

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

MAGAZINE

Volume 28 • Number 2

IN TURBULENT TIMES,
BLUE HEN STRENGTH & SPIRIT SHINE THROUGH

*“We delight in the beauty of
the butterfly, but rarely admit
the changes it has gone through
to achieve that beauty.”*

—Maya Angelou



Photo from UD's Botanic Gardens by Evan Krape



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MELINDA ZOEHER

STUDYING THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

It could have been called the Butterfly Garden, but that wouldn't reflect the mission of a teaching institution. Instead, UD's Lepidoptera (leh-puh-DAP-ter-ah) Trail is designed to teach how to support a healthy ecosystem, beginning with the insects that will become butterflies, skippers and moths like the native Hummingbird Clearwing Moth, pictured above.

As one of 12 gardens making up UD's Botanic Gardens, the Lepidoptera Trail incorporates more than 50 species of native plants that support diverse species of Lepidoptera larvae. Those caterpillars, in turn, help feed 96% of bird species, thus supporting a balanced ecosystem and all of its critical functions, from clean air and water to climate regulation. It is a beautiful reminder that the circle of life begins with the smallest of creatures.

For more information on the Botanic Gardens, visit canr.udel.edu/udbg

5 THINGS TO LEARN FROM THIS ISSUE

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CORRECTION

A story on the Wellness Center at Warner Hall incorrectly stated that the Center had already opened. It is actually anticipated to open in spring 2021.



We received great feedback on our last cover, illustrated by Jeffrey C. Chase, AS91.

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE MAGAZINE

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BLUE HEN **STRONG** FUND

ONE FUND. ONE PURPOSE. ONE BLUE HEN COMMUNITY.

The Blue Hen Strong fund was created to directly help UD students who are facing financial hardships and challenges as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

As Blue Hens, when we face challenges, we face them together.

The fund will provide students with:

- grants to cover tuition
- access to technology
- advancements to online learning tools
- career readiness support and more

WE ARE BLUE HEN STRONG

Help provide immediate support at udel.edu/bluehenstrong



DELAWARE FIRST
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

THROUGH PERSEVERANCE, WE WILL GROW AND THRIVE

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with an abrupt, immeasurable disruption to our lives and myriad issues to tackle as a community. Eleni and I sincerely hope that you and your families are staying well.

The University of Delaware has not been immune to this new reality as the coronavirus raced around the world. From transitioning our courses to remote platforms, to safely emptying the residence halls, to suspending ongoing research projects—all done seemingly overnight last March—we have been working to solve puzzles every day. With health and safety as our top priorities, we immediately began the even more challenging process of resuming University life under the “new normal.” We considered every possible scenario, balancing risks against benefits every step of the way. From our classrooms and laboratories to our student centers and athletic venues, faculty and staff across the University have collaborated with innovation and resilience to reimagine the UD experience.

Now, as the fall semester gets underway, we are pivoting once more to stay true to our institutional mission of preparing the next generation of leaders. We are adapting our social and physical behaviors, introducing new paradigms of learning and technology, and challenging ourselves to test the perseverance of our community to unite and stay connected, even virtually, taking care of each other and overcoming adversity.

The whole experience has been a dramatic reminder that our University is built to solve problems. Though this

coronavirus strain is new and a global pandemic is nearly unprecedented in our lifetimes, we tackled them as we do every problem: Gather information, ask questions, challenge assumptions, weigh the evidence, test our ideas ... then repeat, continually adapting to new information and advancing the boundaries of our knowledge and understanding. Education is far more than the accumulation of facts; it is the development of the critical thinking skills, the collaborative mindset, the creativity and the inspiration to solve whatever problems we encounter, both as individuals and as a global society.

So, what other complex issues can we confront in this way? Our faculty, students and alumni are already tackling such puzzles as reducing global climate change and mitigating its effects, finding safe and sustainable sources of energy, developing better ways to teach and serve others, and discovering new medicines and treatments to reduce suffering and save lives. We are unraveling the mysteries of science and society, creating compelling art to illuminate the human condition, and engaging in honest and insightful dialogues that break down the barriers between races, genders, orientations, cultures and political perspectives. Truly, there is no shortage of challenges facing our world ... and no shortage of smart, talented and dedicated UD people devoted to addressing them.

As we test our endurance, we are always guided by our institutional values of diversity and inclusion, academic freedom, innovation, community and



service. They have served us well for a long time, and they have provided essential touchpoints over the past several months. The pandemic has certainly changed how we work to achieve our goals, but at no point will we back away from any of our values. Indeed, we are redoubling our commitment to all of them, as our society needs the scholarship and impact of the UD community now more than ever.

It is often our hardships that teach us the most about our world and ourselves, and they can be times of our greatest growth. I am proud of the way the University of Delaware community continues to work together to keep our institution moving forward. And I have never been more optimistic that we will emerge stronger, more resilient and more unified than ever.

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

UD'S SILENT SPRING



The weeks leading into late March are usually tranquil days on campus, clouded by late-winter doldrums, but brightened by the sweet anticipation of spring.

This year, things were different. In an instant, everything changed. Classes paused mid-syllabus. Lecture halls fell silent. Tens of thousands of stunned students were sent home, their studies punctuated by a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

On Main Street, familiar storefronts seemed eerily abandoned. Up and down The Green, songbirds serenaded empty pathways. But emptiness can

deceive: Behind the scenes, professors, staffers, students and administrators scrambled to adapt and move on.

In homes from New Jersey to New Delhi, the suddenly secluded students swallowed disappointment and coped. Professors retooled lectures for online delivery and worked to sustain those crucial personal connections.

UD leaders stitched together safety nets from thin air: An impromptu corona-crisis call center hummed with questions and concerns. Dozens of campus support systems wheeled to electronic platforms. Research projects were nudged forward by skeleton-crew teams.

We adapted. We changed. We gained new appreciation for all we had, and all we stood to lose.

Outside of campus, UD's impact endured. Alumni worked the pandemic's front lines, in New York and elsewhere. UD professors and alumni crafted protective masks by

the thousands for health care workers. And dozens of UD scholars served as helpful touchpoints for influential news outlets seeking to make sense of an incomprehensible crisis.

As we worked, we worried: For our colleagues, for the students, for our school. And finally, from a street in Minneapolis, and then from dozens of other U.S. cities, came a great wave of worry for our nation itself, and for the anguished cries of still-suffering Americans.

Through it all, we tried to believe we were finding ways to become better people. We like to think we also discovered the indelible nature of hope, of resilience and strength. We tried to keep sight of the spirit we thought could never fade.

It hasn't. Together or apart, our community remains united. We are all Blue Hens, wherever we are, whoever we are, and whatever we face together. 🐔

MARCH 11

First COVID-19 case in Delaware identified as member of UD community

MARCH 16

UD switches to remote working; closes residence halls; institutes immediate spring break, with classes resuming online on March 30

APRIL 6

For the first time in its 50-year history, Faculty Senate holds a virtual meeting

APRIL 27

UD says pandemic has cost school \$65 million; cancels, postpones or launches virtual events for the summer

MAY 30

The Class of 2020 is honored with an online event, with Commencement and Convocation tentatively rescheduled for spring 2021

JUNE 1

UD resumes research operations during first half of June, with nearly 700 researchers among the first to return to campus, as well as partner facilities and field sites

FOR THE MOST CURRENT UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT [UDEL.EDU/CORONAVIRUS/](https://udel.edu/coronavirus/)

BY THE NUMBERS

6,420
CLASSES
SUCCESSFULLY
MOVED ONLINE
BETWEEN MARCH
16 AND MARCH 30

~400
STUDENTS
REMAINED ON
CAMPUS DUE
TO TRAVEL
RESTRICTIONS
OR SERIOUS
PERSONAL
REASONS

\$8,000
WORTH OF
DINING HALL
FOOD DONATED
TO LOCAL FOOD
BANKS

100,000+
PPE ITEMS
DONATED TO
HEALTHCARE
WORKERS

ON THE GREEN

INNOVATION FRONT AND CENTER

New UD centers will build next-gen materials, address global pollution

In its continued mission to accelerate science and improve society, UD has launched two new centers that build on the University's strength in materials science and chemical engineering.

The UD Center for Hybrid, Active and Responsive Materials (UD CHARM) will develop new materials, from microscopic robots that can move loose wires on a computer chip, to quantum materials that can sense everything from chemical weapons to changing oxygen levels in humans.

UD CHARM aims to create precise, high-quality, high-purity materials that will enable faster, cheaper, more reliable sensors, energy conversion devices and computing approaches. It is funded by \$18 million from the National Sciences Foundation and directed by chemical engineering Profs. Thomas H. Epps, III and LaShanda Korley.

This center also seeks to build a more diverse and inclusive pipeline of future engineers and scientists and will include paid internships, mentoring initiatives and partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"Students will be able to envision themselves in these spaces and find trusted resources and role models for guidance," says Epps.

Korley and Epps will also lead UD's Center for Plastics Innovation (CPI).


Funded by an \$11.65 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, this Energy Frontier Research Center will focus on the most difficult-



Thomas H. Epps, III, the Thomas and Kipp Gutshall Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and LaShanda Korley, Distinguished Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, will serve as directors of UD's new research centers.

to-recycle plastics, such as plastic grocery bags, milk containers, Styrofoam coffee cups and more.

Worldwide, more than 350 million tons of plastics were produced in 2018 alone. Of that waste, only 12% was reused or recycled, according to an industry report. Current recycling strategies fall far short in recovering material that is as high in quality as the material you started with—a major hurdle the CPI will help overcome.

"We have a unique skill set at Delaware, with strengths in catalysis, polymer science, computational design, synthetic biology and machine learning," says Korley. "Our collaborators and partners bring great expertise in computational materials science and enzymatic catalysis, and contribute characterization and computational facilities critical to advancing this work." 

OUR STAR JUST KEEPS ON RISING

Times change and towns grow, but no one has ever seen something like this happen so fast to drowsy old Newark.

Just up from the football stadium, across from the UD Farm on South College Avenue, a mini-city of glittering glass and tall steel is sprouting from the formerly forlorn Chrysler factory landscape. Some of the buildings seem familiar—the Health Sciences Complex with its research labs and health care centers has stood here for some time.

Others seem to have materialized from thin air, creating a handsome new skyline that now stands for UD's most ambitious aspirations: High-tech financial research, biomedical science, corporate partnerships—all are swiftly becoming new realities at the 272-acre Science, Technology and Advanced Research (STAR) Campus.

Here's a close look at where UD is going as it dives deeper into the 21st century:

CHEMOURS DISCOVERY HUB

This 312,000-square-foot, \$150 million building will be home to 350-400 research and development scientists and staff from the Chemours Company, the DuPont spinoff that applies its chemical engineering expertise to produce innovations for industries ranging from automotive, paints and plastics, electronics, construction, energy and telecommunications.

The Hub is also expected to serve as a place for UD students to prepare for success in science and technology research jobs.

FINTECH BUILDING

UD sees the FinTech center as a place that's perfect for tapping into the evolving world of financial services technology—commonly called FinTech—with an eye on boosting all of Delaware's success.

Set for a 2021 opening, the six-story, 100,000-square-foot building will unite academic, business and governmental segments of the financial world, with spaces for startups to develop and grow, and research labs that will explore financial analytics, cybersecurity, human-machine learning and data analysis.

AMMON PINIZZOTTO BIOPHARMACEUTICAL INNOVATION CENTER

Here's where UD takes the next step in its pioneering research to help prevent and treat some of the most prevalent and debilitating diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, and cancer and most recently, COVID-19 (read more on p. 22). The 226,636-square-foot, six-story lab building is designed

to be a flexible, collaborative research space, and will be home to the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL), the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Delaware Biotechnology Institute.

The center was made possible by a \$25 million cornerstone gift from Board of Trustees member Carol A. Ammon, 11H, and President's Leadership Council member Dr. Marie E. Pinizzotto, BE80M, 19H.

NEWARK REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER

As the STAR Campus grows, so does the need for a transportation hub that connects UD to the thought centers that surround it. The new rail station at the northern edge of STAR ultimately aims to tie Newark into adjoining services like SEPTA and Amtrak (and even the Maryland Area Regional Commuter train service). "This is really going to bring to the place the people that we need," UD President Dennis Assanis says. "This is going to be an amazing prototypical living/learning community." 🐦



EVAN KRAPE

FAREWELL, OLD FRIENDS



*MEMORIES OF GOOD
TIMES IN RODNEY
AND DICKINSON
RESIDENCE HALLS
WILL ENDURE.*



City rendering of new recreation space, which will include a 3/10-mile loop trail, along with varied landscapes and native plants.

Memories of good times in Rodney and Dickinson residence halls will endure. But the buildings themselves are tumbling down.

This April, wrecking crews roared into the now quiet “West Campus” complex with excavators and dump trucks, razing Dickinson’s buildings and preparing the site for a new privately-owned student housing complex. Rodney’s buildings were toppled last fall, making way for a new public recreation space that will include a water retention pond with scenic

overlooks, a trail and play areas for neighborhood children.

The complex was home to countless college memories since Dickinson’s construction in 1966, but closed its doors for good in 2015 as the University’s geographic center of gravity shifted toward the east and south.

Dickinson’s replacement will include 46 four-bedroom townhouses, along with 45 apartments in four buildings. The *Newark Post* reported that the \$30 million project will offer a total of 320 beds—about half of Dickinson’s

capacity. No timetable for opening has been announced.

The park planned for the Rodney site is expected to open in spring 2021. 🐦

WIN A PIECE OF HISTORY

Share a memory or story from your days at Rodney or Dickinson for a chance to win a brick from the recent demolition. Email us at magazine@udel.edu.

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF LOVE

To celebrate Black history—in all of its pain, power, resilience and beauty—is to love.

Love is strong enough to embrace humanity, community, society and self, according to artist and activist Common. In one of the first and only public gatherings of the year, the Black History Month Extravaganza headliner spoke to a packed Trabant University Center audience, reflecting on his 2019 memoir, *Let Love Have the Last Word*.

The book reveals a vulnerable, unflinchingly honest account of his life and his lessons learned.

Love is both an action and intention, he said. It is work. To him, love means listening to his daughter's anguish over his many absences, just as it means forgiving the boy who molested him as a child.

In a candid sit-down conversation with Kasandra Moyer, director of UD's Center for Black Culture, the Academy,

Emmy and Grammy Award-winning performer said that such selfless gestures of love are actually the ultimate acts of self-care.

"You never see anybody operating in greatness who is angry all the time," Common said. "To go through a situation where someone has hurt you, made you angry, betrayed you, and to still say, 'I forgive you,' is an act of love—not only for that person, but really for yourself."

Therapy helps. It promotes self-healing and breaks down generational traumas and taboos, he added. "We can't heal if we can't speak on it." And speaking is one of the many tools, including religion, spirituality, mindfulness and meditation, that Common has utilized in his quest for holistic wellness.

His honest reflection and promotion of self-love—embodied in his lyric, "taking care of self is the new Black"—resonated with Moyer as an apt prescription for

Black wellness and empowerment. And it was that very line and verse from his 2019 song, *Good Morning Love*, that the rapper performed for the hundreds in attendance:

*My community, they be fueling me
In the struggle of us, there's a unity
The moral universe stay schooling me
Will the king of kings really rule in me?...
Escape rooms with glasses of wine
Just another crutch for my brokenness
A term that I got from my therapist
As a Black man, I feel I should be
sharin' this...
Though some folks say we
don't do that
But taking care of self is the new Black*

It is that bond between self and society—in the struggle of us, there's a unity—that fuels a higher social consciousness, both in society and in academia.

Speaking with Common, Moyer asked how University professors and administrators in predominantly White institutions can better meet the needs of Black students.

He replied, "The same way I think about political leaders and people in America, I think it's important to have real interaction and proximity with the people you are leading. Understanding other people takes time. All Black people are not the same. We are diverse—within our culture, within our block. We are diverse in our thoughts. So it requires a due diligence of instructors to really dig into other



PHOTOS BY KEVIN QUINLAN



Common meets UD students before his talk.

.....

cultures, to go into uncomfortable places, and to listen. The wisest teachers know they still have much to learn.”

And simple acts can teach so much.

On March 7, 1965, “ordinary Americans willing to endure billy clubs and the

chastening rod; tear gas and the trampling hoof; men and women, who despite the gush of blood and splintered bone, would stay true to their North Star” and march towards justice, President Obama said on the 50-year anniversary of the Selma, Alabama, march for voting rights.

While filming the 2014 movie *Selma*, Common had the opportunity to meet one of the march’s leaders and organizers, Andrew Young.

“What are you willing to die for?” Young asked the actor. “Live for that.”

It was an exchange that reinforced in Common the importance of activism. He has created the Common Ground Foundation to empower high school students and established a nonprofit, Imagine Justice, to instill hope and humanity to incarcerated Americans.

His love for the forgotten and the shunned has taken the artist to prisons across the country, “to some of the darkest places,” including the Death Row unit of San Quentin State Prison, where a sign there reads, “Building of the Condemned.”

“One gentleman hollered at me, ‘Common, is that you? I like what you’re doing, but make sure you give back.’”

Months later, the activist still marvels at that conversation. “This is coming from an unexpected soul, from someone who will never, never ever see the light of day,” Common said. “And he’s reminding me to give back.”

