

# UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

MAGAZINE

Volume 28 — Number 1

1. I would like to  
long, healthy life  
to the year 2020.  
2. I would like to marry a  
comfortable you kind of  
being you my family  
3. Write and thank you



Create a more  
meaningful life

Finish my father's bucket list



UNIVERSITY OF  
DELAWARE  
MAGAZINE





# AIMING FOR THE STARS

*“It is not in the stars to hold our  
destiny but in ourselves”*

—William Shakespeare

*Time-lapse photo by Evan Krape, AS09. Learn more on the following page.*







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EVAN KRAPE

### WINTER SESSION AT MOUNT CUBA

As a child in Maine, Judi Provencal would drag her telescope through the snow, past her bewildered parents, and get lost in the stars. Today, the universe still holds her wonder. As an associate professor of physics and astronomy, she studies dead stars known as white dwarfs (which is what our sun will become in about 4 billion years). Each semester, she brings students from her PHYS469/669 Observational Astronomy class to the Mount Cuba Observatory in Greenville, Delaware, where many get their first glimpse of planets and galaxies millions of light years away. "When you're looking at another galaxy, you're looking at hundreds and hundreds of billions of stars," says Provencal. "I want them to see how cool that is."

**Pictured above:** Students in Provencal's class observe the night through the 4.5" Francis DuPont refractor telescope, built in 1887.

**On the previous page:** A time-lapse photo of about 20 minutes reveals the movement of the stars. The dotted lines and orange streaks are likely planes in the sky.



# TO OUR READERS

We went to print on this issue just days after the confirmed COVID-19 cases appeared on our campus. In this period of immense caution and uncertainty, we still don't know how this pandemic will unfold at our University, in our country and across the globe. But we do know that complex problems require innovation (p. 14) and critical thinking (p. 40). That we are a community that comes together in our toughest times (p. 18). And that despite our best efforts and intentions, tomorrow is never promised (p. 28). And so, we must heed the lesson of the horseshoe (p. 32)—a worldwide symbol of luck, whose ends signify the things we can do for ourselves (when pointing up) and the things we must do for others (when pointing down). Whichever direction your horseshoe faces today, we wish you health and safety always.

**—The Magazine Team**  
**March 2020**

## UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE MAGAZINE

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**Managing Editor** Artika Rangan Casini, AS05

**Associate Editor** Eric Ruth, AS93

**Executive Editor** John Brennan

**Vice President for**

**Communications & Marketing** Glenn Carter

**Creative Director** Dave Keen

**Art Director** Molly Chappell

**Contributing Design** Jeffrey Chase, AS91, Christian Derr, Don Shenkle, AS80, BE17M

**Class Notes & Production** Daniel Wright

**Senior Photographer** Kathy F. Atkinson

**Photographer** Evan Krape, AS09

**Advertising Sales** Nick Biasotto, AS69

**Advertising Coordinator** Kamesha Medley

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- Learn about benefits offered exclusively to UD alumni
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# FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## UNLEASHING THE POWER OF CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

At the University of Delaware, we are driven by an abiding belief in the power of creative partnerships to advance a better world. Collaboration, cooperation and teamwork—essential components of our long-term success—are always in great abundance here at UD.

In recent days and weeks, I have witnessed how this indomitable Blue Hen spirit inspired so many people in the UD community to support and care for one another as we navigated the unprecedented challenges posed by the outbreak of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. As I write this letter, the full impact of this evolving situation remains to be seen. But nothing will ever diminish my extraordinary pride in the resilience and character exhibited by our students, faculty, staff and friends.

Indeed, every day throughout the University, we work together to meet seemingly insurmountable challenges in our ongoing quest to advance knowledge, explore new terrain and innovate our way to a better future. As a 21st century research institution, we are attracting smart, talented and ambitious people to solve the most complex problems facing our world, giving them the time and resources to do their best work. That is why we are investing heavily in collaborative spaces around The Green, enabling student teams and research groups to accomplish far more than they could on their own. That's the kind of work UD has always done, and it's the vision that energizes us every day.

Teamwork drives our progress in exciting directions. We are giving our students and faculty the tools

to bring their ideas to life—as we have done around our main campus with collaborative, student-centric environments such as The Scrounge and our Morris Library Commons, The Nest; and our new MakerGym in Pearson Hall, with its laser cutters, water-jet cutters, 3D printers and other fabrication machines! To see a new kind of Blue Hen teamwork in action, visit the new Esports Arena in Perkins Student Center, where our top video game competitors play—and win—against some of the nation's biggest universities. The possibilities are endless, indeed.

A growing nexus of collaboration is UD's Science, Technology and Advanced Research (STAR) Campus. By the end of 2020, the STAR Campus will have 1 million square feet of space for hands-on learning, cutting-edge discovery and bold innovation in biopharmaceuticals, health sciences, financial technology, materials science and other exciting fields. It is emerging as a 21st century community—one of students, researchers, entrepreneurs, thinkers and doers. All of these partners and projects comprise the fundamental ingredients to develop the ideas and the investments necessary for a more vibrant economy and more connected community.

Partnerships also extend our reach far beyond campus. UD works with hundreds of schools and nonprofits throughout Delaware and the region to make communities safer and more resilient and improve the health and wellbeing of everyone from infants to senior citizens. We are deeply committed to helping educators strengthen Delaware's K-12



school system, as well as preparing teachers to succeed in the classroom and throughout their careers.

And thanks to the partnership of our generous alumni and friends around the world, the University's *Delaware First* campaign surpassed our \$750 million fundraising goal ... six months early! This achievement is truly inspiring, and our momentum will propel us to reach even greater levels of engagement and impact.

The future of the University of Delaware has always been—and will always be—a shared one, and I am proud of the strong partnerships that are integral to our success. Eleni and I hope that you and the people you care for are staying healthy and upbeat. As a community, we will always emerge stronger from any adversity, and great days are on the horizon for years to come!

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

Dennis Assanis, President



# ON THE GREEN

NEWS  
FROM CAMPUS  
AND BEYOND

## FUTURE OF FINTECH GROWS ON STAR CAMPUS



On UD's Science, Technology and Advanced Research (STAR) Campus, a new University partnership with Delaware Technology Park (DTP) and Discover Bank aims to revolutionize the world of financial services technology.

The soon-to-be constructed six-story, 100,000-square-foot building brings together the academic, business and governmental facets of this field, adding immense value to Delaware's prowess in financial technology—and to the state's economy.

Global investment in FinTech-related companies has more than quintupled in recent years, growing from \$18.9 billion in 2013 to \$111.8 billion in 2018, according to a recent report by the Delaware Prosperity Partnership. By constructing a hub where the financial services industry and academia intersect, UD, Discover and DTP seek to nurture a highly capable workforce in Delaware, including the start-up businesses that will hatch, grow and spin out of the new facility.

The \$38 million project will be funded via a favorable below-market interest rate loan by Discover Bank to DTP, the owner of the building. UD will lease space in the building.

Discover Bank is currently exploring ways to partner with UD on research related to the financial technology needs of the bank that may include cyber-related technologies, and consumer data analytics, applications and behaviors. A national nonprofit focused on improving

UD's newest six-story structure, expected to be completed in 2021, will bring together the academic, business and governmental sectors of the financial world.

the financial health of communities has also partnered with Discover Bank to work with UD, DTP, entrepreneurs and the community on ways to improve consumer financial health.

The building, which is scheduled for a 2021 opening, will mark the first sizable presence of the Lerner College on the STAR Campus. Potential plans and programs include a cybersecurity leadership center that would link Lerner's cybersecurity management with the College of Engineering's cybersecurity engineering and technology, as well as a space for human-machine learning, social media data analysis and a multi media studio. 🐦

— Peter Bothum, AS97

### THE FINTECH BUILDING WILL HOUSE:

- **Spaces for startups to develop**, managed by Delaware Technology Park. Tenants will have onsite access to business development resources and technical assistance.
- **Labs and centers** associated within UD's College of Engineering and Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics. These spaces will link strengths and resources from both colleges on topics such as financial analytics, cybersecurity, human-machine learning and data analysis.
- **UD's Office of Economic Innovation and Partnerships (OEIP).**
- **Delaware's Small Business Development Center**, which will be synergistically located to offer assistance to OEIP's Spin In program, which connects UD undergraduates to community entrepreneurs and early-stage startups.



# CONNECTING VETERANS AND STUDENT-ATHLETES



ASHLEY BARNAS

A new health and wellness program developed by a former Army nurse and current UD professor pairs veterans with student-athletes in an effort to improve health and reintegrate soldiers into civilian life.

Veterans and College Athletes Together (VCAT) provides post-Sept. 11 veterans a free, 12-week program in which they are paired with student-athletes to attend two 75-minute workouts and two wellness classes per week.

“VCAT is a unique community service opportunity for our student athletes,

as well,” says Prof. Susan Sheehy, who designed the program after leaving the military. “They gain unique insight into the military and the many sacrifices our veterans and their families make for our freedom and our country while they increase their own health and wellness knowledge, improve their mental wellbeing and performance and gain a mentor for life.”

Each VCAT workout session is accompanied by a one-hour wellness class that includes a healthy meal. Wellness topics include sleep, exercise, meditation, nutrition and more. 🐦

# WARNER HALL BECOMES NEW HOME FOR WELLNESS

With rising student enrollments and an increased focus on health and wellness, UD is opening the Wellbeing Center at Warner Hall, which brings together counseling services, health care, wellness programs and other support services in one central location on the South Green. The Center is expected to open in Spring 2021.

For more than 100 years, UD’s Warner Hall has stood as an inclusive home for students. Named in honor of Emalea Pusey Warner, an ardent suffragist who was unable to attend college herself, Warner Hall served as a women’s residence hall from 1914 to 2019. Now, the Wellbeing Center builds upon her indelible legacy.

University leaders envision the center as a central space for students to access resources that are currently spread across campus, including



EVAN KRAPE

individual and group counseling, sexual assault victim advocacy, substance misuse counseling and a plethora of education and prevention programs.

“I’m a lot healthier and happier when I’m able to manage my wellness and be aware of my own resources,”

says Nicole Lovitch, HS20, a member of the Promoters of Wellness student group. “UD offers some really awesome health and wellness resources so that all students can find what they need to better themselves.” 🐦

—Dara McBride





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## DELAWARE ORTHOPAEDIC SPECIALISTS





# CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE HOOK

New England has a proud tradition of commercial fishing. But will it survive as the planet warms?

For decades, the biggest threat to the industry has been overfishing, but it is no longer the only danger. New research by UD Prof. Kimberly Oremus shows that New England's coastal counties have, on average, lost 16% of their fishing jobs due to climate variation from 1996 to 2017.

This specific effect of climate is distinct from the overall job losses and gains caused by other factors, such as changes in market demand, regulatory changes to curb overfishing, and broader economic trends. Currently, 34,000 commercial marine fishermen are employed in the region's industry.

"New England waters are among the fastest-warming in the world," says Oremus.

And warmer temperatures have been shown to impact the productivity of lobsters, sea scallops, groundfish and other fisheries important to the region, she adds, especially when they are most vulnerable, from spawning through their first year of life.

That effect shows up in catch and labor data a few years later, once the affected fish reach the size at which they're allowed to be caught. In order to understand this, Oremus gathered catch-size restrictions for 56 commercial fisheries and connected the pathways between climate, its effects on aggregated catch from

multiple fisheries and the resulting impacts on sales revenue, wages and fishermen's jobs.

The results were significant: A 1-unit increase in the North Atlantic Oscillation index—New England's dominant climate signal—reduces fishing employment by 13% and wages by 35%, with effects that persist for several years.

"As we see more warm winters off the New England coast, historic fisheries decline and fewer fishermen stay in business," Oremus says. "This has important implications for fisheries management in New England, which employs 20% of U.S. commercial harvesters."

—Tracey Bryant

## FRUIT FOR THOUGHT

You probably already know the bad news: Added sugar is a prime suspect in diabetes, obesity and other health ailments.

There's also a strong link between added sugar and high blood pressure in post-menopausal females, according to a study by UD nutrition Prof. Sheau Ching Cha.

Now, the good news. The same study shows that eating whole fruit is linked with a reduction in blood pressure for both men and women.

All of this could be a big deal,

especially for older adults. Two-thirds of Americans 65 and older have hypertension, which increases the risk of heart disease and kidney disease. In 2014, 653 million hypertension-related prescriptions were written at a cost of more than \$28 billion.

The data are preliminary, but the emerging equation is quite compelling: Skip the added sugar, eat whole fruit and you could come away with a lower risk for blood-sugar spikes and potential reductions in blood pressure levels.

—Beth Miller







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# BLUE HENS IN THE SUPERBOWL

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



It sure feels good to see Fightin' Blue Hens contribute to a football championship, especially at the highest level of the game.

The sense of pride was real on Super Bowl Sunday, as two former Blue Hens solidified their rising-star status in the NFL by helping guide the Kansas City Chiefs to global gridiron dominance.

Brett Veach, HS02, EHD04M, has served as general manager for the Chiefs for the past three years. And Joe Bleymaier, AS05, has spent the past four seasons as an offensive quality control coach and passing game analyst for one of the most explosive offensive squads in the NFL. Veach has also been publicly acknowledged by Coach Andy Reid for convincing the Chiefs to grab quarterback Patrick Mahomes in the draft, a decision that has now paid off in glittering gold rings.

Both Veach and Bleymaier were standout Blue Hen players in their day, and both came to the Chiefs via Coach Reid, who spotted their



potential way back in his days leading the Philadelphia Eagles. Bleymaier's rise was also given an indirect boost by another former Blue Hen, Chicago Bears coach Matt Nagy, HS01, whose ascension created the vacancy that Bleymaier would fill.

According to veteran sports reporter Kevin Tresolini, AS80, nine Blue Hens have actually played in the Big Game over the years, including quarterbacks Rich Gannon, AS87, (Oakland Raiders,

Kansas City Chiefs General Manager Brett Veach, HS02, EHD04M, (far right) stands with other team members on the awards platform after the Chiefs beat the Tennessee Titans to win the AFC championship and earn a trip to the Super Bowl, where they defeated the San Francisco 49ers, 31-20. Pictured below: Kansas City coach Joe Bleymaier, AS05, stands watch before the AFC championship game.

2002) and Joe Flacco, BE08, (Baltimore Ravens, Super Bowl MVP 2012), defensive back Mike Adams, EHD04, (Denver Broncos, 2013) and linebacker Paul Worrilow, AS13, (Atlanta Falcons, 2016).

