough. Still, I worry about how much we’re feeding this particular wicked wolf.

Joan DelFattore, Professor Emerita of English, is the author of three books about controversial speech
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Regina Abuk Atak emerged from hiding in the bush of South Sudan. The janjaweed militia, a ragtag group of fighters occasionally allied with the Sudanese government, had raided her village, killed her neighbors and kidnapped her parents, who wouldn’t survive the journey beyond.

The reports from Sudan often refer to the international turmoil in broad terms: tribal disputes, civil war, genocide.

For Audrey Walters-Moore, EHD01, they’re personal. When such violence erupts, thousands are displaced, many of them children, forced to rely solely on the kindness of strangers for support. Lift Up the Vulnerable, the nonprofit led by Walters-Moore, has positioned itself in Sudan and South Sudan to be that ally to those who risk being yet another statistic of the fighting. In only a year since she founded the organization, they have supplied hundreds with food and shelter, and many more with education and health care—including children like Regina. Their core mission: to bring stability to the lives of women and children displaced by violence, shielding them from the lawlessness left in the wake of the conflicts that make them especially vulnerable to human traffickers.

After graduating from UD, Walters-Moore traveled to Belgium, mentoring the children of diplomats and business leaders who flow in and out of Brussels, but always searching for ways to do more. Through the Make Way Partners nonprofit, she would spend months renovating a facility sheltering orphaned refugees in Portugal—and soon discover the horrors of an underground pornography and prostitution ring. It would take Make Way Partners and the Portuguese government three years to get the orphanage shut down, and it would inspire Walters-Moore’s life’s work to protect children from the trafficking rings she experienced in Portugal. “No country is untouched by this,” she says.

She soon joined a nonprofit focused on helping Sudanese victims, rising over the course of the next decade from administrative assistant to VP of operations—and ultimately creating Lift Up the Vulnerable from the threads of her experiences. Today, the pride in Walter-Moore’s voice swells when she speaks of Regina—now a young woman—volunteering at health clinics, making plans to go to medical school, a decade removed from the tragedies that threatened to define and endanger her young life.

As one of the first children Walters-Moore encountered in the South Sudan, Regina stands as an example of the hope possible when bridges are built over the carnage of war to a better way and a better future. Bridges that are possible only if people reach out and try. 🧵
Meet Dave Raymond, the Original Phillie Phanatic

I T’S A STRANGE FEELING, to look in the mirror and not see yourself. Your movements and mannerisms are your own, but in a face and body so utterly different than the one you inhabit, so unlike anything anyone, anywhere, has ever seen.

You stare. You touch your cheeks with green, furry hands. You disco dance like Travolta on a Saturday night. You move your hips from side to side, the fat, green belly swaying comically before you.

Then you walk out of the dressing room, past dozens of staffers waiting for the game to begin. Their faces burst into smiles and whoops and laughter, and you can still hear the faint echoes of their cheers as you open the doors to Section 332, Veterans Stadium, right behind home plate.

It’s a picture-perfect spring day, and the breeze ripples through your fur as you run to the third-base stands, jumping over railings, the bang of aluminum vibrating beneath your size 30 shoes. Those feet carry you onward, almost of their own accord, to the nearby picnic tables, where you leap from bench to bench with the gracelessness of the flightless bird you’ve now become.

That night, your team wins. “We’re 1 and 0 with the Phanatic,” catcher Tim McCarver boasts.

Over the next 16 seasons, and in the decades beyond, you’ll follow the directive you were given that very first day in 1978 by Bill Giles, president, and later, chairman, of the Philadelphia Phillies. Brilliant and fearless, he’s the man who installed slanted bars in the Houston Astrodome to help customers feel tipsier and knew instinctively to make you “fatter, with a bigger nose
THE MAN, THE MYTH AND THE MASCOT

and a long inflatable tongue.” So on opening night, you'll tentatively open his office door and ask, “Mr. Giles, what exactly is it that you want the Phanatic to do?” His pensive expression will worry you at first, but then he'll break into a huge smile and calm your fears: “David, just have fun. If you’re not having fun, then the Phanatic won’t be funny and the fans won’t like him.”

And oh, how they do. Their love is so palpable it feels as if they love you, too, a force so beautiful and terrifying you begin to wonder if the bean counters will find someone else to be stupid for less. If you'll lose the greatest gig of your life. If you're more man or mascot. But where does one end, and the other begin?

FANTASTICAL ORIGINS

The Phanatic was a Darwin experiment gone wrong, born among the tortoises and sea lions of the Galápagos Islands and shunned by his peers as unreal and unlovable. He would eventually leave the coast of Ecuador, searching the world over for a place to call home and finding it in the City of Brotherly Love.

Dave Raymond, HS79, grew up in a loving family with two interchangeable homes. There was the house in Newark, where he lived a Leave it to Beaver life, and there was the University of Delaware, where his father was a coaching legend long before his 300th football win.

Drawn to UD by the Carpenter family, longtime University benefactors and owners of the Philadelphia Phillies, the late Harold R. Raymond, or Tubby, as he was known to everyone but his parents, was a man of unfailing integrity. In the words of former player Joseph Biden, AS65, 04H, “Tubby’s notion was, you get knocked down, you get the hell up. Never complain, never explain. Work hard, play by the rules, treat people with dignity and respect. Most of all, cover your team.”

Coach Raymond was a man of mythic proportion who could move grown men to tears, making them greater than they thought they could be. His youngest son would witness such sermons in the locker room and dream of one day playing for his dad and someday coaching like him, too.

He would accomplish the former as a Delaware kicker, quickly growing his family to include 150 Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers, 16 of whom were starting players on the football team. The “SPE dogs,” as they would call themselves, “were like Animal House, but with less debauchery,” Raymond jokes now. And in a catchphrase that seems reminiscent of many a Blue Hen memory, he simply smiles of his undergraduate years and says, “I had a great time.”

His experience only improved when his father secured him an internship with the Phillies. “You never know what might happen or where it might take you,” the elder Raymond said. For good measure, he also offered his son a word of advice: “Talk less.”

On April 25, 1978, Dave Raymond embarked upon a role where he couldn’t talk at all.
A PHANATIC’S LIFE

“When people ask me what it’s like to be the Phanatic, I tell them, ‘Imagine you have a job where you’re not just well known, but beloved. Everyone wants a picture with you. You get to go to the best parties, the biggest events. When you show up, you’re the star.’

You’re a cross between the prototypical Philly fan—passionate, cynical, dangerously knowledgeable—and slapstick greats like Daffy Duck and the Three Stooges. You’re a dancer, an entertainer, an SPE dog. You spit-shine bald heads, buzz around on a four-wheeler, spill popcorn on opposing fans. You terrorize LA Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda and high-five Tug McGraw. You entertain the Kennedys. You strut in costume into Studio 54, and you even ride down Broad Street on your own 18-wheel truck after the 1980 World Series win against the Kansas City Royals.

You wake up each morning living a dream. And then one day you stare blankly as the words escape the doctor’s lips: Malignant tumor in your mother’s brain. Stage 4 Glioblastoma. Eight months to live.

You walk onto the sidewalk, admire the autumn sun, and break down.

You remember when your childhood pastor asked you to become an acolyte, how you wanted to wear the robes and walk the aisles but were petrified of knocking over candles. Your mother held you then and said, “Being afraid is not a good enough reason to limit yourself.”

Suzanne Heinemann was a fearless, independent woman who lost her hearing from Meniere’s Disease and dedicated much of her life to Delaware’s deaf community. She taught you how to communicate without words, how to cook a pot roast, how to be unafraid.

But you are. And eight months later, almost to the day, you lose her. Her service is held in the same Methodist church where you once lit candles. Though you want to speak, you can’t, the words hollow and the tears irrepressible. Father Jim Dever tells you afterwards that you showed much-needed emotion and gave fellow mourners permission to cry, and you recall the first time you met the Catholic priest, back when he asked the Phanatic to interrupt his service, and you tried to get out of it because you were again afraid of embarrassing yourself in church. “But David, this will be perfect,” Father Dever had said. “My homily is all about how life can surprise us with a curveball or two, and the Phanatic’s unanticipated visit will set that tone.”

You spend that Mother’s Day weekend golfing with your father, leaving your wife and 3-month-old son behind. They will be gone by the time you return, the curveball of their departure so swift and excruciating that the thought of now putting one foot in front of the other seems impossible.

And yet, you have a job to do. You drive to King of Prussia for a two-hour gig, zipping yourself into the fur and becoming something and someone else. You are now making other people feel good, and it makes you feel better, and you emerge from the deepest depths of your misery to understand the great philosophy your best friend, the Phillie Phanatic, has been trying to teach you: That in the face of loss, pain and devastating defeat, you can still choose fun.

A Phanatic’s Life

“For those who do it, it’s less of a career than a lifestyle. It’s not what you do, it’s who you are. There’s a blurry line between one’s own identity and the character.”

– ROBERT BOUDWIN, BE97, THE FIRST YOUDEE AND CREATOR OF CLUTCH, MASCOT FOR THE HOUSTON ROCKETS

THE EMPEROR OF FUN

The social psychologist Malcolm Gladwell has famously written of the factors that contribute to extraordinary success: luck, access and 10,000 hours of practice. They ring true to Raymond.