It was a reminder of love in action, as Common defines it: A declaration of purpose, a daily practice, a promise and an intention. 🐦

—Artika Rangan Casini, AS05

DELUCA SELECTED EIGHTH OVERALL

One of the best goalies in the history of UD men’s lacrosse program will extend his career beyond the Blue and Gold.

Two-time All-American Matt DeLuca, AS20, became the first Blue Hen selected in the Premier Lacrosse League draft, a league that’s in its second season. The Farmingdale, New York, native was selected as the eighth overall pick by the Waterdogs.

“I wouldn’t be here without the support and guidance from so many people and can’t thank the University of Delaware enough for helping me get to this point in my career,” he says.

In four years, DeLuca played in 48 games, racking up over 2,809 minutes in goal for the Blue Hens. He ranks fifth all-time in goals against average (9.90), total saves (573) and minutes played. He also ranks in the top-10 all-time in save percentage at .561.

He is a two-time All-CAA honoree and two-time Honorable Mention All-American, becoming the first Blue Hen since 2010 to earn that accolade. DeLuca’s selection makes him the 16th player in program history to be drafted and the first since Brian Kormondy, BE15, in 2015. 🐶





REST AND RECHARGE

Now in our 16th year on the campus, we recently completed a full renovation of all guest rooms and public areas, including our restaurant, bar, banquet space and lobbies, to serve you better.

The health and safety of our guests and our employees are our top priorities, and the Hotel Leadership team has developed and implemented extensive safety practices to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Guests will notice required use of face masks, social distancing, safety signage, and extensive and frequent cleaning, sanitizing and disinfection. We are all committed to providing our guests with a very safe hotel and dining experience.

We offer complimentary Wi-Fi and feature luxurious bedding and flat-screen TVs. Enjoy a delicious meal at our on-site restaurant, The Bistro, serving American cuisine, Starbucks coffee and handcrafted cocktails. The Bistro and Bar are open for the convenience of hotel guests and local customers. Outside, safely spaced seating for guest use is open on our patio area. Please call ahead to check hours of operation.

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IT'S GOOD BEING AMONG THE BEST

Parents and aspiring freshmen dote on them. Deans and other lofty administrators dread being spurned by them. Some may even scoff at them, but no one can deny their power.

College rankings instantly bestow a certain aura to a university's image, delivering a welcome boost in a competitive age, and a few more reasons to feel Blue Hen pride: Last fall, the influential *U.S. News and World Report's* Best U.S. Colleges rankings placed UD at No. 39 among 100 public universities. And just this spring, *U.S. News* placed 18 of UD's graduate programs among the best.

At the top of the graduate school rankings was UD's best-in-the-nation Physical Therapy program, which retained its No. 1 position in a tie with the University of Pittsburgh and Washington University in St. Louis.

And the beat goes on: The graduate program in chemical engineering was ranked No. 8, and public finance and budgeting earned the No. 16 spot. Many other grad programs shared the spotlight, including education policy (No. 24), elementary teacher education (No. 25), public management and leadership (No. 36), and clinical psychology (No. 37).

Looking at the University as a whole, *U.S. News* placed UD at No. 91 (out of 381) among all schools, public and private. Recent rankings have also included UD in the top 20% for student engagement, and among the top 1.3% of universities worldwide. 🐓

BLUE HEN CELEBRATION HONORING *the* CLASS of 2020

The members of the indomitable Class of 2020 celebrated their unprecedented academic journey in true 2020 fashion—online.

While the COVID-19 pandemic may have postponed the University's in-person Commencement and Convocation ceremonies (tentatively rescheduled for Spring 2021), it didn't dampen the spirit of the latest graduating class, who gathered on May 30 for a digital "Blue Hen Celebration: Honoring UD's Class of 2020."

The half-hour event included special messages from the president, provost, college deans, select faculty and alumni and some of the graduates themselves—it even featured cameos from Al Roker, Aubrey Plaza, Johnny Weir and others.

All commended the students' spirit and resilience.

"You are the class of heroes," President Dennis Assanis said. "You've not only persevered in the face of tremendous adversity, but you've managed to succeed."

Watch the full celebration at udel.brand.live/c/blue-hen-celebration.

For more on the Class of 2020, see page 37. 🐓



6,800+

GRADUATES

(undergrad and grad)

FROM

44

STATES AND

88

COUNTRIES



CLASS OF 2020 BY THE NUMBERS



112

STUDENT-ATHLETES



100

ACTIVE-DUTY
OR VETERANS

916

FIRST IN THEIR
FAMILY TO ATTEND
COLLEGE



1,917

STUDIED ABROAD IN

50+

COUNTRIES

ONE BAD APPLE CAN SPOIL THE BRAINSTORM

Let's face it: Some people just have a knack for bringing their bad vibes and appalling habits with them to work.

You know the type. They're not always negative people, but are inclined to let negative emotions—their fears, their anxieties—seep into every team project they touch. They're likeable enough, but also seem fond of testing everyone's patience, from the benign (leaving the breakroom a mess) to the cruel (snide comments, offensive remarks).

So, we try our best to endure, and not let the bad habits and negative

emotions of others define our perceptions of the person. We try to keep the creative process free of their foul moods, and we assume we can salvage positive outcomes despite one person's poor attitude.

But can we, really?

It's actually surprisingly hard to keep an individual worker's negativity from poisoning the entire team-based process, says UD management Prof. Kyle Emich, who studies how the emotions and personalities of one's teammates affect workplace performance.

Emich and coauthor Lynne Vincent of Syracuse University conclude in a recent study that the bad influence of negative people is often amplified by their mindset: Negative people are likely to be more focused on preventing bad outcomes than on promoting good ones—a dynamic that also serves to stifle the creative process by shifting the momentum toward *selecting* an idea rather than coming up with *new* ideas.

Some of Emich's conclusions seem to heed common sense: By tackling challenges with a “promotional” mindset, team members help accommodate the creation of novel ideas. This is why being in a good mood generally improves creativity.

But other conclusions in the study might seem counterintuitive: The researchers also found that negative emotions don't always have to be associated with negative outcomes, and that having a few prevention-focused people on the team can help keep especially large groups grounded and realistic about their ideas. Some negative emotions—such as anger—can actually help people come up with new ideas.

“When people are angry, they don't really care about the risks, they just want to go do something,” providing the “promotional” energy needed to achieve the goal, says Emich, whose study involved 1,625 participants on 427 work teams. “We found on the other hand that when team members were experiencing tension or fear,



their teams were not able to come up with anything new or groundbreaking.”

So the next time someone brings their bad mood to work, beware: The collateral damage could be bigger than you think. 🐦

—Eric Ruth, AS93

DEALING WITH JERKS AT WORK

A recent survey by project management software provider Mavenlink found that our primary pet peeves with annoying coworkers are laziness, bad attitudes and poor communications skills. UD management Prof. Kyle Emich and his scholarly colleagues offer some tips on coping with those bad apples in the workplace.

- 🍏 Avoid hyper-focusing on the traits you dislike about a person, because we tend to allow that to color our entire view of their persona, despite their potential for positive contributions. So look for their good points.
- 🍏 Emich has found that one person's mood, when powerful enough, can stimulate (or disrupt) the creativity of an entire team. Try hard to understand and help them address those feelings.
- 🍏 Team members need to be proactive about annoyances: Speak up politely (and quickly) to the annoying coworker.
- 🍏 Ask yourself whether your own stress is influencing your degree of annoyance. Is your reaction proportionate to the behavior?



ISTOCK ILLUSTRATION

PROMOTING PILLOW TALK

For couples seeking a closer and more satisfying relationship, part of the answer might be something so simple they can do it lying down.

“Communicating with a partner immediately after sexual activity—referred to as ‘pillow talk’—is an important way to develop intimacy and bonding that can extend beyond the moment,” says John P. Crowley, assistant professor of communication and an author of recently published research on the subject. “There’s a heightened emotional intimacy at this time that may prime people to develop a greater connection with their partner.”

Previous studies have also found this potential for greater intimacy in pillow talk, but the new research found for the first time that increasing the time spent in such talk also increases the satisfaction heterosexual men feel in the relationship. The study, which involved only heterosexual couples, did not find a similar increase in satisfaction among women.

Specifically, when couples participating in the study doubled the

amount of time spent in pillow talk for a few weeks, men were more likely to report increased satisfaction with the relationship than men who didn’t change the amount of time spent in such talk. (Previous research has found that the average time a couple spends in pillow talk is about 12 minutes.)

The results show how beneficial pillow talk can be and suggest that counselors and therapists might encourage couples to increase the time they spend on it in order to strengthen their relationship, says Crowley. He also attributes the difference in satisfaction to traditional gender roles and expectations.

“Men in our society don’t usually have the opportunity to express their feelings and emotions as much as women do,” he adds. “But when the study deliberately fostered this kind of intimacy, it showed that men were especially receptive to it, and it increased their relationship satisfaction.” 🐦

—Ann Manser, AS73

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THE QUEST TO CONQUER COVID

*BLUE HENS JOIN
THE FRONT LINES
WITH COURAGE,
COMPASSION
+
CREATIVITY*

PROTECTORS + PRODUCERS

by Eric Ruth,
AS93



**“WHAT CAN YOU
CREATE FOR ME
FAST?”**

WHEN THE CALL CAME, UD ANSWERED

The voice on the phone was edged with worry, as if a fierce storm was rushing toward her with relentless force.

“What can you create for me fast?” the doctor on the line asked Jenni Buckley, associate professor of mechanical engineering and director of UD’s Design Studio. The virus was beginning its invasion up north, and now hundreds of hospitals were scrambling to find masks.

UD’s response to Yale School of Medicine’s call for salvation was swift and sure—as it would prove to be throughout this grim spring.

Within days, from frequently remote circumstances, hastily assembled teams of UD professors, staffers and students rushed to fill the region’s void in protective gear, innovating and designing on the fly.

It was a challenge well-suited to UD’s collaborative nature and innately compassionate spirit. Cobbling together a 3D-printed frame design, Buckley and Design Studio co-director Whitney Sample created a clever pop-up plastic cage that can be wrapped with

Pictured above, from left to right, Whitney Sample, Martha Hall and MakerGym technician Donna Svinis.

a trimmed furnace filter so that it stands safely away from the face.

It's called the "HensNest," and its innovative design was quickly spun out of UD and into the mass-production pipeline. That rapid turnaround and deployment owes much to UD's growing assortment of "maker spaces," designed to energize ideas through cross-discipline collaboration.

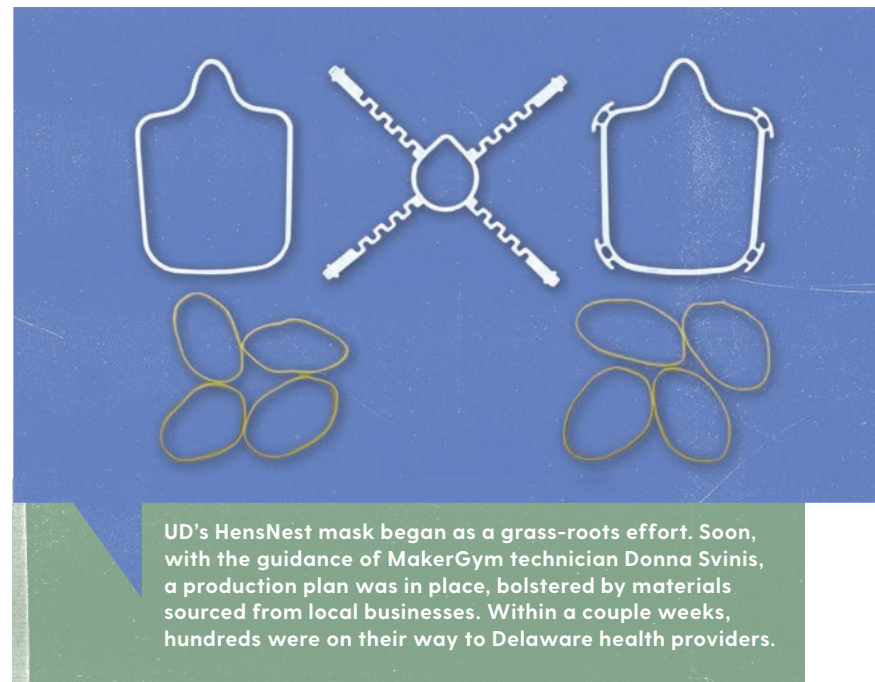
For Prof. Mohsen Badiey, director of UD's Maker Initiative, that meant activating UD's newest creativity hub: the MakerGym, a state-of-the-art facility that opened only a few months before the virus' arrival. Leveraging maker-network software that UD was among the first to adopt, gym operations manager Brooks Twilley and his team swiftly ramped up an effort to 3D-print plastic face shields, supported remotely by 10 UD research laboratories.

All the while, other members of the UD family worked to ease shortages in their own ways: Early in the crisis, UD donated cases of protective gear to the Delaware Emergency Management Agency. Even UD's professional theatre company—the Resident Ensemble Players (REP)—joined the crusade as the crisis closed their theatre, channeling their creative spirit into the production of face masks and shields.

In late April, UD staff and administrators delivered hundreds of face shields to local hospitals, even as UD's Healthy Communities Delaware program helped buy and distribute nearly 20,000 reusable face masks to Wilmington's lower-income residents.

Some of those masks meant for society's most vulnerable were produced under the guidance of Prof. Martha Hall, director of UD's Innovation & Health Design Lab, and her colleagues from the Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies. Her first masks went to UD Police, Delaware State Police, local fire companies, nursing homes and homeless shelters. Now, she wants to enlist UD students from across the nation to join her virtually in making more.

"Even the everyday Joe needs a mask to go to the grocery store. We can help fill the breach," she says. "That would be a really wonderful show of support from UD during these times."



UD's HensNest mask began as a grass-roots effort. Soon, with the guidance of MakerGym technician Donna Svinis, a production plan was in place, bolstered by materials sourced from local businesses. Within a couple weeks, hundreds were on their way to Delaware health providers.



ABOUT HENSNEST

- Invented by UD's Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Provides four to 20 times the protection of surgical or sewn face masks
- Features a reusable wireframe design that conforms tightly to the face and is used with replaceable, at-home filter materials, such as shop towels, tea towels and tote bags
- In May, the University partnered with major domestic manufacturers and community organizations to make and distribute 30,000 HensNest masks



Staffers at ChristianaCare's Pharmacy were among hundreds of recipients of masks made by an army of Delaware volunteers through the spring. "The group itself has become this cool community," says alumna Kristin Barnekov-Short, co-founder of the Facebook group Help for Healthcare Workers Delaware. "They tell me it's given them something to do, and focus on something positive instead of just watching the news."



Masks made by members of Help for Healthcare Workers Delaware came in a kaleidoscope of colors and patterns, like these made by volunteer Theresa Behringer of New Castle. Behringer crafted a total of 1,100 masks for the effort.

A STITCH (JUST) IN TIME

It was an idea that started off small, as beautiful ideas often do: Let's find some scraps of stray fabric, rouse the sewing machine from dusty hibernation, and do something about the state's facemask shortage—stitch by furious stitch.

Just over month after that little Internet-borne brainstorm, Kristin Barnekov-Short, AS90, 93M, and her friend Kerry McElrone look back with a wonderfully weary feeling, dizzied by what their fellow civic-minded sewers have done in these endlessly grim and life-altering weeks:

From a dead stop, the 2,300-member Facebook group they began in late March grew into a virtual assembly line and delivery juggernaut that quickly spread statewide, sending 37,537-and-counting cloth masks to grateful front-line workers and patients at more than 100 facilities. Along the way, hundreds of volunteers were infected by a new sort of viral energy, one driven by the spirit of common purpose, and already spreading far beyond Delaware's borders.

"They saw a problem, and they came up with a solution. It's amazing," says Cheryl Heiks, AS81, director the Delaware Health Care Facilities Association, which includes 90 long-term care centers and more than 6,000 at-risk residents who were supported by the group.

From hundreds of basements and spare rooms, chattering machines churned out masks made in a kaleidoscope of colors and patterns, courtesy of an army of craft-minded mothers and daughters, and a steady second team of sew-a-phobic sons and dads. "Some of the women have these production lines like you would not believe," says Barnekov-Short, daughter of retired UD professor and dean Tim Barnekov.

The Facebook stream of Help for Healthcare Workers Delaware quickly filled with snapshots of relieved workers receiving their bundles, and heartfelt notes of thanks.

"There were a few weeks there where we were the only game in town. We were getting requests from nursing homes begging in desperation," says Barnekov-Short, who in more typical times works as a nonprofit leader and business owner, and was well-served by her UD degrees in international relations and public administration.

Out of thin air on the eerily empty roads, she and her cadre stitched together a transportation system sustained by a battalion-sized force of volunteer drivers, coordinated by cloud-based spreadsheets and deployed with businesslike logistical calm. In an endless stream of Facebook posts, workers unraveled the inevitable glitches, soothed momentary supply shortages. “Does anyone have elastic? I’m really low on elastic,” one volunteer asked on Facebook. “Wal-Mart in Milford got an order of white thread in,” another volunteer chimed in, even as one idled mask-maker searched vainly for a source of sewing-machine lube.

