

DRUM RUL *jor ibe* DRUM LINE

The UD Marching Band prepares for Inauguration Day festivities.

Pear

Photo by Kathy F. Atkinson



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FEATURES

BIDEN'S TIME

To understand Biden, the politician, you must first understand Biden, the Blue Hen.

THE CHANGING FACE OF STEM

Students, alumni and staff are working in wondrous ways to boost diversity in the sciences

REINVENTING TOMORROW

Exploring some lessons from the past year, and some opportunities to transform for the better

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AND THE BAND PLAYS ON

Representing their school, their state and their country, the rhythm masters of the UD Marching Band (UDMB) escorted 46th president and fellow alumnus Joe Biden, AS65, 04H, to the White House, following his Jan. 20 inauguration. UD's 35-member drumline was one of only two civilian groups invited to perform in person. "It's quite humbling," said UDMB Director Heidi Sarver. "What an amazing moment for the UD community, and for our country."

ON THE COVER



How do you capture the mood of 2021? If you're the alumni magazine of the president's alma mater, you go retro. Evoking the spirit of the '60s, when Joe Biden first graduated from the University of Delaware and when the country confronted many of the forces we again seem to face, this cover by Nolan Pelletier aims to capture a monumental moment in time. It also hopes to be a source of pride for all who love UD and celebrate the limitless potential of a UD education.





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FROM OUR READERS

WHERE'S YOUR PRIDE?

As the proud parent of a junior Blue Hen, I was surprised and disappointed to receive the December issue of the University of Delaware Magazine with a sad cover illustrated with sticky notes– "Take Note. How to lead like a Blue Hen."

Really? That's the best you can do? UDel's most famous alumnus was just elected president of the United States, and all we get is a bland cover with an anemic article on page 7? (I almost missed it.) Show some real pride, editors! The Biden connection is bound to raise the profile and status of the school. He received the most votes of any president in American history, and UDel should celebrate his college years and broadcast his fondness for the institution. UDel's moment is now. Embrace it. Caroline Kane Levy

Editor's Note: The previous edition went to press just days after Biden's historic win. The Magazine team had always intended to do a larger story in the event of his victory, which we're excited to present in this issue.



AW SHUCKS

Cheers to Eric Ruth for an informative and thorough story on the efforts to bring back the Delaware oyster. The bivalve's crucial role in transforming anemic waterways to vibrant ecosystems can't be understated.

Not long after I graduated in 1986, I was stunned to learn of the impact of these unsung heroes in the Chesapeake, powerfully filtering bay waters to the great benefit of all species. Impressed as I was, I wrote and illustrated How the Oysters Saved the Bay, a children's picture book on the oyster's filtering role within the ecosystem. I certainly hope it can be used alongside the Sea Grant's efforts as a tool to educate our youngest students in the Delaware Bay's watershed about the importance of filter feederswell before they ever set foot on the Newark, Georgetown or Lewes campuses. I wish great success to those involved in all facets of the Sea Grant's program.

Jeff Dombek, AS86

FROM THE EDITOR

WHAT IF HOPE AND THE FUTURE CAME TOGETHER?

Here at UD, and within the pages of the *Magazine*, we've been asking this question a lot. It was only a year ago that our world forever changed, testing every aspect of our humanity, courage, tenacity and spirit. Now, still coping with a world in flux, we face bigger questions of identity and evolution: How we

rebuild, what we restore, where we improve, and ultimately, who we become.

Some answers can be found in this issue (p. 28-33), but this topic is admittedly too big to address in one issue alone. Over the next few editions, we hope to explore the many ways in which UD is reinventing tomorrow.

If you know of Blue Hens working to create this better, stronger and more promising future, please let us know at magazine@udel.edu. Your stories keep us hopeful.

Thanks for reading.

Ajka Ca

Artika Rangan Casini, AS05

CORRECTION

An article announcing Joe Biden's election mistakenly identified his running mate Kamala Harris as "the first woman, the first African American and the first Asian American on a major party ticket." While Harris is the first woman to be all three, Shirley Chisholm, an African American, was the first female candidate in 1972, followed by Geraldine Ferraro in 1984 and Sarah Palin in 2008. Our apologies for the error, and our thanks to **Carol Keehn Bobrowski, AS82**, for bringing it to our attention.







WELCOME TO THE FUTURE AT UD

Most of the time, "the future" – of digital education, of remote work, of social change, of disruptive technology, of global connectivity – is somewhere just ahead of us. But now, suddenly, here it is. Accelerated by the evolving demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, the developments we knew would arrive eventually are part of our daily lives today, and there is no going back.

At the University of Delaware, we are fully embracing the changes that advance our mission. Innovative methods of teaching and assessing skills and understanding – incorporating the best elements of face-to-face and online instruction – are enabling students to learn in the ways and at the pace that best suit them. Our investments in developing digital platforms and courses are helping us make the UD educational experience accessible to more people of all ages around the world. The number of non-traditional students and lifelong learners, many of whom are Blue Hen alumni, is growing exponentially, and UD is positioned well to meet their unique needs for year-round and on-demand education. Ensuring our students' success throughout their lives is always our most important goal. And we are doing far more than adapt to change. We are also creating and shaping our own place in this dynamic landscape, and we need all your voices and energies to get us there. Our shared commitment to building a diverse and inclusive community is propelling us to work more fervently for social justice and equity. The pandemic has reminded us that the world's complex problems require the kinds of interdisciplinary and global solutions that UD provides. Our students, faculty and alumni are redefining innovation and entrepreneurship by bringing bold creativity to myriad challenges. And while our beautiful campus will always be at the heart of UD, we are reimagining how our boundless 21st century research university can empower our people and programs to make an even greater impact on the world.

As we emerge this year from the pandemic, we remain focused on the opportunities ahead. Yesterday's "future" is here, and – as always – we are already thinking about our journey together into a brighter tomorrow!

ennis Assans

Dennis Assanis, President

2021 REUNIONS

1981

1986

1991

1976

1971

Celebrate with classmates in June or October!

June Reunions:
(virtual format)October Reunions:
(format TBD)Classes of 1996, 2001,
2006, 2011 and 2016Classes of 1971, 1976,
1981, 1986, and 199119962001200620111996200120062010199620012006201019962001200620101996200120062010199620012006201019962001200620101996200120062010199620012006201019962001200620101996200120062010199620012006201019962001200620101996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200120061996200620061996200620061996200620061996200620061996200620061996200620061996200620061996





SPRINGING BACK TO CAMPUS

Blue Hens present and future may want to put on sunglasses: There is a bright light at the end of the pandemic tunnel.

"The exciting news is that we should be able to return to face-to-face classes in the fall," President Dennis Assanis said during a virtual town hall in mid-March.

With the caveat that plans may change depending on the unpredictable trajectory of the virus, Assanis outlined his vision for a "more vibrant" academic year: far more in-person classes, residence halls at full capacity, a full athletics schedule, more faculty and student researchers in their laboratories, and fully operational University facilities such as dining halls, student centers and the Carpenter Sports Building (Little Bob). "We're very optimistic about the next academic year," Assanis said, noting that undergraduate applications have broken a new record of 33,500 for the second year in a row.

It is a hopeful prognosis following a challenging but successful spring.