While Veach and Bleymaier might be years past their playing days, those were quite the days: As a wide receiver, Veach earned third team All-Atlantic 10 Conference honors in 2000 as a junior and is one of only seven football student-athletes in UD history to earn CoSIDA Academic All-American honors (a feat he achieved three times).

In his four-year UD career, Veach caught 99 passes for 1,470 yards and 12 touchdowns, averaging 22.2 yards on 70 career kick returns. He ranks No. 12 all-time at Delaware with 3,382 career all-purpose yards.

Bleymaier was a four-year wide receiver for the Blue Hens, playing for the 2003 national championship team and becoming a three-time CoSIDA Academic All-American nominee and a 2003 District 2 All-Academic First Team honoree. He was a three-time member of the Atlantic 10 Academic All-Conference team and would play in 48 games, catching 74 passes for 854 yards and 10 touchdowns. 🐦

—Eric Ruth, AS93



# TRUTH? IN BORROWING?

The words we use matter, sometimes more than we realize and in ways we may have never imagined. Like on loan applications.

That's the conclusion of UD Prof. Michal Herzenstein and colleagues, who found in a text-mining, machine-learning study of 18,000 loan requests that word choice can predict a person's financial behavior well into the future. And that the words we use—even ones we may consider positive, like references to God or family—could actually harm the chances for a successful loan application.

"We find that people who pay back their loans use a lot of relative words such as: than, side, rather, below," she says. "Defaulting borrowers talk a lot about other people, and those who pay back talk a lot about themselves."

For now, the age-old adage holds true: Watch what you say, and how you say it.

## BAD WORDS

Defaulting borrowers are more likely to include words related to family, religion, short-term timeframes, personal hardship and pleas for help. References to others (e.g. "God," "daughter," "husband") are associated with deceptive language. Defaulters avoid mentioning themselves, perhaps to distance themselves from untruths.

*"I am a hard-working person, married for 25 years, and have two wonderful boys. Please let me explain why I need help. I would use the \$2,000 loan to fix our roof. Thank you, God bless you, and I promise to pay you back."*

## GOOD WORDS

Borrowers who paid in full were more likely to include words that may be a sign of anticipated improvement in finances: "promotion," "graduating" and "wedding"; relative words such as "than the," "rather" and "more than;" and time-related words.

*"While the past year in our new place has been more than great, the roof is now leaking, and I need to borrow \$2,000 to cover the cost of the repair. I pay all bills (e.g., car loans, cable, utilities) on time."*

APPROVED ✓

graduating  
wedding,  
promotion  
reinvest, plan,  
a year ago,  
cash flow,  
college

DENIED ✕

God bless,  
Need help, take care,  
Let me explain,  
My husband, behind,  
a month, would use,  
top priority





# INVESTING IN DELAWARE'S HIGH SCHOOLERS

High school students in Delaware can now earn up to a full semester of college credits at no charge thanks to a new University initiative launching this fall.

The UD Early College Credit Program enables qualified high school juniors and seniors to take up to five University courses, simultaneously earning both high school and college credits.

No other program in the nation offers such an opportunity that is both statewide and free. All public, charter and private high schools in Delaware are eligible to participate, and 30 schools from throughout the state have expressed interest in participating this fall.

Through the program, college courses will be transmitted live from the Newark campus via interactive online streaming, allowing high school students and UD undergraduates to learn the same material simultaneously.

Students enrolling in the UD Early College Credit Program who also take advantage of the University's Associate in Arts Program and the state of Delaware's SEED Scholarship will be able to dramatically reduce the overall cost of their higher education, while also getting an early taste of college academics. All these features are important components in the University's efforts to attract more underrepresented students to enroll at UD.

"This innovative program will put our great faculty into high school classrooms across the state, teaching

introductory college-level material to Delaware's motivated high school students," says UD President Dennis Assanis. "These students will have an unparalleled opportunity to experience college-level academics, interact virtually with undergraduates on our Newark campus and earn free academic credit that will help lower the cost of their education. This program is a substantive addition to the University's

such topics as astronomy, philosophy, art history and more.

High school students will be able to enroll in the Early College Credit Program classes at no charge, and the courses are being designed with minimal costs for textbooks and other class materials.

To participate, academically qualified juniors and seniors will need recommendations from a high school

---

*"I am excited that this dual enrollment program will make college courses more accessible and affordable to Delaware high school students. This is the kind of innovative partnership between higher education and K-12 schools that our students need."*

— Delaware Secretary of Education Susan Bunting, EHD96EdD

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ongoing efforts to increase affordability and access to higher education for residents of the First State."

Through the new Early College Credit Program, UD will offer a total of five courses each year. Students will be free to enroll in just one class or all five over the course of their junior and senior years; by taking all five, students can complete a full semester of college study while still in high school. All courses will satisfy UD's general education requirements, and introductory courses will be offered on

official, who will coordinate registration with UD's Division of Professional and Continuing Studies.

For the program's first year, a small number of Delaware high schools will be participating to ensure a successful launch and to allow the University to scale the program to meet the full demand in the state.

The Early College Credit Program joins other UD dual enrollment programs that are already underway at 10 high schools, reaching about 240 students each year. 🐦





PHOTOS BY EVAN KRAPE

# TINKER, TAILOR, MAKER, TRY

The gymnasium where middle school students once took phys ed is now providing UD students with a different kind of work-out: an exercise in creativity and an opportunity to flex their mental muscles.

A one-of-a-kind makerspace—the UD MakerGym—is now located at the back of Pearson Hall, a former public school building that the University purchased in 1981. There, you can find the latest tools for developing projects, from integrating circuits into artwork to prototyping a wearable medical device, or from creating hands-on lessons for elementary students to constructing sustainable housing.

If you can think it, chances are you can build it here. At the ready are an array of

state-of-the-art 3D printers, laser cutters, a water jet, a computer numerical control router and mill, and industrial sewing machines, not to mention a 21st-century woodshop and an advanced manufacturing research center.

“There’s something absolutely thrilling about having an idea and then putting pieces together to make it a reality,” says UD President Dennis Assanis. “The process of making something is an education in itself. You learn what works, and what doesn’t. And seeing your creation come to life just never gets old.”

The 6,700-square-foot MakerGym complements more than a dozen makerspaces across UD developing in such areas as wearable technology,

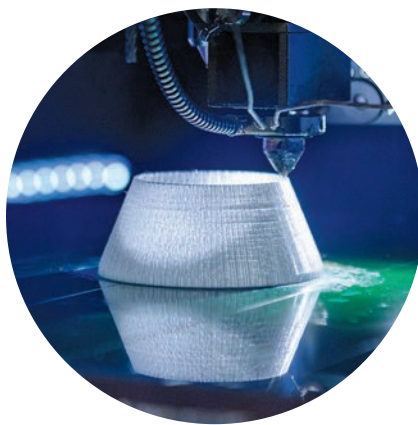
astrophysics, graphic design, education and physical mobility.

## A BOOST FOR RESEARCH

What sets UD’s MakerGym apart, besides its history, is its focus on empowerment and collaboration. It is committed to open access for all campus makers—from all disciplines and experience levels—and will support academics, research and entrepreneurship, according to Mohsen Badiy, professor of electrical and computer engineering and newly appointed faculty director of the University’s Maker Initiative.

Badiy conceived the idea of a Maker Initiative while he was serving

Open to all UD students, faculty and staff, the new 6,700-square-foot MakerGym in UD's Pearson Hall features an array of 3D printers and other state-of-the-art tools to bring their ideas to life.



as acting dean of the College of Earth, Ocean and Environment a few years ago, envisioning a University-wide hub for creative collaboration, design, prototyping and entrepreneurship.

"Education is at a crossroads, with classrooms changing with digital integration," Badiey says. "We want students to have experiences here that not just prepare them for future jobs but inspire them to create the jobs of the future."

Badiey partnered with Dan Freeman, director of UD's Horn Entrepreneurship program—recently ranked one of the best in the nation (see box at right)—to develop a funding proposal to the Unidel Foundation, which awarded the team a \$1.5 million grant to support the project.

Pioneering research will also be done in the MakerGym's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center. Behind the center's walls, researchers will explore "additive" manufacturing—the process in which products are built by depositing, or "adding," layer upon layer of material, such as plastic, metal, concrete or even living cells. According to center leader Mark Mirotznik, additive manufacturing is less costly, allows faster customization of products and produces less waste than traditional methods.

"UD is at the forefront in using this technology, which has the potential to revolutionize how products are created," says Mirotznik, professor of electrical and computer engineering. As work in advanced manufacturing technology develops, he envisions

a shared facility for cross-college collaborations, with plenty of synergy between research and education.

Art Trembanis, associate professor of marine science and policy, has been working with faculty fellows across UD to integrate more maker courses into the UD curriculum. The fellows, representing fields ranging from fashion and apparel studies to plant and soil science, are developing

undergraduate courses, some new and some reimaged.

"A gym is a place where you work out, you sweat, you improve your mind and body," says Trembanis, who recently printed a scaled-down, 3D version of a shipwreck his underwater robot located and mapped on the Pacific Ocean floor. "Our message to makers across campus is that we want you to grow with us and sweat with us. It's good for your mental and physical well-being. It's good for your soul." 🐦

— Tracy Bryant

## UD NAMED A TOP SCHOOL FOR BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

University of Delaware's Horn Entrepreneurship program is one of the best in the nation, according to *The Princeton Review* and *Entrepreneur* magazine. The joint ranking placed UD at #38 in its 2020 list of the top 50 undergraduate schools for entrepreneurial studies.

This marks the University's first appearance on the list. UD's inclusion celebrates its standing among the top 10% of such programs. Nationwide, more than 500 colleges and universities offer entrepreneurship programs, but few empower budding entrepreneurs the way Horn does. Horn Entrepreneurship began just seven years ago and has grown exponentially every year since, impacting thousands annually.

Horn combines a personalized approach with lessons learned from successful entrepreneurs and evidence-based best practices. The resulting curricula go far beyond traditional classroom experiences. Blue Hens bent on changing the world learn by doing, building their own businesses from scratch with support from faculty, staff and business leaders. Participating students receive mentoring, professional development, valuable connections and funding opportunities. Last year, startups supported by Horn received more than \$7.4 million in funding. 🐦



# PERSON OF INTEREST

BY DENA HILLISON

**Bonnie Meszaros** wants students to understand the importance of conscientious spending, saving and investing.

In the summer of 1974, Bonnie T. Meszaros found herself in Purnell Hall, taking her first-ever economics course. A social studies teacher who had recently relocated to Delaware, she was there only to satisfy the state's certification requirement.

Once the course was finished, she figured, there would be no further need to pursue economics. But Prof. Jim O'Neill, then-head of UD's new Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship (CEEE), opened her eyes to this overlooked and essential component of education—one that prepares kids for the real world.

And so, Meszaros stayed at the center, which supplements K-12 education with tailored educational programs around economics and personal finance, helping

**"We want students to know how markets work and how informed decisions can lead to financial security"**

*—Bonnie Meszaros*

students understand the importance of conscientious spending, saving and investing. For the past 45 years, she has dedicated her career to improving economic education in Delaware.

"I think the strength of this center, from the very beginning, is the focus on the power of the teacher," Meszaros says. "Helping those teachers to know the content is not enough. Teachers have to know how to teach economics in appropriate ways for their grade levels. The thing I'm most passionate about in this work is that we listen to teachers and then tailor programs that meet their needs."

Back in 1974, CEEE's programming was composed of three, week-long summer institutes and half a

or 300 students, her presentation skills are impeccable and her patience with participants is commendable. Simply put, she is one of the best, if not the best, in our profession."

Last fall, the CEEE honored Meszaros' legacy by creating the annual Bonnie T. Meszaros Economics Teacher of the Year Award, given to a Delaware K-12 teacher of economics, personal finance or entrepreneurship who has demonstrated a sustained history of commitment and contribution to economic education.

After a career spanning almost five decades, Meszaros, now associate director of the CEEE, says she hasn't retired because she loves to empower educators to deliver the healthy habits



dozen visits to school social studies departments. By the mid-1990s, the center had grown to 33 programs for 675 teachers. Last year, CEEE hosted 167 programs reaching over 3,075 teachers in Delaware. The center has also worked with Delaware politicians to create and institute new standards for personal finance.

"Bonnie's mentoring and feedback have been invaluable not only to me but also to thousands of teachers," says Carlos Asarta, director of the CEEE. "Whether she is dealing with 20 teachers

and practical skills students need to graduate as economically literate and flourishing citizens.

"We want students to know how markets work and how informed decisions can lead to financial security," she says. "Ultimately, we want students leaving high school prepared for the challenges of the real world, whether that's taking out loans for college, planning for retirement or recognizing how national and global events can impact their day-to-day lives." 🐦



## EXPERT ADVICE: HOW TO INSTILL HEALTHY MONEY HABITS IN CHILDREN

### MAKING CHOICES

Something as simple as a trip to get frozen yogurt can teach kids important lessons in economics and opportunity costs. Only let them select one topping, explaining that if they choose the chocolate candy, they will have to give up the whipped cream.