“My dad snaps his fingers, and I have immediate access to the Phillies. I have all these skills I didn’t know would be useful, but they clearly had an outlet. And I’ve had well over 10,000 hours of being a professional idiot,” says Raymond, now a nationally regarded keynote speaker, entrepreneur and author.

Together, they give him some authority to spread the Phanatic’s gospel. “When the brutality of life visits you, that is the time to choose the distraction of fun,” he says. “It sounds counterintuitive, but it’s your own intentional activities that will save you. They will rewire your brain and refresh your perspective.”
“WHEN THE BRUTALITY OF LIFE VISITS YOU, THAT IS THE TIME TO CHOOSE THE DISTRACTION OF FUN.”
There was a time when Raymond didn’t think he would ever have a happy family life again, that he wasn’t worthy of one. And then he met Sandy Ingram, a woman who was “weak-knees pretty” and loved him despite his flaws and gave him the confidence to see himself as more than a clown. Today, his favorite vacations are the ones to visit his eldest son Kyle, in Colorado, or the ones he and Sandy take with their children, Maddie, Carly and Dylan.

When Maddie, EHD20, has a 6 a.m. sorority dance practice, he’s there, cheering her on. When Carly, HS22, came home crying because her high school softball coach never gave her a shot, Raymond reminded her to be patient, work hard and cover her team.

“He’s a great dad, a wonderful man,” says former Phillies owner Bill Giles. Chris Long, director of entertainment for the Phillies and the Phanatic’s unofficial mom, agrees. “He’s always so self-deprecating, but he’s such an amazing father and husband.”

And despite what Raymond thinks, nobody else could have originated the role he so effortlessly developed. “It’s just a shag carpet,” says Long. “But you put it on the right person, and it becomes the Phanatic—childish, funny, a little devilish.”

It’s Raymond’s orbit of outgoing, self-deprecating, kind, contagious hilarity that makes him a mascot for all mascots. And in their delightfully peculiar world, there is no greater expert.

After leaving the Phillies in 1993, he opened the Raymond Entertainment Group, a marketing and consulting firm that has created over 120 mascots and helped businesses build huggable brand extensions—along with less cuddly ones like the Flyers’ Gritty.

He has also run hundreds of mascot training camps for kids, colleges and everyone in between. At UD, he met YoUDee’s Chris Bruce, BE02, who would later work with Raymond as a trainer and help establish an online Mascot Hall of Fame. The idea hit them, so to speak, in 2003, after a costumed sausage was bopped in the head at Milwaukee’s Miller Park.

Nearly 10 years later, the city of Whiting, Indiana, approached Raymond Entertainment Group with a proposal to build a three-story, 25,000-square-foot children’s museum honoring the quirky creations Raymond helped pioneer.

It was a dream come true, a legacy-defining moment. But when the Mascot Hall of Fame opened this past spring, in a ribbon-cutting ceremony marked by buffoonery and hijinks, shenanigans and shimmying, the hands-down Greatest Sports Mascot of All Time was nowhere to be found. Instead, Dave Raymond had been foiled by a flight delay.

“Years I’ve waited for this moment, and the plane had to have maintenance issues,” he told a news reporter shortly after his arrival and about an hour after the doors opened to the masses.

But he didn’t let it dampen his spirit. Doing so would go against everything Raymond so ardently believes—that when confronted by life’s great adversities and mere irritations, we have the power to choose fun. And so he photobombed a selfie with a wolf in a football jersey and did. 

A mascot expert with sharp business instincts, Raymond has helped develop more than 120 furry creations over the years, including such “huggable brand extensions” as Gapper from the Cincinnati Reds, Burnie from the Miami Heat and Gritty from the Flyers.
Emmanuel “Manny” Caulk, EHD96, 02M, still remembers the moment he decided to become an educator. He was in sixth grade when his teacher, Robert Glines, pulled him aside for a conversation.

“What do you want to do when you grow up?” he asked.

At first, Caulk didn’t know what to say. No one had ever asked him that question before, maybe because he wasn’t supposed to become anything.

Caulk grew up in the housing projects on the East Side of Wilmington, Delaware, where 60% of household incomes are below $15,000 per year. “We were homeless,” Caulk recalls. “Not knowing where I was going to lay my head to sleep at night, not knowing if I was going to have anything to eat in the evening, was a daily struggle.”

Amid this uncertainty, Glines remained a constant presence. He pushed students to succeed, often chaperoning them to public basketball courts after school. Caulk didn’t realize it at the time, but Glines had become his first male role model.

So when asked about his hopes and dreams, Caulk responded with the only profession he had ever seen an adult do: “I want to be a teacher.”

He would attend UD to become one. Caulk joined ASPIRE, a program that

**CAULK WALKS THE WALK**

Manny Caulk, EHD96, grew up in the housing projects of Wilmington, Delaware. Now he’s a national leader in public education.
helps students from underrepresented populations become teachers and leaders, and received support from faculty and fellow students along the way. He would later complete law school and return to UD for a master’s degree in educational leadership and administration.

“I gained so much knowledge during my time at UD,” he says. “I really enjoy going in to different schools and applying the skills I learned here.”

Caulk has since built a reputation as an optimistic yet tenacious force of change in public school districts across the nation, from Pennsylvania to Louisiana to Maine to Kentucky, where he currently serves as the first African American superintendent of Fayette County Public Schools in Lexington.

The district was in financial, academic and cultural chaos when Caulk arrived in 2015. In response, he rolled out a 100-point plan to increase community engagement, build partnerships and provide much-needed support and encouragement for students and their teachers, bringing stability to the district. His efforts were so successful that Caulk was listed by Education Week as a “Leader to Learn From” in 2017 and named Kentucky’s Superintendent of the Year in 2019.

“Education is my passion,” says Caulk, who views his success as an opportunity to pursue initiatives focused on social justice and equity. “I love going into a school, talking to the teachers, parents, community—finding out where their priorities lie, what their concerns are, where would they like to grow and what are the points of pride—then, by working collaboratively together, setting them on a path for success.”

Caulk recognizes that many challenges lay ahead, and he still sees himself in the students who walk the halls of Fayette County Public Schools. But he also sees

Glines in the school’s many teachers—in their dedication and drive to help students reach higher and achieve more.

“We all get to where we are in life with help from a teacher,” says Caulk, who to this day carries a hand-written message from Glines in his wallet. “He always told us to set goals for ourselves, that through education, we could accomplish our dreams.”

On Caulk’s final report card, Glines wrote, “Proud of you! Keep going with your studies and sports!”

“That’s how I ended up at UD,” says Caulk, “a sixth-grade teacher who believed in me.”

—Jordan Howell, AS11, 17PhD

“Education is my passion...We all get to where we are in life with help from a teacher.”

Caulk still carries the report card that includes a handwritten note from his former teacher.
He studied to be a chemist. She was trained as a schoolteacher.

But when the time came to make their mark on the world, Bruce and Barbara Neyers decided together on an autumn-kissed California hillside to do what so many young Blue Hens do—let destiny take them where it would, and follow their oversized and existentially terrifying dreams.

Hand in hand in youthful abandon, they would dive headlong into the California wine business—an industry that they knew little about at the time, and which has humbled many earnest hopefuls.

In fact, they still occasionally marvel at just how they got to where they are today—proprietors of a successful and respected winery in a cozy corner of Napa Valley, immersed in a culture of celebrities and haute cuisine.

“I grew up in a completely non-wine-drinking family,” Bruce, AS68, explains from the verdant splendor of his 45-acre Neyers Vineyards in St. Helena, where the grapes around him are hanging heavy in anticipation of harvest. “I don’t know that my parents ever had a bottle of wine in their lives before I got into it.”

“It’s a little surprising, I’d say, in reflection,” adds Barbara, EHD68, who would spend years working at nearby Berkeley’s Chez Panisse, arguably the mothership of locally sourced, ingredient-focused modern American cuisine. “We think of ourselves now as Californians, we’ve lived here so long. But it’s a process, it wasn’t an overnight thing.”

That process got underway soon after young Barbara and Bruce—who were childhood sweethearts growing up in North Wilmington—left their post-college careers in Delaware to fulfill his ROTC obligations. Soon they found themselves in Korea (where Bruce would first catch the wine bug from an
oenophilic warrant officer), and then San Francisco (where both would face a dilemma upon Bruce’s discharge: return to Delaware, or stay put?).

As often happens to the young and restless, they would choose the path to adventure, to unknown potential—and to a $3-an-hour job for Bruce at a local wine shop, where the owner promised to teach him “the business.” But the moment that sealed their destiny came on that ridge in the valley, as they sipped wine after helping with the harvest of a local vintner.

“If I said, ‘Wow, wouldn’t it be great to do this forever?’” Bruce recalls. “About a month later the owner of that winery called me and said his assistant was leaving and he was looking for a replacement.”

Thus began a long upward trajectory deeper into the esoteric and clubby scene of California winemaking and its ancillary pursuits—Bruce climbing to management roles at big wineries, and ultimately becoming an expert in roaming the vineyards of France sniffing out exclusive wines for the U.S. sales market. Meanwhile, a friendship Bruce had struck with a rising star chef—Alice Waters—would grow into a career for Barbara when she cooked dinner one night for Waters and her boyfriend.