With nearly 3,900 students living in residence halls and more than 18% of classes held in-person this spring (double the 9% from last fall), the commitment to public health and academic excellence remained strong.

Indeed, after the campus witnessed a spike in COVID cases early in the semester, Assanis stressed the need for "taking important steps now–especially limiting gatherings and participating in testing" to slow the virus' spread. Socially distanced classes became more common this spring, when 18% were held in person.

Quick response from the campus community lowered the number of cases and enabled the University to ease some of the campus restrictions in March.

University officials also worked around the clock to increase testing and enhance safety. This spring, all oncampus students were tested weekly for COVID-19, and off-campus students were selected at random for weekly mandatory testing. The University's oncampus testing sites processed up to 8,000 tests each week, and UD staff ran more than 6,000 of the tests in-house, streamlining the results and making most available in less than 24 hours.

> -Diane Stopyra and Andrea Boyle Tippett, ASO2, BEI3M

JUSTICE, FROM THE GROUND UP

Millions of Americans got a deeper look into the nation's soul last summer. For many, it was a sight they never wanted to see again.

They watched in horror as their fellow Americans died on city streets, and would soon be marching those streets for a justice that is four centuries past due. They listened, and pondered, and decided at last: It was time for a reckoning, and time for everyone in the community to push America toward a better place.

That's the passion behind a growing grassroots movement at UD that seeks to lay bare the quiet and pervasive mechanisms of racial disparities, and empower the entire UD family to face those inequities and make change.

Called the Antiracism Initiative, its modest beginnings amid the quarantine have snowballed into a movement that already reaches across campus and into the state. Within months, more than 380 UD staffers, professors and students had built an electronically linked network of action committees, each pushing for progress in some aspect of University life and the wider world.

"Part of it is about looking at ourselves at a predominantly white university," says Prof. Alison Parker, history department chair, who co-chairs the initiative with theatre Prof. Lynnette Young Overby. "But on the other hand, we're also thinking more systemically, on an academic level, about how you can fight and dismantle racism."

For some, that means finding more ways to boost minority enrollment and faculty diversity. Others seek to heighten awareness through changes in the curriculum, both at UD and in Delaware's public schools. Almost two dozen subcommittees took on their own missions, exploring solutions to the mental health issues that racism sparks, or even searching for ways to make campus tours more forthright about UD's inequitable past.

Already, two credit courses and a few fellowships have risen from the effort, and one subcommittee is moving forward with an effort to open educational opportunities at UD for incarcerated women. "A lot of things are being done that are not just theoretical. We're doing them. People wanted a place to take real action," Parker says.

Online speaker events have already attracted hundreds of participants, but are sure to expand as COVID-19 circumstances improve, and grant money begins to flow. UD's administration has provided financial support, giving organizers hope that someday soon, this "initiative" could evolve into a campus Antiracism Institute.

"It's exciting," Parker says. "We're making a difference already." —Eric Ruth, AS95

"We're also thinking more systemically, on an academic level, about how you can fight and dismantle racism."

-Alison Parker





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QUOTED IN THE NEWS

UD THOUGHT LEADERS SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERTISE

I HAVE HOPE THAT WE WILL MOVE ON A HEALING PATH OVER TIME. IT WILL NOT HAPPEN QUICKLY.

David Redlawsk, chairperson of political science and international relations, on how the Biden Administration's success will hinge on finding common ground with Republicans

"The world has spent the last 30 years spending billions of dollars finding new ways to kill insects and mere pennies working to preserve them."

Entomology and Wildlife Ecology Prof. **Doug Tallamy** in an **Associated Press** story on the decline of the insect population



YOU HAVE TO COLOR WITHIN THE LINES TO BE ABLE TO EDIT ON WIKIPEDIA.

English Prof. **Thomas Leitch**, in a **Prospect Magazine** story on how the "free-for-all" editing process of the online encyclopedia has given way to far more scrutiny



"We're about to embark on a wild ride in the power sector. There's going to be a big shift, and it's actually not going to cost much.

Prof. **Willett Kempton**, School of Marine Science and Policy, in an **NPR** piece on the nation's expected shift toward clean energy

THERE'S EVIDENCE THAT CONSPIRACY THEORIES CAN WORK LIKE A COPING MECHANISM FOR SOME FOLKS.

> Erin Cassese, associate professor of political science and international relations, on vice.com discussing a study she co-authored examining COVID-19 conspiracy theories

to sabotage it."

Jodi Hadden-Perilla, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, in a **New York Times** article on how scientists are working to find vulnerabilities in the coronavirus

"Once you understand

how something works,

you can

understand how



CREATIVITY IS NOT JUST FOR GENIUSES: IT'S SOMETHING WE USE EVERY DAY.

Roberta Golinkoff, professor and H. Rodney Sharp Chair in UD's School of Education, chats with **Mother Magazine** about the importance of parents fostering creativity in their children

MEET THE COVID SLEUTHS

UD research team's predictions include what most don't: behavior

It's a busy morning on campus and students are gathered at a crosswalk waiting for the light to change. Most wear masks, but what will happen to this group if one of the unmasked students has COVID-19?

Campuses around the nation have been grappling with such scenarios and questions. For answers, UD researchers are combining aerial observation with artificial intelligence to model how students interact with others on campus and in the surrounding community.

Engineering Prof. Norman Wagner hopes the modeling effort, named Project Darien, will help students see the potential impacts of their actions and help inform health policymakers, while advancing UD's "Protect the Flock" campaign to prevent the spread of the coronavirus on and off campus.

UD experienced relatively low COVID-19 transmission rates compared to many of its peers. A public dashboard provides daily reports of campus cases, and more students have returned to campus. "We want to provide new tools that will help mitigate and eventually eliminate coronavirus, as well as future biological threats," says Wagner, an internationally known scholar and inventor. "Many of the models are very basic. They may tell you how many people are getting sick, but they don't tell you what people are actually doing, how they are interacting. Are they wearing face masks? Are they staying at least 6 feet apart? Our model aims to address that behavioral dimension."

In the crosswalk scenario, for instance, policy recommendations could address such transmission "hotspots," from placing reminder signage, to staggering the start time for classes, to halting traffic during peak times, allowing pedestrians to keep moving through intersections.

Co-leading the project with Wagner are Engineering Prof. Antony Beris, an expert on the thermodynamics of flowing systems, and Prof. Rick Suminski, director of the Center for Innovative Health Research.

-Tracey Bryant

PROJECT DARIEN

Equipped with a van, drone cameras and "smart glasses," UD researchers are busy gathering behavioral data in the fight against Covid's spread. For privacy, the captured video is blurred, and individuals can't be identified.

Artificial intelligence algorithms written by associate scientist Matt Saponaro, EG13, 16M, are then used to rapidly analyze the big data. The algorithms can determine, for example, if someone is wearing a face mask, or detect individuals at increased risk of infection.

The team wants the model to be an educational tool that delivers a clear message.

"All the research I do is to help people," Prof. Rick Suminski says. "I have little kids and an 82-year-old mom. Preventative behavior starts with education."

The research team is developing an epidemiological dashboard, which will incorporate real-time weather data, including wind speed and direction, since COVID-19 can be airborne. As they refine the program, the team wants users to try it out to better understand how COVID-19 is spread and the effects of various personal and public policies.