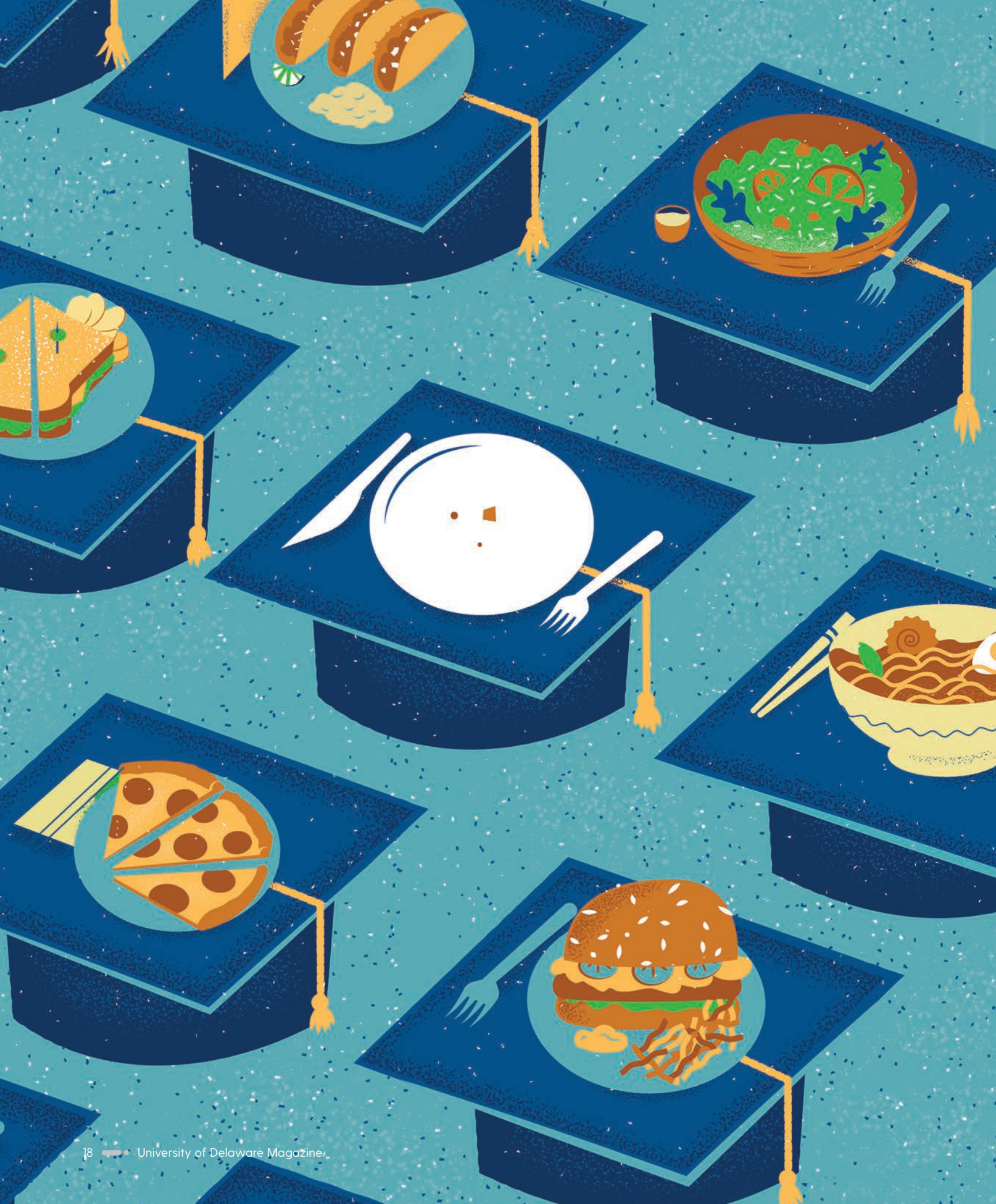
### MAKING MISTAKES

Kids often have little interaction with money, but an allowance or cash gift can help empower them. Let them choose what to do with it, then help them reflect on what they could have done differently. This will teach them the value of money.

### ESTABLISHING A BANK ACCOUNT

Help them open a savings account; in fact many banks have programs just for kids. Talk them through the purpose of a bank and what happens to their money there. This will help them to develop the habit of saving early. 🐦








# 41%

OF FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS  
NATIONALLY REPORTED BEING  
“FOOD INSECURE.”



AT UD, THAT NUMBER IS  
CUT BY ALMOST HALF.

## WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

BY ERIC RUTH, AS93 | ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMES OLSTEIN



From the outside, college can look so comfy: Stylish students stroll the manicured Green with studied coolness, their eyes glued to thousand-dollar cellphones, their bellies filled with diet-appropriate dining hall meals—their bills paid by mom and dad.

Now erase that image from your mind, and see the reality that more and more students face today: For them, college is a time of dilemma and distress, of wondering whether to buy groceries or pay rent, of toiling to make ends meet with outside work—yet still making the grade in class.

For these young adults, all it takes is one life crisis to bring their college career to a screeching stop. All it takes is a few unexpected bills to make nutritious food an elusive option.

And happily, all it takes is some Blue Hen compassion to ease their hunger.

As the promise of a degree attracts increasing numbers of “non-traditional

## FOOD INSECURITY: LACK OF RELIABLE ACCESS TO ENOUGH FOOD FOR A HEALTHY, ACTIVE LIFESTYLE.

### AT UD, 23% OF STUDENTS REPORTED BEING “FOOD INSECURE” IN THE LAST 30 DAYS.

students”—single parents, working adults and applicants from meager circumstances—UD is working to ensure their efforts aren’t undone by a lack of food. It’s a cause that has inspired action on the inside and outside of campus, generating eager alumni support, prompting acts of selfless student endeavor, and delivering a growing array of student resources, ranging from emergency funding to meal-ticket sharing programs.

“People tend to look at campus, and only see affluence,” says Prof. Kristin Wiens, coordinator of UD’s Food and Nutrition Education Lab. “The tough part with hunger is that it’s invisible. It’s a problem that doesn’t need to be in the dark. It needs to be in the light.”

Student Katie Zimmerman saw that stark reality in her junior year when she first learned about the national

problem of campus “food insecurity”—defined as a lack of reliable access to enough food for an active, healthy life. The facts disturbed her: A 2018 Temple University study found that 23% of UD students reported being “food insecure” in the last 30 days (the national average for four-year colleges is 41%). The problem is even greater for UD students who are gay/lesbian (37%), African-American (42%), or transgender (40%).

“Our rates of food insecurity are below the national average, but we’re not all that dissimilar from what other four-year institutions report,” Wiens says.

That was a compelling revelation. “I was surprised by my own ignorance—that I didn’t even know about it,” says Zimmerman, AS20, who spent much of the past year and a half bringing a national program called “Swipe Out Hunger” to UD.



UD STUDENTS CONTRIBUTED

# 1,144

MEALS AND \$348 THROUGH  
SWIPE OUT HUNGER  
IN JUST 2 DAYS



EVEN HIGHER RATES OF  
FOOD INSECURITY WERE  
REPORTED FOR  
STUDENTS WHO ARE

GAY/LESBIAN 37%

TRANSGENDER 40%

AFRICAN-AMERICAN 42%



The concept is simple: Students with unneeded “swipes” on their meal cards can donate them to a centralized pool, allowing the meals to be electronically dispersed to needy students’ own University cards.

Since the program’s launch last year, students have contributed 1,144 meals and \$348 through a two-day dining hall donation drive, with more to come after this spring’s campaign is tallied. By the end of 2019, 10 students had sought out food assistance through the program, and there’s a strong sense that others just haven’t heard about it, or refrain from seeking help out of shame.

That stigma frequently undermines even the most committed outreach efforts, experts say. By electronically transferring meals to needy students, Swipe Out Hunger keeps their predicament out of public view. “You can still go to dinner with your



friends through this program, which was super important for me,” says Zimmerman. “There’s still so much stigma people feel.”

Students are connected to the program through the Dean of Students Office, but many others at UD helped accommodate the effort, giving Zimmerman a valuable life lesson in being a behind-the-scenes catalyst.

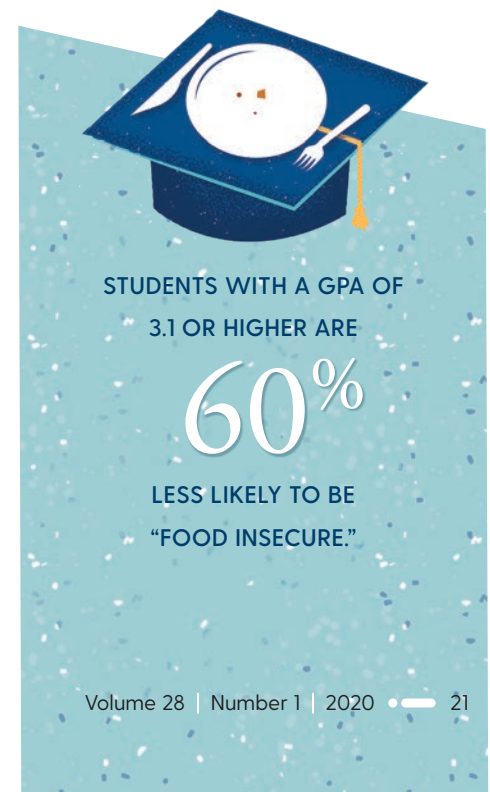
“I’ve been incredibly lucky,” says Zimmerman, a neuroscience major who needed to become an impromptu expert in marketing, outreach and administrative politics. “There were pieces of it that as a student, I didn’t know how to deal with. But I didn’t have a huge amount of pushback.”

And neither did the people at the Dean’s Office when they embarked on a plan to reinvigorate UD’s 8-year-old “Student Crisis Fund,” which has traditionally been used to help students facing urgent mishaps, from apartment fires to slashed tires to

busted laptops. “It’s meant for the student who doesn’t have that safety net, either through their family or through their network of friends,” says Meaghan Davidson, assistant dean of students.

After launching a focused fundraising campaign last year with the Alumni Relations Department, the Dean’s Office discovered that Blue Hen grads were eager to help strengthen the fund, giving \$18,000—more than all the previous years combined. In 2019, the fund helped a record number of students—61% of them minorities, and 20% first-generation students.

Nationally, the need for such assistance is growing, even as the circumstances are becoming less tied to specific incidents, and increasingly related to broader difficulties in students’ lives. At UD and across the nation, the dynamics of college affordability seemed to be aligning in



bleak ways: With tuition rates hitting all-time highs, the gap between financial aid and college costs is widening, creating a greater need for student loans or outside work—just as wages have begun to stagnate.

Other factors only intensify the predicament: Universities have been trying to accommodate more students from low-income families, but federal food assistance is available to college students only under rare circumstances, and even then it is frequently underutilized. Students can get a job to alleviate financial struggles, but experts say working more than 10 hours a week puts academic performance at risk—and working 10 or fewer hours doesn't begin to cover today's costs.

A study by the Education Trust found that many students have to work more than 40 hours a week to pay bills—essentially a full-time job—and Temple scholars say that the average UD student needs to clock 26.4 hours a week at a minimum-wage job to cover their tuition and living expenses. Relatively high rent in the Newark area exacerbates the problem, according to Wiens.

As they agonize over unpaid bills, hungry students are also at more risk of academic failure, studies have shown. A 2016 report in the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior* found a correlation between food insecurity and grades: Students with a GPA of 3.1 or higher were 60% less likely to be “food insecure.”

“We know what happens to a

student off campus can be 100% connected to their college success,” adds Adam Cantley, UD's dean of students.

Other research has found that hunger also triggers anxiety and depression, amplifying students' pain and hopelessness. “The research suggests it impacts graduation rates and attention span,” says Weins, who has found that student veterans and graduate students are especially prone to food insecurity issues.

Yet despite the deeper awareness, the problem remains difficult to tackle, even as mounds of donated food grow. The Temple study found that stigma stands as a major barrier at many universities, making students reluctant to use resources such as UD's Blue Hen Bounty food pantry (founded in 2016 by then-junior Carson Hanna, EHD18, at Newark's St. Thomas Episcopal Church), and the Food Recovery Network (a student group that donates leftover dining hall food to pantries for use by both students and residents).

“They don't get a lot of traffic through the door at Blue Hen Bounty,” says Weins, who is working to create a University-wide task force on campus hunger and homelessness. “The students who need the support are the hardest to get hold of. And they don't see themselves as food insecure because it's supposedly ‘normal’ to subsist on ramen and mac-and-cheese in college.”

But the impulse to help remains strong at UD. Last year, nearly \$2,000

was raised for Blue Hen Bounty through the philanthropic-focused I Heart UD Day, and the local Food Lion gave 6,200 meals. One father-and-son duo, Arin Nakirikanti and Kiran Nukiranti, coordinated a food drive during the Hindu festival of Diwali, ultimately donating 1,250 pounds of canned goods.

To the students who benefit, such generosity can be the difference between a degree and disaster. And there's no doubt they sense that salvation, Davidson says.

“It almost makes me cry,” she says, “the emails we get, the gratitude they show.” 🐦

## RESOURCES FOR HUNGER ON CAMPUS

- Students interested in volunteer or leadership opportunities with Swipe Out Hunger can contact Katie Zimmerman at [katiezim@udel.edu](mailto:katiezim@udel.edu).
- Students in need of food assistance can reach out to the Dean of Students Office at [deanofstudents@udel.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@udel.edu).
- More information on UD assistance programs is available at [udel.edu/studentlife/hunger](http://udel.edu/studentlife/hunger).
- For more on UD's Blue Hen Bounty food pantry, visit [bluehenbounty.weebly.com](http://bluehenbounty.weebly.com)



# OFFICE HOURS

with Jaipreet Virdi

Jaipreet Virdi was just 4 years old when a bout of meningitis left her almost totally deaf and struggling to adjust to her new reality and to society's perceptions.

Over the years, her experience fueled a personal and a professional passion to examine how hearing loss has been viewed throughout history, both medically and in popular culture.

Now an assistant professor of history at UD with a doctorate in the history of science, technology and medicine, Virdi has developed a scholarly specialization in disability studies. "Technology is still my favorite topic," she says. "I ask: How do you personalize technology? From eyeglasses to hearing aids to your iPhone? The answer is that people tinker with the technology they wear on their bodies to make it theirs."

Her students like to tinker, too. They drop by her office with academic questions and often hang out for a while, testing out the audiometer, examining the prosthetic leg and—everyone's favorite—assembling the "Visible Woman" clear plastic model with removable body parts and organs.

Looking over these collections may be entertaining, but all the items serve a serious purpose as Virdi pursues her

.....  
Virdi is holding a book from her office bookshelf, *Rethinking Modern Prostheses in Anglo-American Commodity Cultures, 1820–1939*. She is the author of a chapter on artificial ear drums once promoted as a cure for deafness. "Total fakes."

many research, writing, teaching and public outreach activities.

Her first book, *Hearing Happiness: Deafness Cures in History*, will be published in May by the University of Chicago Press, and she's already at work on two other books, one about what it means to be deaf and the other a biography of an early scholar of disability. She also is continuing her work on "Objects of Disability," an online resource database of historical artifacts used or made by Canadians with disabilities.

Virdi's work has been recognized by the Forum for History of Human Science, which presented her its 2019 Early Career Award.

Turn the page for a look inside her office. 🐦

— Ann Manser, AS73

“I ASK: HOW DO YOU  
PERSONALIZE TECHNOLOGY?”











**Assortments of hearing aids over the years** “Some of these were works of art, but they were also meant to be hidden, which seems very strange,” Viridi says. One was built into the earpieces of a pair of glasses. Another could be worn as a tie clip by men or as a hair clip by women. There’s a theory, Viridi adds, that a lot of computer technology developed from hearing aid technology, which reduced the size of electronics for patient comfort and discretion.



**Wizard Oil** A bottle of Hamlin's Wizard Oil, an American patent medicine cure-all. Like many late 19th-/early 20th-century cure-alls, Hamlin's was composed of mostly alcohol; in this case, 55%.



**A model used in phrenology**, a pseudoscience popular in the 1800s that analyzed the shape of a person's skull and the bumps on it to ostensibly determine intellectual abilities and character traits.