“Alice said, ‘You shouldn’t be teaching school, Barbara, you should be cooking at Chez Panisse,’” Bruce recalls.

So she did, ultimately spending more than two decades working in the upstairs café, buying the restaurant’s wines, and creating Chez Panisse’s paradigm-setting salads. In time, Bruce and Barbara would begin to plant vines on their own property, committing themselves to mastering the elusive art of coaxing great grapes from the gravelly soil and 120-year-old plants using only laborious, organic “Old World” techniques—reducing yields but producing a superior product. Today, they ship 240,000 bottles annually.

Wine critics routinely gush over the fruits of their labor, giving Neyers Vineyards a hard-won reputation for quality at an affordable price. Bruce and Barbara like it that way, in part because it makes their wines so much more accessible, and partly because of the lessons of limitless potential they learned at UD.

“I think it opened our minds to a lot of things,” Barbara says of their undergraduate years. “We ended up in another world, and in some ways it’s because of our experience at Delaware, and the freedom of choices we felt after leaving there. It broadened our horizons in a wonderful way.”

THE NEYERS’ TIPS TO SUCCESSFUL WINE ENJOYMENT:

1. Price is not a score for quality. Expensive wines are not always the best, so rely on your wine merchant for suggestions in your financial comfort zone.

2. Don’t be afraid to expand your horizons. Bruce never drank wines from Corsica until five years ago, and now he loves them, and drinks a bottle every week.

3. Don’t feel compelled to drink the whole bottle the night you open it. Store the re-corked bottle in your refrigerator for a day or two after first trying it. It will sometimes even improve.

4. If you find something you really like, go back and buy two or three bottles of it, then try them over time. Store the bottles in a dark closet in the meantime.

5. Don’t pay any attention to vintage charts or wine and food pairings. Drink what you like with what you like to eat. Besides, vintage charts are way too specific to ever be meaningful from one region to another.
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UD HITS THE ROAD

As a passionate Blue Hen, Emily Halle, AS08, makes a point to keep up-to-date on UD news, attends alumni events and connects with classmates when she finds herself in their cities.

But as much as she loves UD, she didn’t set foot on campus for 10 years. Even living a few hours away, it was difficult to come back—so campus came to her.

In November, Halle reentered the world of academic expertise and reconnected with fellow alumni as part of the Washington, D.C., stop of the Delaware to the World tour.

Starting in the fall of 2018 and continuing through spring of this year, UD leaders, faculty and staff traveled to 14 cities across the country. Through inspiring TED-style talks, they shared stories of their transformational research—from innovative education methods and cutting-edge cancer treatments to photo preservation efforts and work around climate change.

“It was really nice to see our former professors give fun, engaging lectures and hear what they’ve been up to since I graduated,” says Halle. “Their analysis made me feel like I was back on campus.”

Maintaining a strong, lifelong relationship with their alma mater isn’t always easy for alumni around the country and beyond. That’s why events like the Delaware to the World tour are so important, says Lauren Murray Simione, BE95, associate vice president for alumni engagement and annual giving.

“We often hear from our alumni about how impactful many of their professors were on their UD experience and paths beyond graduation. The Delaware to the World tour became a way to bring UD to those Blue Hens who can’t always get back,” she says. —Dara McBride

Interested in meeting with UD alumni and friends? Make plans to return to UD for Homecoming on Oct. 26, and visit www.udconnection.com/events to see a calendar of upcoming events for alumni held throughout the country and on campus.
REACHING THE TOP (AND REMEMBERING THE PAST)

Every year, thousands of Blue Hens get their degrees and step out into the world to do great things. But for some, their hearts are here to stay.

Take John L. Anderson, EG67, who has just been named president of the National Academy of Engineering, with a membership that includes 2,000 of the most accomplished and influential engineers in America (including eight current UD professors). NAE members share their expertise and provide independent advice to the federal government on matters involving engineering and technology.

The professor and his wife Pat, AS67, are keeping UD in their hearts: The couple recently established the John and Pat Anderson Chemical Engineering Scholarship, targeted toward underrepresented students in financial need. They also gave in support of naming a space in Delaware Stadium's pressbox in honor of Pat’s father, Bob Siemen, AS43, BE55M, 64M, a Hall-of-Fame UD athlete, coach and pressbox institution.

Siemen was the last UD athlete to earn four varsity letters in one year, and would go on to coach such UD standouts as the late Dallas Green, BE56, a fellow UD Hall of Fame member and Major League Baseball icon.

Before his most recent honor, Anderson’s career included a stint as president of Illinois Tech (2007–15), and he remains a distinguished professor of chemical engineering at the school. In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed him to the National Science Board.

PAYING IT BACK BY BUILDING LEADERS

Humility, love, honesty, kindness, awareness and focus. These were the “character ethics” that more than 300 students from 12 Delaware schools reflected on earlier this year as part of the Siegfried Youth Leadership Program.

Growing leaders and helping them cultivate the traits and characteristics for lifelong success is at heart of Robert Siegfried’s mission.

“This idea of reflecting on what your dreams and ambitions are is just the start of the process,” Siegfried, BE81, told the students. “Developing character ethic is really, really hard to do. But I believe that if you want to be a successful person, you have to master character ethic, and that is a lifetime journey.”

The Siegfried Youth Leadership Program is a biannual event, which will return for its seventh iteration in the fall. Launched by Siegfried and his wife, Kathy, AS85, in collaboration with their company, The Siegfried Group, and UD’s Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship and Junior Achievement of Delaware, the program hosts special year-round events in support of its mission.
ALUMNI WEEKEND 2019

From Friday through Sunday, June 7-9, thousands of alumni, friends and families of all ages flocked to UD’s Newark campus for a weekend filled with memories, connections and Blue Hen fun. The weekend brought a mix of old favorites, like Double Dips for Double Dels, Brunch with the Mascots and the Blue Hen 5K and Kids Fun Run, and new additions, like a farewell to the Christiana Towers and Warner Hall, and a fashion show and wine pairing. And, of course, the weekend’s marquee event – Dela-bration – had thousands on The Green Friday night where the band Jessie’s Girls kept the excitement going throughout the night. 🎵
WITH EVERY STEP, A SWEET MEMORY

The voice from the back of the crowd sounds hopeful: “Is Klondike Kate’s still around?”

“Yes, it is!” comes the reply, prompting a figurative sigh of relief from the 50-or-so pre-millennial Blue Hens who signed up for the first-ever “’90s Then and Now Nostalgia Walk” during Alumni Weekend 2019.

As they stroll, they discover: Some landmarks are gone (remember the tennis courts across from Perkins Student Center?). Others have been transformed—or go by another name. (Harrington Beach? It’s now the “Turf.” The Mall? Now “The Green.”)

Tour guide Darren Kane, BE95, was there to remind the faithful that great memories do endure—especially when supplemented by the vintage photos that tour participants could call up via smartphone.

“Do they still call it The Scrounge?” one participant wonders as she gazes at the lounge-enhanced incarnation of Perkins.

“They do. I think it would take an alien invasion for UD to stop calling it that,” replies Kane, who oversees the irreverently wistful MugNight.com nostalgia site, an offshoot of his book, Glory Days at Delaware.

In some ways, they know, those days of glory can never die—so long as there are generations to come. “My daughter is going away to college next year,” says Linda Churinskas, AS94. “I just hope she has the kind of experience I had.”

Here’s an Alumni Weekend reunion unlike any other: Five direct descendants of Emalea Pusey Warner came from Wilmington, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., to commemorate the end of an era for Warner Hall, the 105-year-old women’s residence hall that is destined to become the new home to UD’s counseling and wellness services. Warner was a prime force in opening the University to female students, and would go on to become the first woman on the Board of Trustees. 
BLUE HENS IN CHICAGO

It’s true: There really is a classic Midwestern charm to Chicago. Located on beautiful Lake Michigan and featuring that iconic city skyline, the Windy City can easily make visitors and transplants alike feel at home—and that includes Blue Hens!

From taking in a Bears game (coached by UD alumnus Matt Nagy, HS01) to braving the stunning views of the 103rd-floor SkyDeck in Willis Tower, dining on deep-dish pizza and heading to a show, Chicago offers a warm welcome to everyone, no matter their interests. For alumni in the area, meetups range from museum visits to baseball games. Up next is a cooking class on Sept. 10.

MEET KAREN FLETCHER, EG81, 82M

After spending much of her career in Delaware—serving as the vice president and chief engineer at DuPont and then the CEO of RAPID Manufacturing Institute for the American Institute of Chemical Engineering—Fletcher landed in Chicago. She now serves as vice president for investor relations at Illinois Tools Works (ITW), a $50 billion-market-cap company northwest of the city.

What do you enjoy about living in Chicago?

My heart is in Delaware, but I’m taking every advantage of being here. I live in the city and reverse commute to work. I recently joined the board of the Chicago Sinfonietta, which promotes diversity in classical music performance, composition and direction. That resonated with me because I always felt the same obligation in engineering, to create opportunities for others.

What travel tips would you give to visitors?

Chicago is a vibrant city. There are great museums and all kinds of music venues, parks and restaurants. Some of my favorites include Monteverde, an Italian restaurant; Le Colonial, an awesome Vietnamese restaurant; and Bandera, which has live music every night.

How did your experience at UD shape your current path?