"Our goal is not to 'gamify' this disease, but to educate people and provide tools for health policy," Prof. Norm Wagner says. "COVID-19 has already killed over 2.5 million people. We really need to come to scientific grips with this virus transmission problem if we're going to protect people from this disease and future public health crises." \checkmark



Americans are drinking less milk, and UD Prof. Brandon McFadden might know why.

"Fewer people are eating breakfast, which is when milk is typically consumed," says McFadden, an economist and consumer specialist who conducted a recent study on milk consumption patterns. "Additionally, activists have tied dairy consumption to moral and ethical concerns, which may affect consumer preferences. And finally, plant-based alternatives have grown in popularity."

American fluid milk sales decreased from almost \$19 billion in 2013 to less than \$16 billion in 2018, raising concerns for the dairy industry. Meanwhile, more consumers are purchasing plant-based alternatives such as soy, almond and oat.

Despite the milk decline, dairy consumption is at an all-time high, thanks to the huge popularity of cheese and yogurt.

–Dante LaPenta, AS12M

THE RIGHT TUFF

Believe it or not, fighter jets, flying cars, gas pipelines and plastic bottles may be more alike than you think.

The common thread?

They all might one day be made with TuFF–a high-performance, shortfiber composite material invented at UD. Super strong, stretchable, ultralightweight and virtually indestructible, Tailored Universal Feedstock for Forming (TuFF) is like the Superman of materials.

Developed by researchers at UD's Center for Composite Materials (CCM), TuFF has properties equal to the top composites in space and aerospace. And, according to CCM Director Jack Gillespie, the uses for TuFF are starting to take off–literally.

In 2020 alone, the material attracted nearly \$20 million in federal funding for new applications, from enabling the flying taxis of the future to repairing our nation's infrastructure to tackling challenges in plastic waste.

Distinguishing TuFF is its composition: short structural fibers that have been aligned to perfection. TuFF materials can retain control over the direction and properties of its fibers and also be stampformed like metal into parts with complex geometry. And because it can be made using any fiber and any resin, TuFF opens the door to exploring a wide range of materials and material combinations.

"If you put it all together, we can create materials for all of these applications that are 10 times more affordable than current materials–all without sacrificing performance," says Gillespie. "So, when I talk about changing the paradigm of composites in the world and taking over the world market, I'm serious."

-Karen Roberts, AS90

NAE INDUCTEES

Two prominent alumni–Terri L. Kelly, EG83, vice chair of the UD Board of Trustees, and Levi T. Thompson, EG81, dean of the College of Engineering– have been elected to the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional distinctions accorded.

Thompson, who is also the Elizabeth Inez Kelley Professor of Chemical Engineering, was selected "for advances in catalysis and energy storage, entrepreneurship and academic leadership."

Kelly, the retired president and CEO of W.L. Gore & Associates, was selected "for leadership in product development and commercialization by advancing management practices that foster innovation."

Thompson joins seven other current and emeritus faculty members of the NAE, and Kelly becomes UD's 13th alumni inductee.



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the BIODELLE SUBJECT S

o outsiders, the University of Delaware visit seemed like an odd choice. In the 11th hour before the 2008 election, why would vice presidential hopeful Joe Biden come to the First State at all? This was a place he and running mate Barack Obama were set to win handily. Surely, the resources spent on a campaign rally here would have made more sense in Florida, Ohio or some other political battleground.

"I asked why it was important for him to be on campus," says then-journalism student Julie Wigley, AS09. "He responded that he had to go back to the place that shaped him."

By now, you are likely already familiar with Biden's political story: New Castle County councilmember, U.S. senator from Delaware for 36 years and vice president of the country for eight. You know that he's earned a reputation on Capitol Hill for championing the middle-class and reaching across the aisle to enact domestic and foreign policy. And you know that, in January, he became the dog-loving, ice cream-enjoying, unity-pushing 46th president of the United States.

What may be less familiar?

Biden's journey as a UD undergraduate in the early 1960s and the many ways his beloved alma mater continues shaping his life. In other words, in order to understand Biden, the politician, you must first understand Biden, the Blue Hen.

In the fall of 1961, the future commanderin-chief enrolled at UD as a history and political science major. His peers say he stood out for being a mediocre-but-enthusiastic member of the freshman football team and for frequently arriving to campus in a borrowed convertible (his father worked at a nearby auto dealership).



I felt like I had arrived at a time and place that made me feel that maybe, *maybe* I could do some pretty interesting things. So it's good to be home, it's good to be welcomed back.

A harbinger of things to come, he was also the dedicated president of his first-year class. But, mostly, Biden is remembered for an uncanny ability to connect with people.

"He made you feel like you were the only person in the room when he talked to you," says Harter Hall floor mate Brian Barrabee, AS65. "He was nice to everyone. He made everyone feel good." (Case in point: A decade after graduation, when Biden was a senator, he spotted Barrabee walking along a sidewalk in Philadelphia and stopped the entire police caravan just to hop out and say hello. "And it's not like we were best friends, or anything near it," Barrabee recalls. "He just walked the extra mile.") In many ways, his love for UD stems from the love he received as a student.

"It was here that I was inspired to commit to a life of public service," Biden said in a recent address to the UD community. "And it was here I had great professors who convinced me I could make a difference."

Throughout his career, Biden maintained his connection to his alma mater, giving numerous speeches on campus, advocating for voter registration among Blue Hens and modeling a spirit of ideological openness by attending Delaware football games with political opponent Christie, AS84.



Biden meets with the outgoing heads of the Student Government Association at Caesar Rodney Dining Hall in 2017.

During one sit-down with the College Republicans, the current POTUS stressed the need for such civility.

"He said, 'You'll always have a seat at the table," says Daniel Worthington, BE19, then-chair of UD's College Republicans chapter.

"And that really struck a chord, because he didn't have to do that."

As vice president, the distinguished alumnus carried this outreach all the way to the West Wing.

In 2016, lifelong friend and former classmate Fred Sears, BE64, recalls listening to Biden wax nostalgic about his college

days in front of President Barack Obama.

"Joe reminisces about UD all the time," Sears says. "It was here that we both turned into adults."

Those who've interacted with the politician over the years attest: These efforts to give back to the UD community are not

mere political theatre but, rather, a genuine manifestation of appreciation.

Backstage at an event in which Biden gifted his senatorial papers to the University, removed from any crowds and microphones, "we had a conversation on how important the students are to him and how he sees himself in them," says Ralph Begleiter, professor emeritus and founder of UD's Center for Political Communication. "He has a very personal, gut connection to this place."

In 2017, Biden became the founding chair of UD's Biden Institute, a research center that develops public policy solutions in some of the nation's toughest domestic arenas, including environmental sustainability, civil rights and violence against women. (He stepped down from the position before announcing his run for

$\star \star \star$ from OUR HOUSE to the WHITE HOUSE



1965: Earns bachelor's in history and political science, with minor in English.

1970: Wins

first political

campaign for

New Castle

County

Council.

1961: President of his first-year class, Biden stands out for his dapper fashion sense (khakis, button-down shirt) and uncanny ability to connect with others.

1972: Encouraged by late UD Prof. Paul Dolan. Biden runs–and wins–a seat in the U.S. Senate. A month later, his wife and infant daughter are killed in a car crash. From the hospital where his two sons recover, Biden is sworn into office, becoming one of the youngest senators ever.