**Dolls for All** Dolls that showed children with disabilities predated the Cabbage Patch Kids fad of the early 1980s. There were versions with leg braces and wheelchairs, for example, and this one wearing hearing aids. The dolls weren't sold to consumers but were made for children's hospitals and other healthcare providers to use.



**The Vibrosage** During the early 20th century, electrotherapy became a popular avenue for domestic medicine. People purchased hand-held massagers like this one for treating a wide range of conditions, such as arthritis, acne, deafness, psoriasis and more.



**The “Visible Woman”** plastic model kit was a very popular educational toy, first sold in 1960. “I have students who stop into my office just to play with this,” she says. She found it in an antique store when she was looking for a gift for her nephew.



# CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

by Ann Manser, AS73

**W**hen Jullion Cooper arrived as a freshman at UD's Newark campus from his home in Millsboro, Delaware, in 2001, nothing could have been further from his mind than a career representing the United States overseas.

"The idea of foreign service wasn't even on my radar," says Cooper, AS05, who was the first in his family to attend college. "I didn't know what a Foreign Service officer was—or even, really, what diplomacy was."

His initial plan to prepare for a career in forensic medicine took an early turn when he found a passion for law and public policy that far outweighed his interest in what he was learning in biology class. Exploring questions about the philosophy of the justice system motivated him to change his major to criminal justice with the idea of attending law school after graduation.

Then, in fall 2003, came another detour. And this was a big one.

"I was enjoying my classes and thriving, when I had the chance to study in Spain for the semester," says Cooper. "That study abroad program completely changed my life."

"Being launched into a different culture, having to create and forge your own personal narrative and your own identity in a new place can be scary, but for me, it was very liberating."

As a person of color in the United States, he says, he often felt he was being viewed as representative of



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JULLION COOPER

• A Foreign Service officer stationed in Haiti since last July, Jullion Cooper, AS05, provides on-the-ground analysis and insight to Washington, D.C. diplomats and policymakers.



all African Americans. In Spain, he left that pressure behind and instead became a kind of ambassador for all American culture, explaining life in the U.S. to new acquaintances, he says.

Cooper loved the experience so much that, after graduation, he returned to Spain, where he took graduate courses and later taught English. Back in the U.S. after a few years, he worked for a Boston-area program that helped former prison inmates transition back to society until he got “itchy feet” and the desire to travel again.

“I decided on graduate school, so a master’s in international relations was an opportunity to reinvent myself again,” he says. The graduate program at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies included study in Italy, and he was awarded a highly competitive Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship from the U.S. State Department.

The fellowship supports graduate studies, in exchange for the recipient’s commitment to three years of work in the Foreign Service. In Cooper’s case, he didn’t need three years to know that the job was right for him. He was hooked immediately and is making the Foreign Service his long-term career.

His first overseas assignment was in China, where he worked in a U.S. consulate, handling visas and providing assistance to American citizens there.

He then had two one-year stints with State Department agencies in Washington, D.C., first with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and later with the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

Since July, he’s been stationed in Haiti as a political reporting officer, providing the big-picture diplomats and policymakers in Washington with on-the-ground analysis and insights into any situations or incidents that arise and affect everyday Haitian life and U.S. foreign policy.

Cooper married recently, and his husband, Alan Yarborough, once lived in Haiti and speaks Haitian Creole, so the current assignment has been perfect for both of them, he says. With a spouse to consider now, he’ll have more factors to weigh in his choice of future assignments, but the idea of moving every two years remains exciting.

“Every assignment in the Foreign Service comes with an expiration date,” he says, so he and Yarborough know they’ll be leaving Haiti in July 2021. Where to? That’s still unknown.

“I’m open to everything, but the reality is that we have to go to a place where we’re both respected as gay men,” he says, adding with a laugh: “I speak six languages, and I’d very much like to not have to learn another one.”

Cooper can also joke about the life of a Foreign Service officer—“Picking up your life and your family and moving to a new country every few years is not something most normal people want to do!”—but he says he couldn’t imagine any other life that would suit him so well.

“With my love of public service, language and traveling overseas, no other career in the world could offer all this,” he says. “And then to be representing the United States wherever you go is a tremendous responsibility and privilege.” 🐦



Patricia Scroggs, AS83

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLOWS

Jullion Cooper, AS05, was the first UD student or alumnus to receive a Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, a State Department program that prepares exceptional young people, particularly those from underrepresented groups, for the Foreign Service.

In 2019, UD’s second Pickering Fellow was selected. Nasir Wilson, currently a senior with a double major in political science and criminal justice, will pursue graduate studies supported by the fellowship and then have the opportunity to work as a Foreign Service officer.

The University has another key connection to the program as well. Patricia Scroggs, AS83, served as a Foreign Service officer in the U.S. and abroad and now is director of diplomatic fellowships at Howard University, where she leads the Pickering and the Charles Rangel foreign affairs fellowship programs. In 2018, Scroggs returned to UD to meet with students in a series of career workshops. 🐦

# FOLLOWING IN HER FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS...







IN AN INCREASINGLY DISTRACTED AND IMPATIENT  
WORLD—WHERE INATTENTION REIGNS ON THE ROAD AND  
IN OUR LIVES—LAURA CARNEY SEES HOPE. IT'S IN HER  
FATHER'S BUCKET LIST, WRITTEN DECADES BEFORE HIS  
DEATH AS THE ULTIMATE LOVE LETTER TO LIFE.

.....

BY ERIC RUTH, AS93

In her heart she's still connected to him, full of his funny jokes and big dreams. She senses his spirit, one she's come to understand is so much like her own.

Although Mick Carney, AS71, died 17 years ago—killed by a distracted driver—Laura Carney, AS03, has found a way to connect joyfully with her father every day, to process her grief, and to help others cope with sudden loss.

Laura's transformation—and her father's legacy—lies on a few timeworn scraps of white notepaper. It is Mick's "bucket list," written the year she was born and found by her brother, Dave, BE02, years after his death. In casual, looping script, it still tells of the things he hoped to do: Speak with a U.S. president. Go skydiving at least once. Correspond with the pope.

When Laura first saw the list of 60 dreams, she was

38 years old and well into her career as a magazine copy editor. The first 10 years after her father's death, she'd shelved her grief by pursuing her profession. But her pain resurfaced when she realized her father couldn't walk her down the aisle. "When Steven proposed, he said, 'You can't carry this anger into our marriage.' And he was right," Laura remembers. "I knew I had to do something." For three years, she educated others about distracted driving, hoping to prevent further tragedies, but it wasn't enough. Car fatalities kept going up.

When her dad's list emerged in 2016, it was the perfect time to find a new way. It was six months after her wedding, and as she held the list, she remembered who her dad really was—a man whose life was hopeful, not one that could be defined by tragedy.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAURA CARNEY AND HER HUSBAND, STEVEN SEGHMAN



# ...WITH A DARING SPIRIT BOLD

"So when I found the list, it was like my dad was providing me a framework, a way of telling his story through the things he cared about. I knew immediately—I had a gut instinct I should finish it. And I had this image in the back of my mind of my dad smiling, and nodding, 'Yes.'"

Scanning his ambitious and sometimes whimsical list—"Teach a class about wine." "Grow a watermelon"—she found he had checked off five, and failed at another, leaving her with 54 to complete for him.

Almost immediately, she launched a blog and website focused on her mission, and zeroed in on her first challenge: "Run 10 miles straight."

Laura decided to take on the Los Angeles Marathon (she ran half, while her college roommate Kelly Solis, EHD02, ran the other), finishing just before a Good Housekeeping article she authored on her bucket-list quest began to stir national attention. Soon,

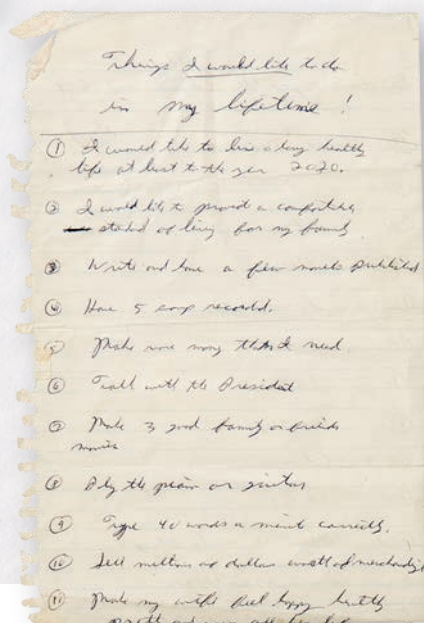
the media requests seemed to be coming from every direction: Her first big interview on Inside Edition was followed by an appearance on CBS News and a slew of local stations.

"It kind of went viral," she says.

As she prepped for high-pressure interviews and learned how to keep pace with the requirements of an increasingly busy schedule, Laura found herself sometimes overwhelmed and a bit bewildered.

"I didn't aspire to help myself," she says now. "I just wanted to save lives and honor my dad. I had no idea it would draw the interest it did or happen so fast."

Her days became a whirl of advocacy and adventure. There she was, fulfilling Mick's dreams by skydiving on TV—and throwing up on herself onscreen. There she was, tackling the tennis challenge—"Beat a number-one seeded tennis player in a tournament"—then badly injuring herself on the court





the first day she tried. Hoping to achieve her dad's dream of meeting a U.S. president, she was foiled at every turn—until destiny kindly arranged a chance encounter with President Jimmy Carter's biographer.

"People I've never met before, I end up staying friends with. What I think happens is while I'm thinking I was fated to meet them, they think they were fated to meet me," she muses. "Even up until the very last minute I thought I wasn't going to check the presidential meeting off."

Through it all, she seems to have sensed her dad's presence—sometimes smiling supportively, sometimes chuckling at her foibles. Eerie alignments between her dad's life and hers have emerged: Just as she started to write her own book on the quest ("write and have a few novels published" is a list item), she discovered the old outlines Mick had written for a book of his own. Just as she had reached the lowest point of her surgery recovery from the tennis injury—"Why am I doing this! It's too hard," she cried at one point—a letter from Mick's college roommate appeared, bearing an old sports newsletter her dad had created.

Still, she wonders again and again whether she can do it all—and again and again, some invisible force steps in to help, to push her on. By the end of January 2020, she had managed to finish 31 of the items—and vows to complete the list by the end of the year.

"One in particular is my Moby Dick right now: 'Be invited to a political convention.' But then I reached out to the director of the Delaware Democratic Party and he said, 'I don't see why you can't come.'"

To someone who was quickly becoming a student of the improbable, those words were encouragement enough. "That sounded like an invitation to me!" she jokes.

Yet there have been times of self-doubt—moments when she worried that enjoying this effort was revealing her to be the same impossible dreamer her dad often was.



#48 GROW A WATERMELON



#36

LOSE 4" FROM MY WAIST

I did this cycling and via vegan diet



#44

ATTEND A SUPERBOWL



#51

SKYDIVE



#47

SURF IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN



But then she realized, those dreamer parts just might be the best parts. And that while she feared pursuing something so all-consuming might separate her from loved ones, it's proven to do the opposite. Because so many of them have helped.

So she pushes ahead these days mindful that the mission itself has made her better—a person who's found her purpose, and is keenly aware of the magical karmic energy buzzing through it all.

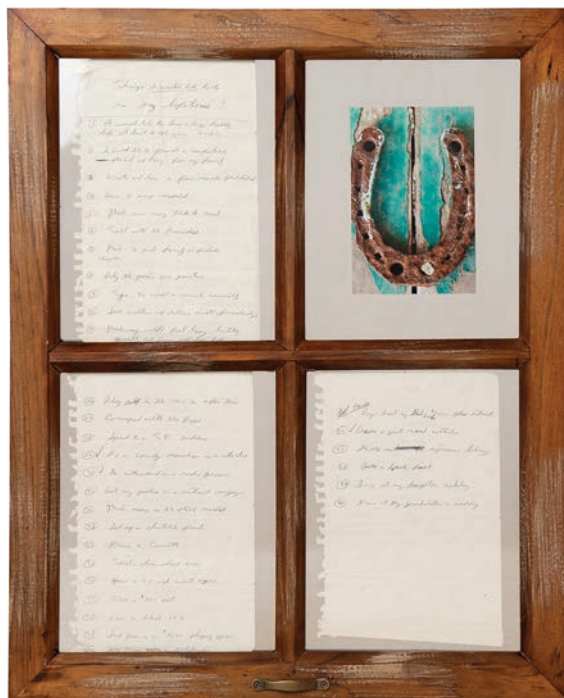
"What I'm starting to learn is whenever I'm doing something that's compassionate and kind, the list works out," she says. "But whenever I'm doing something arrogant or ego-based, it falls apart."

The karmic alignments have been good of late: She has gotten a literary agent interested in her story, and has written half of her book.

"In many ways, I think it has made me a better family member, more open, more compassionate," she says, thinking of her dad, who valued family so highly.

She sees him more clearly now—a man who was not unlike many men, full of imperfections and flaws, but also rich with dreams and purpose. In many ways, she now knows, he was a person much like herself.

"So often people are afraid of becoming the bad parts of their parents," she says. "But if you lean into it instead, choose to honor their lives, you just might find there's nothing to be afraid of, that the good outweighs the bad—in them, and in you, too." 🐦



## TO LIFE

May it be lived with a daring spirit bold.

Inspired by the Carney's story, UD Magazine wants to give our readers a chance to write down their own dreams. Make them big, make them small, make them your own. We believe in you.



## MAY LUCK BE ON YOUR SIDE

Laura Carney found herself drawn to the symbolism of horseshoes, sometimes facing up and other times pointing down. Either option is a gift, she says. "In much of the Western world, people hang it in the U shape over doorways so their luck won't fall out. Everywhere else in the world, they hang it in the arch shape to 'let luck rain down upon you.'" It resembles the karmic energy Carney has experienced—kindness and compassion for others. "My feeling is, you get to decide which luck you want. One type prefers keeping things under control, while the other is willing to let go of everything, with the faith that you will be OK."

STILL, SHE WONDERES AGAIN AND AGAIN  
WHETHER SHE CAN DO IT ALL—AND AGAIN AND  
AGAIN, SOME INVISIBLE FORCE STEPS IN TO  
HELP, TO PUSH HER ON.



#22  
GO TO  
ST. THOMAS



[illegible]



## LIST FOR A LIFETIME

THINGS  
I WANT  
TO DO  
FOR OTHERS

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# GAME ON!

by Eric Ruth, AS93

**UD's new Esports Arena gives students a chance to get in on the glory of competitive gaming while preparing graduates for a rich assortment of real-world jobs.**





Back in the days when John Kim was a tack-sharp middle schooler brimming with college potential, his mom would plead for him to PLEASE PUT DOWN the video game controller and focus more on his future.