I got my bachelor’s degree at UD and then my master’s degree in a special program where I worked with DuPont in lieu of completing my master’s thesis. I loved the work and the people, and the internship opened doors for me. Now, I deal with institutional investors who own (or are interested in owning) ITW stock. This job taps into everything I’ve done before, both my business background and my technical degrees.

What keeps you connected to UD?

I’ve always stayed in touch with the Department of Chemical Engineering and was an adjunct professor in the early ’90s. I’ve given talks and participated in mentoring programs and Engineers Week. Then, about six years ago, I joined the board of the UD Research Foundation (UDRF). I’ve tried to live my life in an honorable way and give back to UD, to the community, to the next generation who come after me in work. I think that’s really important to do: To pursue our passions but never forget where we came from.
...AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

ATLANTA
October TBD – Volunteer with Atlanta Blue Hens

Baltimore
Nov. 2 – UD vs. Towson football tailgate
September TBD – Urban Pirates Cruise
December TBD – Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

BAY AREA
Dec. 8 – Cooking Class at Olives for Lunch

BOSTON
Oct. 15 – Welcome to the Neighborhood at Boda Borg
December TBD – Trivia Night at JJ Foley’s

CHICAGO
Sept. 10 – Chicago cooking class

DALLAS
Sept. 28 – DFW Blue Hens at the Rodeo in Fort Worth

DENVER
December TBD – Denver Zoo Lights

HOUSTON
September TBD – Tour of NASA Space Center
November TBD – Cooking class with Houston Blue Hens

KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTIES
Sept. 8 – Pints and Paddles
Oct. 20 – Eating Rehoboth walking food tour
Nov. 16 – Air Force Base museum tour and lunch at Mission BBQ

LEHIGH VALLEY
Sept. 7 – Bethlehem River Tours

LOS ANGELES
Sept. 26 – Welcome to the Neighborhood with Thursday Night Football (Eagles @ Packers)
Oct. 13 – 49ers vs. Rams football game and tailgate
Nov. 15 – TreePeople Hike, Coldwater Canyon Park

NEW CASTLE COUNTY
Sept. 28 – Golfing at Deerfield
December TBD – Yuletide cocktail reception at Longwood Gardens

NEW YORK CITY
Sept. 12 – Welcome to the Neighborhood
October TBD – An Evening of Conversations and Connections with New York City Alumni
November TBD – Life after UD

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY
Oct. 3 – Welcome to the Neighborhood
Dec. 8 – Jets vs. Dolphins football game and tailgate

PHILADELPHIA
September TBD – Welcome to the Neighborhood happy hour
Nov. 23 – UD vs. Villanova football tailgate

PHOENIX
October TBD – Old Town Scottsdale segway tour

PITTSBURGH
Sept. 28 – UD vs. Pittsburgh football tailgate

RALEIGH-DURHAM
Oct. 12 – UD vs. Elon football tailgate

RICHMOND
Dec. 5 – GardenFest for Fidos at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

SAN DIEGO
Sept. 21 – San Salvador sunset cruise on San Diego Harbor
October TBD – Welcome to the Neighborhood

SOUTH CENTRAL, PA
Oct. 12 – UD vs. Elon football watch party

SOUTH FLORIDA
Nov. 3 – Dolphins vs. Jets football game and tailgate

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Sept. 10 – Welcome to the Neighborhood
December TBD – Holiday Party

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1950s


Ed Howell, EG58, of New Holland, Pa., has retired after a 50-year career designing farm equipment and is now enjoying jaunts to Florida.

1960s

John Williamson, EG65, of Beavercreek, Ohio, has coauthored a book with Bill Collison entitled The Earliest Settlers of Northwest Sussex County, Delaware and Their Lands (1673–1800).

David W. Wolfe, EHD67M, of Brick, N.J., will retire from the New Jersey Assembly in early 2020 to spend more time with family.

Noëlle Sickels, AS68, of Los Angeles, has published a nonfiction ebook called Searching for Armando, about her mother and two fathers.


1970s

Alan G. Steinle, EG70, of Wilmington, Del., has been named 2019 Engineer of the Year by the Delaware Engineering Society.

Russ Smith, AS71, of New Castle, Del., has been elected to City Council.

Gary G. Brannigan, AS73PhD, of Plattsburgh, N.Y., has retired after 45 years of service, research and teaching at the State University of New York-Plattsburgh. Brannigan, who retired as a professor of psychology, was a member of the first class of clinical psychology students at UD.

Kevin Gross, AS74, of Wilmington, Del., will retire early next year as judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, ending 14 years of service, including three years as chief judge.

James J. McGann, BE74, of Neptune, N.J., is now a judge in the Criminal Division of the New Jersey Court System.


Janine Greenberg Dunn, AS75, of Gales Ferry, Conn., has been promoted to chief human resources officer for the Thames Valley Council for Community Action, a social services nonprofit in Norwich, Conn.

John F. Dovidio, AS76M, 77PhD, of Coventry, Conn., presented the IBM Endowed Lecture in the Sciences at Wittenberg University.

Susan Glynn Robinson, EHD76, of Hockessin, Del., has published a new children’s picture book, When Poke Woke, about a hedgehog who learns that being a friend also means being true to himself.

Jennifer Enright-Ford, AS77, of Oconomowoc, Wis., has received the Key Recognition Award from West Bend Mutual for work on exoskeletons for spinal injury patients. She works as a rehabilitation nurse case manager for catastrophic work injuries at West Bend Mutual/Argent.

Mary Means, AS77, of Silver Spring, Md., has received the Planning Pioneers Award from the American Planning Association. Means is founder of the original Main Street Program at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Paul W. Meyer, ANR77M, of Philadelphia, has retired after 28 years as executive director of the Morris Arboretum in Chestnut Hill, Pa.

Joe Susan Jr., AS78, HS82M, of Lewisburg, Pa., has resigned as Bucknell University football coach after nine years and a 38-61 record with the Bisons. He was a standout offensive lineman for the Blue Hens from 1973–76.

1980s

Daniel J. Curran, AS80PhD, of Philadelphia, has had a building named after him by the University of Dayton for his service as university president from 2002–2016.

Wendy Greenley, AS80, 83M, of Blue Bell, Pa., has published a book for children, Lola Shapes the Sky, which follows the adventures of a playful cloud.

Ann L. Martino Frazier, AS82, of Pennsville, N.J., has been named partner at the Gawthrop Greenwood law firm.

Eric Declercq, EOE84, of New York City, has been named president of Weichert Financial Services.

Chris (Davis) LaFontaine, AS86, of Ashland, Mass., has been named head of Internal and Executive Communications at Waters Corp. in Milford, Mass., a specialty measurement company.

Martin Abraham, EG87PhD, of Youngstown, Ohio, has been named provost and academic vice president at Western Illinois University. He had been a professor of civil/environmental and chemical engineering and provost at Youngstown State University.

Karen Aniunas, AS88, EHD92M, has been named associate provost and chief of staff in the University of Delaware’s Office of the Provost.

Kevin Donahue, AS88, of Newtown, Pa., has been named managing editor of the Philadelphia Business Journal. He was senior managing editor for Men’s Health magazine for nine years.
Marie Holliday, AS88, of Newark, Del., has been elected to the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Governors. Holliday is managing director of Cover & Rossiter, P.A.

Jeff Lavallee, AS88, of Springfield, Va., has been promoted to Airbus A320 captain with American Airlines. He is a retired USAF pilot and husband of Nancy Phillips Lavallee, AS89.

Paula R. Glover, BE89, has been appointed to the Board of Directors at Groundswell, which works to develop community solar projects.

Brig. Gen. Michael Berry, AS89, of Georgetown, Del., has taken command of the Delaware National Guard. In the role, he serves as the governor’s chief military adviser.

Michelle Visser, AS91, of Gilmanton Iron Works, N.H., has published her first book, Sweet Maple (Lyons Press), an “instructional book for anyone who yearns to delve into the magic of backyard sugarmaking.”

Glen Weiss, AS91, of Livingston, N.J., has been named an executive vice president and co-head of real estate at Vornado Realty Trust. Weiss is also active in UD’s NYC Alumni Group and UD Athletics.

Christopher Williams, EG91, of Chester Springs, Pa., has been elected to the board of directors and appointed as a principal of McMahon Associates, a transportation engineering and planning firm, where he is also vice president and mid-Atlantic regional manager.

Mary O’Brien Sowers, AS92, of Severn, Md., has been named the executive director of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services.

Daniel Barbato, EG93, of Wilmington, Del., has been named office director of Pennoni Engineering’s Newark, Del., office.

Ted Boone, BE93, 95M, of College Station, Texas, has published a young-adult science fiction novel called Langford’s Leap. Boone is a technology lecturer at Mays Business School at Texas A&M.

Angela White, AS93, of Los Angeles, has produced a film called A Question of Faith, which explores organ donation in families struck by tragedy.

William (Bill) Herrington, AS94, of Vero Beach, Fla., was promoted to the rank of captain with the training division of Indian River County Fire Rescue.

Beth Howell, EHD94, of Townsend, Del., has published Dear Mrs. Magootie, a collection of fictional notes from parents to the principal. Howell is an elementary school principal.

Jennifer R. Lyall, AS95, of Elkton, Md., has been named public information officer for Cecil County, Md., government. She is the first PIO in Cecil County since the county was established in 1674.