1988: First presidential run.

1989: Biden

first appears on the cover of UD Magazine.

1975: Biden sees a photo of Jill Jacobs at the Wilmington airport; invites her on a blind date after getting her number from his brother (and her classmate) Frank. The two become Double Dels on June 17, 1977.

2001: In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, Biden speaks at the Bob Carpenter Center, encouraging Blue Hens to unite and reject fear.

the presidency, but his sister and fellow UD graduate, Valerie Biden Owens, still serves as vice chair.) And, in 2018, UD announced the renaming of its nationally ranked School of Public Policy and Administration, which houses the aforementioned institute, as the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration. From this space, faculty, staff and students conduct research and spearhead initiatives to improve communities in Delaware and beyond.

For Biden, this bridge building has always involved reaching out to the next generation of American leaders.

And in 2018, that's exactly what he did with Natalie Criscenzo, BSPA18, then a senior public policy major and student body president. In a no-press event for undergraduates, she moderated a discussion with the former vice president on the importance of civic engagement for young people. (Beforehand, Biden also invited her and her parents to join him, naturally, for UDairy ice cream.)

It's an experience that solidified Criscenzo's career plans. Today, she works as the legislative liaison for Delaware Gov. John Carney.

"To see someone speak with such candor and passion about being a public servant, to see how he wanted to come back and genuinely connect with his community even though it didn't benefit him politically at all, it reaffirmed that this was a path I wanted to go down," Criscenzo says.

Today, she is equally inspired by Biden's new role as Blue-Hen-in-chief.

"It is incredible to think he studied the same things I studied and walked the same campus I did," Criscenzo says. "A lot of people think about D.C. and the political world as this elite, far-off place. But, today, there's a Blue Hen in the White House. It goes to show: We can go anywhere." **b**

Today there's a Blue Hen in the White House. It goes to show: We can go anywhere.

—Natalie Criscenzo, BSPA18





2003: Visits UD as part of MSNBC's *Hardball College Tour*, fields foreign policy questions from eager students.

2004: Earns honorary doctorate from UD for his work as a "tireless public servant" and "defender of the victimized."



2008: Second

Black president.

presidential run; serves as

vice president to Barack

Obama, America's first

2016: Biden returns to campus to speak at President Dennis Assanis' inauguration.

2017: UD

establishes the

Biden Institute

America's most

pressing domestic

to address

challenges.



2018: UD's School of Public Policy is renamed the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and

2021: Becomes 46th president of the United States.

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Administration.

$\star \star \star$

FIRST LADY of education

eople have often asked Jill Biden why she continues to teach, and her answer is simple.

"It's you," she told graduates at UD's 2010 Winter Commencement. "It's the students: students who overcome obstacles, students who dare to think and dream big."

A passionate educator, an advocate for historically underrepresented students and the first lady of the United States of America, Biden, AS75, EHD06EdD, 10H, has long recognized the transformative power of education.

"The University of Delaware transformed me because that's what education does," she told the Class of 2010. "Your best professors can inspire you. Your peers can motivate you to be better than you ever imagined. Your favorite courses can literally alter the path you take in life."

For Biden, the path has always been teaching—first at the high school level, then at a psychiatric hospital, and later, at community colleges. At Delaware Technical and Community College, and now at Northern Virginia Community College, Biden has seen firsthand the courage and determination of adults working to create better lives for themselves.

"They wanted to be there—*really* wanted to be there," Biden wrote in her 2019 memoir, *Where the Light Enters*. "They cared about education in a way that people who have never had to fight just to be in class, who have never skipped dinner just to save up for tuition, just couldn't understand. It was such an honor to be the person to walk them through their studies, to give them the key that would unlock something life-changing."

Speaking to the Class of 2010 almost a decade before, Biden acknowledged that her community college students likely differed in age and background from the Blue Hen graduates before her. "But their stories are ultimately the same as yours and mine," she added. "It's the story of education changing lives, building confidence and opening doors."

And those doors must always expand. That is the very essence of education, and of UD's motto itself: *Knowledge is the light of the mind*.

It is a light that burns brightest when shared with others, the first lady believes.

"Let your education continue, wherever you go next," she advised Blue Hens in 2010. "Open your eyes to the world around you and be curious about everything in your path.

"But keep your eyes open to others," she continued. "Imagine what they are capable of being and becoming, because you owe it to them, and to yourselves, to pass along that knowledge, that passion, and now, that well-deserved UD education." —*Artika Rangan Casini, AS05*

"There's something profoundly optimistic about teaching. We are taking the best of what humans have to give lifetimes of knowledge, wisdom, craft and art—and handing it over to the next generation with the hope that they will continue to build, continue to make our world better. It's a conversation with our past and future selves at once, a way of saying, *Look what we've done! Now what will you do with it?*" –*Jill Biden*



For Valerie Biden Owens, AS67, true political success demands honesty, integrity, compassion and courage.

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Invaluable Value Value

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We spoke with the president's sister and vice chair of UD's Biden Institute on life, leadership and lessons learned.

At 27, you ran—and won—your brother's wildly improbable Senate campaign. How? What lasting lessons did you learn, and to what do you attribute your successes?

We won that campaign because, while we had no political experience, no political capital, and no political power, we had ideals, passion and a commitment to our democracy. We also had the most important resource: the best candidate, Joe Biden, who was a true leader.

A couple of lessons that we applied in that campaign and that we continue to take with us in all of our endeavors is to be confident, not cocky, and to be bold, not brash.

I think one of the reasons we won is because we weren't inhibited. Because we had limited resources, we had to be innovative and creative. We couldn't go on TV or afford to do mass mailings, so we created our own Biden post office, we went door to door, and we engaged in old-fashioned politicking. We understood from the beginning that the media shapes the story, so we created good ones for them to cover. We learned to have vision, to improvise and to be resilient.

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You have also faced disappointment with other campaign efforts, including Joe's 1988 and 2008 presidential bids. What have you learned from defeat, and what keeps you fighting in the face of loss? While we may think we are masters of our own fate and we can control what is coming, serendipity plays a role in all of our lives. Life has a way of interrupting, and although you can't always know what's coming around the bend, you can become stronger than when you started out. You can't let yourself be defined by your losses. With resilience, character, gumption and courage, you can suit up and return back to battle. You have two options when faced with defeat: Go into the corner and hide in your shell, or keep moving forward and recognize that you may be down, but you don't have to be down for the count.

What's something about Joe

that most people don't know?

While my brother is often characterized as being a great talker, he is—even more so—a great listener. He listens between the lines. Our mom used to tell us that what you say is just as important as what you don't say. Joe is an active listener. He can distinguish between a thoughtful pause and a resigned sigh. That is where his empathy shines through.

What was UD like in the mid-1960s? What did you love most?

I loved everything about my time as a student at UD. While the courses were challenging, I felt well prepared. I loved my professors, living on campus and the breadth of activities I was able to participate in. Going to UD let me step out from the small world of my childhood and adolescence into a bigger world with people from all over the country and all different backgrounds. I wanted to taste all of it—the academic, the social and the political—and I took advantage of every part of it. UD allowed me to grow in ways I couldn't have imagined.



Reach and risk!