As it turns out, that's exactly what he was doing.

Just a few years after studiously ignoring all parental pleas, Kim and his fellow student gamers are finding that their seemingly idle pursuits have become the stuff of collegiate innovation and next-gen sporting prowess: The distinctly 21st century phenomenon of scholastic video game competition has officially arrived at UD—and UD is already pushing the power-boost button.

Just last fall, Kim and a contingent of other fast-fingered prodigies made the cut for the first four Fightin' Blue Hen varsity squads in "esports," a global sensation that now boasts more viewers than the NHL or the NBA, and offers the promise of rich payouts, lucrative sponsorships and even scholarships. And over winter, a slick new UD Esports Arena was unveiled at Perkins Student Center, complete with warp-speed gaming computers, ergonomically enhanced gamer chairs, and even air-conditioned headphones suited to long bouts laced with jargon-packed team banter.

"It's going to be huge, right out of the box," predicts Steve Kramarck, who oversees UD's teams as associate director of University Student Centers. "But there's also a lot of room for growth here."

The University hopes these early moves will help it stay on the leading

edge of a wave that could boost enrollment, bolster reputation and ultimately prepare graduates for a rich assortment of real-world jobs, from marketing to game design. UD already had some academic offerings in gaming, but administrators

it will be like, ‘Wow! I can be on the team. I want to be part of that culture.’”

But for the 34 current players, it has already been the stuff of their unapologetically nerdy dreams. “Playing for a team that’s associated with the school is so cool,” says Kim,

baseball and other NCAA sports reside within the UD Athletics department. But as with basketball and other more physically focused NCAA sports, Kim has found that egaming instills teamwork, discipline and a thirst for self-improvement. Strategies can be wondrously complex, and gaming’s goal-driven, glory-seeking mindset helps foster a skill crucial for later success—a will to prevail despite the odds.

“You have to be physically fit. You need hand-eye coordination. You need to be adept at working together,

“You have to be physically fit. You need hand-eye coordination. You need to be adept at working together, creating strategies, solving challenges through collaboration.”

— MATT ROBINSON



PHOTO BY KATHY F. ATKINSON

are tweaking sports management courses and talking about a new interdisciplinary major centered around egaming—hoping that an early entry into intercollegiate electronic battlegrounds will lift UD ahead of East Coast rivals in an increasingly competitive market.

“It will definitely drive recruitment,” says Tony Doody, who helped spearhead the new program as director of University Student Centers. “We have lots of stories of top-notch students not coming here because of no esports program. If I’m a high schooler thinking about coming to UD,

A high-tech broadcast booth in the UD Esports Arena integrates multiple camera views and microphones for student “shoutcasters” to provide live play-by-play entertainment during matches.

BE20, who goes by the in-game name “kaMba” as squad captain in League of Legends, a fantasy-fueled virtual battlefield featuring superpowered characters waging pitiless-but-bloodless combat. “When I came here from South Korea at age 6, I didn’t have many friends. One thing I could always turn to was basketball and gaming.”

At UD, intercollegiate egaming is operated under the auspices of the Division of Student Life, while football,

creating strategies, solving challenges through collaboration,” says Prof. Matt Robinson, who is helping to develop academic components incorporating egaming. “I think for a lot of people, the stereotype of gamers is someone in their room by themselves. But it actually promotes cooperation, communication and competitiveness.”

“There’s also a camaraderie between players that gets developed,” says Theo Fessaras, AS20, a computer engineering and physics double major who plays for the Overwatch team under the *nom de jeu* “Cobalt.” “You



have to think, you have to problem-solve, you have to handle pressure.”

“I get to challenge myself against some of the best players in the country, something I couldn’t do in high school,” adds Kim. “It really forces you to pay attention, to have that drive to constantly be learning, or you’ll fall behind.”

The growth of esports at UD has been fueled for years by such youthful passion. Even before the varsity team was born, players who were part of UD’s two gaming-centric clubs could claim high-ranked success in online tournament play. Many have even supplemented their semester finances with tournament winnings, including Thomas Mulligan, BE16 (better known as “72hrs” online), who has won \$320,700 in just 24 tournaments.

And the four fledgling Blue Hen varsity teams—League of Legends, Overwatch, Rocket League and

Globally, esports has become a \$22 billion industry, with more viewers than the NHL or NBA.

Hearthstone—are also off and winning. League of Legends recently “pwned” Duke University (“defeated,” to us mere mortals), and earlier this year was one of just six teams nationwide to stand unbeaten against teams from Penn State, Army and Seton Hall. “My goal is to go 24-0,” team captain Kim says without a trace of doubt.

Yet to outsiders of a certain vintage, the athletic bonafides (and academic potential) of esports can seem as murky as the maelstrom of

stroboscopic chaos that greets the unacquainted spectator’s eye. To insiders, many of them players since before they entered elementary school, it all makes perfect sense: Games seethe with dramatic charges, clever feints, improbable reverses—all accompanied by fevered commentary from “shoutcasters” who will add the in-game color from one corner of the Perkins arena.

On the field of play itself, players in headsets engage in a running dialogue of exhortations, agonized cries, verbal high-fives. Tapped into the action telephonically, coaches based overseas fine-tune players’ skills during two-hour-per-day, thrice-weekly practice sessions. During competitions, team leaders oversee tactics, admonish laggards, caution against excessive zeal.

“Watch echo here,” one Blue Hen captain could be heard warning teammates in a recent online scrimmage.

## GAMING SLANG

**BOOP:** To push back an opponent, particularly toward and over a precipice (Overwatch).

**LAMP:** Invulnerability shield (Overwatch).

**CHOKER:** A confined area ideal for destroying opponents (Overwatch).

**DPS:** “Damage per second,” often used to describe the role of a character with a lot of damage-dealing power.

**ULT:** Short for “ultimate,” usually in reference to possessing a character’s ultimate “power,” i.e., “I have my ult.”

**“[THAT PLAYER] IS ONE.”:** Opponent is one hit away from destruction.

**PEEL:** Go and defend teammate in trouble.

**SALTY:** Bitter/upset.

**PUNISH THEM:** Opponents are out of position, so respond and destroy.

**BMING:** Shorthand for badmouthing, bad manners.

**GANKING:** The act of surprising an opponent, typically from behind.



"I have no clue what happened," another replied after running afoul of an opponent's treachery.

"Just run, just run," he's told, and run he did, as fast as his armor-fortified, keyboard-coordinated, bird-of-prey legs could move.

UD administrators are taking steps to ensure the new e-athletes aren't getting too much screen time, and have been careful to address concerns over ergonomics, academic balance and team diversity. The Esports Arena will be open to all students, and players must meet GPA minimum.

Yet so far, the Blue Hen roster is mainly male, typical of today's game-culture gender paradigm, though UD is working to find ways to recruit more.

The squad's lone woman, quietly intense and improbably nicknamed

("Butter"), predicts she won't be alone for long. "The culture has always been male dominated," says Emma Lewis, ANR23, manager of the Overwatch team. "It can be hard as a woman to break in on that, but it never bothered me. I know how to work with them and not be intimidated."

The egaming wave is even reaching UD's English Language Institute, where there are now 10 new gaming stations accommodating two five-member teams. "As fast-growing as it is in the U.S., it's even bigger in Asia," says Scott Stevens, ELI director. "It's exciting that UD will be one of the few institutions that's catching up."

Stevens says 40% of Asian students at U.S. universities go through all four years without making any American friends. "At UD, we have bucked that trend, and

this is another way we are working to promote those friendships," Stevens says.

And as the team reaches toward greater inclusivity and inevitable Blue Hen glory, there's a feeling that UD is again on the leading edge of the Next Big Thing, a sentiment that's shared by a UD grad now overseeing the Electronic Gaming Federation's push into collegiate esports.

"It's growing—growing every year," says former UD gaming club standout David Chen, EG17, who is now head of events and league operations at the EGF, which coordinates collegiate play for UD and other schools. "It's a \$22 billion industry, and that's just in the past decade."

"If we don't do this," Robinson adds, "we're not doing our job of preparing students for these new opportunities."

**GAMING IS THE MOST LIKELY ENTERTAINMENT DURING FREE TIME FOR 42% OF THE UNDER-35 SET.**  
(Source: Hub Entertainment)





## MEET THOMAS MULLIGAN, BE16

In the fast-paced, fast-growing world of esports, few have faster fingers than Thomas Mulligan, BE16. Just four years after graduating from UD, Mulligan—better known to fans as “72hrs”—has blasted his way into the upper echelons of competitive play in the game Fortnite, amassing \$320,000 in prize money and earning a place on one of the top pro squads, TeamLiquid. On the gaming website Twitch, he stands as the 29th most popular Fortnite player, drawing an average of 4,900 viewers per match. Over on YouTube, more than 360,000 people have signed up to watch his banter-fueled game videos, occasionally peppering him with fanboy questions: “When are you going to shave the beard?” (He’s not). “Do any TeamLiquid players smoke cigarettes?” (No).



The New Jersey resident’s popularity seems driven in part by his sassy, snarky personality, but a softer side frequently emerges: He often gives young gamers a chance to play against the champ, gently coaching as they nervously keep pace with the master—and occasionally crush him. “That was smart, you closed the wall,” he told one young rival who had blasted him to electronic smithereens. Then, with a touch of pedagogical pride, he added: “You’re evil!” 🐦

“AS SOON AS I HEARD ABOUT UD’S TEAM, I WAS LIKE, ‘GET ME ON BOARD. I WANT TO BE INVOLVED.’ THIS GIVES STUDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BONDING, FOR BELONGING. GETTING AS MANY STUDENTS INVOLVED AS I CAN IS ONE OF MY GOALS.”

## DAVID CHEN, EG17

Operations executive with the Electronic Gaming Federation, which includes UD’s new esports teams






# Alan Fox wants to Blow Your Mind

by Artika Rangan Casini, AS05

Illustrations by Kailey Whitman







Let there be light,” says the philosophy professor, smirking slightly as he flips on the switch of the shadowed classroom. The students shift in their chairs, watching the man in jeans and sneakers, short-sleeved shirt and tie, briefcase in one hand and Styrofoam coffee cup in the other.





It is better to have questions that can't be

It's

It's the first day of World Religion, PHIL204, and Alan Fox is worried. Not about any one thing in particular, but rather, the intellectual laziness he's been noticing. The growing inability to follow logical arguments or vet sources of information. The fake news. The online groupthink. (Which is not to say that Fox is anti-Internet. Books he had to *literally* travel to China to read he can now access on his phone.) "But there's all kinds of crackpot garbage out there," he warns the class. "Misinformation intentionally designed to manipulate the masses." It's pretty scary when you stop to think about it.

And therein lies the problem. Because who's stopping to think? And why would anyone need to? This is 2020, for heaven's sake, where answers are obvious, opinions are amplified, and information flows like the air. To think, then, is to question, and to question is to challenge the very foundation of our assumptions, our beliefs and, ultimately, ourselves.

Fox quite enjoys using world religion to subvert this point. It is better to have questions that can't be answered than answers that can't be questioned, he argues. And so, in the humble confines of the classroom, he wages an earnest crusade against one-mindedness—not by forcing students to think differently, but by enticing them to see more.

To do so, they look to the philosophies of the past: the Old and New Testament, the Koran, even Native American ruminations on Earth, soul and spirit. In the Bhagavad Gita, man wrestles with duty, discipline and the immortal soul, while the Daodejing of Laozi, written during the turbulent political times of 200 BC, offers spiritual guidance while denouncing unbounded greed.

"These are books people have been arguing about for 5,000, 6,000 years," he tells the students. "Understanding is not our goal. I'm asking what you think. That takes courage on your part."

## A MIND-BLOWING EDUCATION

A professor of Asian and comparative philosophy and religion, Fox makes a conscious effort in every class to "blow minds." In one of his favorite course evaluations, a student said she could feel the neurons forming in her brain. Fox thinks of it as "meta-

learning," the process of showing young adults, "Yes, you're right. But there are all these other ways of looking at things, too. Whatever you see, try and see something more."

Take, for instance, the New Testament tale of Barabbas, who was freed from jail as another prisoner was nailed to the cross. "Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas or Jesus which is called Christ?" (Matthew 27:17).

As Fox explains to his students, Barabbas' first name was also Jesus, and his surname translates to "Son of the Father."

"So how do we know they got the right guy?" he asks. "Christianity says they did, while Islam insists Jesus did not die on the cross." ["That they said (in boast), 'We killed Messiah...but they killed him not, nor crucified him. But so it was made to appear to them....'"] (Qur'an, sura 4 (An-Nisa) ayat 157-158).]

It's all mind-blowing stuff, from the parallels between Hinduism and quantum mechanics to the Buddhist notion that there is no "self," and that we are simply too distracted by our thoughts to reach a higher level of consciousness. (For his part, Fox—who began his career "studying religion as a psychological experience" while working with paranoid schizophrenics—refers to Buddhism as "the most sophisticated psychological system on the planet—as far as I can tell.")



answered than answers that can't be questioned.

"Prof. Fox is like a performer, always holding something back," says Deepthi Cherian, AS09, a pediatric emergency room doctor in Denver. "He never answers a question for you. I think he doesn't necessarily think there is a right one. He makes you want to ask them for yourself."

"I always pity someone who hasn't taken class with Dr. Fox," adds Jay Valentine, AS02. "His class taught me not to put one religion on a pedestal and kick the others to the curb. Instead, you learn something deep and interesting in every one."

Now an assistant philosophy professor at Troy University in Alabama, Valentine teaches world religions and other classes in ethics and philosophy, always working to impart in his students the same wisdom he gained from Fox. "Perhaps the most important lesson of ethics is that these are not simple questions," Valentine says. "If you can't find nuance on both sides of the argument, you're probably missing a lot of what's going on."

## THE LIMITS WE IMPOSE

But who really knows what's going on?

In 1967, Richard Alpert, one of the early investigators of LSD, carted his psychedelic pills halfway around the world hoping to find someone who better understood their properties. In India, he met Neem Karoli Baba, a

Hindu guru and mystic intrigued by the hallucinatory drugs. "Do you have any?" the yogi asked of the pills, and indeed, Alpert did. But after handing over 900 micrograms of the world's purest LSD, he watched in astonishment as the mystic swallowed the massive dose and simply laughed in Alpert's face.

"So either he's tripping all the time," Fox says, while relating the story his students, "or his body was able to render the drugs inert."