Around the clock and across the state, the masks fluttered out like confetti, headed for YMCAs and police departments, pharmacies and school districts, fire departments and post offices. “It seemed like almost as soon as one of our facilities sent out a request for masks, I would see a note on Facebook: ‘Delivered,’” Heiks says. Occasionally, the recipients were inspired themselves to donate cash for more supplies, all of it quickly snatched up by the sewers.

“I’ve used over 3,000 yards of thread, 52-plus yards of cotton, and I don’t even recollect how much elastic or twill tape I’ve blown through,” says volunteer Kimberly Bovee, who had made 631 masks by early May. An informal sub-group of sewers found its own team spirit, dubbing themselves the “Washington House Condominium Masketeers.”

“Every time I think it’s sort of slowing down, we get another one of these orders that flips us on our head,” says Barnekov-Short, who like many others in the group, has a personal stake in the crisis—her daughter Rowan is an ICU nurse at Beebe Hospital in Lewes, Delaware. “When the CDC made the recommendation that everyone wear a mask, there was a huge uptick. Then the state made wearing masks mandatory in public, and the demand grew again.”

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

—MARGARET MEAD

Perhaps inevitably in this interconnected age, the spirit would spread beyond the state, even leaping the ocean to the United Kingdom. “I’m afraid to admit that I have been a little spy on your group,” a woman posted on the page one recent day. “This group inspired me to set up a group in Sheffield, England, along the same intentions, which is going very well so far.”

All through the campaign, volunteers found stark reminders of their world’s new realities, and life’s tendency to roll on regardless: One sewer would give birth during the campaign. Another would lose her husband to COVID-19. And still, the machines chattered on.

“I certainly never expected it to turn into quite what it did. But it took off, and it seems there wasn’t any stopping it,” says Barnekov-Short. “Often, citizens and people can move faster than government bureaucracies can. I had never worked a sewing machine in my life. Now I can make four or five different styles of masks.”

In her view, the final lesson of it all is clear, despite the chaos of the past few weeks: “Just get up and go. Do what you need to do. Don’t wallow,” she says. “That’s been the spirit.” 🐦

—Eric Ruth, AS93



Alumna Kristin Barnekov-Short (left) and her friend Kerry McElrone led a statewide mask-making network from home during the COVID-19 crisis. “I certainly never expected it to turn into quite what it did. But it took off, and it seems there wasn’t any stopping it,” says Barnekov-Short.

PHOTO BY KRISTIN BARNEKOV-SHORT

IN THE NEWS

WORDS + WISDOM

ENHANCING OUR LIFE-SAVING CAPABILITIES

We will conquer COVID-19, the pandemic that has brought the world to grim attention in 2020. The question is, when?

As a global army of researchers works feverishly to provide a definitive vaccine and related therapies, the answer will surely draw on the kind of biomedical research and manufacturing expertise resident in the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL), headquartered at UD and directed by Kelvin Lee, Gore Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

Lee is uniquely qualified in this arena, bringing expertise in chemical engineering, biotechnology and bioengineering. He has developed diagnostic tests for such things as Alzheimer's disease and human Mad Cow disease and was director of the Delaware Biotechnology Institute before taking the reins of NIIMBL.

In May, the Institute received \$8.9 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce to expand testing and diagnostic capability, address supply chain problems and accelerate manufacturing once a vaccine has been developed and approved for use. NIIMBL awarded that funding to several COVID-response projects in June.

Unlike traditional pharmaceuticals, which are made from chemical compounds, biopharmaceuticals—also known as biologics—are made from living cells. These are complex products that include vaccines, gene therapies, therapeutic

"We have the ingenuity, grit and expertise to find new ways to produce what we need to regain America's health...."

—PROF. KELVIN LEE

proteins, and blood products, to name a few. The manufacturing processes require special technologies and quality control as well as strict monitoring at every step.

Accelerating that process development and manufacturing is a steep challenge. In the past, development of typical vaccines has required 10 years or more—an unbearable timeline in the face of a deadly pandemic. The genetic sequence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, was first published on Jan. 11, 2020. But who can wait until Jan. 11, 2030 for a vaccine?

Not Lee. Not NIIMBL's family of biopharmaceutical manufacturers, suppliers, small businesses and research scientists. They already are working to address supply-chain and manufacturing challenges.

"We have the ingenuity, grit and expertise to find new ways to produce what we need to regain America's health, build the critical manufacturing supply chain and strengthen our ability to respond swiftly and effectively to future challenges," Lee says. 🐦

BUILDING RESILIENT TEAMS

The crisis-filled days of 2020 have reminded us of something important: People are capable of enduring and prevailing, despite rough ordeals. Sal Mistry believes the same can be true when it comes to teams in the workplace: They can bounce back from adversity, and prepare for future crises, so long as team leaders have instilled some key attributes. Mistry, an assistant professor of management at Lerner College, details the characteristics of team resiliency in his new research:

- **“SENSEMAKING”:** Leaders must give members a clear and transparent sense of what’s happening, how it’s being handled, and what it means for each individual.
- **“FEED-FORWARD”:** Contrasted with “feedback,” this concept means leaders keep the focus on what’s ahead, rather than dwelling on past shortcomings.
- **ATTENTIONAL ALIGNMENT:** Despite the unusual dynamics of remote working, team members must feel confident they are all working “from the same page.” “For instance, some managers get on a 30-minute call every morning with their team,” Mistry notes.
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY:** Considered one of the most crucial aspects of team dynamics, this concept stresses the importance of giving everyone freedom to voice opinions.
- **CONFIDENCE AND IMPROVISATION:** This is about ensuring everyone feels confident enough to cope with any task. That, in turn, means giving everyone practice in meeting new challenges. Share strengths: Remember that each team member doesn’t have to be personally resilient for the team to succeed. “Instead, it requires combining multiple perspectives—developing a shared view of the adversity and determining how to thrive successfully before, during and after the adverse event.” 🐦



A STEADY PRESENCE

For millions of Americans desperate for clarity on a stealthy enemy, this past spring was a perilous time. Rumors churned, misinformation thrived, and the media suffered endlessly from an acute shortage of facts.

That’s when Jennifer Horney’s inbox started filling and her phone began to ring. With a quiet authority and a dispassionate calm, the College of Health Sciences professor who founded UD’s epidemiology program fielded a steady stream of media interviews through the pandemic’s early days, doing her part to calm the frantic and alert the complacent.

Sidelining the CDC was a critical misstep in COVID-19 response and recovery, she warned viewers on PBS. Some sense of “panic” could actually prove crucial in preventing the virus’ community spread, she advised readers of *National Geographic*. Live music events packed by thousands of fans could soon be a wistful memory, she told Mashable.

The uncertain trajectory of infectious disease is a familiar mystery to Horney, who has trained rapid response teams around the world in previous outbreaks. She has also been part of public health teams that have responded to a number of major hurricanes, including Katrina, Irene, and Harvey. 🐦



PANDEMIC PERSPECTIVES

from UD professors



“This pandemic is going to upend many aspects of the international order in ways that will further challenge U.S. global leadership, but it will also be an opportunity to reset our grand strategy and to reassess the strategic options available to the United States.”

—**MUQTEDAR KHAN**, political science & international relations, in the Christian Science Monitor



“The earlier they’re out, the better.”

—**MARY DOZIER**, psychology, quoted in The New York Times on migrant children being held in detention facilities

“The Federal Reserve should be permitted to write a huge check to the Treasury, not a loan but a grant. The Treasury does not have to borrow and there would be no increase in our federal government debt.”

—**LARRY SEIDMAN**, economics, on government stimulus plan in Marketplace

“What we know doesn’t work is ridicule. Ridicule only pushes people further and further into an information bubble with people like them.”

—**JOANNE MILLER**, in Business Insider on how to combat conspiracy theories shared by family members



“The themes present in all of these images—calm, reassurance and danger—seem to speak to the ambiguity and fear surrounding the virus, as well as the efforts to combat it.”

—**COLETTE GAITER**, art, quoted in Fast Company on what different images of the coronavirus communicate

“Ladies and gentlemen, count your blessings.”

—**LAWRENCE DUGGAN**, a historian of the late medieval and Renaissance and Reformation periods, who says the pandemic won’t begin to rival the Great Influenza of 1918-19



“It’s probably indicative of our times as our populations increase, and we encroach more on wild and natural habitats that there’s more opportunity to come in contact with animals and get zoonotic diseases.”

—**CALVIN KEELER**, animal and food sciences, on what the pandemic says about human development



COVID-19 AND THE AMERICAN FAMILY

American families have been here before—but not since Colonial times.

Then, and during the coronavirus shutdown, the family unit lived as one, with a more unified effort to keep things functioning.

The striking parallels between Colonial America and Coronavirus America reveal the cyclical nature of work-family life, according to Prof. Bahira Sherif Trask, who teaches courses on the history and diversity of American families.

But now, “multiple things are happening at the same time, affecting each of us in a very different manner. We can’t talk about a blanket result from this.”

And yet there are overarching themes.

First, says Trask, is our “hyper-capitalist model,” in which ideal workers must demonstrate 24/7 devotion to their jobs—texts at 11 p.m., emails at 6 a.m. “Work first,” personal responsibilities second.

“But this pandemic has brought work-family issues to the forefront,” she adds. “It’s highlighting that we’re not just workers who perform and for whom nothing else is important.”

Our kids matter, and their mental health matters, especially when nearly one in three adolescents will experience an anxiety disorder, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Although Trask worries these figures will grow, she also finds the most comfort in today’s youth and their high levels of volunteerism, commitment to service learning, egalitarian sharing of work and overall desire to affect positive change.

Indeed, their health will be critical to the health and future of the world. And so perhaps the greatest opportunity to emerge from this pandemic might be our own attitudinal shifts and investments in their success.

“We know we need quality childcare and paid family sick leave. This is not a new idea,” says Trask. “Hopefully, this highlights that these are not left-leaning or right-leaning policies, but basic human rights.” 🐦

IT'S A CONSPIRACY

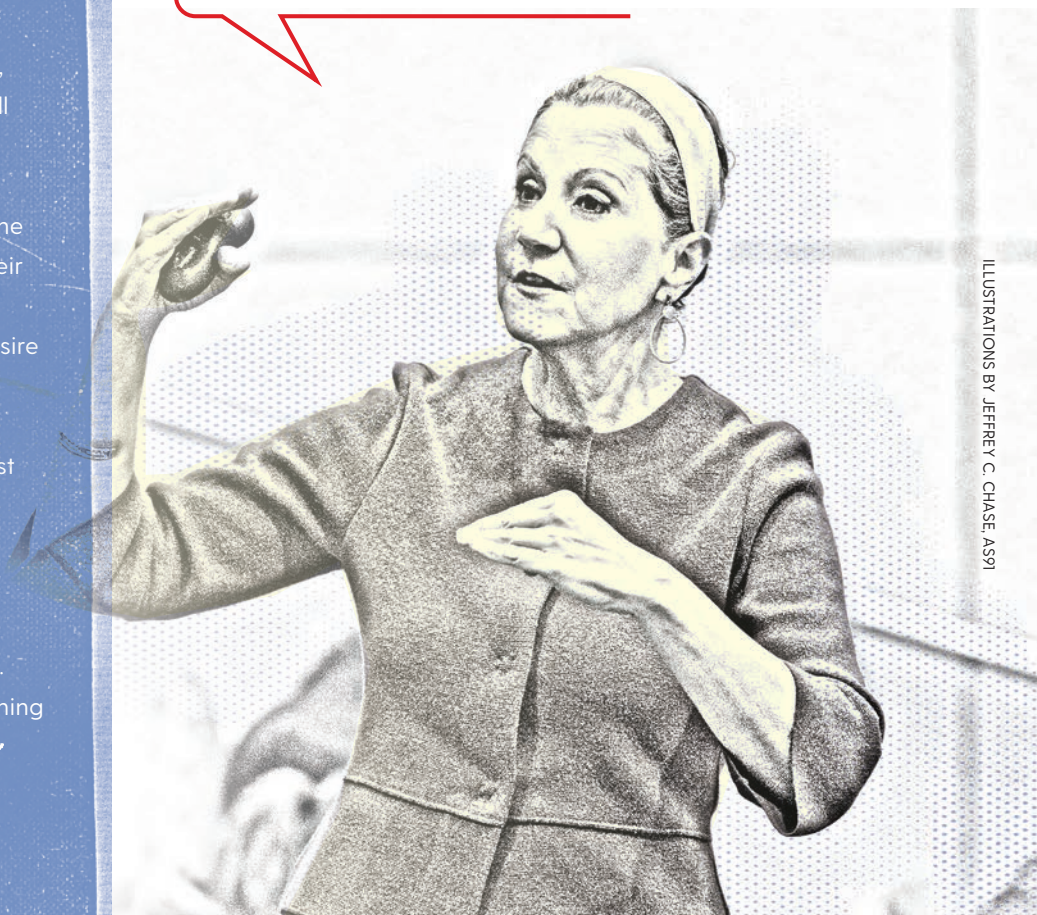
Conspiracy theories have been the gasoline on the fire that sparked resistance to social distancing guidelines and doubts over the danger of the disease, according to political science Prof. Joanne Miller.

“People tend to believe conspiracy theories because they help them cope with uncomfortable feelings and events in their lives, and they protect our worldviews or beliefs,” she says. “When it comes to COVID-19, a lot of us are feeling a loss of control. And in the political arena, the beliefs that we tend to want to protect are beliefs about our partisanship or our ideology. We call this motivated reasoning. Something like coronavirus is kind of the perfect storm of both of these needs.” 🐦



“These are not left-leaning or right-leaning policies, but basic human rights.”

—PROF. BAHIRA SHERIF TRASK





HEALERS+ HEROES

by Kelly Bothum, AS97, 19M

Faculty in health sciences may be teaching tomorrow's healthcare professionals, but some are also making a difference today by putting their expertise to use during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rita Landgraf, EHD80, director of the Partnership for Healthy Communities, is working with the state of Delaware to help increase access to emergency housing, testing and social services assistance.

Since March, she has been "on loan" to the state. The former cabinet secretary for the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Landgraf has helped coordinate a statewide plan to help those experiencing homelessness receive COVID-19 testing and emergency housing.

"The silver lining under COVID is that it really brought out the homeless population like never before. We could identify them, serve them and triage

based on their vulnerability," says Landgraf, who also serves as Professor of Practice and Distinguished Health and Social Services Administrator in Residence for the College of Health Sciences.

Through the efforts of her team, including Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long, a School of Nursing faculty member, and Dr. Sandra Gibney, HS83, 86M, more than 2,350 people received testing and emergency housing between March and May; another 332 people identified with mental illness or substance abuse issues received permanent housing; and 324 children and families were placed in local

hotels and received case management services because of the outreach.

"It's been very rewarding to be part of this," Landgraf says.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Innovation Health & Design Lab, led by director Martha Hall, AS99, 13M, has made more than 500 cloth face masks for use by nursing homes, fire stations and homeless shelters, as well as UD Health clinics and visitors.

"The pandemic has really brought home the fact that we are in this together and have to take personal responsibility for the health of our communities," Hall says. 🐦

“As a health official, this is the day that we expected to happen in our state, and one that the Division of Public Health and other state and community partners have spent weeks planning for.”

—KARA ODOM WALKER, EG99



LEADING IN A CRISIS

Long before COVID-19 was a daily worry for most of us, former Delaware Secretary of Health and Human Services Kara Odom Walker, EG99, was preparing for the inevitable.

“As a health official, this is the day that we expected to happen in our state, and one that the Division of Public Health and other state and community partners have spent weeks planning for,” said Dr. Walker, a practicing family physician, in a press conference in March, just after the first COVID-19 case was detected in Delaware.

Dr. Walker was a central leader in the First State’s response to the novel coronavirus, working closely with Gov. John Carney and other state leaders to keep Delawareans safe. She helped develop the state’s contact tracing program, expanded testing capacity for the virus and supported the establishment of a modernized public health epidemiologic surveillance system.

She has long been a champion for at-risk individuals, working with several national organizations to advocate for health equity and for access to quality health care in minority and underserved populations. Now, she is bringing her expertise to a new post: senior vice president and chief population health officer for the pediatric health system Nemours.

“Since the day I took office as governor, Dr. Walker has managed our health and social services programs with grace, poise, and with a steadfast focus on helping the Delawareans who are most in need,” Gov. John Carney said in a press release. “Kara’s compassionate leadership has been so incredibly important this year, as Delaware has grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic. Her leadership during this difficult time has saved lives, and helped Delaware respond successfully to this disease.” 🐦



**SANDY GIBNEY
HS83, 86M**

In addition to her role as an ER doctor, Gibney serves as medical director of outreach initiatives and mobile health with the state Division of Public Health, frequently working with Delaware’s most vulnerable and neglected populations.



**BETHANY
HALL-LONG**

A nursing professor and the state’s lieutenant governor, Hall-Long also takes to the streets to help those most in need of health services, often working alongside Gibney and Landgraf.



**RITA LANDGRAF,
EHD80**

The former cabinet secretary for the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Landgraf has helped coordinate a statewide plan to help homeless populations receive COVID-19 testing and emergency housing.

TEAMWORK THEN AND NOW

George Potts has always been driven to protect.

As a football player, Potts, HS06, was solely focusing on protecting on the offensive line. From pass protections to run blocking, he was on the front lines and in the trenches.