As vice chair of the Biden Institute, what successes are you most proud of so far, and what do you still hope to achieve?

Our mission at the Biden Institute is to influence, shape and work to address the most pressing domestic policy problems facing America. We are a research and policy center working to bring together the sharpest minds and the most powerful voices to address our nation's toughest problems, and I am proud of the work we have been able to do with the students and the broader UD community to facilitate critical discussions and debate the issues of the day through respectful and civil discourse.

I am most proud of asking the woman who was the executive director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard for 20 years [Cathy McLaughlin] to be our executive director, which let us start off leaps and bounds ahead of the game. In less than three years, thousands of students, faculty, alumni and community members have participated in Biden Institute events and classes. We have brought together high-profile guests from a wide range of diverse backgrounds with students, faculty and staff to have conversations about important issues facing our state and our country.

What I hope to achieve is to have a role in creating many future Joe Bidens—men and women leaders from all different backgrounds. We hope to continue to engage the students at the University to make a difference in this world so that we will not only have more presidents, senators, mayors and people in elected office, but also more people who choose a career in public service, working in and out of government for a better world. Democracy is a work in progress, and UD students are the future leaders whom we want to engage to participate in that process.

In your spare time, you advise women in emerging democracies around the world on political organization and communication. What do you tell them?

* *

I remind them of a fundamental truth that we all know but have somehow managed to bury deep within our psyche, something so obvious that it is often overlooked: a woman, as designed by nature, is a leader.

As a mother, she is the ultimate leader. She can be a homemaker, a businesswoman, a scientist, a doctor, an engineer or even a president. But in all those roles, she is first a woman. She who can carry the heartbeat the pulse of the human race "in her belly" can also carry the pulse of the human race in the "real world."

My mother taught me, but more importantly, her sons, that every issue is a woman's issue. Peace, equality, justice, respect, responsibility are not gender specific. Opportunity, however, *is*—and that is what we have to change so that our sons and daughters can walk side by side, hand in hand, both locally and globally.

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"Democracy is a work in progress, and UD students are the *future leaders* whom we want to engage to participate in that process."

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What advice would you give this generation of Blue Hens, tasked with rebuilding and repairing a very broken and divided world?

Be open to new opportunities and new ideas. Strive to collect as much information and facts as possible, but understand there are different perspectives, and the world needs good listeners.

I would make sure our students know that they do not need to put down others to get ahead. You can be successful without being negative. I would share with them that every life is an incredible act of bravery and remind them that the things that matter most are simple acts of kindness.

I would also share a story about Michelangelo, whom we think of as a great painter of the Sistine Chapel, but who thought of himself as a sculptor. He used to stare at a block of marble for weeks at a time. One day, a passerby asked, "What are you doing staring at this slab?" and he responded, "I am working." Later, after seeing the beautiful statute of the angel that he carved, the passerby asked, "How did you create that?" and Michelangelo replied, "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."

So, I would tell the next generation of Blue Hens to "Pick up your chisel and carve to set your angel free. And in the process, help set other angels free, too."

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

You could be doing anything in the world right now. Why choose to be here, at UD?

I am happy and humbled that the University of Delaware has chosen to honor my brother's legacy, and that they have welcomed and embraced him by allowing us to pursue his goals and vision. My brother's long career has been defined by honesty, integrity, compassion and courage. He cares deeply about this country and has never been timid in the face of unfairness and injustice. These same characteristics and spirit define the Biden Institute, and I am excited every day when I get to go to work to help move that vision forward.

The University of Delaware will always be home base for the Bidens. We have been provided an opportunity to pass on to the next generation of the UD community what we were given by the University as students here ourselves. That is why we have chosen to do this work at the Biden Institute and why I couldn't think of anything else I would rather be doing right now. 🤟

BIDEN'S TIME

Delaware ProUD

You might call it a big freakin' deal. For the first time in history, a University of Delaware graduate had become president of the United States—and Blue Hens around the world were in the mood for a social media celebration. "We know Joe," they all seemed to say, feeling kinship and pride. "He's one of us."

> Rachel Taylor @Retaylor484

> > 000

It feels especially good to be a Blue Hen today 😭 🛵 💭

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Matt Garlipp @matteogarlique

Very proud to be a @UDelaware alum, especially a @UDBidenSchool alum. I am where I am today largely bc of my experiences through this outstanding public policy program. Extremely proud of my fellow alum & soon-tobe POTUS - @JoeBiden! #BlueHenPride



dreaonassis

7

Liked by imanihazelton and others

....

dreaonassis @udelaware gear for President and Dr.

Biden, pearls for Madame Vice President Harris. History was made today and I can't to show Tamia

that she was a part of it i i hauguration 2021

Q

#46 📸: Daddy

Joe Pritchett @iepritch

...

I have three degrees from @UDelaware and worked there for five years. @JoeBiden was always a presence on campus, and it's safe to say that I'm feeling a little bit of pride knowing a fellow alum will become President of the United States tomorrow.

12:42 PM · Jan 19, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone







alexanderhuey I'm a proud Delawarean and Blue Hen today. Congratulations to fellow @udelaware alum @joebiden #BlueHensForever #inauguration2021

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nation in search of solutions naturally turns its eyes to a new president—and the president in turn looks toward some of the smartest Blue Hens he knows. Within days of the election confirmation, a cadre of UD alumni, faculty and Biden Institute veterans were tapped for a variety of posts in the new administration, ranging from the environment to veterans' affairs to domestic policy. Here's a closer look at just a few of the presidential appointments that are giving today's White House a touch of blue-and-gold.

Mike Donilon, senior White House advisor to the president and chief strategist during the 2020 campaign. Donilon is the former managing director of the Biden Institute and a UD professor. In his new role, Donilon is expected to be the man who counters any presidential publicity missteps. The veteran Democratic strategist, pollster and media specialist served as counselor to then-Vice President Biden. Politico calls him Biden's most trusted confidant and one colleague sees him as Biden's "alter ego."

Louisa Terrell, director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs. This Biden Institute visiting faculty member has been called "Biden's Congress whisperer" by Politico. The Delaware-born Terrell was a legislative adviser to the president in the Obama administration and worked as Biden's deputy chief of staff during his time in the Senate. Terrell is facing the formidable challenge of pushing Biden's key priorities through Congress at a time when legislative compromise seems acutely elusive.

Stefanie Feldman, deputy assistant to the president and senior advisor to the director of the Domestic Policy Council. Feldman recently worked as the inaugural policy director for the Biden Institute and taught classes at UD. Before coming to campus, she served at the White House for five years, and was VP Biden's deputy director for Domestic and Economic Policy, as well as national policy director for his presidential campaign.



justice at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. A former associate research professor at UD's College of Earth, Ocean and Environment, Martinez earned a Ph.D. at the College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy. She also served as the lead for the Council of Environmental Quality Agency Review Team for the Biden-Harris Transition. Martinez, who will develop plans for communities most affected by climate change and environmental injustices, was named one of TIME Magazine's "100 Most Influential People" in 2020.

Tony Allen, AS93, BSPA01PhD. The alumnus and former member of UD's Board of Trustees is president of Delaware's premier historically black university, Delaware State. Biden chose him to co-chair the four-person







MIKE DONILON



MATT GROUM



MARYANNE DONAGHY

Presidential Inaugural Committee. Allen has known Biden for 25 years, working as a special assistant and speechwriter for then-Sen. Biden in the late 1990s.