Andrew Hill, BE96, 97M, 03PhD, of Philadelphia, has been promoted to economic education officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

Joseph Jones, AS96, EHD07PhD, of Newark, Del., has been named superintendent of New Castle County Vo-Tech School District in Delaware.

Jonathan Kingery, AS96, of Fair Haven, N.J., has been named head of
Eric Morrison, AS96, of Newark, Del., is running as a Democratic candidate for state representative in Delaware’s 27th District.

Karen Avino, HS97, of Wilmington, Del., has been elected to the board of the American Holistic Nurses Association.

Patrick Fitzgerald, EG98, of Daniel Island, S.C., is serving as department head for enterprise systems for the Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic in Charleston, S.C.

Dorrell Green, EHD98, 04M, of Wilmington, Del., has been named superintendent of Red Clay Consolidated School District. Green is a former Blue Hen football standout.


Alison Widdoes, AS99, of Los Angeles, has been promoted to director of franchise management for Disney Princess and Frozen, Disney Consumer Products and Commercialization, at Disney Parks, Experiences and Products.

2000s

James Lease, EG00, of Harrisburg, Pa., has begun serving as pastor of Saint Catherine Laboure Parish in Harrisburg.

Tim Filasky, ANR01, of Newark, Del., has been named director of public works and water resources for the city of Newark.

Charles “C.R.” McLeod, AS01, and Brooke McLeod, AS02, of Wilmington, Del., welcomed Josephine Brooke McLeod on May 7, 2018. Josie is the fifth baby Blue Hen in the McLeod family, joining Charlotte, Henry, Georgia, and Peter.

Eric Townsend, AS01, of Greensboro, N.C., has received the College News Association of the Carolinas’ 2019 H. Lewis Gaston Award for outstanding service to CNAC and accomplishments in public relations in higher education.


Kenneth Byrd, EG03, and Emerald Christopher-Byrd, AS04 (an assistant professor at UD), welcomed “future Blue Hen” Dorian Xavier Byrd on Aug. 20, 2018.

Molly Chorman, BE03, of Milford, Del., has been named Teacher of the Year for Milford High School.

Amy Rubens, AS03, of Christiansburg, Va., has been named Radford University’s inaugural Presidential Fellow. Rubens is an associate professor of English at the Radford, Va., school.

Elizabeth Scala, AS03, of Jarrettsville, Md., has been named president of the American Holistic Nurses Association.

Richard Weaver, AS03, 11M, of Elkton, Md., has been named 2019 Teacher of the Year at A.I. duPont High School, where he is director of bands.


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Josephine Brooke McLeod

Dorian Xavier Byrd

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Diana Lynn Riffert, with big sister Danielle Zoe

Elizabeth Lowe, AS05, of Walpole, Mass., has been elected to the board of directors at Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage. Lowe, president of Customer House Risk Advisors, is the company’s first female board member.

Laura Mattey Szczepanski, EHD05, of Wilmington, was chosen to produce the Miss Delaware Pageant this June at Cape Henlopen High School Theater. She is an event marketing manager at SEMrush.

Ethan Robinson, ANR06, of Newark, Del., has been promoted to deputy director of the city of Newark after serving nearly 22 months in the acting role.

Joshua Shaver, BE07, of Newark, Del., has been named senior partner with Diamond State Financial Group.

Jeremy Tan, AS07, of Edmond, Okla., started as oculoplastic surgeon at Oklahoma’s Dean McGee Eye Institute in Oklahoma City.

Lucas Daniel Fine, AS08, and Emily Helen (Sparer) Fine, of Cambridge, Mass., were married Sept. 29, 2018.

Brian Reece, AS08, EHD10M, of Clinton, New York, has published Debunking the Myth of Job Fit in Higher Education and Student Affairs, which examines hiring practices in higher education through a social justice lens.

Karen Rege, EHD08PhD, of Wilmington, Del., has been named the inaugural dean of Teaching, Learning and Innovation at Harford Community College.

Aliza Greenblatt, EG09, AS09, of West Chester, Pa., had a short story nominated for this year’s Nebula Awards, a major sci-fi writing competition.

Christine (Garcia) Thames, HS09, and Taylor Thames (along with big brother Chase), of Cincinnati, welcomed baby Crew Alexander Thames on Nov. 30, 2018.

Mustafa Yücel, EOE09, of Izmir, Turkey, has received the Distinguished Young Scientist Award from the Turkish Academy of Sciences, the first oceanographer to receive the award since its inception in 2001.

2010s

Courtney (Donegan) Cecchini, BE11, and Kevin Cecchini, BE10, of Manhattan, were married on March 2, 2019.
Nicolas Jenner, HS10, of Wilmington, Del., has graduated from Widener Law School and started working for Landis Rath & Cobb LLP, a law firm in Wilmington, Del.

Stephanie Lampkin, AS10M, 16PhD, of Philadelphia, has been named director of the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage, located within the Delaware History Museum.

Evan Kory, AS11, of Saddle Ridge, N.J., is now senior director at Audible Inc., after serving as senior vice president of strategy at Zenith.

Caitie Layton, AS11, of Elkton, Md., has been named 2020 Teacher of the Year at Middletown’s Silver Lake Elementary School. She is a general music teacher.

Evan Kory, AS11, of Saddle Ridge, N.J., is now senior director at Audible Inc., after serving as senior vice president of strategy at Zenith.

Erin Kathleen Seims, AS11, of Northport, N.Y., and Charles Alfonso Anderson, AS11, of Parsippany, N.J., were married on June 30, 2018 in Northport.

Lori Michelle Altabet, EHD12, and Jonathan Abraham Miller, BE12, of Vorhees, N.J., were married April 27, 2019. They met as students at UD.

Nora Elizabeth Kelly, AS12, and Douglas William Lee, BE11, of Washington, D.C., were married Dec. 8, 2018.

Jennifer LoDico, ANR13, and Andre Fatovic, BE12, of Ridgewood, N.J., were married Oct. 13, 2018. About 40 Blue Hens attended the wedding.

Brian Fenderson, AS17, of Hillside, N.J., has received his first singing contract with the Metropolitan Opera, joining the Associate Chorus Roster as a baritone for the 2019–2020 season. He will be in the chorus of the Met’s new production of “Porgy and Bess,” which opens Sept. 23.

Robert Ryan Lee, BE17, of West Chester, Pa., has become a licensed CPA while working as an auditor for Ernst & Young.

Meredith Herbert, HS14, of Atlanta, Ga., and 1st Lt. Jordan Spear of Chicago were married on Nov. 10, 2018.

Ian Passmore, AS14M, has been named by the Omaha Symphony as its associate conductor, beginning in the 2019–20 season. He is currently the symphony’s assistant conductor.

William Rehrig, EG15, of Middletown, Del., was first among Delaware finishers at the 123rd annual Boston Marathon. His time was 2:47:49, 834th overall.

Four UD graduates have received the Excellence in Education Awards at New York’s Success Academy Charter School: Cori Breindel, EHD17, of New York, N.Y.; Alexis Holzmann, AS17, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; Carleigh Antico EHD18, of Somerville, N.J.; and Kelsey Shallow, EHD18, of New York.

Jolisa Copeman, EOE17, BE18M, of Middletown, Del., was crowned Miss Delaware USA.

Jocelyn Cooke, EHD17, of Danville, Calif., is spending 10 months as an Augustinian Volunteer, a group of recent college graduates who commit to serving others.

Comfortably UD.

Share your alma mater with colleagues or association members.

If you’re planning a conference or meeting, consider coming back for a new twist on being on campus. Alumni have been returning to UD and relying on Conference Services for more than 20 years to ensure their meetings and events are top-notch. Plus, it’s just fun to share your memories.

At the center of our services is Clayton Conference Center, where you can fill the auditorium with a large association group, host spectacular lunch events in the ballroom, or have a more casual networking event in the lobby. Plus, right next door is our own Courtyard by Marriott hotel making multi-day meetings a no-brainer. Visit us on-line or connect with a personal event manager directly — we’re always here.

About 40 Blue Hens attended the wedding of Jennifer LoDico, ANR13, and Andre Fatovic, BE12.
ALUMNI AWARDS

The end of the 2018–19 school year was a time for honoring some of the many alumni who ensure UD’s impact is felt around the globe. Here are some of this year’s highlights.

EMALEA PUSEY WARNER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SENIOR WOMAN

Bailey A. Weatherbee, AS19, Honors student and biological sciences major with minors in political science, writing and biochemistry and 2019 Gates Cambridge Scholar

ALEXANDER J. TAYLOR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SENIOR MAN

Nicholas J. Konzelman, AS19, BE19, AS19M, Honors student and public policy and economics double major who also earned a Master of Public Administration

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS

Traci S. Boddy, BE01, and John F. Knarr, HS77, HS81M, AS90. Boddy led the charge during I Heart UD Giving Day to grow an endowed scholarship fund started by the Black Alumni Organization. Knarr consistently employs Blue Hens at the Elite PT physical therapy clinics he runs in Delaware, Baltimore and Pennsylvania.

ALUMNI WALL OF FAME AWARDS

Mark P. Bendett, EG81M, EG85PhD, led a team that developed a laser used to manufacture smartphone screens and was instrumental in the development of a process that improved LASIK eye surgery.