Nowadays, Potts finds himself involved in a different type of protection, serving as nurse manager, for a stepdown unit at ChristianaCare Hospital in Newark.

"I had always been passionate about helping others, whether it be

on the field or off it," Potts says. "I had first-hand exposure to seeing my mother, who is also a nurse, demonstrate how lives are drastically impacted by excellent nursing care."

Battling the COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge.

"It is very saddening, but I truly do believe that society is trying to band together for the greater good," he says.

It's not unlike his days on the field.

"The most important lesson that I've learned is that nothing is a one-

person show," Potts says. "Success requires a collaborative approach where each team member brings a different skill mix and experience that collectively makes the team that much stronger." 🐦

—Scott Day

EVERY PATIENT
HOSPITALIZED WITH COVID19
WILL REQUIRE AN AVERAGE OF
136 HOURS
OF NURSING CARE
DURING THEIR STAY.



TRADING CLEATS FOR SCRUBS

As an emergency room nurse, Andrea Gunderson, HS17, 19M, can't help but recall the skills and lessons learned as a student-athlete: teamwork, unity and indomitable spirit.

"My coworkers are my family. I see the fear in their eyes as we work and worry not only about our patients but about potentially exposing our families and the people we go home to," she says. "It goes back to the soccer field for me. If we all work together and do what we need for one common goal,

that's how we're going to fight this. We are fighting against a very tough and aggressive opponent, but together we will overcome it."

Working with patients who have tested positive has been an eye-opening experience, Gunderson adds. "It's not just the old and immunocompromised," she explains. "It's also healthy individuals with no chronic health issues." 🐦

—Scott Day



THE GIFT OF ANTIBODIES

New Rochelle, New York, was one of the first cities in the country to see cluster outbreaks of COVID-19 in early March.

So, when resident Ron Stein, BE89, noticed symptoms in his 21-year-old son, he knew he wouldn't be far behind. Both tested positive and endured days of severe sickness.

"We had a really bad, deep cough, headaches, body aches and the shakes," Stein recalls. "We just hunkered down, quarantined ourselves and made sure we didn't put anyone else at risk."

Fully recovered, he began to help others.

Stein learned about antibodies testing and investigative treatments that use COVID-19 convalescent plasma for seriously ill patients. While still in its infancy, early studies have shown positive and promising effects.

Stein's test revealed a high saturation of antibodies, and he immediately scheduled his first plasma donation with the New York Blood Center. He now gives plasma once a week.

"It's a pretty intense process, but it's the least I can do," he says. "It feels good knowing I am helping people." 🐦

—Christine Serio

PLASMA DONATIONS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Convalescent plasma is the liquid part of blood that is collected from patients who have recovered from COVID-19.
- COVID-19 patients develop antibodies in the blood against the virus. Antibodies are proteins that might help fight the infection.
- Convalescent plasma is being investigated for the treatment of COVID-19 because there is no approved treatment for this disease and some studies suggest that might help patients recover.

"We literally built an intensive care unit in the middle of the night."

—MICHAEL FOSINA, ANR84



Michael Fosina, ANR84, is the vice president and executive director of New York Presbyterian/The Allen Hospital.

UNFORTUNATE FIRST

The first COVID-19 case in New York began with a cough. No one on the East Coast had tested positive yet.

But Michael Fosina, ANR84, president of NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital and senior vice president of NewYork-Presbyterian, soon encountered the state's first inpatient. Soon after, it rapidly spread in Westchester County, and two weeks later, across New York City and the State of New York.

"We literally built an intensive care unit in the middle of the night, and ensured all rooms were

prepped to be ICU ready," he says.

"We did about a year's-worth of work in a matter of weeks."

The numbers have since slowed, but even now, "we're in at 7 a.m. and working until 10 or 11 p.m."

Most concerning, Fosina admits, was the unknown. "But we're always learning," he says. "When the global medical community turns its attention to a particular illness, they figure it out." 🐦

MICHAEL FOSINA
SAW THE
FIRST TWO CASES
OF CORONAVIRUS IN NYC.
WITHIN A WEEK HIS HOSPITAL
WOULD SEE
1,000 MORE.



Casey Miller
April 20 · 🌐

If you needed a reason to continue social distancing...here it is. This is the face of a post 12+ hour nightshift ICU nurse. Not filtered, not edited. Dark circles, red marks, headache, sweat, maybe a few tears shed depending on the kind of night it was.

This is what's really going on for 12+ hours..feeling utterly nauseated from breathing in your own used air and carbon dioxide for over an hour at a time in a patient's room, wearing face masks and shields so tight on your face in order to feel safe that you have a splitting headache, don't feel like you can think straight, that leave red marks on your face well after your shift is over. While constantly worrying in the room if your mask is slipping or praying it's tight enough to protect you from this invisible killer. Hearing your own heart pound in your ears and chest in the utter solitude of your patient's room while YOU alone care for this critically ill person. IV lines, meds, tubes and wires covering the patient that they don't even resemble a fraction of the person they were in their photo in the chart. Using iPads or banging on the glass to be able to communicate to the doctors that your patient's blood pressure just bottomed out, or if you need supplies from a coworker to limit exposure of nurses and doctors in the room. Calling patients' families and putting them on speaker phone while their loved ones slip away, alone, with you, a stranger to them. Driving home sick with worry or crying because you don't know if you'll catch this deadly virus, or worse, give it to your family. I know social distancing is challenging, I know this isn't what anyone wants, but WE can't make this our new normal. When you want to go meet up with friends, remember my story. PLEASE I beg you, follow the Governor's orders. Stay home and save yourself, your family, and your friends. And to those RNs who are doing dances, WE are not. WE are providing exceptional care.



👍❤️👍 1.3K

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GOING VIRAL DURING A VIRUS

CASEY MILLER, HS15, never intended to become a symbol of inspiration. She did hope to spread the word of her profession's sacrifice, and do something more to keep people safe. But the ChristianaCare ICU nurse managed to accomplish all of those things with a locally viral Facebook post during the pandemic's early peak, inspiring countless people with her stark self-shot portrait, and becoming a symbol of sorts for Delaware's first responders and their selfless devotion. 🐦

"Calling patients' families and putting them on speaker phone while their loved ones slip away, alone, with you, a stranger to them."

—CASEY MILLER, HS15

STAYING SOCIAL AT A DISTANCE



REBECCA RIDGEWAY METCALF, HS07

"Did I ever think after graduating UD's nursing program 13 years ago that I would be part of treating a worldwide pandemic? Never. I contracted COVID-19 caring for seriously ill people, was lucky to get over the virus and am back to work again caring for them."



RACHEL GREENLEE, HS15, BE25M

"When the COVID-19 crisis first began, all I could think about was my friends, colleagues and fellow alumni who work as frontline staff in healthcare. So, I helped launch Off Their Plate, whose mission is providing gratitude meals for healthcare workers by teaming up with local restaurants to provide some economic relief during this crisis."



CHRIS, HS96, & ANNABELLE BEATTIE, HS18, father/daughter nurses at Crozer Chester ER

"Working in the current climate can be mentally and physically draining, but our training and determination to help people makes this one of the best jobs in the world. We're being challenged to be more resourceful and innovative than ever before."



Sean LaFlam (left) and Dan Bone rented a van and repeatedly stocked it with essentials they delivered to front-line health care workers as the coronavirus swept through the New York area this spring. Their campaign began not long after the friends were both infected by COVID-19 during Mardi Gras.

HENS HELPING HEROES

Across the nation, the early days of April were a time of caution and quarantine as the coronavirus crept into cities and towns. But for Blue Hens Sean LaFlam, EG12, and Dan Bone, BE12, it was a time for taking action.

Just a few weeks after both UD graduates had recovered from their own bouts of COVID-19, the friends decided to hit the road in a rented van filled to the brim with snacks and water, sensing that they had a chance to ease the plight of staffers at New York-area hospitals.

Over the coming days, the pair returned to hospitals carrying load after load, assisted by a small army of volunteers and supported by a rising tide of donations as word of their efforts spread. Grateful hospital workers stood in astonishment at their selflessness, but LaFlam and Bone knew who the real heroes were.

“Doing these deliveries feels extremely rewarding, and at the same time very sobering to witness how desperate these hospitals are for help,” said LaFlam. “They are so appreciative of every single item we’ve been delivering, and it feels great to help any way we can.”

On their first day—Good Friday—the friends managed to deliver \$8,000 worth of snacks and water to five hospitals across Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, just as alarm over health capacity was growing and medical staffers were warning of critical shortages of equipment.

Confident now that they both have gained immunity to the disease, the Blue Hens are still moving forward with their crusade, now part of the “Fueling the Frontline” campaign. “This virus is a matter that is extremely close to my heart, as I have had multiple people close to me succumb to it, and my mom is on the frontlines working 12-plus-hour days in the ICU assisting COVID patients,” LaFlam said. 🐔

—Eric Ruth, AS93

TALKING TELEHEALTH

“This crisis has made everyone think outside the box. Groups are accelerating efforts to find ways telehealth can help mitigate the spread of infection, while still caring for their patients and clients ... current events are impacting healthcare delivery as we know it.”

—CAROLYN MORRIS, director of telehealth planning and development for Delaware Health and Social Services, co-chair of Delaware Telehealth Coalition and program director and of UD’s Advanced Telehealth Coordinator Certificate program.

“The balance between maintaining the care of patients with non-COVID-19 illnesses and assessing and treating positive COVID-19 patients in a manner that best protects our caregivers, our patients and our community at large has been our guiding force.”

—GEMMA LOWERY, AS91, is the telehealth program manager, responsible for leading and expanding telemedicine initiatives for the state’s largest health system. One of the first graduates of UD’s Advanced Telehealth Coordinator Certificate program, she is on the front lines of ChristianaCare’s telemedicine program.

OLD FRIENDS+ *NEW IDEAS*

by Eric Ruth, AS93

KEEPING THE BIG APPLE FED

Adversity has been known to inspire swift action. Rough times frequently toughen people's resolve. And unusual challenges often demand unprecedented solutions.

As proof, consider Kate Kitchener, AS11M. Nominally the chief of staff for the New York City Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability, Kitchener was pulled away from her usual duties during the COVID-19 crisis, and asked to help solve a new sort of quandary: Find ways to feed thousands of needy New Yorkers, just as the city slowed to a standstill.

Within weeks, she and her colleagues set up several emergency food contracts to help feed seniors and vulnerable New Yorkers who could not leave their apartments to buy groceries, creating new distribution systems on the fly, and ultimately sustaining the hopes and health of many New Yorkers.

"I normally work on garbage and recycling. That is what I know about. But in the past six weeks, I've become a food expert," the energy and environmental policy major told attendees at a recent virtual COVID-19 Engagement Event sponsored by the Biden School. Kitchener's boss Kathryn Garcia, the commissioner of NYC's Department of Sanitation, was named "Food Czar" by the mayor during the crisis, and quickly mobilized her staff to

address food insecurity across the city.

To people already on the edge, the crisis was a potential tipping point: As thousands lost their jobs, their ability to buy food was devastated. As schools closed, needy students lost access to affordable meals. And as stay-at-home orders took hold amid the outbreak, senior centers shut down, and food pantry volunteers vanished.

Kitchener's team knew they needed to leverage the city's strengths: Grocers were connected with new suppliers. Bulk food meant for restaurants was repackaged for consumers.

"The city set up 435 grab-and-go meal sites in New York City schools, and opened them up to kids and adults," Kitchener says. "More than 11,000 taxi drivers were hired to deliver one million meals a day, and the NYC Office of Emergency Management set up food-distribution sites." 🍷



SECOND-HAND LOVE

In a pandemic, people who can't plug in are often left out: With no computer, some stay-at-home workers can't earn their pay. Stuck-at-home students can't learn their lessons.

All they need is a trusty laptop to engage. And maybe a little neighborly love.

Happily, that kind of compassion is baked into the business model at NERDiT Now, a Delaware tech-repair company that donated dozens of refurbished laptops to needy Wilmington schoolchildren during the coronavirus crisis.

Led by co-founders Jonathan Hoxter,



BE12, and Markevis Gideon, along with business partner Jake Vorhees, EG09, NERDiT Now's entrepreneurial spirit has consistently been accompanied by a generous nature. Over the past five years, its NERDiT Now Foundation has donated more than 100 computers a year to Delaware communities. Some have even found their way to Africa.

"Organizations from Philadelphia are reaching out as well," Vorhees says.

NERDiT Now's success was partially fueled by UD's Horn Entrepreneurship program, which named them finalists in its 2016 Hen Hatch competition, and also by their 2019 appearance on ABC's "Shark Tank." The Newport, Delaware-based company repairs broken phones, computers, tablets and gaming consoles, but sets itself apart through customer service, vowing to get the fixed-up devices back to owner within hours, often by way of a decommissioned and customized ambulance known as "The Motherboard." 🐼

BACK TO BASICS

It's not business as usual for Delaware Sen. Elizabeth Lockman. Legislators aren't in session. She can't make house visits to constituents. The needs of people in her area are different. But the pandemic has reinforced her grassroots approach to connecting with the people in her district.

"We're not direct policy makers right now, so we are more focused on being advocates and lobbying for resources at the federal level," says Lockman, AS15M, who serves as state senator for District 3, which covers parts of Wilmington, including the downtown and Riverfront areas.

"I have more time to connect with people in a way that I wouldn't otherwise be able to do," she says. "I

can't visit my older constituents in the high rises, so I went back to the phone bank to call them. My day-to-day is conversations with people, making them feel better, connecting them to state agencies, etc."

Since the global pandemic started impacting Delaware in early March, the needs of Lockman's constituents have changed. In the beginning, when schools closed, the immediate need was feeding children and making sure the basic needs of families were met. Lockman responded by handing out food at food pantries and connecting concerned families with necessary resources for longer-term solutions.

As weeks turned into months, many constituents started reaching out to

"I have learned more about my job in the last month than in the last year by helping connect people to the right agencies and resources."

—SEN. ELIZABETH LOCKMAN

Lockman with questions about unemployment, tenant rights and other financial assistance programs.

"As a public servant, I have learned more about my job in the last month than in the last year by helping connect people to the right agencies and resources and navigating the different processes," she says. "I've had to become an interpreter of the federal government messaging to explain what it means and how it can help them." 🐼

—Christine Serio

UD MARKETING PROFESSORS PAY IT FORWARD DURING CORONAVIRUS

In March 2020, the novel coronavirus, which was quickly spreading across the globe, landed in Newark. As the University of Delaware announced that it was suspending classes and launching an extended spring break, marketing professors Anu Sivaraman and Suresh Sundaram immediately sought to help students in need.

The call to action first emerged for the couple as graduate students in Houston, Texas, where hurricane season served as a constant reminder that help cannot be delayed in a crisis.

"We were international students, and our faculty and our fellow students in the Ph.D. program essentially became our family and support system," Sundaram says. "We've been through multiple hurricane seasons in Houston, and people have been there to support us. We've gone through health issues

where faculty and colleagues have been there for us. Those are the things that have really instilled this need to pay it forward without expecting anything in return."

"People have been very kind to us in the past while we were growing up in India and here," Sivaraman adds. "I think the key takeaway for students is that paying it forward is very important. I think the message is definitely getting across."

For more than 15 years now, the two have offered support to students in need. When COVID-19 hit, they took action in the way they always have. They used their social media platforms to offer support and resources to all UD students, local families and anyone else displaced or disrupted by the crisis.

To date, they have offered to purchase airline tickets to get students home, to give money to help with rent, groceries and other living expenses, and shared countless job opportunities and other resources with those who need it most.

Sundaram hopes that their efforts to support the Blue Hen community will impact not only those who utilize the resources but also current and past students who witness their response. 🐔

—Dena Hillison



BLUE HEN STRONG

No matter the challenge, Blue Hens flock together to support one another. Faced with the coronavirus pandemic, many in the UD community have been, and will continue to be, affected by unforeseen financial challenges and other hardships. The newly established Blue Hen Strong Fund helps students by directly and immediately addressing their urgent needs to ensure their success at UD and beyond.

The Blue Hen Strong Fund will provide success grants to help cover tuition, access to technology and online learning tools, career-readiness support and much more. Officially launched on May 6, this year's I Heart UD Giving Day, the fund drew more than 1,200 alumni, friends, faculty, staff, parents and students who quickly raised more than \$188,000.

Although the gifts made on I Heart UD Giving Day provide a significant base for the fund, the need is great and continues to grow. To make a gift or learn more, visit www.udel.edu/alumni-friends. 🐔

UD GRAD'S HIGH-TECH TESTS TRACK VIRUS

Tom Gutshall watched along with the world this February as the wave of contagion rolled out from Asia and smashed into Europe, gathering speed with a quiet menace as it aimed for America's coasts. He wondered whether it was already beyond stopping. He knew time was running out.

He also knew there was hope: The mighty U.S. biomedical industry would surely be gearing up for the long battle ahead. And the company he helped create was already in the fight.

Inside a high-tech facility in Sunnyvale, California, the teams of engineers and scientists were sure that this new threat was a prime target for the rapid-testing prowess of Cepheid Inc., co-founded 25 years ago by Gutshall, EG60.