U.S. Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, BSPA02M, also served as co-chair of the Biden-Harris Inaugural Committee and was on the vetting committee for Biden's vice-presidential candidate selection. She is the first woman and African-American elected to Congress in Delaware's history. Biden once bragged about her leadership and praised her public speaking prowess, saying, "This woman can preach!" Biden credited his popularity among Black voters in part to "great African-American leaders back in my home state," including Blunt Rochester's father, Ted Blunt, a longtime Wilmington city councilman. Family connections continue: Her sister, Marla

Blunt-Carter, earned praise from Biden as a "powerhouse" former staffer.

Letise LaFeir, CEOE05PhD. Biden's team has tapped this Blue Hen to serve as his senior advisor with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, where she will help shape policy in the years ahead. After getting her Ph.D. in Marine Studies at UD, LaFeir worked as director of federal policy for the Resources Legacy Fund, a philanthropic nonprofit group that funds conversation efforts.

Bruce Reed, White House deputy chief of staff. Reed, who taught as visiting faculty at the Biden Institute, was chief of staff for VP Biden from 2011 to 2013 and traveled with Biden for the past year and a half as a senior adviser on the campaign. Known as an unapologetic critic of Big Tech, Reed has 12 years' experience as a domestic and economic policy advisor in the White House. He began his career as Senator Al Gore's chief speechwriter.

MaryAnne Donaghy, BE81. This Delaware-area attorney has taught courses on criminal justice policy at UD and stepped up to serve as a member of the agency review team for Department of Veterans Affairs.

Recent graduates have also secured positions in the new administration. Matt Groum, BE20, has been named staff assistant for the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, and Katie Reilly, BE19, (not pictured), is special assistant to the White House Counsel. 🦢

CHANCING FACE OF BY ERIC RUTH, AS93

all started, as so many things do these days, with a video. Millions watched last spring as a Black science writer in Central Park was demonized by a wrathful dog walker, a woman who seemed clenched in a darkly racist world view, and who would soon suffer the virtual world's scorching fire.

TO SOLVE THE PUZZLING LACK OF DIVERSITY IN THE SCIENCES

Those flames of outrage spread across the world and into the mobile phone of microbiologist Kishana Taylor, ANR11, who watched the Black man's humiliation, felt her own blood rise, and instantly saw how the confrontation echoed moments in her own life, and in the lives of so many Black scientists.

She knows too well-as do so many others-how it feels to be stereotyped by skin color.

And so, for the dignity of fellow scientists still struggling for respect from white peers, and for herself, Taylor developed a solution well-suited to the viral origins of her anger.

Tapping the potential energy of the virtual world, she and fellow microbiologist Ari Kozik started a campaign to unite and empower Black scientists, creating events like 2020's groundbreaking Black in Microbiology Week, and providing a global support and development network for fellow scientists by starting the Black Microbiologist Association (@blackinmicro on Twitter, with 7,800 followers).

"It's similar to what I did while at UD," says Taylor, who helped resurrect the then-defunct Minorities in Agriculture club after noticing Black students had few faculty role models, and sensing how the playing field for minorities was distinctly off-kilter.

"We became the support system for one another, and some of us are still friends to this day," Taylor says. "In graduate school, some of us would have quit if it wasn't for that support system."

It's a cause that Blue Hens and UD itself are both embracing with increasing fervor, especially as 2020's rage over racial injustices simmers into the new decade:

- In North Delaware's Brandywine School District, UD education grad Michelle Kutch, AS90, EHD00M, is pushing harder than ever to foster diversity in scientific programs as director of curriculum and instruction. In two years, the district has boosted girls' enrollment in engineering programs by 28% in 2019-2020, and by 34% this school year.
- Inside a home in the Southbridge section of Wilmington, freshman medical diagnostics student Jacqueline Means is continuing her crusade as Delaware's "STEM Queen," preaching the potential of science careers to young girls in public schools, as she has done since age 16.
- Down in Florida, MechE alumnus Ernest Jones, EG92, is paying back some of the support he received in a popular UD program called RISE (Resources to Inspire Successful Engineers) by carving out internships for minority UD students at his company. "As Black alumni, we have to participate in this," he says. "That's key. Shame on me if I didn't bring those opportunities back to a school that provided me so much."

Efforts like those are just a sampling of work being done by Blue Hens to reverse racial disparities in science.

On UD's campus, underrepresented students entering the "STEM" fields of study–Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics– are also being offered a growing array of personalized support programs, ranging from the 49-year-old RISE program to the Scientista Foundation, which promotes the success of female graduate students in STEM-related disciplines.

"When there's a support group in place where you can see more people like you, there's a tendency for you to persevere and stick with it," Kutch says. "When you don't see anyone like you, you tend to feel more uncomfortable."

Recent Black graduates agree. "The beginning was very, very rough, because you think you can do it on your own, but you begin to realize you need at least one or two people to help you," says Latifa Ali, EG19, and now a process engineer at consumer products giant Unilever. "I cannot even imagine how difficult it would be to go through the first two years without a support system."

Black faculty members at UD are also pressing for more racial diversity in their fields, even as they push the boundaries of science. Dozens of UD staffers are working to fine-tune support programs in every college. And a grassroots team of faculty and administrators, spurred by ongoing criticism about UD's relative lack of diversity, has recently launched an Antiracism Initiative that aims to address disparities from the top-down and the bottom-up on campus.

"WE BLACK STUDENTS WERE SCATTERED, BUT AS WE TALKED ABOUT WHAT WE WERE EXPERIENCING, WE SAW A LOT OF COMMON THINGS, RUNNING UP AGAINST THE SAME BARRIERS."

-KISHANA TAYLOR, ANR11

"I HOPE TO BRING MORE YOUNG WOMEN INTO THE STEM FIELDS. I THINK THAT BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN EXCLUDED, THERE ARE THINGS WE'VE MISSED, DISCOVERIES THAT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE." –JACQUELINE MEANS, HS24

The numbers reveal progress at UD. In 2017, UD reported that the percentage of underrepresented minority undergraduate and graduate students with STEM majors had increased since 2012. Faculty diversity has also increased since 2012.

Still, the disparities that Blacks and women face in STEM fields plainly exist within and beyond campus walls, and solutions to the social dynamics that underlie these disparities are often outside educators' grasp. Nationwide, Black students were awarded 7% of STEM degrees in 2017, while making up 13% of the population. Blacks make up 11% of the U.S. work force, but represent just 9% of STEM workers.

"We've been having the same conversation about what's wrong for years," Taylor notes. "It's often like, 'We'll form a committee,' but no one ever fixes it."

In recent years, though, there has been some improvement: By 2011, underrepresented minorities in engineering programs had earned nearly three times as many bachelor's degrees, four times as many master's degrees, and more than seven times as many doctorate degrees than they did in 1977, according to the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering.

Researchers don't believe the disparities have anything to do with interest or ability. Instead, they sense it's more symptomatic of systemic challenges, pointing to the poor opportunities and social disadvantages many endure in the years before college. In a nation of divided destinies, minorities are far less likely to enjoy the advantages typically available to white America–including a financially secure household, well-equipped schools and steady encouragement.