Carol Van Dyke Freer, AS68, spent her career advancing medicine, including stints as an associate professor of medicine at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, chief medical officer at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, health officer for her hometown of Hanover, Pa., and medical director for Hanover’s Visiting Nurse Association.

Kirk D. Malloy, EOE90M, EOE93PhD, is the founder of BioAdvisors LLC, which provides strategic consulting services to life science, diagnostics and genomics companies and their investors. He previously served as founder and CEO of Verogen, a developer and provider of next-generation sequencing technologies.

2019 ATHLETICS’ HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Dorrell Green, EHD98, 04M (football, 1994–97). One of the finest defensive backs ever to suit up for the Blue Hens, this team leader helped lift the Hens to three NCAA Tournament appearances. In his 50 games, he collected 350 tackles (No. 4 all-time at UD), intercepted 18 passes (No. 2), broke up 24 passes (No. 7), and forced five fumbles (No. 2).

Casey Howard, EHD10 (field hockey, 2005–09). One of the most prolific scorers in UD field hockey history, Howard set numerous records and led the team to a 14–6 record, the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament title, and a berth in the NCAA Tournament as a senior in 2009.

Sylvester “Vest” Johnson, BE75 (operations and sales, 1960–64). Best known for his offensive prowess in lacrosse, Hayler graduated as the Blue Hens’ all-time leading goal-scorer with 128—a record that stood for 22 years.

Dawn Mayers, AS85 (women’s swimming, 1980–83). Mayers was a six-time All-American during the dominant years of UD women’s swimming in the early 1980s, setting a host of school records and helping to lead the Blue Hens to a record of 35-1.

Scott Waibel, ANR80 (baseball, 1977–80). Waibel earned national recognition for his performance on the field and in the classroom, leading the Hens to a record of 136-62, three NCAA Regional appearances and two ECC titles.

NEW ALUMNI CIRCLE TO HONOR PAST HONOREES

Last fall, the UD Alumni Association (UDAA) committed more than $1 million to build the Alumni Circle, a formal space to recognize past recipients of UDAA’s highest honors, including the Alumni Wall of Fame Award, Outstanding Alumni Award and the Warner and Taylor Awards for Outstanding Seniors.

Alumni Circle will also include a brief history of the UDAA along with past presidents and room for future presidents until the year 2100. “I am proud that the University and the UDAA are collaborating to create an environment on campus to recognize generations of alumni and students who have left an indelible mark on the University and world,” says current UDAA President Linda Myrick, EG77. “It’s a circle to represent the lifelong, never-ending relationship we hope all Blue Hens have with UD.”

The formal unveiling is planned for Homecoming Weekend, just outside of Jastak-Burgess Hall, near the Little Bob. The funding of this project was made possible primarily through the association’s affinity partnerships with companies like MBNA, Bank of America, Liberty Mutual and Nationwide. Please direct any questions to alumni-association@udel.edu.
“The University of Delaware gives me the opportunity to conduct impactful research in partnership with talented students. Thanks to the generosity of contributors, we have access to innovative equipment and resources to explore the ocean ecosystems, shedding light on how climate is affecting marine life from one-celled plants to penguins to sand tiger sharks. The discoveries we’re making will not only help us understand, but also conserve the oceans. That’s why I put Delaware first.”

—Dr. Matt Oliver, associate professor of oceanography, Patricia & Charles Robertson Professor of Marine Science & Policy

Dr. Oliver’s research, focused on how the physical patterns in the ocean impact polar and coastal ecosystems and more, is advanced by philanthropic support—including an endowed professorship established by Patricia and Charles Robertson in 2015. He oversees the Ocean Exploration, Remote Sensing and Biogeography Laboratory (ORB Lab), which researches solutions to visualize, understand and reduce negative human influence on ocean ecosystems. Dr. Oliver is one of the inaugural members of the Robotic Discovery Laboratories, which uses innovative underwater robotics to explore and understand the depths of the ocean and collect data to help create solutions in ocean conservation.
ENTREPRENEURIAL SPOTLIGHT

Updates from Blue Hen creators, innovators and entrepreneurs

Charlie Horn, AS75, of Marana, Ariz., was given the 2019 Pete du Pont Freedom Award, which celebrates an individual whose ideas have led to economic growth or innovation in the private sector.

Lorenzo C. Nicastro, ANR87, 92M, of Langhorne, Pa., and his wife have launched the LoMa Naturals Beauty Repair line, which uses collagen peptides to diminish the effects of aging.

Michael Halfon, BE91, of New York City, has been promoted to senior vice president and private client adviser with JPMorgan Chase, where he manages more than $400 million in client assets.

Rick Monnig, BE91, of Hockessin, Del., co-founder of TechSolutions Inc., will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the company in December.

Tomas Gordon, BE96, of Wilmington, Del., the CEO of ClearOne Advantage, plans to nearly double his work force to 800 by year’s end.

Michelle Wyatt, EG96, and Peter Wyatt, EG96, of Forest Hill, Md., have had the company they co-founded, CadmiumCD, named to the 2018 Deloitte Technology Fast 500 and Inc. 500.

Adriana (Castro) Lee, BE97, of Wake Forest, N.C., has founded Optimia Consulting, devoted to helping organizations in the Greater Raleigh Area.

Stephen Hoops, BE98, of Newark, Del., and Dee Ridgeway, BE98, of Bear, Del., have been honored with UD’s 17843 award for their company, Predictive Analytics Group and GOBLIN Technologies.

Vess Bakalov, EG99, secured more than $2.5 million in funding for his startup Pliant.io, a workflow automation platform.

Pat Riley, AS06, of Denver, Colo., CEO of Global Accelerator Network, launched a worldwide network of supporting startup studios and has reached a milestone of investing in 25 startups.

Shaun Savage, AS06, of San Diego, Calif., founder of GoShare, is a semi-finalist for the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Alex Sobol, AS07, of Hoboken, N.J., is celebrating the fifth anniversary of the company he co-founded, The Millennium Alliance.

Mark Gastron, BE08, of Los Angeles, co-founder of Iconic, a worldwide art-print seller, recently launched a line featuring Elvis Presley.

Michelle Askin Trinna, AS10, and Kaylyn Minix Beaston, BE09, of Newark, Del., were honored by Stationary Trends and Gift Shop Magazine as 40-under-40 superstars. They are co-founders of Bloom Daily Planners.

Nick Delmonico, BE12, founder of medtech startup Strados Labs, is set to hire after raising $18 million in funding.

Julia Brogle, EG13, of Burbank, Calif., has founded BrogieBox, a subscription box for mental health and stress relief.

Jordan Sack, BE14, of New York, N.Y., and Tillinger, a golf apparel company he founded, were featured in Golf Magazine in May.

Kael Smith, AS15, of Annapolis, Md., received the “Best New Product of the Year” honor at the 65th annual PGA Merchandise Show for her custom artistic prints that can be replicated on apparel and accessories.

Alex Patting, AS16, of Columbia, Md., has started The Hustling Creative, which works to help young artists find success.

Garry Johnson, HS17, BE18, founder of KnowCapp, won the 2019 Noir Tank, a competition for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Have you launched a new product, company or social venture? Reached a business milestone? If so, email us at magazine@udel.edu.

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IN Memoriam

Evelyn E. Ingham, AS39, of Glassboro, N.J., Jan. 5, 2019
Mary Alice Hepbron Colman, AS40, of Hockessin, Del., Feb. 11, 2019
Rebecca Abel Willey, AS40, of Wilmington, Del., March 29, 2019
Rebecca Pool Button, AS43, 75, of Hockessin, Del., April 26, 2019
Elizabeth Bache Shwal, AS43, of New York, N.Y., Oct. 17, 2018
George A. Traika, AS44, of Amsterdam, N.Y., May 14, 2019
Robert G. Clifton, EG45, of Bear, Del., Feb. 12, 2019
Christine Dorsey Abram, AS48, of Kennett Square, Pa., Feb. 24, 2019
Pauline McCabe Higgins, EHD48, of Seaford, Del., March 28, 2019
Joseph S. Chirtel, EG49M, of Osprey, Fla., Jan. 11, 2019
Edward W. DeKnight, EG49, of Silver Spring, Md., March 9, 2019
Donn D. Devine, AS49, of Wilmington, Del., May 5, 2019
Robert R. Dukes, EG50, of Crossville, Tenn., Feb. 7, 2019
George E. Glynn Jr., EHD50, 65M, of Hockessin, Del., Jan. 25, 2019
Howard B. Hitchens Jr., HS50, of Ocean View, Del., Jan. 21, 2019
Edward H. Horney, HS50, EHD69M, of Milford, Del., March 15, 2019
Bruce A. Samson, EG50, of Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 22, 2019