The U.S. government quickly agreed, issuing an Emergency Use Authorization on March 21 that allowed Cepheid to adapt its user-friendly GeneXpert machines for rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2. Within days, Cepheid's coronavirus-detecting cartridges were flying out to the many medical facilities

that rely on its machines, which were already capable of delivering quick results for a variety of diseases, from strep throat to Ebola to SARS.

"We were the first guys out the gate to say, 'Hey, we've got a test for COVID-19,'" says Gutshall, 82, a one-time Cepheid CEO and chairman who is now

used their expertise to develop a game-changing technology that helps people live better, healthier lives. Now, he is generously sharing it with us."

Gutshall remembers his days at UD fondly, although they weren't always easy. "They taught us almost as if we were graduate students," he says of his

"Tom and his colleagues used their expertise to develop a game-changing technology that helps people live better, healthier lives."

—LEVI T. THOMPSON, EG81,
dean of the College of Engineering

retired. "Everybody said, 'How do you do that?' It's because the science guys down there at Cepheid are geniuses. We did the same thing with SARS."

Gutshall is 60 years away from his UD days, and no longer actively leads the company he co-founded, but he isn't the type to stay disengaged for long. In 2011, his high regard for UD's elemental role in his success prompted him to donate \$1.5 million for the creation of the Thomas and Kipp Gutshall Career Development Chair in Chemical Engineering, now held by Prof. Thomas H. Epps, III. Gutshall also recently donated a GeneXpert machine and cartridges to UD to help with on-site testing.

"Tom exemplifies what it means to be an engineer and a UD alum," said Levi T. Thompson, EG81, dean of the College of Engineering. "Tom and his colleagues

top-flight UD chem-e professors. "They hammered on us pretty hard. You had no problem getting in anywhere else with a UD chemical engineering degree."

Retirement also hasn't prevented him from serving as the go-to guy when Cepheid's managers need deep knowledge and veteran perspective.

"I'm a historical reference point for them," the amiable chemical engineering graduate quipped from his home in Los Altos Hills, California., where he fields calls and checks in via Zoom with company managers. "If they run into issues with how they should go about proceeding, I'm their archives."

"The bottom line is still, we're trying to take care of people," he says. "From the beginning, that's what it was always about."

—Eric Ruth, AS93





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DEFINING MOMENTS

the CLASS of 2020
has SOMETHING *to* SAY

They were toddlers when the Twin Towers collapsed and came of age during the '08 recession. They attended school as Sandy Hook, Parkland and dozens of massacres reminded them of their own mortality. Now, they've graduated college amidst a global pandemic and cries for racial justice.

As the Class of 2020 inherits this chaotic, divisive, digital, interconnected world, you might expect fear or despair. Instead, they offer hope, resilience and undeniable strength.

Here's what they have to say.



Light
up the
darkness

THE CLIMB

I graduated from high school in June 2001, three months before 9/11. I graduated with my bachelor's degree in August 2008, watching stocks collapse and the Great Recession begin. And here I am today, having earned my master's degree in May 2020, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Another academic milestone in the midst of life-altering chaos. Is this a theme?

I feel a bit like the mythic king Sisyphus, pushing a boulder up a never-ending hill. Although I may have cheated death once or twice, this seems an exaggerated penance. So with the rhythmic histories of past graduations echoing in my ears, I set out once more, boulder in tow, to climb another mountain.

And yet, this Sisyphus is happy.

I am happy to venture into the unknown to tackle a seemingly insurmountable task. The mountain slope will not cede, and the obstacles will never yield, but what growth exists in a world where safety and security were always guaranteed? I am happy for the challenges that push me to become better.

Life can be a series of mind-numbingly dull tasks, but unlike Sisyphus, we are not on the mountain alone. On either side of us, infinite rows of triumphant humans—your family, friends and neighbors—are pushing their own burden with varying degrees of enthusiasm in unison with your own. If you can take your eyes off the rock in front of you and instead focus your attention on the people around you, you will see them, shoulder to shoulder beside you. In my experience, it is the people we sweat, bleed, fall and cry next to who make the journey worthwhile.

So if you are graduating like me, and the gods seem to have given you a monumental and unending task while cruelly tossing sticks and snakes into an already arduous path, take a minute to breathe. Step away from the uncertainty of whatever crisis happens to be unfolding on your part of the mountain and look around at the feats of strength that surround you. They steel me for the journey to come and make me proud to stand among my fellow climbers and push.

Mike Wilson, EHD20M, earned his degree in teaching English as a second language. He has taught students in Peru and Germany and looks forward to his next opportunity abroad.



THE VISIONARIES

If someone would have told the Class of 2020 that this year, our year, would have gone like this, we would not have believed them. Since 2016, we have anticipated the year 2020 and the accomplishments it would bring. We joked around and called ourselves the best class because we were graduating in the year of perfect vision. Which is still true. COVID-19 has readjusted our focus and redefined our purpose. Although this pandemic has taken away so many memories, it has also allowed us to create and appreciate much more.

For some of us, it offered a needed break. It has given us time with our family and reminded us what it means to be essential. To never take a walk through Trabant or The Green for granted.

To appreciate the times the Shuttle has been unreliable and more. On a more serious note, to survive.

COVID-19 has given us tools to become the future successors.

Our generation has been falsely accused of lacking drive and motivation, but we abruptly finished our final semester completely online while caring for our loved ones and community. That spells determination. We are resilient, brilliant and ready to tell our story. Let's make it a good read.

Jonay Desire, AS20, earned her degree in criminal justice and now attends North Carolina Central University School of Law.

COVID-19
has given us
tools to become
the future
successors.



LOVE AND LIGHT

In this broken world, I have learned that the most important thing in life is to spread love. No matter where you are from, what you believe in, or what you are going through, we are all one. We are HUMAN. We are connected.

Through sports, I have learned that each person standing beside me is my brother. No matter what, we must stick together and work towards achieving one common goal. I have been blessed to play football at Delaware, even and perhaps especially during difficult times. My father passed away before my junior year and just three weeks later, I suffered a serious, potentially career-ending foot injury. However, I received incredible support from so many staff members, alumni, students, faculty and teammates, all of whom helped me persevere. They cared for more than just my ability to perform and play football. They constantly checked in on how I was doing—physically, mentally and emotionally. In these trying months, I received so much love and support and it showed me that there is so much more to life than just football.

Every single day, people are fighting their own battles. Many of these battles are silent, but others are visible to the world. We must remember that we may never fully understand the lived experience of someone else, but it is our responsibility as human beings to stand beside our brothers and sisters and help them through these battles. As Bob Marley once said, “When darkness surrounds you, you might be tempted to look for a switch or hope that a light comes on to get rid of it all. But you have to remember that you are the light, and you have the power to overcome the darkness that exists in this world. LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS.”

Cameren Kitchen, HS20, earned his degree in health behavior science with minors in health, physical activity and disabilities studies. He is training for a career in the NFL.



We are
HUMAN.
We are
connected.

ACHIEVING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Many people associate my generation with negative stereotypes: short attention spans, technology addictions, lofty expectations of wanting too much, too soon. Some, or all, may be true to an extent. We have grown up with information overload from multiple sources, and at a time when communication is defined by character limits (the shorter, the better). But the Class of 2020 has managed to turn these perceived weaknesses into strengths.

We don't have short attention spans; we have simply mastered the ability to communicate more effectively and concisely than those who have come before us. Although we may be addicted to technology, we have used it to create a more accessible and equitable world—all while maintaining the ability to interact and communicate, despite what others may believe. And our expectations of ourselves, the brands we interact with, our employers, our environment and even our world, are not too high; we simply want better—and are willing to invest our voices, time and money in making that happen. I think that speaks volumes to who we are and how we will shape the future.

The Class of 2020 has lived through a number of defining moments that have, time and time again, tested our adaptability, resilience, strength and courage. But we have continued to achieve the impossible, and I have no doubt that each and every member of the Class of 2020 will face life head-on, making the waves that will ultimately make the world better.

Shawn Futch Jr., BE20, is an international business studies graduate who now works as a financial analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.



A MIRROR FOR HUMANITY

Asked to condense my life lessons to you into approximately 300 words, I've decided to disregard the assignment entirely. Why? I've learned everything I know from the people around me, so I figured it's more informative to talk about them instead.

Unfortunately, I don't have the word count to share their stories, insights and expertise. Worse yet, many will never have the same platform as I have now. As a small gesture, I'm giving some of my space to them. This is for Black and non-Black people of color, the LGBTQIA+ community, ruralites, immigrants, refugees, people with disabilities, low-income communities, homeless people, women, religious and ethnic minorities, indigenous people, future generations and the countless other voices around the world that often go unheard.

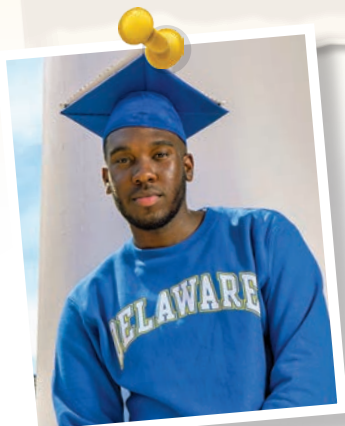
I hope you can relate to someone on that list. Yes, these people may look different, come from different places, hold different beliefs and have different experiences, but here's the thing about people: We're not so different that we can't

find something of ourselves in someone else. In truth, once we treat *and* trust others as we would ourselves, we can then start to demand more from each other.

And we must demand more. There is much work to be done to ensure a stronger, more sustainable, more equitable and more just society. Starting is hard, but standing still while life moves around you is not an option.

So, if you want to help but don't know where to begin, ask yourself: What can you give and what will you do with what you have been given? If you're willing to invest in others, in your fellow humans, I think you'll find that you can go quite far.

Bianca Mers, AS20, earned her degree in international relations and received the 2020 Emalea Pusey Warner Outstanding Senior Award. She hopes to help make communities more environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.



TO MY FELLOW BLACK GRADUATES

We did it! Through all the adversity, long nights studying and enduring microaggressions from our peers, we did it! In this current climate of confronting our nation's history of racial injustice, receiving this degree means so much more. It is a symbol of hope and resilience. Use the knowledge you have learned and the experiences you have gained to advance your communities and change the world. Do the things people said you couldn't do and be unapologetically, proudly you.

Marianne Williamson once said, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens

us." Sometimes we contain our thoughts and restrain our abilities because we are afraid of the power we hold. That ends today. Step out of your comfort zone and push yourself to limits you didn't know you possessed. The power within us is strong enough to move mountains and repair past wrongs. How will you be remembered? Make your voice heard and make your voice matter.

This degree is not only for us, but for Trayvon Martin, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and all of the innocent Black lives lost. This degree is for our ancestors and everyone who fought and died for us to receive an education. Black Lives Matter and Black Graduates Matter!

Jymere Stillis-Stanford earned joint degrees in mass communication and psychology and hopes to work in public relations with a focus on entertainment and media.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us."

—Marianne Williamson



CHANGES

When I envisioned my “mini commencement address,” I imagined talking about my struggles with mental health, my MANY major switches, or possibly the organizations that impacted me in unbelievable ways. However, I realized all of those potential topics

actually had a common theme—change.

Whether you embrace it or detest it, change is inevitable. And the Class of 2020 is no stranger to this truth. We began our college years with one of the most polarizing elections in history and ended it with a pandemic. No end-of-year celebrations, no graduation, no proper goodbyes.

And yet we adapted to this new online learning environment. We adapted to hosting events digitally. We adapted to a new normal. And that’s what the Class of 2020 has always done.

We adapted as middle school students, when the economy collapsed and some of our parents (like mine) lost jobs.

We adapted to the reality that our little sisters and brothers could be killed in class. We have always rolled with the punches.

Our “normal” will never be the same, and that’s okay. It needs to change and for good reason. The injustice and the systematic oppressions that this country has put upon the Black community must be changed NOW. The lack of gun control must be changed NOW. The culture surrounding sexual assault and blatant disrespect towards survivors must be changed NOW. The lack of care for our planet and its deathly effect on deprived communities must be changed NOW.

And as vast as these issues may be, they are all connected in its root of injustice. If college teaches us anything, it’s that changing mindsets and adjusting to new situations is critical to our success. But we can’t only change inward and stop there. We have the power to make change outwardly when we come together despite our differences.

Shaista Macan-Markar earned her degree in economics with a minor in political science and will be working as a developmental program analyst with PNC.

COMING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE

We live in a world where we become interested and involved in issues only if they directly affect our lives and lifestyles. Instead, we should focus on our shared humanity, working to ensure that tomorrow’s headlines don’t involve innocent people losing their lives.

Although many accuse this generation of being hyper focused on social media, we have used this platform to come together, listen to one another and ultimately make a positive change for generations to come.

We should be working to uplift each other

Many of us have already experienced the loss of a loved one. We have lived through horrific times: 9/11, school shootings and a global pandemic. COVID-19 may be affecting everyone’s health, but the social injustices that we see—or that we choose to ignore—won’t go away until we face the problem: ourselves.

We should be working to uplift each other. My hope is that one day the University of Delaware will flourish with diversity. Here and now, we have the opportunity to work together for the betterment of the next generation. A single person can initiate the change but it takes a whole society to make the change happen. 🐦

Brenda Juarez earned her degree in human services with a clinical concentration and a minor in Spanish for healthcare. She hopes to take a gap year or two to save up money for graduate school where she plans to earn a master’s degree in social work or public health.

**READ MORE FROM
THE CLASS OF 2020
AT udel.edu/udaily/
MAGAZINE**



Alvin Turner, AS66,
pictured in his home
in June 2020

PHOTO BY EVAN KRAPE

Our shared humanity



By Artika Rangan Casini, AS05

As the nation confronts its deep history of racial injustice, the University of Delaware must also reckon with its ghosts. From 1743-1950, Black students were prohibited from even applying to our institution.

Now, at this inflection point in our nation's history, we can no longer ignore racism's deep and lasting legacy. A University that proclaims a sacred duty to humanity by expanding knowledge simply must embrace all of humanity in that quest. When discrimination endures here, its shadows fall far beyond, denying the dreams of others and diminishing the greater good of a society in need of our collective talents and contributions.

This story will not magically change the Black student experience. It cannot even begin to capture the complexity and depth of that experience. At best, it may open a few eyes. At its most hopeful, it may open a few more hearts. For we often fail to see the things that don't affect us. And what's a year like 2020 if not to see more clearly?

Alvin Turner would have made a great journalist. He asked powerful people difficult questions and found the right story.

As a college student during the height of the Vietnam war, he spoke to the director of Selective Services. "How can you send boys to die?" he asked, and the man in charge of Delaware's draft began to cry. His own son was fighting in Vietnam.

How can you capture a person's essence in a newspaper article, Turner wondered? It seemed you either had to present someone as angelic or demonic, and people were more complicated than that. He was more complicated.

But we're often viewed in one-dimension, he knew. Good or bad. Right or wrong. Black or white. The world sees what it wants.

As one of the first Black students at

the University of Delaware in 1962, Alvin Turner understood how the world saw him. He had once forgotten his book in class, only to find it covered in notes that read, "N****r, go home." There was a professor who would begin class by telling students to "take your lily-white fingers and open to page..." and another who assessed surnames by ethnicity—Irish, Italian, German—but said nothing after spotting Turner's face.

For Turner and other students of color, the broad and long-ranging college experience in this country can be a painful reminder of what it means to be seen by unkind or indifferent eyes.

Turner, AS66, never became a journalist. A professor told him that he'd have a tough time finding a job, so he earned a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and doctorate in counseling psychology instead.

In 1973, he returned to UD, this time joining the staff to work with African-American students. These students all had strong academic skills, but not always the "attitudinal" ones: the ability to navigate an inhospitable culture; the courage to stand up to bad behavior; the safety to openly speak their truths; and the support to know that "this is your place, too."

Inclusion matters, in both the hallowed halls of higher education, and in a world that often looks on in amused contempt and pity.

This year alone, "Black people have not only watched their friends and family members die at higher rates from the coronavirus, they have also watched people who look like them be gunned down while going for a jog, be murdered in their homes, threatened while bird watching, and mercilessly choked on camera," Danielle Cadet, managing editor of *Refinery29*, wrote in a widely shared essay, "Your Black colleagues may look like they're okay—chances are, they're not."

For some, that anguish exploded into anger and riots, "the language of the unheard," as Martin Luther King Jr. explained. Or as Malcolm Gladwell

wrote decades later, "The people who are asked to obey authority have to feel like they have a voice—that if they speak up, they will be heard."

THE STORIES YOU DON'T HEAR

Turner's experiences aren't unique to the 1960s. Through the years, Black alumni have borne countless stories of being seen by unkind or indifferent eyes. Two of those stories happened not long ago.

Eryn Smith, EHD05, recalls being one of only two Black students in her education methods class. When students were told to pair into groups, she and her colleague made the conscious decision not to choose one another. "But at the end, we were the only ones left without a partner."

More than a decade later, Rahkim Clark had a similar experience.

Clark entered UD as a STEM major in 2016 and scored high on the math placement exam, but his groupwork seemed to be uniquely scrutinized. "Let me just double check it," his classmates would say to him, and him alone. In group presentations, fellow students asked him to give the quick introduction while his colleagues took on more substantive research topics. "Chemistry is the only class where I didn't feel singled out," he says, "because everybody was struggling."

Clark, AS20, eventually changed his major to Africana studies, leaving a career in the sciences—where Blacks and Hispanics make up only 16% of those employed—before it even began.