The numbers are also seen as a problem of persistence. Black STEM students are far more likely to drop out or switch majors in their early years. While at UD, Taylor witnessed it firsthand. "We Black students were scattered, but as we talked about what we were experiencing, we saw a lot of common things, running up against the same barriers," says Taylor, speaking of the isolation and exclusion she experienced. "Some of us dropped out. We were really having a hard time."

Personal biases in the classroom and in the workplace also clearly linger, and despite UD's many initiatives, much remains to be done. Black students say college classrooms and labs are often places where women and students of color are subtly (or overtly) ignored, where their work was judged more harshly and where assumptions of inferiority remain. "There were certain points where I had to go above and beyond to prove myself," says Chelsea Gbemudu, AS22, a junior neuroscience major.

Marianne Johnson, manager of the RISE program, sees that sense of alienation often as she counsels her young students.

"More often than not, unfortunately, that is a discussion we have: How do you get other students comfortable with working with you," she says. "Some students—especially African-American students—will have to go out of their way to show they're worthy." Students say that classroom dynamics and the sense of their own potential—improve greatly when they have faculty role models, and UD has made faculty diversification a priority. Two esteemed Black professors, LaShanda Korley and Thomas H. Epps, III, are leading cutting-edge materials science research at UD, and also working to expand STEM opportunities at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

First-year medical diagnostics major and STEM Queen Jacqueline Means



"AS BLACK ALUMNI, WE HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS, THAT'S KEY." –ERNEST JONES, EG92, WITH SON, CONNOR, EG24

"It's not just whether a student can do well in a class. They have to have that feeling of belonging, that sense that they're in the right environment so that they can be successful," Johnson says. "When one is missing, then the other suffers."

It's a dynamic that persists into the workplace, Black graduates say. Aspiring minority scientists say they often are met with disregard, disrespect and discrimination, and have been for years. Many work beyond the norm to earn their degrees, only to find their new workplaces talk the diversity talk far more than they walk the diversity walk. They watch in frustration and fury as career paths are tilted subtly, but plainly, toward white colleagues.

That's where the support system built during their years at UD–and now being expanded by graduates like Taylor and Jones–become crucial assets. Johnson keeps a database of alumni mentors–and corporations–eager to strengthen and grow the next generation of world-changing scientists.

"They may have been from before my time, but they reach out to say, 'Hey, I have an interest in supporting the RISE program in some way'," Johnson says. "I always believed it to be the connection they have, the support they received, the benefit they could see in having a program like this–and wanting to have a part in its success."

HELPING HANDS

UD offers an array of programs and initiatives designed to promote more diversity in STEM fields, including:

- Resources to Inspire Successful Engineers (RISE). Counseling, workshops and networking events give underrepresented students a lift.
- **#Hengineering**. UD-sponsored high school program that creates more pathways to college for underrepresented students.
- Forum to Advance Minorities in Engineering (FAME). Summer academic enrichment program for incoming freshmen.
- Women in Engineering (WiE). Sponsors events aiming to increase gender equity in STEM.
- UD NSF ADVANCE. Institute focused on
 diversifying and strengthening UD's faculty.
- **BRIDGE Visit Day**. Works to promote diversity in clinical psychology graduate programs by inviting potential graduate students.
- Project Brainlight. Program led by psychology graduate students that fosters interest in the field among middle school and high school students.
- Scientista Foundation. Students promoting the success of female graduate students in STEMrelated disciplines.
- ADaPT (Advancing Diversity in Physical Therapy). Support program emphasizing mentorship and networking.
- Pipeline Program. Exposes Delaware school students to the breadth of health science career choices.

ON THE WEB

To learn more, visit sites.udel.edu/diversity. For statistics on diversity at UD, visit ire.udel.edu/ ir/diversity.

Spring has arrived, and with it, the possibility of new beginnings.

In the past year, our view of the world and ourselves has changed in dramatic ways, upending our once-stable notions of justice, essential work and personal values. In fact, about half of all Americans say their lives will remain significantly altered when the pandemic is over, and there's a growing sense that some of the changes may be for the best. So maybe now is a good time to examine these shifts in our actions and behaviors, and explore how we cope, learn, grow and thrive in an increasingly off-center world. In short, we must reimagine and rebuild a new tomorrow. But as we do, what do we take with us, what do we leave behind, and how do we emerge stronger, smarter and transformed for the better? Here, we explore just a few ways. RETHINK CONSUMPTION

Okay, okay, this is not a story about toilet paper. Instead, the great TP shortage of 2020 presents an opportunity to reexamine human consumption and waste, and our inextricable connection to the planet's natural resources.

For we are a part of nature, not apart from it, and nothing has made that more apparent than the collective pause in human behavior.

Researchers estimate the pandemic caused global greenhouse emissions to plummet by almost two-and-a-half billion tons in 2020, a reduction of nearly 9% from the previous year. But the World Meteorological Organization doubts that this decrease will significantly alter carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. Indeed, a UD study found the air quality in April 2020

RENEW THE FUTURE

William Shafarman is director of UD's Institute of Energy Conversion, believed to be the oldest continuously operating solar research institute in the world. We asked him to share his views on our energy future.

To make a personal effort toward a renewable, carbon-free energy future, we must become aware of the origin and quantity of energy that powers our lives.

The sun is the original source of all non-nuclear energy, so solar energy is the direct use of that source. When we use had not improved compared to previous years.

"April 2020 was colder than average, and we guessed that the combination of people being at home more and the cold weather increased particulate matter emissions from residential energy consumption more than the reduction from traffic," UD Prof. Cristina Archer told Zenger News.

Meanwhile, more of us began finding moments of solace outdoors.

In a year marked by isolation, angst and deep existential trauma, the simple act of stepping into the sun, hiking among the trees, or merely breathing fresh air was a balm for the soul.

So how do we protect and preserve our majestic planet? Here, UD researchers offer a few tips.

photovoltaics to directly convert light to electricity, we are creating the most useful form of energy for most of our needs. We must insist that our utility companies install or purchase solar electricity and compel our government to build the infrastructure, including a wide-ranging smart grid, that will allow renewable electricity from the sun, wind and other renewable sources to be shared broadly. Together, our individual efforts will move towards a renewable future.

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

In the early days of the pandemic, Tricia Wachtendorf, director of UD's Disaster Research Center, wrote an editorial for MarketWatch, entitled, "Don't mock people for buying extra toilet paper-they're doing the best they can with inconsistent and sometimes wrong advice." Here is an excerpt from the piece, which, even one year later, offers useful insight:

News of COVID-19 cases across the U.S. has spiked. Fears around the pandemic have increased. And the family down the street is hauling a few extra bulk-sized packs of bathroom necessities from their SUV.

You may roll your eyes and head to your social-media platform of choice to commence the mockery, but this signals to our failure to pay attention to what really matters.

That our focus is on the wrong thing is nothing new. Over half a century of disaster research has repeatedly pointed to this. Officials, fearful of widespread panic, sometimes limit information-sharing with the public; yet instead of panic, we know that people are often guided by normalcy bias – the belief that things will function as they usually do and the understanding of circumstances through that lens, even when evidence indicates otherwise.