As it turns out, Harry Houdini was also a yogi, and advanced yogis claim to slow their heart rate down to a near-stop, Fox explains. The philosophy professor is giving a lesson on meditation, on how "breathing can get you pretty high," and it's here that he explores breathing's unique property: something that is both voluntary and not; a bridge between the things we have control over and the things we don't. Perhaps then, it is not unlike the human brain.

When Fox reflects on the first truly mind-blowing thing he ever read, he cites *The Illuminatus! Trilogy*, a 1975 science fiction series with a radical premise: That every conspiracy theory you've ever heard is correct. In some ways, the book, with its wild notion that the only limits we have are the ones we impose on ourselves, would dictate the rest of his career.

"I'm an open-minded skeptic," Fox says. "I'm not a big believer in belief."

It all goes back to the arrogance of ignorance Fox so disdains. "There's a plague of stupidity," he laments. "Nobody is thinking for themselves anymore. Everything has become too easy." In defiance, he and his students turn to texts like the Daodejing, forcing them to wrestle with seemingly contradictory concepts:





*"Whatever you see, try and see something more."*

*A Way that can be followed is not a constant Way.*

*A name that can be named is not a constant name.*

*The absence of designation initiates the world as a whole;*

*The presence of designation engenders the ten thousand things.<sup>1</sup>*

"These texts are so obscure, they force students to think for themselves," Fox says. "To think philosophically is to make arguments. The best questions are the ones that lead to more questions, not the ones with answers."

## THE DAO OF ALAN FOX

Fox grew up "conventionally religious" in the suburbs of South Jersey, but it could be said that his religion really began with his father, an engineer who "never just answered my question. He always made me figure it out for myself."

It's a strategy the younger Fox has employed since arriving at UD in 1990.

Over the past three decades, he has earned two Excellence in Teaching Awards from the University, been named Delaware Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation, and received countless other honors and accolades. Former admissions director Louis Hirsh often referred to him as "one of the best recruiting tools" for the Honors Program, which Fox briefly directed, and retired political science professor James Magee still marvels at his colleague's reputation.

A multiple recipient of the University's Excellence in Teaching and Advising Awards himself, Magee recalls the day he ran into a student from his American government course, who hadn't been attending class. When Magee asked the student if everything was alright, the young man simply shrugged and said, "Yeah, I just get your slides online. But have you heard of Alan Fox? You should really sit in on one of his classes."

Magee could only laugh. "Alan is a teacher you don't forget," he says. "Students leave his course saying, 'He challenged me. He made me feel like I had something to contribute. He opened my mind.' I suppose that's

*"Understanding is not our goal. I'm asking what you think. That takes courage on your part."*

because he believes everyone has a mind, some sharper than others."

Getting students to use theirs is the very essence of Fox's religion, his "sense of connection to something deeper and greater than the self."

The ability to reason, to think; to ask, seek, question, observe; to approach the greatest complexities of life with curiosity, humility and an open mind—those are the qualities Fox hopes to instill.

"My job is to show students sides they haven't seen before," he says. "I'm here to drag them kicking and screaming to the light." 🐦

[1] Partially translated by Fox, who speaks Mandarin Chinese, reads Classical Chinese, speaks and reads French, and has some facility in Sanskrit, Japanese, Hebrew and Greek.



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# ALUMNI NEWS

## EYEWITNESS TO RECENT DELAWARE HISTORY



John Riley, AS68

The CEO from Sweden didn't waste time. It was 1999, his pharma company had already merged with one of Delaware's largest employers, and relocation threats loomed large for the 2,400 employees of Wilmington-based Zeneca.

As the final headquarters decision grew near, Astra CEO C.G. Johansson held meetings with the governors of Pennsylvania and Delaware, intent on securing a big incentive offer.

"In Sweden, we have an expression called 'spice the pudding,'" Johansson is said to have told then-Delaware Gov. Tom Carper. "And we would like you to spice [it] with an extra \$15 million" in relocation assistance. "C.G.," the governor replied, "that's a lot of spice!"

An eyewitness to the full exchange, John Riley, AS68, recalls the ensuing laughter and the ultimate success of the AstraZeneca merger, which Delaware secured with \$8 (not \$15) million. It's a typical behind-the-scenes tale from Riley's recent autobiography, *Delaware Eyewitness*, which traces five decades of state history through such anecdotes.

"The events of my life...have overlapped with one of the most dynamic periods of social upheaval, economic growth and transformation," he writes. "This book has been my attempt to make sense of it."

A man of humble origins, Riley grew up with eight brothers and sisters in an 800-square-foot home, where his hot-tempered father struggled with addiction, and his mother maintained "a troubled but constant loyalty to the man who made her life so difficult."

Riley never expected to attend college, much less work alongside Delaware's corporate and political elite, but he credits his education and upbringing for laying the foundation for his success. "UD's impact on my life was never-ending," he says. "It's where I met my wife Sharon [HS69], and it opened my eyes to the rest of the world."

His post-college journey would take him to the Army during the height of the Vietnam War, and then return him to the heart of corporate America. In Delaware, he worked as a salesman for Xerox, as a county politician, lobbyist, professional sports manager and as head of government and public relations for Hercules during the chemical giant's dramatic decline and ultimate sale.

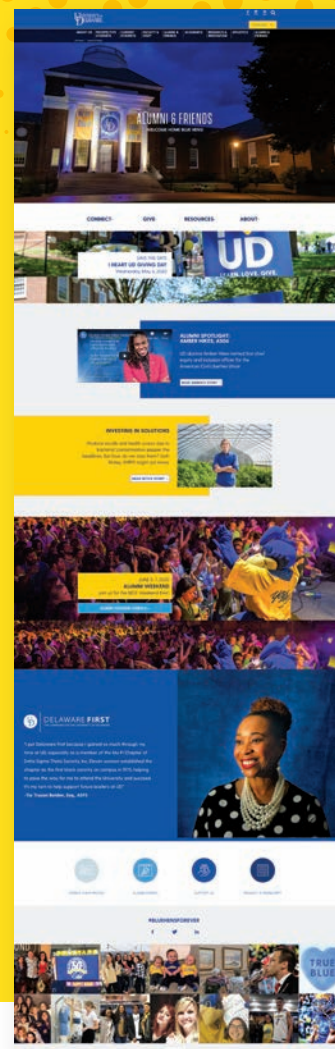
The experiences all shaped the Blue Hen's outlook, offering him a unique but universal lesson on leadership.

"To be successful in negotiations—in business and in life—you have to see things through another person's perspective," he says. "You need empathy for another's position. If you have that, you're always capable of finding a solution." 🐔

## NEW ALUMNI & FRIENDS WEBSITE — NOW LIVE!

It's here—a new Alumni & Friends website that makes it easy to explore all of your alumni benefits, events, career advancement and mentoring tools, ways to give back to the University and more!

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# GREEK LIFE CELEBRATIONS

## ALPHA KAPPA PSI, OMEGA ALPHA CHAPTER, 10 YEARS

Alpha Kappa Psi was founded with the vision to be the premier developer of principled business leaders. The chapter's 10-year celebration, held last spring, included plenty of food, fun, and even a briefcase-shaped "brief cake" for dessert!

## ALPHA XI DELTA, THETA GAMMA CHAPTER, 30 YEARS

Alpha Xi Delta established its Theta Gamma chapter at UD in October 1989. The sorority encourages women



DELTA GAMMA



DELTA CHI



KAPPA ALPHA PSI

The Greek life memories, traditions, friendships and legacies continue long after graduation for thousands of Blue Hens across the country. Here's a look at some milestone anniversaries over the past year.

to "realize their potential" and celebrate the individuality of each sister, along with their talents and interests.

## DELTA CHI, DELTA UPSILON CHAPTER, NEWLY CHARTERED

Last November, the Delta Chi colony became the Delta Chi chapter, with a gala chartering event in Newark attended by more than 150 brothers and their families. The fraternity had returned to the University in 2016, after a

nearly 30-year absence, and has since recruited 120 new brothers.

## DELTA GAMMA, ZETA CHI CHAPTER, 25 YEARS

Established in 1873 as a club of "mutual helpfulness," the founding sisters chose the Greek letters Delta and Gamma because of their desire to "Do Good." It remains Delta Gamma's motto today and a driving force in all they do.

## KAPPA ALPHA PSI, NU XI CHAPTER, 30 YEARS

Formed in the early 1900s to encourage college attendance and achievement among African American men, the Nu Xi chapter at UD "raises the sights of black collegians and stimulates them to

accomplishments higher than they might have imagined." Over its three decades at UD, the Nu Xi chapter has contributed to the enrichment, development and education of students and the surrounding community through an endowed scholarship, as well as numerous community service efforts.

## PHI SIGMA PI, ALPHA ETA CHAPTER, 30 YEARS

Phi Sigma Pi takes attributes from an honor society, a service fraternity and a social fraternity, blending them into a unique, gender-inclusive organization. To commemorate the chapter's 30-year anniversary, members put together a time capsule for future generations of Blue Hens.

## SIGMA ALPHA, ALPHA KAPPA CHAPTER, 20 YEARS

A professional agricultural sorority, Sigma Alpha marked its 20-year anniversary with a special Founder's Day celebration, including a panel discussion for current students to interact with alumni in the field. 🐔

Is your fraternity or sorority  
**CELEBRATING A MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY?**  
If so, please share the photos and updates with us at [magazine@udel.edu](mailto:magazine@udel.edu).





**DELAWARE FIRST**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

# EXTENDING OUR IMPACT ON THE WORLD

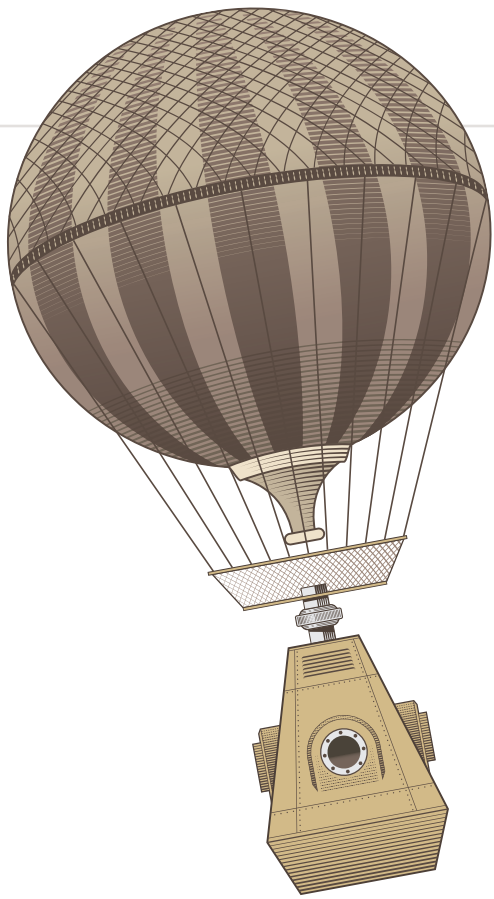
**100+** Study abroad programs

**126** Research funds and programs

**380+** Blue Hens participate in the 4-year World Scholars program

**Endless discoveries made.**

Visit [udel.edu/delawarefirst](https://udel.edu/delawarefirst) to learn more.



# Time Machine

## REUNION CLASSES LOOK BACK

2020 marks a reunion year for alumni in classes ending in “0” or “5.” With upcoming celebrations planned for **Alumni Weekend** and **Homecoming**, several reunion ambassadors took a figurative walk down memory lane, recalling their favorite campus memories. Read on for some that are sure to ring a bell.

### 1970s

In the 1970s, female students no longer had strict dorm curfews, the long-lasting Vietnam War caused campus protests and annual in-state tuition was \$450 at the start of the decade.

“In August of my senior year, I remember finding out in class that President Nixon had resigned. I also remember having to step over close friends who were protesting the Vietnam War and not going to classes. I was paying my own way through college and didn’t want to miss class! Other standout memories include walking with the student body to the football games, communicating via the vents between our floors in Christiana Towers and the card catalog in the library.”

—Wayne C. Smith, HS75, who just celebrated 44 years of marriage with fellow Blue Hen Linda Godley Smith, EG75



### 1980s

Academics by day, Main Street by night—UD students in the 1980s enjoyed the large renovation of the Morris Library and the Scrounge. Off campus, the Stone Balloon established Mug Night, where a \$5 glass mug bought 50-cent drafts all year. And let’s not forget athletics—in 1981, the Blue Hens became a Division I football team.

“In 1980, our Commencement speaker’s address seemed to go on and on—I’m embarrassed to say we were happy that it started to rain, ending the ceremony. But as a native Delawarean and second-generation graduate, I am very proud to be a UD alumna and have stayed connected in many ways. I have gone back to speak to freshmen interested in hearing about life after college, and I still root on Delaware Football.”

—Terry T. Shelton Farley, AS80

“There are so many memorable moments—Move-In Day freshman year, Homecoming formals, football games/ tailgating and costume parties.”

—Meg Daley Rogers, AS85







## 1990s

The birth of our technological revolution began in the 1990s, as the decade brought cable TV to the dorms, the plus/minus grading system, Vita Nova, FLEX accounts and the first UD-issued email addresses.

“It’s crazy to think our Social Security number was on our ID cards and used by professors when they posted our grades. I remember using my Brother word processor for papers and it always seemed like the ink cartridge ran out when printing something important!”

—Lauren Murray Simone, BE95

## 2000s

Ah, the decade that brought us Facebook, once only open to college students (circa 2004 at UD). On campus, the Fightin’ Blue Hens played their first home night game in 2000, after the installation of lighting in Delaware Stadium, and in 2009, UD purchased the old Chrysler plant, which would become the Science, Technology and Advanced Research (STAR) Campus.

“One of the things I miss the most is the grilled cheese from Kent Dining ... and how all of the walking around campus allowed me to eat lots! My most memorable moments were with my Sigma Kappa sorority sisters, and I’m lucky to still be in touch with so many of them. I bleed Blue and Gold, and it’s evident by the time, talent and treasure I’ve given back over the last 20 years.”

—Shante Stargel  
Hastings, EG00

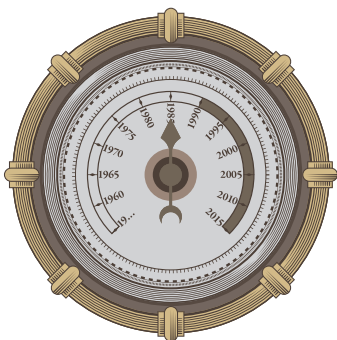


## 2010s

So many accolades in the 10s! (or Teens?) Emeritus Professor Richard F. Heck received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2010; Joe Flacco, BE08, earned Super Bowl MVP honors in 2013 for leading the Baltimore Ravens to victory; Elena Delle Donne, ED13, became UD’s first Olympic Gold Medalist; David Townsend, ANR19, became the first UD student elected as President of Future Farmers of America; and our graduates continued to make their alma mater proud.