Such microaggressions are common

among Black students at predominantly White institutions, says Kasandra Moye, who offers more examples: Hearing or being called the N word. "Code switching," or changing your language or expression depending on the audience. Experiencing double consciousness, exclusion and isolation.

BELONGING

As director of UD's Center for Black Culture (CBC), Moye continues a legacy that began with Turner, Richard "Dickie" Wilson (p. 47), and many others who have helped shoulder the weight of the Black student experience.

"If I didn't have the Center for Black Culture, I probably wouldn't have gone out as much," Keri Edwards, AS21, told fellow students at a packed Black Student Union town hall earlier this year.

At the same town hall, Kasiyah Tatem, AS22, spoke of being one of only two Black women in her comparative politics class; one of 15 students of color in a criminal justice class of 130; and one of seven Black students (of 40) in her student group.

"Forming study groups can be difficult because I feel little connection with my peers, and I feel isolated," Tatem added. "Some people argue, this is just like the real world. But if UD becomes more diverse and inclusive, we can start a chain reaction across the nation."

That is indeed the very mission of the CBC, and more broadly, of UD itself: for students to grow and give, gaining knowledge that will strengthen their lives and improve our world.

“The greatest myth is that the work we do [at the CBC] is somehow siloed and supports self-segregation,” says Moye. “No, it’s called belonging. It’s about connecting students to community in ways that validate their identity so that they connect beyond the center.”

In a perfect world, she envisions the CBC as a model for greater multicultural initiatives and efforts across the University, a sort of a prototype for inclusion: how to inspire healthy identity, encourage resilience and help all underrepresented groups feel welcome.

“If we had more resources, we could do more for students,” she says.

REACHING TOWARD CHANGE

The University wants to do more and has already made some progress.

Enrollment of historically underrepresented minority groups has risen 10% among undergraduate students and 27% among graduate students since 2016. Specifically, the number of Black undergraduates is up about 4% and the number of Black graduate students is up 12% during that same period.

Diversity modules have been added to the first-year curricula, and investments have been made to engage students with activities and programs that foster an inclusive environment. Black students can take part in programs that pair them with mentors, receive support breaking into certain fields, and have access to additional resources and networks.

Still, the University recognizes greater effort is needed.

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One of the first Black students at UD, Alvin Turner, AS66, returned to the University in 1973. Working as a counselor over the next 13 years, he helped students find their voice, speak their truth and tell their story.

On the eve of Juneteenth, the annual holiday commemorating slavery’s end in America, President Dennis Assanis outlined action items for the University, including: mandated diversity training for all faculty, staff and students, revamped faculty and staff searches, a thorough and historic review of naming considerations for buildings, new fundraising opportunities for social justice initiatives and more.

“We know numbers are just one component of the equation,” Assanis continued. “We must work ever harder to promote a more inclusive culture throughout UD where everyone is valued and all can expand their potential and believe in a better future.”

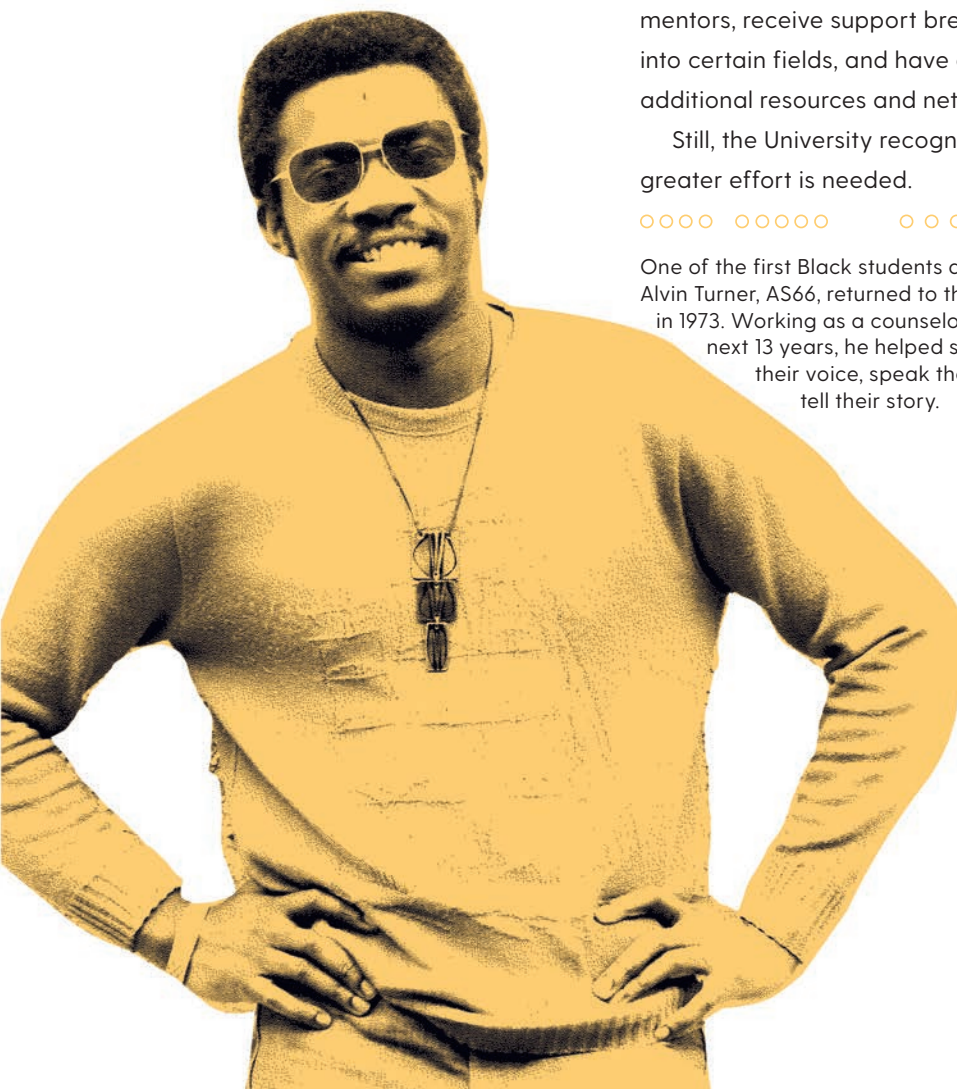
After all, change—in a college, in a country, in the confines of one’s own heart and home—requires action, investment and intent.

ESCAPING THE COMFORT ZONE

But newfound determination can be awkward and uncomfortable.

When Eryn Smith looks back on her college experience, she recalls another education classmate who was “so intentional about being my friend.” Allison would ask questions about Smith’s hair (“How often do you wash it?”) and lunch choices (“Do you eat this?” “Yes, it’s food.”).

“I would tell her, ‘I’ll answer this for you, but you really should not ask another Black person this,’” Smith says now. “But today, she teaches English as a Second Language, and she’s worked in some of the most diverse school districts in the country.”





“The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that’s the essence of inhumanity.”

—George Bernard Shaw

Allison did what others often don’t. Or won’t. She escaped her comfort zone.

At the Black Student Union town hall earlier this year, Abdul Musa, AS22, encouraged his peers to do the same.

“When you’re uncomfortable, you’re growing,” he said. “There are different opportunities that exist [on campus], but you have to look for them.”

And that’s just what Musa did. Through the Horn Entrepreneurship program, he established a healthcare venture and received funding to attend the Clinton Global Initiative in Scotland

and to represent UD at the Elon Innovation Challenge in North Carolina.

“It’s been a rollercoaster,” he said of his college experience. “Up and down, we keep pushing.”

OPENING OUR EYES

The push to a more inclusive future continues, though the challenges are not new. In fact, the late UD sociology professor Frank Scarpitti listed many in a seminal 1969 report on “The Black Student and the University of Delaware.”

Known widely as the Scarpitti

Report, the document outlined policies to increase recruitment and support for minority students and faculty at a time when Black students made up less than 1% of the undergraduate student body.

“A large proportion of the dominant white majority in this country is accustomed to interacting with Negroes only in the context of stereotyped role relationships,” he wrote in 1969. “These relationships, moreover, usually cast the Negro in menial or inferior positions.

Members of the University of Delaware are no exception to this rule.”

Though Eryn Smith cringes at the language, she agrees with the overarching message.

“White people need more open and honest conversations with people

of color,” she says. “Most of their impressions of Black people come from White people, and overwhelmingly, from White men.”

It’s a skewed perception that hurts both the observer and the observed.

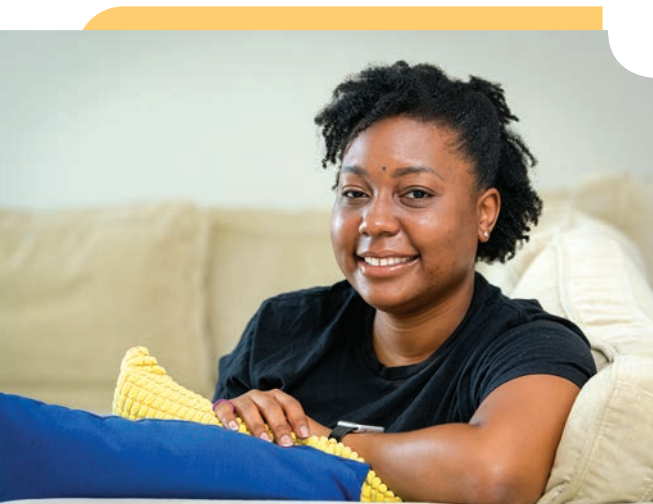
Alvin Turner learned that from his track coach, Jimmy Flynn, who said, “You run slower when you run with someone you think is faster than you.”

And in that moment, Turner understood. Perception is not reality. But change one, and you can change the other.

In his five decades as a psychologist, Turner has used the principles of African psychology—the study of the impact and power of relationships, the search for collective identity and the quest to improve the human condition—to make sense of the senseless. He has counseled people who have raped and murdered; people who have been raped or have lost family members to murder. He has even used it to understand the traumas of his own college experience.

“It’s not that you don’t need to feel pain,” he says. “You need to learn from it, grow from it, and use it to help others.” Turner calls it a “search for our shared humanity.”

“It informs me what it means to be human,” he says. “If I can understand what it’s like to be you, I can see reality as you experience and understand it.” 🐦



Racial divisions stem from a lack of meaningful relationships, says Eryn Smith, EHD05. As an assistant principal for a Wilmington middle school, she has developed community-building circles as a way to bridge the gap between the majority-minority student population and the teachers who serve them.

Brilliance & Resilience

THE LEGACY OF RICHARD “DICKIE” WILSON

By Lauren Wilson

When the phone rang in the wee hours of the night, my father always answered. I could sometimes hear the front door shut and the car leave the driveway, knowing immediately that he was heading to campus to help someone in need.

When a student could not travel home on a holiday break, they always sat at our dinner table and slept in our home. On hot summer weekends, our backyard and pool were filled with young adults who had large afros and wooden fists dangling from leather necklaces. Daddy called them his kids, even though my younger sister and I were his only biological children. But even as a young child, I was aware that he was a father figure to many.

I can't remember a time when I didn't share my dad with African American students at UD. I can't remember a time when he wasn't the go-to Black man on campus (after all, my parents made it clear he was one of the first, and for a great period of time, the only African American administrator at the University).

Richard Wilson's UD career began in 1967, when he was named the director of Upward Bound, a ground-breaking federal program to introduce minority high school students to college life. While directing Upward Bound, he traveled up and down the state of Delaware, recruiting students and promising parents that their children would remain under his care. He carried large plastic garbage bags in his car, sympathetic to those concerned families who worried about sending their sons and daughters to a college campus filled with very few faces that looked like their own.

Still, my dad never took no for an answer and was instead determined not to let fear—or lack of a suitcase—prevent anyone from attending college. With a suitcase or garbage bag filled with their clothes, students across the state came to the University of Delaware, where they remained under my dad's watchful eye. They would soon learn of his soaring expectation for them to excel academically, as if they were the standard-bearers for others to come.



From 1967 until his death in November 1992, Richard Wilson was a guiding light for UD's Black students.

My father also served in other roles at UD, as an admissions counselor and later, as the assistant to the vice president of student affairs. While in admissions, a co-worker recalled how he would see African American students lined up outside of my father's office. When he offered to help them, they respectfully declined, as they'd been advised by their parents to only speak to Mr. Wilson.

Of course, those students weren't the only ones wading in uncharted territory. Both of my parents realized the importance and gravity of my father's influence. Before he was hired by the University, dad was a public school teacher. His breakthrough color-barrier move to UD meant trading in casual slacks and shirts for suits and ties. Every morning my mother would

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While each student was different in one way or another, they shared one thing in common: They were among the 125 African American students on a campus with more than 10,000 White students, faculty and administrators.

My dad knew each one.

carefully lay out his new business attire, making certain everything was neatly pressed and in order. On some evenings they would attend social events hosted by other administrators. They openly talked about preparing themselves for a night when they would be the only brown faces present. My mother took great pleasure in dressing up and accompanying my father, even though her best girlfriends would be there, too; they also would be dressed up, but they were adorned with the black uniforms and white aprons of the wait staff.

Even before coming to the University, my dad had earned the reputation

of being a caring but no-nonsense educator and disciplinarian.

As a college sophomore, New Castle County Councilman Jea Street, AS74, recalled feeling so disconnected and misunderstood that he told my dad he planned to quit and leave the University for good. According to Street, my father quietly closed his office door, then physically collared Street and shoved him to the floor telling him the only place he was going was to the library. After standing up and dusting himself off, that's exactly where Street went—straight to the library.

Today those actions are unthinkable, even grounds for termination, but

Street credits Dickie Wilson for those firm-but-caring measures that set him on a straight path. He attributes my dad's tough love to his decision to become a lawmaker and director of the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center, where Street lovingly-but-sterly guided inner-city youth until he retired.

"Your dad looked out for the students categorized as the scholars, the athletes, the nerds and the gay kids at a time when being gay wasn't acceptable," he says now. And, much to his relief, Street said my father fought for the rights of young

Black militants like himself and others, who in today's terminology would be deemed "special populations."

While each student was different in one way or another, they shared one thing in common: They were among the 125 African American students on a campus with more than 10,000 White students, faculty and administrators. My dad knew each one. "He took care of all of us and he understood that you couldn't take children who were used to rules at home and all of a sudden put them in a place where there were no rules, so he would do things like pop in our dorms in the middle of the night, removing the liquor bottles that were sitting on our window sills," Street says now, with a laugh. "I did the same to my children; that was a lesson that never went away from me."

Along with demanding academic excellence, respect and discipline from his students, my father demanded that the University create a place where students of color would feel comfortable, safe and gain further guidance and support. With his help, the Center for Black Culture was created. And although my father personally feared that Greek-lettered fraternities and sororities would only divide the meager population of Black students, Street credits my dad with supporting their wishes to charter various Greek chapters.



TYLER JACOBSON

After Wilson's death in 1992, a memorial scholarship fund was set up in his honor. Every year, the University of Delaware also presents the Dick Wilson Step Show, which has become one of the premier events at UD, with attendance in excess of 700 people.



“Dickie Wilson was a superhero in my eyes,” writes Lauren Wilson, pictured here with her late father.

Ironically, after my father’s untimely death at age 58 from pancreatic cancer, an annual “Dick Wilson Greek Step Show,” which initially had a scholarship fund attached, was established in his honor. Thousands attended from colleges and universities all over the East Coast. Despite his reservations about Greek life, I know he would have been proud to see so many young people of color coming together, not only for fellowship but for an opportunity to financially help other students enter college.

My father also embraced the arts, taking “his kids” to Broadway to see plays like *Purley* starring Melba Moore. He brought poets like Nikki Giovanni with her cutting-edge prose to campus, along with R&B singers like James Brown, who, at the time, had a hit

record titled, “Say it Loud, I’m Black and I’m Proud.” My little sister and I tagged along on these excursions, too, getting first-time exposure just like the students. At Brown’s concert, I remember seeing an excited female fan faint. My father scooped her up as if she were a feather and carried her out and I vividly recall thinking then that my daddy was a big, strong superhero.

Dickie Wilson was a superhero in my eyes. He was strong physically, and even stronger in his convictions and the love for his students. That is why, even today, decades after his death in 1992, so many people tell me they credit their successful professional careers to my father. Strangers and friends tell me it was my father who single-handedly opened doors that

were shut to them, fought for their rights and expected nothing short of excellence from each of them in return. Those people include Alton Williams, AS74, an optometrist; Alvin Turner, AS66, a psychologist; his brother Carl Turner, AS71, a physician; Ronald Whittington, AS71, former executive assistant to UD Presidents Arthur Trabant and David Roselle; Sylvester Johnson, BE75, former associate director of operations at the Bob Carpenter Center; the late Conway Hayman, AS71, a former NFL player; and many, many more.

Norma Gaines-Hanks, AS74, 97EdD, who is among the few of dad’s kids who still remain on campus as an associate professor and human services internship coordinator, keeps a photo of my father in her office to this day, saying it is a reminder of the shoulders on which she stands. “Suffice it to say that my journey at UD would have been very different if Richard Wilson had not been a major part of it,” she says.

I take great pride in knowing that the daddy I shared with UD’s Black students impacted so many of their lives, just as he impacted my own.