Robert E. Stabler, EG50, of San Gabriel, Calif., Jan. 9, 2019
William H. Brady Jr., AS51, of Elkton, Md., May 10, 2019
Robert H. Irwin, EG51, of Wilmington, Del., May 28, 2019
George H. Kumler, EG51, of Greenville, S.C., May 12, 2019
Elizabeth Lynch Lavalle, AS51, of Wilmington, Del., Jan. 26, 2019
John W. Walton, EG51, of South Glastonbury, Conn., April 28, 2019
Elizabeth Lindell Herb, AS52, of Branchville, N.J., Jan. 20, 2019
Robert E. Baynard, ANR53, 57M, of Raleigh, N.C., Jan. 22, 2019
Richard E. Berl, BE53, of Hockessin, Del., Jan. 12, 2019
Shirley King Brinker, AS53, of Southern Pines, N.C., March 11, 2019
Harry P. Croney Jr., BE53, of Wilmington, Del., March 18, 2019
Olive Stewart Mayfield, EHD53M, of Wilmington, Del., Jan. 15, 2019
Homer W. Minus, AS53, of Felton, Del., Sept. 28, 2018
Harold M. Prettyman Jr., AS53, of Waynesboro, Va., Apr. 11, 2019
Sidney L. Ronis, ANR53, of Vineland, N.J., Apr. 2, 2019
Barry S. Seidel, EG53, of Newark, Del., Jan. 14, 2019
Marguerite Grant Strous, EH5D3, of Glen Mills, Pa., Apr. 20, 2019
Charles de Brabander, AS54, of Easton, Pa., Feb. 14, 2019
Anthony J. DiMaio, AS54, of Clayton, Del., Jan. 13, 2019
Richard E. Ludwig, AS54M, 56PhD, of Newtown Square, Pa., Feb. 7, 2019
Edmond B. Stout, ANR54, of Newark, Del., March 27, 2019
Dana Lamb Tillson, EH5D4, of San Diego, Calif., Feb. 3, 2019
Doris Anne Davis Westfield, AS54, of Tulsa, Okla., March 27, 2019
Theodore C. Zutz, BE54, of Glen Mills, Pa., Apr. 8, 2019
John C. Grant III, BE55, of Hockessin, Del., March 18, 2019
John J. Hemphill, AS55, of Wilmington, Del., April 25, 2019
Raymond T. Hoopes, EG55, of Clearwater, Fla., Dec. 27, 2018
Francis Knowles Jr., EG55M, of Ponte Vedra, Fla., March 30, 2019
David H. Woodward, ANR55, of Middletown, Del., April 21, 2019
Joan Bockius Catts, EHD56, of Silver Spring, Md., April 1, 2019
Elise Wise Snowberger, AS56, of Louisville, Ky., Dec. 10, 2018
Alice Simon Strimple, AS56, of Elk Grove, Calif., Feb. 19, 2019
Arthur M. Thomas Jr., EG56M, of Florham Park, N.J., May 16, 2019
Frank L. Calhoun, AS57, of Crozet, Va., Feb. 2, 2019
E. Woodward McKenna, AS57, of Bear, Del., May 28, 2019
George T. Patterson, AS57, of Rehoboth Beach, Del., Jan. 24, 2019
James C. Cercy, EG58, of Cary, N.C., Jan. 23, 2019
Donald W. Chandler, BE58M, of Woodbridge, Va., Jan. 6, 2019
John G. Mundy, AS58, of Southbury, Conn., Dec. 10, 2018
Joan Stephens Shelton, AS58, of North Port, Fla., Apr. 7, 2019
Mary Billingsley Slattery, EHD58, of Rehoboth Beach, Del., April 7, 2019
Richard F. Annand, ANR59, of Yardley, Pa., April 4, 2019
Ronald W. Knisley, EH62, AS67M, of Pittsboro, N.C., May 20, 2019
Sally Smith Lambert, EH62, of Abingdon, Md., Jan. 17, 2019
Andrew L. Miller, BE62, of Wilmington, Del., April 17, 2019
Larry J. Vodvarka, AS62, of New Castle, Del., Jan. 30, 2019
Robert L. Cornwell, EG63, of Grand Haven, Mich., April 24, 2019

CORRECTIONS

In an unfortunate case of mistaken identity, the following living alumni were incorrectly listed in the obituaries of the last magazine: Susan Tighe Taylor, AS81, of Wilmington, Del.; John A. Rolka, ANR87, of Dalton, Pa.; and Joe P. Gibbons Jr., EO80, of Diamondhead, Miss.

The Magazine deeply regrets this error and has since strengthened and updated its recording process. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to dar-comm@udel.edu.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Carl Dawson, professor emeritus of English, April 7, 2019
Russell R. Dynes, an early pioneer in disaster research and co-founder of UD’s Disaster Research Center, Feb. 10, 2019
Marie J. Fernsler, HS74M, professor emerita of nursing, Feb. 17, 2019
William R. “Bill” Fleischman, an adjunct professor of journalism for nearly three decades, May 1, 2019
Francisco-Javier Sayas Gonzalez, professor of mathematical sciences, April 2, 2019
Gary A. Pennington, retired electrical manager, June 16, 2009
Henry T. Reynolds, professor emeritus of political science, June 9, 2019
Frank R. Scarpitti, professor emeritus of industrial and operations engineering, recipient of UD’s highest faculty honor, the Francis Alison Award, Feb. 28, 2019
Arthur Sloane, professor emeritus of industrial and operations engineering, recipient of UD’s highest faculty honor, the Francis Alison Award, June 3, 2019
Sarah Helwig Jeffrey, EHD63, of Wilmington, Del., May 16, 2019
Charles F. McKinley, AS63, of Landenberg, Pa., Jan. 13, 2019
Ralph S. Kurland, EG63, of Houston, Texas, Nov. 8, 2016
Mary M. Whitworth, AS63, of Milton, Vt., April 26, 2019
Patricia Halloran Granati, AS64, of Winchester, Ill., July 18, 2018
Ronald H. Rust, EG64, 65M, of Wilmington, Del., March 3, 2019
Kantilal K. Surti, EG64M, of Woodbridge, Conn., Feb. 6, 2019
Verna M. Yeoman, EHD64, 66M, of New Castle, Del., April 17, 2019
Barbara Connolly, AS65, of Pacific Grove, Calif., April 15, 2019
M. Russell French, BE65, of Milford, Del., Jan. 23, 2019
Wescomb R. Jones Jr., BE65M, of Wilmington, Del., April 1, 2019
Allan W. Larsen, AS65M, of Grove City, Pa., May 4, 2019
Mabel Failes Madden, EHD65M, of Seaford, Del., May 4, 2019
Dawn Feeser Mulholland, AS65, of Cypress, Texas, March 4, 2019
Carl D. Price, EG65, of Vancouver, Wash., Oct. 21, 2018
Elizabeth Hackland Walsh, AS65, of Organ, N.M., March 11, 2019
Henry W. Koenig Jr., EHD66M, of West Chester, Pa., March 5, 2019
Edward W. Hodges, BE67M, of Newark, Del., April 20, 2019
Diane Swain Jones, EHD67, of Sarasota, Fla., June 12, 2018
Bruce B. Kitchin, EG67, of Lewes, Del., March 7, 2019
Sam I. Masso, AS67, of Hockessin, Del., April 4, 2019
Edward A. Crumrine, AS68M, of York, Pa., April 15, 2019
Thaddeus F. Gora Jr., AS68PhD, of Kinnelon, N.J., April 1, 2019
Michele Regetz Helmuth, HS68, of Saratoga, Calif., March 9, 2019
Lois Conaway Howlett, EHD69, of Bethany Beach, Del., March 7, 2019
Roger K. Malcolmson, EG69, of Palm Coast, Fla., March 16, 2019
Charles P. Pinto, HS69, of Center Valley, Pa., March 28, 2019
Frederick A. Welbe, BE69, of Wilmington, Del., Jan. 11, 2019
Richard G. Mcmahon, EG70, of North Potomac, Md., Feb. 22, 2019
James C. Orth, AS70, of Rehoboth Beach, Del., April 14, 2019
Kurt A. Rodriguez, AS71, of New Castle, Del., July 10, 2018
Lois Lawson Zabel, EHD71M, of Wilmington, Del., Feb. 21, 2019
Patrice Scannell Buchanan, EHD72, of Bear, Del., May 4, 2019
Denis A. Curran, AS72, EHD75M, of Hockessin, Del., March 13, 2019
Philip J. Hessler, AS72, EHD77M, of Elkton, Md., May 10, 2019
Thomas M. Hickey, AS72PhD, of North Chesterfield, Va., March 11, 2019
Noomi Rudman Klein, EHD72M, of Wilmington, Del., Feb. 16, 2019
Juanita Johnson Quint, EHD72, 75M, of Naples, Fla., Jan. 16, 2019
Dorothy Voorhees Taylor, AS72M, of Fairfield, Calif., Jan. 31, 2019
Warren Bowman, BE73M, of Wilmington, Del., Feb. 18, 2019
Michael W. Chadwick, AS73, of Ocean View, Del., Jan. 29, 2019
Linda Matheny Dougherty, EHD73, of Glenmore, Pa., May 28, 2019
William L. Easterling Sr., BE73M, of Columbia, S.C., May 21, 2019
Lawrence Washington, AS73, of Flat Rock, Mich., April 14, 2019
Michael P. Reynolds, AS74, of Smyrna, Del., March 27, 2019
Michael L. Graybeal, AS75, of Evans, Ga., Feb. 6, 2019
James P. Hobs, EHD75, of Seymour, Tenn., March 22, 2019
Frank J. Larry Jr., AS75, of Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 11, 2019
Thomas V. McAvoy, BE75, of Wharton, N.J., May 23, 2019
Robert A. Schweizer, AS75, of Media, Pa., May 26, 2019
James M. Thompson, AS75PhD, of Huntsville, Ala., Jan. 29, 2019
Bruce Batten, EG76, of Poway, Calif., Feb. 6, 2019
Paul H. Deutula, AS76, of New Castle, Del., May 19, 2019
Brian N. Hanson, AS76, of Brattleboro, Vt., Feb. 6, 2019
Charles Harwell III, EG76, of Warwick, R.I., Nov. 27, 2018
Marcine Schwartz Hurka, HS76, of Wilmington, Del., April 21, 2019
Carol Elliott Jackson, ANR76, of Orange Park, Fla., May 18, 2019
John T. Ottinger Jr., AS76, of Melbourne Beach, Fla., April 1, 2019
M. Alicia Arizin, AS77, of West Chester, Pa., Feb. 4, 2019
Susan Meade Beachell, AS77, of Hockessin, Del., May 27, 2019
Robert E. Buttle, EG77, of Severna Park, Md., April 17, 2019
Mary Myers Dunlap, HS77, of Fort Myers, Fla., Feb. 22, 2019
Elizabeth A. Gentieu, BE78, of Andover, N.J., May 29, 2019
Mary Jean Mangold Henderson, EHD78, of Newark, Del., Feb. 7, 2019
Charalane M. Hoxter, AS78, of Bear, Del., Jan. 23, 2019
Michael J. Iskra, BE78M, of Naples, Fla., March 3, 2019
Michael C. Kane, AS78, of Culver City, Calif., Dec. 4, 2018
Carol A. Trasatto, AS78, of Olympia, Wash., March 24, 2019
Mary Ellen Paturzo Voorhees, AS78, of Baltimore, Md., Jan. 16, 2019
David S. Hicks, BE79, of Norristown, Pa., March 13, 2019
Barbara A. Holland, AS79, EHD81M, of Cape Coral, Fla., April 9, 2019
William A. Marsh, BE79, of Philadelphia, Pa., April 21, 2019
Linda J. Proskow, AS79, of Wilmington, Del., March 10, 2019
Ronelle Mahler Vivona, EHD79, 80M, of Oceanport, N.J., April 18, 2019
Edison G. Wingate, ANR79, of Memphis, Tenn., March 21, 2019
Barbara Stoffels Lubin, HS80, 87M, of Bridgeton, N.J., May 20, 2019
Ronald P. Beaver, EO681, of Mount Laurel, N.J., March 9, 2019