“My most memorable moment that I shared with others on campus as a UD student was a home football game versus Wagner. It was pouring but a handful of us decided to stay and embrace the rain. We cheered, danced and jumped in puddles in the student section for the entire game. We won, too!” 🐓

—Kayla Krenitsky, ANR15



## Relive your glory days!

If your class ends in “0” or “5” from the past 50 years, connect with fellow Blue Hens in dedicated Facebook groups and during your milestone celebrations:

### Alumni Weekend Reunion Celebrations

Classes of 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015  
[www.udel.edu/AWreunions](http://www.udel.edu/AWreunions)

### Homecoming Reunion

#### Celebrations | Oct. 24, 2020

Classes of 1970, 1975 and 1980  
[www.udel.edu/homecoming/reunions](http://www.udel.edu/homecoming/reunions)

### Graduated earlier than 1970?

Join us for an on-campus or regional event. Contact [alumnet@udel.edu](mailto:alumnet@udel.edu) or 302-831-2341 for more information.

# BLUE HENS IN THE BAY AREA...



Learn more about  
the Bay Area  
Alumni Club at  
[udel.edu/alumni-friends/bayarea](http://udel.edu/alumni-friends/bayarea)

From the iconic Golden Gate Bridge to the heart of the tech industry in Silicon Valley, the San Francisco Bay Area in Northern California has no shortage of sought-after destinations. You can hop on a cable car in hilly San Francisco, tour the prison on Alcatraz Island, wine and dine your way through Napa Valley, check out the exploding food scene in

historic, artsy Oakland—the list goes on.

While the Bay Area has countless attractions for tourists, it also attracts some of the best and brightest to its many thriving and innovative companies, including Blue Hen Lisa Novak, AS98, director of sports marketing at Clif Bar & Company.

## MEET BAY AREA BLUE HEN LISA NOVAK, AS98

Lisa Novak always felt the lure of the West Coast. After graduating from UD, the Wilmington, Delaware native lived in Washington, D.C. and New York City until her then-fiancé landed a job in San Francisco. They jumped at the chance to relocate. Fifteen years later, the mom of 6-year-old twins Milo and Nola now works at her dream job.

**How has your UD education and experience influenced your personal and professional life?**

Many of the friendships I formed (in Dickinson C!)

are still some of the most important relationships in my life today. My deep love of running also sparked in college. After finishing four years on the UD Women's Cross Country and Track teams under the leadership of Sue McGrath-Powell, I moved on to marathons and trail ultra-marathons. That belief in my endurance and ability to take on such an extreme athletic challenge was born at UD.

Professionally, I lean on the communication skills I gleaned from my UD education every single day to be an effective



leader and communicator at Clif Bar & Company, where I manage a team of 10 athlete employees, oversee the global sports marketing strategy and cultivate meaningful relationships that drive awareness and impact.

## What do you love most about your job?

I am grateful for my role at a company that walks the walk. Clif Bar is a five-bottom-line business, which annually measures financial results along with how it treats its people, our planet, the community and our brands.

I learned about the company back in my cross country days when I fell in love with Chocolate Chip CLIF Bars, but my job is so much more than just product marketing. My team played a central role in our LUNA Bar “Someday is Now” campaign, working with U.S. Women's National



# ...AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Team soccer players Megan Rapinoe and Alex Morgan to bring attention to pay inequality in sports leading up to the 2019 Women's World Cup in France. On Equal Pay Day, we gave each of the 23 women who made the national team the \$31,250 difference to make their roster bonus equal to the men's, no strings attached. That was a major career highlight that truly reflects our company values.

## *How do you stay connected with UD while living on the West Coast?*

My parents, three siblings and many of my cousins attended UD, so I've been to numerous graduations and Homecomings as a result. I've been fortunate to attend a number of UD regional alumni events since moving, including San Francisco Giants games.

It's incredibly fun for me to spread the Blue Hen love out in the Bay Area as relatively few Delawareans live out here. The fact I'm from Delaware and have a Blue Hen as a mascot is a novelty to most people. It gives me an opportunity to share my passion for the great First State. 🐓

### ATLANTA

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour  
**Aug. 1** – Atlanta United vs. NYCFC soccer game

### BALTIMORE

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour  
**Aug. 22** – Boston Red Sox vs. Baltimore Orioles baseball game

### BAY AREA

**June 20** – Kayaking on the Bay – Marin departure  
**Aug. 15** – San Francisco Giants vs. Colorado Rockies baseball game

### BOSTON

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour  
**June 17** – Boston Red Sox vs. Atlanta Braves baseball Game

### CHICAGO

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour  
**July 21** – Cubs vs. White Sox baseball game

### DENVER

**Aug. 1** – Colorado Rockies vs. San Francisco Giants baseball game

### HOUSTON

**May TBD** – Houston Aquarium Tour

### KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTY

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour  
**July 17** – Cape Water Taxi Sunset Cruise

### LEHIGH VALLEY

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour

**June 20** – Blue Hen Day at Dorney Park

**Aug. 2** – Lehigh Valley IronPigs vs. Durham Bulls baseball game

### LOS ANGELES

**June 5** – Dela-Bratton event at Saint Marc's in Century City  
**Aug. 6** – Dodgers vs. Mets baseball game  
**Sept. 20** – LAFC vs. DC United MLS soccer game

### NEW CASTLE COUNTY

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour  
**July 18** – Carolina Mudcats vs. Wilmington Blue Rocks baseball game

### NEW YORK CITY

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour  
**June TBD** – Coney Island Day  
**August TBD** – Welcome to the Neighborhood

### NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

**June TBD** – Cycle boats on the Hudson River

### PHILADELPHIA

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour  
**July 18** – Philadelphia Phillies vs. Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim baseball game

### PHOENIX

**June 6** – Dela-Bratton Cooking event at Fry's  
**Oct. 2** – Science with a Twist night at the Arizona Science Center

### RALEIGH-DURHAM

**June 13** – Durham Bulls vs. Buffalo Bisons baseball game  
**Sept. 26** – UD vs. NC State game and tailgate

### RICHMOND

**May 17** – Flying Squirrels vs. Hartford Yard Goats baseball game

### SAN DIEGO

**May 9** – Cooking class with Cucina Migrante  
**June 6** – Dela-bration event  
**Aug. 1** – San Diego Padres vs. Philadelphia Phillies baseball game

### SOUTH CENTRAL PA

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour

### SOUTH FLORIDA

**June 27** – Sunset Cruise in Jupiter  
**Aug. 19** – Philadelphia Phillies vs. Miami Marlins baseball game

### WASHINGTON, DC

**May 5** – I Heart UD Giving Day Happy Hour  
**July 10** – Philadelphia Phillies vs. Washington Nationals Baseball Game

For event updates, details and registration, please visit [udel.edu/alumni-friends/events](http://udel.edu/alumni-friends/events)

Remember to join your regional alumni club group on Facebook!

# FROM THE FILES OF LEGENDS AND LORE

## THE BEST UD STORY YOU NEVER KNEW.

- ✧ The story: “The Harter Affair”
- ✧ The year: 1951



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



When the evacuation of Harter Hall began last Friday, many cars were driven up the campus to facilitate the moving; hundreds of people milled about in the excitement; flashbulbs and cameras clicked rapidly. LIFE magazine describes the scene as students “spewing out onto the campus.”

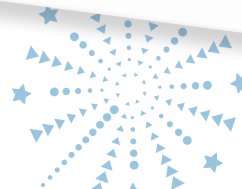
It’s fair to say that Blue Hens are more susceptible than most to feeling a flutter of pride whenever UD’s exploits get national attention—even when those exploits prove less than praiseworthy. So imagine the buzz that must have ensued in the spring of 1951 when *Life* magazine, then the weekly must-read of the middle-American masses, did a full-page spread on the lads of Harter Hall, accused en masse of terrorizing co-eds and the campus at large with firecrackers. BIG firecrackers.

“Who flung a torpedo,” the magazine’s old-fangled headline asked the nation. An accompanying photo gallery showed the so-far-unrepentant dormmates setting up impromptu

campsites on The Mall/Green after an understandably frazzled administration unceremoniously evicted all 104 residents. Allegedly the handiwork of a student known only by the *nom de guerre* “Louie the Blast,” the explosions had been ruffling decorum (and Newarkers’ sleep) since the previous year, until one particularly jolting May 3 salvo prompted the punitive axe to fall.

“Old seniors never die; they just get kicked out,” ousted occupant Fred Hartmann, AS51, lamented in *The Review*. Three days after being booted, though, the boys were back, the campus was quiet, and another UD legend was born. 🐔

—Eric Ruth, AS93





# CLASS NOTES

## 1940s

**Robert L. Hilliard, AS48**, of Sanibel, Fla., has written 40 books, including his most recent book of poetry, *No Shackles*.

## 1950s

**Lee Brown, EG55, 63PhD**, of Albuquerque, N.M., earned second place in a Southwest Writers' contest for his essay, "Neal Cochran, his SPPs and the Nation's Nerve-Agent Deterrence," based on Brown's Army experience in the 1950s.

## 1970s

**Michael Connors, AS73**, of Jupiter, Fla., has been elected board president of the HERD Foundation, a nonprofit organization that uses horses to help veterans and families struggling with addiction.

**James W. Elliott, BA73**, of Yorktown, Va., has been elected national president of the Antique Automobile Club of America, an organization dedicated to preserving automotive history, with headquarters in Hershey, Pa.

**Dan Farrand, ANR74**, of Long Valley, N.J., has been elected vice president of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture. Farrand operates Harbe Dan Farms, where he helped his father grow hay and grain production from 200 to more than 1,000 acres. Recent health problems, including a heart transplant in 2018, have caused him to cut back, but he is still actively farming.

**Rodman W. Gregg, ANR75**, of Los Angeles, has been named president and head of content for Roxbury Pictures, LLC in Beverly Hills.

**Cynthia Rhoades Ryan, AS76**, of Fairfax, Va., retired after 32 years of federal government service and was awarded the Intelligence Community Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Jeffrey A. Behrer, BE77**, and **Phyllis Avolio Behrer, AS80**, of Smith Mountain Lake, Va., retired in 2019 after respective careers at ExxonMobil and in speech language pathology. They continue to see friends and classmates on the golf course and at various get-togethers.

## 1980s

**Catherine Porcaro Sifre, AS80**, of Bridgewater, N.J., has been elected board chair for the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Hudson Valley chapter.

**Thomas Forrest, BE82**, of Wilmington, Del., received the 2019 Distinguished Estate Planner Award from the Philadelphia Estate Planning Council. Forrest is president and CEO of U.S. Trust Company of Delaware.

**James Bentley, BE85**, of Springfield, Ill., has retired after 34 years as a lieutenant colonel from the Air National Guard. He is now a division manager with the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

**Tracy Boyd, AS85**, of Frederick, Md., was awarded 2019 Designer of the Year by Experient, A Maritz Global Events Company, where she works as creative marketing manager.

**Barbara Snapp Danberg, AS87**, of Newark, Del., has been named partner at Baird Mandalas Brockstedt, LLC, where she specializes in real estate planning and trust administration.

**Colleen D. Shields, AS89**, of Wilmington, Del., has been appointed to lead the Wilmington law office of Eckert Seamans.

## 1990s

**Alan Bishop, AS91**, of Oxford, Md., received the 2019 Melvin Waxman Award from the Maryland Optometric Association.

**Kristin McGlothlin, AS92**, of Jupiter, Fla., received the Moonbeam Award for Pre-Teen Fiction for her debut novel *Drawing with Whitman*, which focuses on children whose parents struggle with depression.

**John Schneider, AS92**, of Newburgh, N.Y., has written and published his first romantic suspense novel, *Love at Point Blank Range*.

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

**Jennifer Boes, AS93**, of Wilmington, Del., has joined the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau as director of marketing communications and media relations.

**Alexis Foreman, EHD98**, of Wernersville, Pa., has been named director of employment relations and assistant vice president of human resources for Redner's Markets, Inc.



Tracy Boyd, AS85



Barbara Snapp Danberg, AS87



Alan Bishop, AS91



Kristin McGlothlin, AS92

## COLLEGE DEGREE LEGEND

- ANR • Agriculture and Natural Resources
- AS • Arts and Sciences
- BE • Lerner College of Business and Economics
- EG • Engineering
- EOE • Earth, Ocean and Environment
- EHD • Education and Human Development
- HS • Health Sciences
- M • master's degree
- PhD
- EdD • doctoral degrees
- DPT
- H • honorary degree

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

The *Magazine* encourages alumni to send us news to share with your fellow Blue Hens. A new job, a promotion, a personal or professional award ... they're all accomplishments we want to announce.

Email a note or a press release to

[magazine@udel.edu](mailto:magazine@udel.edu)

Please include your hometown, graduation year and college or major.

## 5 THINGS I'VE LEARNED



**Steven Davey, EG81**, is the CEO of Fiberight, a firm with a breakthrough recycling process that enables the recovery/reuse of up to 70% of the materials found in ordinary trash. Davey was recognized as a 2020 Blue Hen 17&43 award winner. He also moonlights at the University of Maryland's Harbor Launch incubator as an Entrepreneur in Residence.

### 1 ENJOY THE JOURNEY.

Life is more like a marathon than a sprint. Don't focus too much on the short term because the long-term accomplishments are more meaningful and fulfilling. It took me awhile to figure this out, but I'm glad that I eventually did.

### 2 STOP CHASING THE MONEY AND START CHASING THE PASSION.

After staying with my first job out of college a bit longer than I should have, I took the entrepreneurial leap and went out on my own. At the time the decision was crazy because of my family and financial obligations, but I just knew I had to give it a go. It was the best career decision I ever made.

### 3 GRIT AND DETERMINATION.

My father's only path to college and a better life was by enlisting in the Air Force. When he finished four years of service in Korea, he attended college on the GI Bill, worked two jobs, and helped raise three kids. He eventually became a successful entrepreneur. I was fortunate to inherit his work ethic, though I have had it significantly easier than he did.

### 4 ADAPT AND LEVERAGE.

When I was studying chemical engineering at UD, I didn't realize that we were really being taught how to solve complex problems. As my career progressed, I found myself in different industries with new challenges to overcome. Each time I was able to count on the mental tool kit we developed at UD to adapt to change and to leverage prior experiences.