Sharing Richard “Dickie” Wilson made UD a better place and empowered his kids to make the world a better place. As the lone Black administrator on UD’s campus for many years, he embraced each student as if they were his own and inspired them to soar. 🐦

LOOKING AHEAD

ADDRESSING RACISM AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY IN CORPORATE AMERICA AND BEYOND

Silence is no longer an option, the women said. They know conversations will be difficult and fear that change may remain elusive. But 2020's tumultuous spring has left far too much pain, anguish and bloodshed for the nation to ignore.

And so, with grace, courage and candor, four Black businesswomen shared their insights on how America might find racial and economic equity at long last.

Hope lies in diligent action, education and empathy, the women said at UD's *Addressing Racism: Advancing Justice in Times of Crisis* webinar. Efforts must be accompanied by intent and honest reflection, they told hundreds of virtual attendees on June 19—Juneteenth, exactly 155 years after slavery's end.

The webinar, cosponsored by the Lerner Diversity Council and the

University's Women's Leadership Initiative, featured: Prof. **Jennifer Joe**, **Daphne McRae**, BE04M, **Nicole Jeter West**, BE99, and **Vina Amankwaa Afrifa**, BE21. Excerpts from their dialogue follow below,* and their full conversation can be viewed at lerner.udel.edu/centers/womens-leadership-initiative/webinar-series.

* Edited in places for clarity or length.



Jennifer Joe, Whitney Family Endowed Chair of Accounting and Cohen Family Lerner Director of Diversity



Daphne McRae, BE04M, vice president in the project management office for JPMorgan Chase & Co.



Nicole Jeter West, BE99, head of marketing and brand engagement for LA 2020, the Olympic Games organizers



Rising senior **Vina Amankwaa Afrifa**, BE21, an incoming summer analyst for JPMorgan Chase and a fellow of the 2020 Harvard Summer Venture in Management Program

HOPE AND HEALING

Afrifa: These moments are very heavy, but in the same breath I'm happy to see the amount of work many people are putting into creating a new narrative for people of color.

McRae: We have to tell our stories, regardless of how painful they are. The healing will come to our communities and nation as we allow our voices to be heard and our stories told. Our children need to know and be proud of our rich heritage. We can't afford for our light to go out.



HISTORY, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC SUBJUGATION

McRae: When we think of the denial of property, the historic failure to provide has led to systemic racism and broadened gap to economic prosperity. In addition to the 40 acres Black people never received, there was approximately 11 million acres Black people had but lost, in many cases through fraud, deception and outright theft. Continuing practices are more than broken promises. It helps explain why Black families have 10 cents in wealth for every dollar White families own, and why the gap continues to widen. It's why the history of Black land-taking should be at the center of debates on reparations.

Joe: I've been advocating for history on social and economic injustice to be added to the curriculum—not as an aside, but to be interwoven. American history comprises African American history, and that's the way it should be taught.

PRIVILEGE

Joe: White privilege is graduating from your doctoral program, going shopping for your new wardrobe and being able to walk out of the store without anyone asking you to open the bag and show your receipt.

West: I have three children. So, we have to talk about how to make sure you get home okay when stopped by the police. White people do not have to have that conversation; they get to choose. That, to me, was the simplest form of White privilege. The “talk” in our community is not a choice. And that talk is no longer sufficient. It changed most present-day in 2012 with Trayvon Martin, and you had to talk about whether you should wear a hoodie. Or go jogging. Or be in your bed, asleep. How do you have that talk? It has become our survival, and the playbook for how to survive has gotten so complicated and so irrational.

BELONGING

Afrifa: My sophomore year, I interviewed for my first-ever internship, and I was so excited to speak with different recruiters. When it was time to meet in person, I was so prepared, so ready, and the first thing the recruiter said was, “Oh, I was expecting someone else.” I remember feeling crushed—like I didn't belong, like I wouldn't do well, like I wasn't worthy of being there. Trying to diffuse the situation, I laughed and said, “What do you mean?” And this White man said, “You sounded so proper on the phone, I was just expecting someone else.” It took me two years to realize what he meant, which was that he was expecting a White girl. And sometimes I'm disgusted with myself because I've let so many inappropriate comments slide.

INVESTMENT AND MINORITY REPRESENTATION

Afrifa: For a lot of people who look like me, we will be the first in our family to make a good amount of money. Many of us don't understand budgeting, savings, credit; the importance of contributing to a 401k early in our career; many of us are not coming from generational wealth. I want the company I work for to acknowledge that gap and help level the playing field [through financial literacy programs].

West: There are key areas that must be taken apart to be put back together: recruiting, hiring, building the pipeline, leadership development—those are key components. It's one thing to have an internship pipeline that gets people of color in the door, but if you don't develop them for leadership [positions], you'll see that increase and representation stop.

McRae: We're looking for those in the organization—even those who aren't persons of color—to pair us with mentors. Educate us and offer warm introductions on sponsorship. Be intentional in identifying top performers for leadership development.

Joe: Where you invest your resources is a true indicator of how much you care about diversity and equity. So if one-tenth of a percent of your budget is directed at equity and inclusion, you are not serious, and all who are watching you are fully aware.



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ALUMNI NEWS

THE PASSION BEHIND THE PULITZERS

Journalism's worldview has long embraced two beliefs: Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Powerful stories must therefore comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable.

They're cliché battle cries, Doug Donovan acknowledges. Yet they capture the spirit of the stories that have defined the 30-year career of this UD alumnus, earning him the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in Local Reporting, almost six months after he left the profession.

The honor was shared with photographer and fellow Blue Hen Lloyd Fox and their *Baltimore Sun* colleagues for a series that uncovered the "Healthy Holly" book-publishing scheme, in which Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh grossed more than \$850,000 from no-bid contracts and book sales, ending with her 3-year sentence in federal prison.

As with many of the articles Donovan, AS93, and Fox, AS88, have produced over the years, the impact is in the story's aftermath: in the policies, programs and behaviors that are changed as new facts and information come to light.

Still, Donovan worries. "With fewer local papers and fewer local reporters, the more people can get away with," he says. "It's a worrisome sign for democracy."

Even Donovan has left the field, joining Johns Hopkins University just in time to become the public relations point person for its influential COVID-19 tracking map.

("I get a similar satisfaction from highlighting work people can benefit from," he says.)

Fox was there to capture Pugh's excitement when she won the mayoral election in 2016, just as he was waiting outside the courtroom three years later, taking her photo as she emerged with her head hung low.

"You're able to freeze a moment in time," he says of photojournalism's power. "You have to look at every single angle—as a story, as a picture. Sometimes people look in one direction, so that's all they see."

Looking back on the Pulitzer Prize-winning piece, both Blue Hens marvel at the absence of political oversight.

"What was most interesting to me was just how many organizations saw nothing wrong," Donovan says.

The University of Maryland Medical System paid \$500,000 for Pugh's books while she was a trustee; insurer Kaiser Permanente paid more than \$100,000 for the books while seeking a \$48



Photographer Lloyd Fox, AS88 (left), and journalist Doug Donovan, AS93, received the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in Local Reporting for uncovering a book-publishing scheme that led to the resignation and imprisonment of former Baltimore mayor Catherine Pugh.

million medical contract; and from 2011-2016, Pugh cosponsored more than 40 bills affecting doctors, hospitals and insurance companies, all while failing to disclose the payments she received or recusing herself from votes and decisions involving the medical system.

"This is why we do what we do," says Fox. "The system requires checks and balances." 🐦



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BEE AWARE

Here on the steep banks of the city's hilltop reservoir, under the fierce eye of an early summer sun, Christina Fabris and her 30,000 babies are all as busy as can be.

She flits from hive to hive in her netted hat and billowy bee suit, puffing wisps of cool pine-straw smoke into the crowded wooden boxes, then easing each honeycomb out for close appraisal. Is this hive a happy place? Are its workers productive? Or have they grown discontent with their queen, and chosen a better leader?

The complexities of honeybee civilization amaze Fabris, AS97, who in her nearly nonexistent spare time runs Iris and Callisto's Apiary in Wilmington, Delaware, with her husband Joe Csoltko, EOE98. She's inspired by the parallels between honeybees' lives and our own perilous existence: Two societies, both



reliant on cooperation and coordination. Two species, working in harmony, each getting (and giving) in turn.

To this general contractor and mother of two, these 10 wooden hives serve as apt metaphors for the mindset we need to embrace: Respect your world and realize all that we stand to lose.

"We look for a balance of what we

want, and what they want," says Fabris, who learned beekeeping from an uncle during childhood summers in Northern Italy. Her bees' give their bounty for her to sell—as seasonal honeys with names like Bon Vivant Bourdain and Bite-a-Venus. In return, they receive her care, then buzz away each day to pollinate our crops and help feed us all again. 🐝

BLUE HEN HERITAGE: MEET UD'S "IRON MIKE"

They say he once took a bullet in the face, yet still fought for hours. He conquered Hitler's mountain retreat, caused a Cold War kerfuffle by referring to Moscow as a "slum," and helped launch America's ultimately disastrous Southeast Asia escapades.

He even proved adept at the occasional cutting quip, claiming once that his proudest war trophy was a pair of Nazi Hermann Goering's spaciouly tailored trousers—which he referred to as "a lot of pants."

Known as "Iron Mike" for his indomitable resolve, Lt. Gen. John W. O'Daniel just



may be history's most famously obscure and resolutely pugnacious Blue Hen. His portrait still hangs in Alumni Hall, but his feats remain mostly footnotes nearly a half century after his death.

But what footnotes they are.

After graduating from UD in 1917 with an agricultural degree and a lieutenant's ROTC commission, the young Newark native led men in some of WWI's bloodiest battles, winning the Distinguished Service Cross for leading an attack with a severe head wound. In WWII,

his units captured Algiers, broke through the Siegfried Line, crossed the Rhine, and captured Munich and Nuremberg.

War would also bring less glorious moments: O'Daniel's brother James died when his plane was shot down over France in WWI, and his son would perish during WWII's Holland offensives.

O'Daniel soldiered on, ever outspoken and gravel-voiced, feared and admired, a 5-foot-6-inch force of nature. A French general once said that his face "might have been carved out with an axe." German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, who would surrender to O'Daniel, called his division "the best we faced."

O'Daniel died in March 1975. 🐝

A NOTE FROM THE UDAA PRESIDENT

FELLOW BLUE HENS,

To say that 2020 thus far has been a challenging year is an understatement. I hope that you and your families are well and that we collectively emerge from difficulties with renewed spirit, energy and determination to make our world better, for ourselves, our loved ones and our communities.

As we navigate our new digital territory and plan virtual alumni

events and programming, I invite you to email your ideas and suggestions to the University of Delaware Alumni Association at alumni-association@udel.edu. In the meantime, I hope that you enjoy the virtual resources highlighted on this page, including Henrichment from Home, Blue Hen Brain Break, Blue Hen Minds and more—all of which can be found at udel.edu/alumni-friends.



I hope to see you soon, even if it's on our screens! 🐦

Sincerely,

Linda Justice Myrick

Linda Justice Myrick, EG77
President, University of Delaware
Alumni Association

STAYING CONNECTED IN OUR DIGITAL WORLD

The coordinates of where we reside seem much less important these days. Now that we are experts at social distancing and connecting with friends, loved ones and even coworkers via Zoom, FaceTime and social media, we find ourselves in an increasingly digital space—or as we think of it, our “virtual city.”

For Blue Hens, our virtual city includes fun new resources such as the Henrichment from Home and Blue Hen Brain Break web pages (more about these below), but also opportunities for alumni to share their insights and expertise with a younger generation of Blue Hens. Without the restrictions of borders, Blue Hens from England to Thailand to the heart of the USA can benefit and learn from a virtual UD experience without ever actually being in the same physical location.

Ready to explore our virtual city? Below are the highlights, which can all be found at udel.edu/alumni-friends/resources/virtual-resources/

HENRICHMENT FROM HOME

udel.edu/henrichment

Here, we offer helpful tips, interesting insights, virtual concerts, art exhibitions and more, showcasing resources from across UD's campus. You'll find videos, articles, blogs and podcasts that range from exclusive interviews with UD's coaches in Coach's Corner to musical performances and interviews with artists in Backstage Pass Online to career

webinars for navigating our roles and striving for leadership through a global health crisis.

BLUE HEN BRAIN BREAK

udel.edu/brainbreak

If you're tired of scrolling through Instagram, watching Netflix or reading the news, it's time to check out the Blue Hen Brain Break, offering you new distractions, music, kid-friendly

activities for the youngsters.

Looking to show some UD spirit in your Zoom backgrounds? Or for a nostalgic Spotify playlist of songs from your college years? Do you want to challenge your brain (and test your UD knowledge) with a UD crossword puzzle? The Blue Hen Brain Break has your back. Check it out for all of these resources and more!

BLUE HEN MINDS

udel.edu/bluehenminds

Everyone could use life-changing advice and insights. The Blue Hen Minds series, brought to you by Delaware First: The Campaign for the University of Delaware, showcases TEDxUniversityofDelaware talks from UD students, faculty and staff. Around 15 minutes each, topics range from mental health to skillful communication.

UD CAREER ACCELERATION NETWORK

udcan.udel.edu/

The mission of UD CAN is as simple as it is powerful: to connect Blue Hens from across the world with one another for mentoring, networking and professional growth opportunities. The website aims to be the central place for students and alumni to build their professional networks and accelerate their careers. With support from the UDAA, the platform includes discussion boards, resources and even a job board for alumni to hire fellow Hens. Seasoned professionals can share their insights, experiences and career journeys with younger students and graduates, helping mentees develop their career interests and face new challenges.

VIRTUAL JOB SHADOW PROGRAM

udel.edu/alumni-friends/connect/career-professional-development/

Registration for the 2021 Virtual Winter Job Shadow Program is now open to alumni. This year, our job shadow programs transition from full day, on-the-job shadowing to hour-long informational interviews over Zoom. This past



summer, we were able to make over 400 meaningful and impactful matches between students and alumni to discuss various career-related topics such as industry insights, job search advice, workplace knowledge and more.

BLUE HEN VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

udel.edu/alumni-friends/resources/virtual-resources/

Cast yourself as the protagonist in this reading adventure—without leaving the house. Earlier this summer, UD launched a virtual book club for our alumni. Here's how it works: There is one book selection every two months, along with a private online forum for book discussions. And best yet, there is no cost to participate. You just need a copy of the book to enjoy. 🐓

CLASS NOTES



Michael J. Balick, AS75PhD

1970s

Michael J. Balick, AS75PhD, of Chappaqua, N.Y., has been named the 2020 recipient of the H. Marc Cathey Award from the American Horticultural Society for "outstanding scientific research that has enriched the field of horticulture and botany."

Stephen Cherniak, HS76, of Vineland, N.J., received the Bill Baun Award from the International Association of Workplace Health Promotion.

Glenn R. Hoey, BE76, of Wenatchee, Wash., was named Best Medical Professional by *The Wenatchee World* newspaper in central Washington state, where Hoey is a naturopathic physician.

Curtis (Chuck) Weikert, AS76, of Del Mar, Calif., published a nonfiction book, *Coral Reef Curiosities: Intrigue, Deception and Wonder on the Reef and Beyond*.

John Franks, EHD77M, and **Mary Franks, AS86, BE92M**, of Newark, Del., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 25.

Jill MacKenzie, AS79, 93M, of Wilmington, Del., has been named executive director of Hagley Museum and Library, where she previously served as director of Museum and Audience Engagement.



Jill MacKenzie, AS79, 93M



Jody Newman, AS80



Jacqueline Dreja McTear, AS89

1980s

Jody Newman, AS80, of Brookline, Mass., has joined the Boston Law Collaborative, where she will handle employment counseling and mediation.

Alex S. DeDominicis, BE82, of Bethany Beach, Del., has been appointed executive vice president, chief financial

officer and member of the board of directors of Electrical Components Inc.

Mark W. Seifert, AS85, of Newark, Del., published an article, "Traffic Safety Initiatives: Reducing Officer Deaths and Serious Injuries Related to Traffic Duties" in *Police Chief Magazine*. Seifert is director of emergency management at UD and previously published a comprehensive resource guide to help law enforcement officers address the elements of traffic safety while sharing research and best practices from across the world.

Don De Angelo, AS87, of San Diego, Calif., published his first book, *The American RE-volution: Libertarian Ideas for a New Generation of Americans*.

Richard S. Kopleton, AS89, of Wayne, N.J., has been named municipal prosecutor for the township of Millburn/Short Hills.

Jacqueline Dreja McTear, AS89, of Ellicott City, Md., has been elected chair of MCCCPR, the marketing affinity group for the Maryland Association of Community Colleges. McTear is senior designer at the Community College of Baltimore County.

1990s

Jim Donofrio, BE91, of Westfield, N.J., has been selected to join the Rutgers University Business School Advisory Board. He is also an active member of UD's Lerner College of Business and Economics, where he serves on the advisory board for the Department of Hospitality and Sport Business Management with a focus on sport management. He is currently at NBC Sports.

Christine Squires, AS91, of Greenwich, Conn., has been named president and CEO of Americares, a health-focused relief and development organization.

Anthony Varallo, AS92, of Charleston, S.C., has published a novel, *The Lines*, set in Delaware in the summer of 1979. Varallo is a professor of English at the College of Charleston.