BURNABY MUNSON

Burnaby Munson, retired chemistry professor, award-winning researcher and venerated Honors Program director who taught tens of thousands of UD students over more than 50 years, passed away June 23. He was 86. A memorial service in his honor will be held on Friday, Oct. 4, at 4 p.m. in Mitchell Hall.

Dr. Munson joined the UD faculty in 1967 and retired in 2018 as the C. Eugene Bennett Chair of Chemistry. Earlier this summer, he received an honorary doctor of science degree at the University’s 170th Commencement ceremony.

The citation in his honor noted, “During your five decades of teaching, you taught more than 46,000 students and oversaw some 8,000 class sessions. Your influence on generations of UD students is unparalleled. And, of course, we must also mention your Wednesday night study breaks, an appetizing spread of snacks that you’ve been providing weekly to hard-working and grateful students since 1979.”

An analytical and physical chemist, Dr. Munson’s research focused on mass spectrometry, and his research was cited by the 2002 Nobel committee. At the University, he taught in the Honors Program from 1976 until his retirement in 2017 and also served on its advisory board in the 1970s and ’80s. Upper-division students who live in first-year Honors housing and serve as mentors assisting with academic and social questions and problems are known as Munson Fellows in his honor.

Upon his retirement, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry held a special colloquium paying tribute to Dr. Munson. Writing in the Blue Hen Chemist newsletter, colleague Cecil Dybowski, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, said Dr. Munson “leaves behind a legacy of educational excellence and a cadre of students, both undergraduate and graduate, who have, through coaxing, cajoling, threatening and patience, developed an appreciation for chemistry and its place in the world.”
James G. Berlin, AS81, of Landenberg, Pa., March 9, 2019
Mark R. Gillotti, BE81, 83M, of Lake Mary, Fla., April 2, 2019
Lewis D. Lawton, EHD81, of Wilmington, Del., March 19, 2019
John C. Weinfeldt, EG83, of West Caldwell, N.J., Jan. 8, 2019
Louis H. Riina, AS84, of Babylon, N.Y., April 6, 2019
Gail Maclary Chickersky, BE86M, of Newark, Del., May 1, 2019
Gary D. Chastain, AS88, of Bear, Del., March 1, 2019
Cynthia Moir Piazza, EHD88, of Chesterfield, Va., Oct. 31, 2018
Colleen Duffy Brickley, AS91, of Annapolis, Md., Jan. 20, 2019
Jonathan M. Shepard, HS93M, of Omaha, Neb., Aug. 27, 2016
Melissa S. Hunt, AS95, of Stevens, Pa., Feb. 4, 2019
Michael T. Kerrigan, BE97M, of Newark, Del., May 23, 2019
Peter L. Osgood, AS97, of Thornton, Pa., Feb. 13, 2019
Jennifer E. Fanny, AS98, of Wilmington, Del., Feb. 22, 2019
Marcia Bendar Crump, HS01, of Ocala, Fla., April 12, 2019
Matthew M. Haymond, BE01, of Neptune, N.J., April 14, 2019
Kate J. Hurst, EOE02, of Arlington, Va., Jan. 28, 2019
Casey S. Grabowski, EG03, of Wilmington, Del., Jan. 17, 2019
Katherine E. Zuzack, AS03, of Piscataway, N.J., Jan. 27, 2019
Kerrie Sloniewski Glembocki, AS04, of Wilmington, Del., Feb. 8, 2019
Carre E. Abrams, BE08, of Newton, N.J., Jan. 30, 2019
William C. Bartz, AS11, of Newark, Del., March 25, 2019
Samantha B. Friedman, EHD13, of Melville, N.Y., Oct. 13, 2018
Mathias W. Huff, BE13, of Hoboken, N.J., April 12, 2019
David Mackall Jr., AS14, of Baltimore, Md., May 29, 2019
Alexandra C. Carroll, HS15, of Damascus, Md., Feb. 23, 2019
Laurie E. Tobia, AS15, of Belmar, N.J., April 10, 2019
Timothy B. White, AS17, of Fairfax, Va., Feb. 27, 2019
A CONVERSATION WITH...

Newark has had plenty of mayors over the decades, but none like Vance A. Funk III, BE65, the ever-affable and notoriously fastidious 76-year-old who presided over the city from 2005–2013. To some, it seems he never left. He still patrols Main Street at zero-dark-thirty each morning, snagging litter and receiving love from his fans along the way. We sat down with Mayor Funk to get the low-down on this anything-but-low-profile politician whose blood runs blue and gold.

Are your morning walks just about the trash, or is it something else?
It’s the people. That’s why I like it. There’s a lot of interaction. The girl at Taverna is always waving at me as I go by. The girl at Dunkin Donuts always walks out and hugs me. I also want Newark to be a very clean city, a city free of graffiti, illegal posters, stickers. Even when I was mayor, I would clean up every morning on the way to the office, then clean graffiti on Saturdays. I’m really psycho about this stuff.

What were the college years like for young Vance Funk?
I majored in business administration and marketing, but I started out in pre-med. It turned out I was allergic to formaldehyde. We had a great group of people back then. Joe Biden was in my class. He asked me to help him in his campaign for president of the freshman class. Honestly, I didn’t know who he was.

I spent all four years in ROTC and found out in my senior year that the Army would give me a deferment to go to grad school. I had no intention of ever going to law school, but my uncles were all lawyers in Indiana, and they talked me into going. I ended up scoring third highest in the state on my bar exam.

The best thing that ever happened to me at UD was meeting my wife Elaine as a senior, at this big welcoming party they had at the Newman Club [for Catholic students]. I spotted her in the crowd and ended up driving her home in my father’s car. We got pinned in the spring and have been together ever since.

There was a pit stop in Southeast Asia after college?
I served in Vietnam from March 1970 to March 1971 as a captain in the military police. I was in charge of scheduling convoys, but my job left lots of time for impromptu drug and contraband searches. That was the worst thing about Vietnam, the number of people who got on drugs while over there. I never saw combat, unless you count the attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base, when an ammo dump was struck and there were bullets flying everywhere.

How did you get involved in politics?
I had been running for student office all through my college years, sometimes successfully, sometimes not. When I first ran for mayor, I had been a real estate lawyer for UD. I had seen over the years that the University and the city did not get along at all, and I wanted to change that. With the loss of many big employers, I knew we needed to foster UD as an economic driver, so, I worked to make UD more a part of the town, and get the town to more fully embrace UD.

I’m lucky for someone who had a stroke 26 years ago. Most people would be dead within 72 hours of one of those. In my family, no Funk has lived to be 68, so I’m ahead of the game already. And I still go out every morning at 6 o’clock.

“I KNEW WE NEEDED TO FOSTER UD AS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER, SO, I WORKED TO MAKE UD MORE A PART OF THE TOWN, AND GET THE TOWN TO MORE FULLY EMBRACE UD.”
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