### 5 MAKE MEMORIES.

My recollection of UD was that I spent most of my time at Colburn Lab where we were taught by some of the leaders in the field. Frankly speaking, it was a lot of work! When I wasn't at Colburn, my favorite place to decompress was the Stone Balloon. I don't think we missed a Saturday night. 🐦

## ENTREPRENEURIAL SPOTLIGHT

### Updates from Blue Hen creators, innovators and entrepreneurs

**Melissa McDermott Joseph, AS84**, of Rehoboth Beach, Del., celebrates the 30-year anniversary of the company she founded, Delmarva Temporary Staffing Inc.

Business partners **Lee Mikles, EG90, BE01M**, of Newark, Del., and **Jim O'Donoghue, AS91**, of Newark, Del., have expanded Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen, which opened on Main Street in 2014, to include a fourth location in Lewes, Del.

**Jennifer Dumnich, BE99, OOM**, of Avondale, Pa., has expanded her company Craig & Jenny D to include the Fusion Performance Institute, which aims to bridge the gap between personal and professional development.

**Andy Panko, BE00**, of Edison, N.J., formed Tenon Financial, an independent financial planning and investment management firm that helps people achieve their retirement goals.

Sisters **Ashley Williams Roberts, AS08**, of Ijamsville, Md., and **Brittany Williams, EG11**, of Baltimore, Md., have received the Delaware Department of Agriculture's Century Farm designation for their farm, Webb



Ashley Williams Roberts (front left) and Brittany Williams (front right) and their family receive their Century Farm designation from Sussex County legislators.

Family Farms, which has been in the family since 1884 and was formerly run by **Ruth Webb Williams, EHD44**, who bequeathed it to her four granddaughters.

**Lizzie DeLacy, HS15**, of Houston, Texas, has launched Bodypeace, a functional fitness app to help people feel better through movement and wellness.

**Jesse Fastenberg, AS16**, of New York, N.Y., has co-founded BC Energy, a Blockchain-based electronic arbitrage company. 🐦

**Have you launched a new product, company or social venture? Reached a business milestone?**

If so, email us at [magazine@udel.edu](mailto:magazine@udel.edu).

## CELEBRATING BLUE HEN BUSINESSES

The Blue Hen 17&43 Award builds on UD's long tradition of leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship that began with the University's founding in 1743. It honors the most promising new ventures and fastest growing companies founded or led by UD students and alumni.

Learn more at [www.udel.edu/17and43](http://www.udel.edu/17and43) 🐦



**Kimetra Jiménez-Leacock, BE99**, and Viviana Jiménez-Leacock, of New York, N.Y., welcomed Kimanni Jenae on Nov. 23, 2018. She joins big sister Annaís Senai.

## 2000s

**Frank Donnelly, AS00**, of New York, N.Y., has published his first book, *Exploring the U.S. Census: Your Guide to America's Data*, a researcher's guide to working with census data.

**Peter LaVenía, AS01**, of Albany, N.Y., published an editorial in the *New York Daily News* on "The weaponization of New York's campaign finance commission."

**Lauren Sharpless-Robinson, BE04**, of Upper Marlboro, Md., was elected president of the Board of Directors for Bright Beginnings Inc., a nonprofit organization that operates early childhood and family learning centers for children and families experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C.

**Mike Fox, AS05**, of Crozet, Va., was named legislative lead of the Crozet group of Moms Demand Action for Gun

Sense in America. He formerly held the same role with the Charlottesville group.

**Lauren Territola, BE05**, of Berkley Heights, N.J., and husband, Anthony, welcomed baby Vienna on Aug. 5, 2019. She joins big brother Dominic.

**Mary Akhimien, AS06**, of Bear, Del., was awarded the 2019 Delaware Young Lawyer Distinguished Service Award.

**Janine Mooney, EHD06**, of New Hanover, N.J., and husband, Bill, welcomed Lilliana Juliette on Oct. 8, 2019.



Stephen A. Spence, AS06

**Stephen A. Spence, AS06**, of Lewes, Del., has been named partner for Baird Mandalas Brockstedt, LLC, where he specializes in trial and appellate litigation.

Fifteen years after meeting on a study abroad trip to Siena, Italy, classmates **Kerri Titone, AS06**, of East Northport, N.Y., **Lani Star Schweiger, AS06**, of



Classmates Kerri Titone, AS06, Lani Star Schweiger, AS06, Katie Pytlik, AS06, and Elizabeth Urbanski, AS06, reunited for a trip to Seattle

Wilmington, Del., **Katie Pytlik, AS06**, of Seattle, Wash., and **Elizabeth Urbanski, AS06**, of Oceanside, N.Y., reunited for a trip to Seattle.

**Scott Klatzkin, AS07**, of Newark, Del., has been named 2019 Delaware Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sports Media Association.

Double Dels **Teresa Mikulan Carlisle, AS08M**, and **David Carlisle, AS08M**, of Little Rock, Ark., have opened The New Gallery, which features exhibits by emerging and mid-career artists, including **Mike Marks, AS13M**, of Minneapolis, and **Michael Kalmbach, AS08M**, of Newark, Del.



Kimanni Jenae Jiménez-Leacock, with big sister Annaís Senai



Lilliana Juliette Mooney



The New Gallery, in Little Rock, Ark.

**SEASON TICKETS**

ON SALE NOW

STARTING AS LOW AS \$85

**DELAWARE FOOTBALL**

**BLUEHENS.COM/FBTICKETS**





A number of Blue Hens attended the wedding of Amanda Jett, EG11, and Jeffrey LeBlanc, EG11



Amanda Bryden, HS08, and Matthew Tran, AS09

**Amanda Bryden, HS08, and Matthew Tran, AS09**, of Wilmington, Del., were married on Sept. 15, 2019.

**Joanna Lenck, AS08**, of Belmar, N.J., married Eric Reitz on Oct. 12, 2019, in Hilton Head, S.C.

**David DiVirgilio, ANR09, and Emily Ross, AS09**, of St. Petersburg, Fla., were married on Oct. 12, 2019.

**Lauren Lavorerio Picarro, BE09, and James Picarro, BE08**, of Philadelphia, welcomed James Anthony Picarro Jr. on Dec. 3, 2019.



Joanna Lenck, AS08, and Eric Reitz

## 2010s

**LaKeisha Price, BE10**, of Philadelphia, has been named managing associate for the Drucker and Scaccetti tax firm, where she specializes in estates, partnerships and nonprofits.

**Laura Higgins, AS11, and Tom Foltyn, BE11**, of Boston, Mass., were married on May 26, 2019, with numerous Blue Hens in attendance, including Tom's parents, **Ted Foltyn, BE81, and Kathi Foltyn, HS81**.

**Amanda Jett, EG11, and Jeffrey LeBlanc, EG11**, of Melrose, Mass., were married on Sept. 7, 2019.

**Courtney Simmons, ANR11**, of Boston, Mass., was named a Rising Star by the 2019 Massachusetts Super Lawyers.

**Elizabeth Glinka, AS12, and Patrick Delaney, EG12**, of Wilmington, Del., were married on Oct. 5, 2019.

**Andrea Birch Naughton, AS13, and Sean Naughton, EG13**, of Philadelphia, welcomed Riley Elaine on June 9, 2019.



James Anthony Picarro Jr.



Riley Elaine Naughton

**Olivia Cosides Posey, AS13, and Greg Posey, BE14**, of Philadelphia, welcomed Thomas Kyle on Nov. 19, 2019.



**Alyssa Kennedy Dever, ANR14, and Samuel Dever, EG16**, of Reading, Pa., were married on Sept. 28, 2019, continuing the Double Del tradition that began with the bride's parents, **Dennis Dever, EG80, and Joyce Dever, EG80**.

**Meghan Noury, HS14, and Alexander Goyette, AS14**, of Arlington, Va., were married on Sept. 7, 2019.

**Caitlin Tennar, EG15, and Andrew Skocypiec, EG15**, of Hamilton, N.J., were married on Nov. 17, 2018.



Alyssa Kennedy Dever, ANR14, and Samuel Dever, EG16



Rebecca Weinschenk, EG16, and Mark Bamundo, EG16

**Carrie Weidman, EHD15, and Paul Andy Burian, BE15**, of Philadelphia, were married on Sept. 7, 2019, surrounded by many Blue Hens, including the bride's parents, **Margaret Weidman, AS83, and Robert Weidman, ANR82**.

**Rebecca Weinschenk, EG16, and Mark Bamundo, EG16**, of Columbia, Md., married on May 18, 2019, six years after meeting in a computer science class at UD.

**Bryce Gates, AS16, and Lauren Camp, AS17**, of Wilmington, Del., were married on Oct. 18, 2019.

**Campbell McKay, HS17, and Austin Virdin, ANR17**, of Washington, D.C., were married on Oct. 5, 2019.

**Sarah Vible, AS18**, of Milton, Del., was featured in a *Wall Street Journal* article on medical-alert dogs like her yellow Labrador Rosebud, who can detect Vible's epileptic seizures 15 minutes before they occur.

**Courtney Porter, AS19M**, of Hempstead, N.Y., received first place in the Mary E. Singletary Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists, which recognizes young African American classical vocalists. 🐦

Congratulations to our five paper doll winners, **Kate Bailey, AS15**, of Newark, Del., **Alicia Milinis, AS00**, of Huntington Station, N.Y., **Allison Yourechko**, of Conyngham, Pa., **Lee Bernstein, HS85**, of Dallas, Texas, and **Lucy O'Donnell, AS77**, of Wilmington, Del. Each received a new UD T-shirt. 🐦









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 Frank W. Wilkins, EG44  
 Audrey Garey Thomson, AS45  
 Elizabeth Kerr Povey, AS46  
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**Maxine R. Colm**, former vice president of employee relations and the first woman to serve as a vice president at UD

**John W. Crum, AS80**, adjunct history professor in the Associates in Arts Program (formerly Parallel Program), where he taught since 1976

**William Scott Duncan**, campus painter

**John C. "Chris" Kraft**, H. Fletcher Brown Professor Emeritus of Geology

**Ben Martin**, retired controller and director of taxation and compliance,

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## THOMAS WILLIAM FRASER RUSSELL

Thomas William Fraser Russell, EG64, 10H, the Allan P. Colburn Professor Emeritus of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Delaware, died on Nov. 29, 2019. He was 85.

Dr. Russell was born on Aug. 5, 1934, in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada. A chemical engineer by education and trade, he arrived at the University of Delaware in 1961 and joined the faculty after earning his Ph.D. in chemical engineering in 1964, becoming the only UD chemical engineering professor to do so immediately after graduating from the doctoral program. In 2009, Dr. Russell retired from teaching.

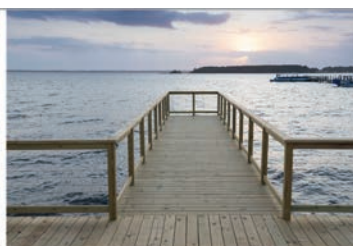
Over Dr. Russell's 45 years as a chemical engineering faculty member, he held several administrative appointments, including vice provost for research, director of the Institute of Energy Conversion, department chair, acting dean and associate dean of the college.

An author of three textbooks, eight book chapters, seven patents, 90 technical papers and 11 engineering education research papers, he was lauded in the engineering community for his work in reaction engineering, solar cell manufacturing and his impressive technical prowess. Among friends, colleagues and students, he was regarded for his compassion, wit and love of hiking.

In 2010, the University recognized Dr. Russell with an honorary doctoral degree. He was named to UD's Alumni Wall of Fame in 2006 and honored with an Excellence in Teaching Award in 1968. Upon Dr. Russell's retirement in 2009, UD created an academic enrichment fund, the T.W. Fraser Russell Undergraduate Enrichment Endowment, to help selected undergraduate chemical engineering students access research and internship experiences.

Also named in honor of Dr. Russell is the Unidel Fraser Russell Chair for the Environment, a five-year career development chair. In 1999, Dr. Russell established the Shirley and Fraser Russell Teaching Fellowship to support one graduate student per year at the University of Delaware and one at the University of Alberta.

A memorial was held earlier this year in his honor. 



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## A CONVERSATION WITH...

The circle of life begins with the smallest of creatures. Yet despite being maligned and misunderstood by many, insects are a source of fascination and exploration for Prof. **DOUG TALLAMY**, entomologist and environmental optimist. Here, he talks about how to repair declining wildlife populations—and why you (yes, you!) are nature's best and possibly only hope.

### What makes insects interesting?

They're a major lifeform running our ecosystem. We'd be dead without them. Ninety percent of flowering plants would disappear. Nutrients would not be recycled. Birds wouldn't have a source of food. The global insect decline [40%—with a rate of extinction that is eight times faster for insects than for mammals, birds and reptiles] would lead to ecosystem collapse. Our perception is that insects eat our crops and make us sick, but the ones running the world aren't doing those things.

### How can planting more native plants help?

Roughly 90% of all plant-eating insects eat and reproduce only on certain native plant species, specifically those with whom they share an evolutionary history. Plants are vital to the ecosystem in your yard, but we've been excluding the life we need around us.

### And yet, you're hopeful.

My message is: You can help save the Earth. You can do something and see the results. You can plant an oak tree in your yard and see the life it brings. You can start counting the birds rearing their young there. It's an approach that empowers people to feel like they're making a difference, because they are. And it's easy! You put the plants in, and it happens. You just have to choose the right ones.

### How do we know which plants to choose?

All native plants are not equal. It's a matter of productivity—of plants that, if removed, would collapse the food web. That includes oaks, cherries, birches, hickories, willows. The top herbaceous plant that feeds caterpillars is goldenrod, which feeds 110 species. Oaks feed 557 species. Big difference. But also, there's room for compromise. Plant choice matters. You can have your crape myrtle—as long as it's less than 30% of the plant

biomass in your yard. [Editor's note: Visit Tallamy's website, [BringingNatureHome.net](http://BringingNatureHome.net), to find the right plants for your backyard.]

### What are common backyard culprits?

Get rid of invasive ornamentals—burning bush, Bradford pear, autumn olive, privet. All of those things escape into our natural areas. They don't stay where you plant them.

### Is the cultural shift and increase in native plants happening fast enough?

We're not there, but we're heading in the right direction.

### What's the CliffsNotes version of your newest bestseller, *Nature's Best Hope*?

What is nature's best hope? You. There's an Earth stewardship responsibility that we have as citizens of the planet. We can no longer leave conservation to the conservationists. There aren't enough—by far. We're also the only species that consistently fouls our own nest, and we think we can do it forever with

no consequence. That's the hunter-gatherer mentality of wrecking a habitat and

moving on. But there's no place to move anymore. 🐦



Doug Tallamy

PHOTO BY EVAN KARPE

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