Jen Pyne, EHD93, of Asheville, N.C., received the Autism Society of North Carolina's 2019 John and Claudia Roman Direct Service Award for outstanding commitment to individuals with autism and their families.

Christopher Burgos, BE99, of Hockessin, Del., received the seventh annual Community Inspiration Award from AssetMark, which donated \$10,000 to Cancer Support Community Delaware in honor of Burgos' commitment to the charity.



Christopher Burgos, BE99

Jamin Wells, AS99M, 13PhD, of Pensacola, Fla., published *Shipwrecked: Coastal Disasters and the Making of the American Beach*, which examines how shipwrecks laid the groundwork for the beach tourism industry.

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

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



Christine Squires, AS91



Brian Kent, AS00

2000s

Brian Kent, AS00, of Oreland, Pa., was named to the 2020 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list.

Alison Kirk, AS02, of Lewes, Del., was promoted to facilities foreman for the city of Lewes. She previously served as the city's parks and marina administrator.

Amy Rubens, AS03, of Christiansburg, Va., was appointed interim associate dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research at Radford University.

Alexis Robinson, AS05, of Palm City, Fla., was promoted to partner at law firm Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP.

Daralene (Gogola) Irwin, AS06, and **Alec Irwin, AS06**, of Wilmington, Del., welcomed Revan Maximilian on Dec. 12, 2019.



Alexis Robinson, AS05



Maeve Eliza Hoomans



Jonathan Patterson, BE08



Kandis L. Kovalsky, BE09



Tyler Preston Costabile

Jeremy Gove, BE08, of Blackshear, Ga., has published his first book, *Let's Be Honest*, which explores the principles of honesty and integrity from a biblical and leadership perspective.

Ali Militano, AS08, and **Kyle Hoomans, AS08**, of Burke, Va., welcomed Maeve Eliza on Dec. 5, 2019.

Jonathan Patterson, BE08, of Hockessin, Del., was promoted to principal in the Belfint, Lyons & Shuman accounting firm's tax and small business department.

Kelly Durkin Ruth, AS08, of Annapolis, Md., received a 2020 James M. Matarazzo

Rising Star Award from the Special Libraries Association for her "exceptional promise of leadership." Ruth is the engineering librarian at the United States Naval Academy.

Kandis L. Kovalsky, BE09, of Philadelphia, Pa., has been named partner at her law firm, Kang Haggerty & Fetbroyt.

2010s

Alissa Kregling Costabile, HS11, and **Thomas Costabile, EG11**, of Chesapeake Beach, Md., welcomed Tyler Preston on Aug. 7, 2019.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SPOTLIGHT

Updates from Blue Hen creators, innovators and entrepreneurs

W. Andrew Clark, ANR78M, of Johnson City, Tenn., has developed LAVENGEL, a homeopathic nutritional gel made of vitamin E, vitamin C, zinc, lavender oil and deionized distilled water, which helps heal hot spots, dermatitis, insect bites, burns and incision lines for canines. Clark is a professor of clinical nutrition and associate dean of research at East Tennessee State University.

Dave Harrell, AS84, of Wilmington, Del., is a licensed real estate agent and broker who recently published his first book, *Selling Your Home for Maximum Profit*.



UD alumnae Kelly Marzoli, BE18, and Juliet Meskers, AS19, offer an eight-hour mental health first aid certification course for UD's music department staff and students in February.

Cathy Mueller, AS91, of Corinth, Texas, has created a new website, StudentAidPandemic.org, to help students and borrowers. Mueller is executive director of Mapping Your Future, a nonprofit that helps families navigate the student loan process.

Brandi Matz, AS96, of Ridgefield, Conn., has worked with children, adolescents and adults struggling with anxiety for more than 20 years and recently published her first book, *Cultivating Calm—An Anxiety Journal*.

Kristin Franks, AS97, of Asheboro, N.C., has opened a private practice as a licensed mental health therapist and certified life coach with offices in Greensboro and Asheboro, N.C.

Kristy (Coulter) Olinger, BE01, of Wayne, Pa., and **Danielle McCombs, AS02**, of San Francisco, Calif., launched *The Opposite of Small Talk*, a podcast "for curious people who know there is no one right answer on how to live your best life." The duo focuses on new ways to improve one's personal and professional self.

Kelly Marzoli, BE18, of Basking Ridge, N.J., **Max Gold, AS19**, of Bala Cynwyd, Pa., and **Juliet Meskers, AS19**, of Easton, Conn., have co-founded Mental Health Global Network, LLC, which aims to prioritize mental health through mental health education and programming. They have trained staff and students across the country, including more than 100 at UD. 🐦

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

If so, email a note or press release to magazine@udel.edu with Entrepreneurship Spotlight in the subject line, and we'll be sure to include your news in our next issue.

Double Dels **Ashley Butkowski Grochowski, AS11**, and **Joe Grochowski, BE10**, of Durham, N.C.; **Erica Aguilar Lockwood, AS11**, and **Justin Lockwood, BE10**, of Yonkers, N.Y.; and **Katie Speace Falcone, AS11**, and **Derek Falcone, EG10**, of Santa Barbara, Calif., reunited over the winter holidays with their sons (and future Blue Hens) Cole Grochowski, Ledger Lockwood and Whit Falcone.

Christopher White, BE11, and **Anna Trazanova, BE12**, of Hoboken, N.J.,

were married on Aug. 24, 2019, with numerous Blue Hens in attendance.



Cole Grochowski, Ledger Lockwood and Whit Falcone



Numerous Blue Hens attended the wedding of Christopher White, BE11, and Anna Trazanova, BE12

Matthew Groth, AS12, of Audubon, Pa., married Kayla Smull on Sept. 14, 2019. **Patrick Devlin, AS10M**, and **Michael Marra-Powers, EG12**, both gave readings at the ceremony. Other Blue Hens in attendance included **Chrissy Magee Troup, EG12**, **Nicholas Troup, AS12**, **Frank Shen, AS12**, **John Beallias, AS12**, and **Alex D'Angelo, AS12**.

Alex Sawyer, BE13, and **Stephanie Mitchel, BE13**, of South Boston, Mass., were married on Oct. 18, 2019.

Sara Peralta, EHD14, 15M, and **Chase Colmorgen, ANR14, 20M**, of Greenwood, Del., were married May 25, 2019.

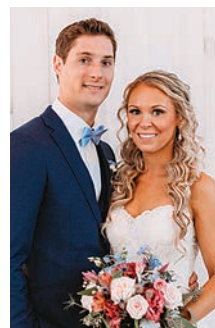
Eric Komar, AS15, of Los Angeles, Calif., has been promoted to director, Real Estate Operations at FOX Corporation.

Laura Snyder, AS15, of Hoboken, N.J., has been named a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries.

Joanna Wicks, AS16, of New Castle, Del., was featured on *Say Yes to the Dress!* She and her husband were chosen to represent Delaware in a 50-state wedding ceremony at the end of the season.

2020s

Kaleem Johnson-Bey, ANR20, of Perry Hall, Md., was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army National Guard, joining a family of proud Blue Hen graduates, including older brother **Ishmael, EG17**, and father **Charles, EG93M, 94PhD**. 🐔



Alex Sawyer, BE13, and Stephanie Mitchel, BE13



Kaleem Johnson-Bey, ANR20

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Dorothy Fry Sumey, EHD54
Lawrence J. Cali, AS56M
A. Stewart Holveck Jr., AS58
Peter W. Shelton Sr., EG61
James B. French, EHD64
Christine Edwards Altizer,
EHD70

James W. Vander Haar, EG72
Karen Williams Thalheimer,
AS74
R. Jeffrey Poulterer, AS75
Douglas M. Hershman, AS83
Brian J. Yetter, BE84
John F. Kling, EG87
Philip C. Wescott, AS14M

FACULTY AND STAFF

Robert "Bob" Bennett,
professor emeritus of English,
March 2020

Eric Benson, ANRR66,
professor of animal and food
sciences, April 2020

William W. Boyer Jr., the
Charles Polk Messick
Professor Emeritus of Public
Administration, February
2020

Hugh Frick, professor
emeritus of plant and soil
sciences, April 2020

Helen T. Morgan, BE82,
AS90M, long-time personnel
administrator, March 2020

Charles A. Rowe, professor
emeritus of art, February
2020 🐦

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

E. WAYNE CRAVEN

E. Wayne Craven, the H.F. du Pont Professor Emeritus of Art History at the University of Delaware and a founder of its Department of Art History, who established the study of American art as a recognized field of scholarship, died Thursday, May 7, 2020. He was 89 and lived in Newark, Delaware.

"The Art History Department has been shaken by the loss of Dr. Wayne Craven," said Sandy Isenstadt, professor of art history and chair of the department. "He was a pioneer scholar in American art and vital in making our program a premier place for the study of American art, a position it holds even today, more than 50 years after he arrived on campus."

A noted authority on 19th century American art, and a pioneer scholar in the field, Dr. Craven published numerous books and articles during his long career and received many professional honors.

At UD, he received Excellence in Teaching awards and the Francis Alison Faculty Award, the University's highest faculty honor, and in 2008 was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. He served as coordinator of UD's Winterthur Program in Early American Culture (now the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture) and served as chair of the Delaware State Arts Council.

His extensive publications include two books that have been described as bibles in their fields. His 1968 book *Sculpture in America*, which grew out of an exhibition he curated at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, is considered the most thorough survey of American sculpture to date and is used extensively as a textbook. His *American Art: History and Culture* is a classroom standard and has been acclaimed by scholars and general readers for the imaginative breadth of its approach and the clarity of its text.

Colleagues at UD remembered Dr. Craven fondly, not only for his wide-ranging scholarly interests but also for his courtesy, thoughtfulness, grace, generosity and humor. Former students have also praised Dr. Craven, remembering him on social media as "a pathbreaking scholar" and "a lovely man" whose professional generosity "forged a path for future generations" at UD and in the field of art history. 🐦



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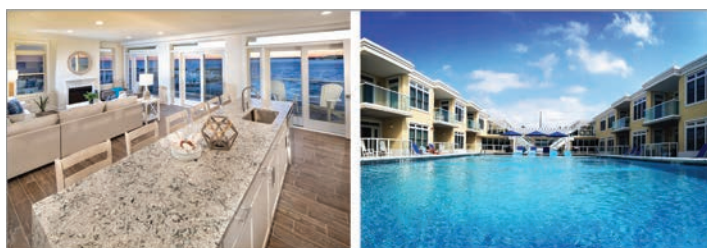
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A CONVERSATION WITH...

As the country celebrates pivotal voting milestones (100 years of women's right to vote and 150 years for African American men), historian and Prof. Emerita **ANNE BOYLAN** reminds us why protecting citizens' right to vote requires constant vigilance.

100 years after women got the right to vote, we've still never had a female president. Why?

As difficult as it is for men to become president of the United States, it is doubly difficult for women and triply difficult for women of color. Studies show, for instance, that many Americans, when asked to envision a "leader," think first and only of men. Then there's misogyny. In a 2015 poll, 8% of American voters admitted they would not vote for a qualified female candidate. It is worth noting that countries with elected women leaders often have parliamentary systems, in which one does not have to win a nationwide popular vote in order to become prime minister.

How safe/threatened is our right to vote?

Is it ever a guarantee?

There is no guaranteed right to vote in the U.S. Constitution. Instead, constitutional amendments related to voting (15th, 19th, 24th, 26th) frame the issue in the negative: A citizen's right to vote "shall not be denied or abridged" on grounds such as race or sex. We have 50+ voting systems in our states, territories, and Washington, D.C. Depending on where one lives, voting can be simple or difficult, threatened or safe. In recent years, we have seen rights eased or restricted through voter registration procedures, location and number of polling places, voter roll maintenance, absentee ballot and vote-by-mail rules, voting machine styles, disenfranchising laws and election security measures.

What surprised you most about the suffrage movement?

Its depth and breadth. From 1890–1920, it truly became a grassroots political movement, perhaps the largest in U.S. history (though political historians may disagree). The effectiveness of anti-suffrage efforts was another surprise. In 1920, they almost won! In Tennessee, the

final ratifying state, the amendment's passage came down to one vote.

Yet the suffrage movement fell apart almost as soon as the amendment entered the Constitution. It was African American suffragists who carried its promise forward after 1920, working to end disfranchisement in the South, and continuing to frame voting rights as part of a larger freedom struggle.

Students are often surprised to learn about male suffragists and female anti-suffragists. But there were women and men on both sides, and in Delaware, the leading anti-suffragists were all women.

What do people get wrong about the 19th Amendment?

No one "gave" or "granted" voting rights to women; they were won through a long, slow, difficult, daunting, depressing, sometimes dangerous struggle. At the same time, the amendment is best seen as a transitional moment rather than an end point. By 1920, women had won full voting rights in 15 states and the Alaska Territory, and the right to vote for president in 12 additional states. But many women still could not vote, usually

because of race or economic class.

These inequities were not altered until much later in American history, particularly by the 24th Amendment (1964) and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. 🐦

"NO ONE 'GAVE' OR 'GRANTED' VOTING RIGHTS TO WOMEN; THEY WERE WON THROUGH A LONG, SLOW, DIFFICULT, DAUNTING, DEPRESSING, SOMETIMES DANGEROUS STRUGGLE."



PHOTO BY KATHY F. ATKINSON

Anne Boylan

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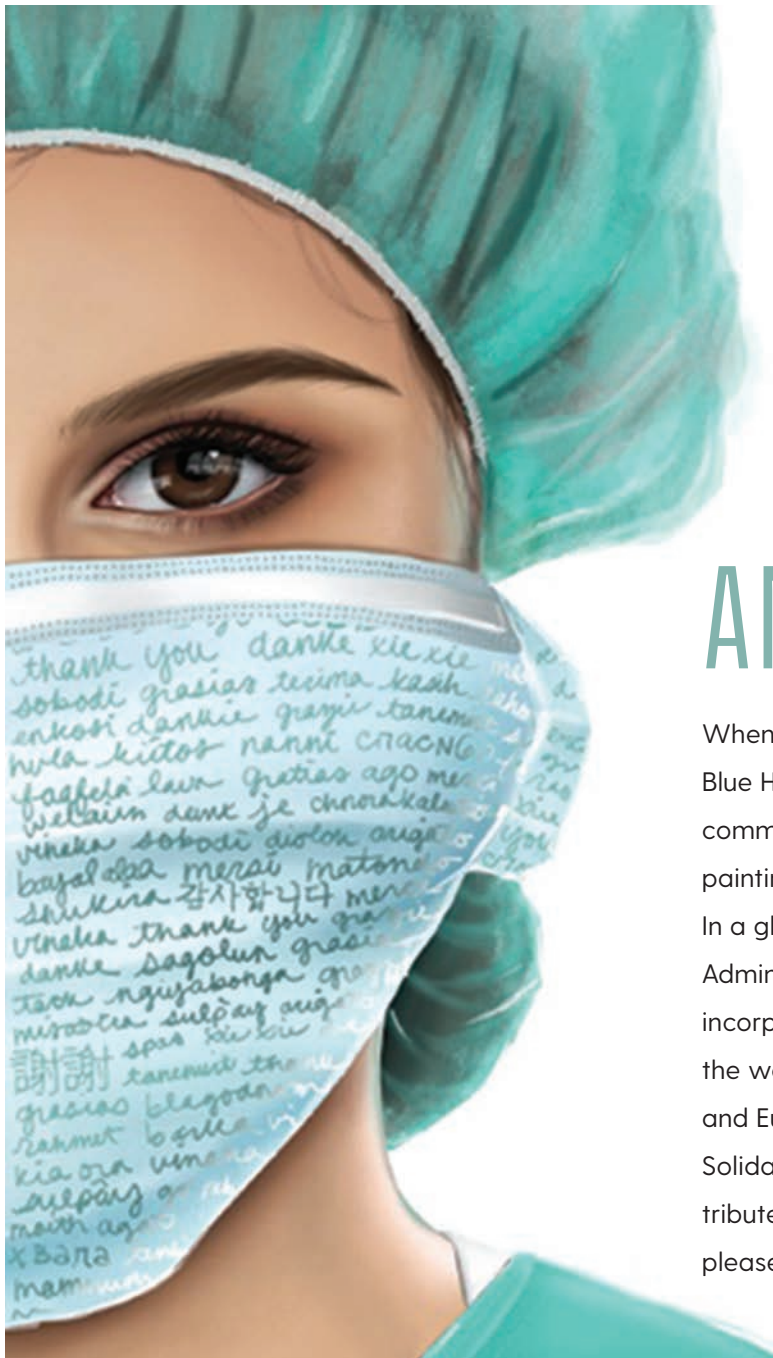


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ANGST BECOMES ART

When COVID-19 shut down college campuses around the nation, Blue Hens channeled their coronavirus anxieties into art. Visual communications major Chiara Fiori, AS21, created this digital painting of a nurse to honor the sacrifices of hospital workers. In a global call for art put forth by the United Nations Postal Administration, it was selected from 17,000 submissions for incorporation onto a sheet of stamps that will be sold around the world for one year. Each sheet will include dollar, Swiss Franc and Euro currencies, and sales will support the UN's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund. "This painting is a beautiful, powerful tribute," said UNPA creative director Rorie Katz. "I was very pleased to find out the artist is a college student. I had no idea."

@chiara.art