While concerned about mass panic, officials might ignore that it takes a great deal of encouragement for people to shift their thinking. Another example is the false belief that disasters do not differentiate between old or young, rich or poor. People do not experience disasters in the same ways, and strategies that ignore those differences often disadvantage the most vulnerable and marginalized.

RETHINK CONSUMPTION (CONTINUED)

IMPROVE WATER SECURITY

Holly Michael is the acting director of the Delaware Environmental Institute and a coastal hydrologist who is passionate about improving worldwide water security. Here, she shares three tips on how to improve water quality.

- Build a rain garden. Not only are they pretty, they help control flooding, they remove nutrients before they enter groundwater and streams, and they reduce erosion, which maintains soil quality.
- Use less plastic. Large pieces of plastic are
 unsightly litter in our freshwater bodies
 and the ocean, and they break down into microscopic fragments that harm fish and other species.
- Eat foods that require less water. Different foods require much different amounts of water to produce them. For example, 2.2 pounds of beef requires 3,962 gallons of water to produce, while 2.2 pounds of corn requires nearly 238 gallons, and 2.2 pounds of cabbage requires about 63 gallons.



EASY ECOLOGIC RESTORATION

McKay Jenkins, professor of English, journalism and environmental humanities, shares advice on how to reduce our use of and exposure to toxic chemicals.

Even in ordinary times, we're sharing toxic chemicals that can be found in a dizzying array of consumer products, and a great number exist in the lawn care industry. Weedkillers and bug killers don't just kill their targets like dandelions or mosquitoes; they also kill things that we cherish, or should cherish, like native plants, native pollinators and other native insects that form the very foundation of the food web. Likewise, chemical fertilizers run off lawns and straight into creeks, streams and bays, where they continue to fertilize–only now they are fertilizing aquatic plants like algae. This unintentional overfeeding creates aquatic "dead zones" that can literally be seen from outer space.

Far better to forego all these lawn chemicals and invest instead in native plants, which are beautiful, nourish native pollinators and birds, and prevent land and water contamination. Simply by doing this, you can reduce your exposure to toxins and at the same time make your property part of a major (and critical) part of ecological restoration.

RECOMMIT TO BRIDGING THE POLITICAL DIVIDE

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL POLITICAL CONVERSATIONS

Political temperatures may seem higher than ever, but recent graduates Casey Kennedy Moore, AS19, and Marley Duchovnay, AS19, believe we can turn down the heat.

As co-founders of Project Divided, the two bring people together from across the aisle to find collaborative solutions to shared problems.

"In a period of hyper-polarization in America, we wanted to understand how we got to this point, and work toward solving these problems from the ground up," says Moore.

She and Duchovnay began Project Divided in the small but growing town of Smithville, Texas, where they hosted community dialogue events and developed a 10-part web series featuring bipartisan conversations on everything from climate change to immigration.

Later, they completed a research project that sought to identify strategies for successful political conversations, based off more than 60 interviews.

Here, Moore shares advice from their findings so far:

REEXAMINE SOURCES OF NEWS

To be better consumers of news, Ellen Cannon, AS76, suggests asking two critical questions:

What is the news source? And does that source have an agenda?

A longtime journalist who helped launch Bloomberg Personal Finance, *Entertainment Weekly* and the Australian edition of *People*, Cannon fears the information bubble that keeps people glued only to news that confirms their own biases and worldviews.

"Limited information sources create deeper divides," she says. "We have to actively work against that."

- Acknowledge that politics are personal. In this age, our identity is so tightly tied to our politics. When someone argues about your political viewpoints, know that it can feel like a personal attack.
- Focus on values. Understand your values, and make an effort to understand those of others, too. It doesn't mean you will ultimately agree, but it may give you a glimpse into where they are coming from and remind you of your common humanity.
- Ditch the debate mindset. Focus on the people, not necessarily the politics. We have the tendency to go into these conversations with a debate mindset. But sometimes we need to step back, actually listen and try to understand where the other person is coming from.
- Know when to leave. There is a difference between having productive conversations and accepting horrible things like racism or hate. If you feel that you are compromising your values, you have every right to leave a conversation.

-Nikki Laws, AS14

"FIND SOMEONE WHO YOU DON'T FEEL DESERVES YOUR COMPASSION AND GIVE IT. THEY MAY NOT DESERVE IT, BUT THEY'RE THE ONES WHO NEED IT MOST."

> -Reformed white supremacist Chris Picciolini, speaking to the UD community in 2019 on the only force strong enough to break hate

READDRESS YOUR STRESS

We're stressed. Living through a global pandemic tends to have that effect.

The good news, according to psychology Prof. Jeffrey Spielberg, is that not all stress is bad.

"There is some evolutionary benefit to worry," says the director of UD's Connectomics of Anxiety and Depression Lab . "It serves a purpose if it spurs you to action."

If worrying over grades helps students prepare for exams, great. If worrying over a pandemic prompts others to wear masks and heed safety precautions, even greater. But increasingly, Spielberg says, people who may have been able to control their worry in the past are being "pushed over the edge." And, unfortunately, college students are particularly susceptible to these tendencies, since the parts of the brain that aid in this control are still developing into the 30s. On the flip side, a stilldeveloping brain will also be more amenable to stress-coping strategies.

Here, UD experts offer some tips for coping with anxiety at any age:

Focus, as much as possible, on the present. Your brain cannot be hijacked by thoughts of what has happened in the past or what might happen in the future if you are mentally present in the now, says Kelsey Chambers, staff psychologist with UD's Center for Counseling and Student Development. To achieve a mindful state, Chambers suggests calling upon all five senses.

Do what works for you. Olivia Chowdhury, AS23, is a member of the Active Minds student organization at UD, which works to normalize the conversation surrounding mental health on campus and beyond. "Some students prefer meditation sessions, others de-stress with yoga or journaling or crafting. I've learned about weighted blankets," she says. "Not everything is going to work for every person; the important thing is to find the technique that is a fit for you."

Do unto others—but be easy on yourself. As a self-care strategy, service is psychologist-approved. "It can be really helpful to channel our energy, especially at a time when we might be feeling helpless, into something that feels personally meaningful," says Chambers. But it's important not to put too much pressure on yourself, she adds. "Self-compassion is especially important right now," Chambers says. "This entails withholding judgment and treating yourself with kindness, the way you would treat a friend or a loved one. And it means recognizing that failure and mistakes and setbacks are a part of the human condition, and we all experience those from time to time."

Take care. Of course, even if you do everything right, even if you complete all of the self-care strategies in the world, you might still notice a change to normal behavior-altered sleeping or eating patterns, or a decrease in activity or motivation. "Seeking professional help does not mean that you are crazy, or that you have a severe illness," Chambers says. "It is a way to honor and prioritize your wellness."



Use the 5-4-3-2-1 Technique. In highanxiety moments, identify five things you can see, four you can touch, three you can hear, two you can smell and one you can taste. (It is okay to adjust for accessibility.) Or simply make an effort to spend a few minutes every day taking intentionally deep, slow, grounding breaths—"one of the best gifts we can give to ourselves," Chambers says.



RECONNECT

Loneliness—a sense that you are disconnected from other people or that people don't care about you—can deliver a gut-punch to your immune system, says UD's Lisa Jaremka.

An assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences, her research examines the immunological consequences of stress and loneliness in humans. Her studies have found links between loneliness and immune dysregulation, pain, depression, fatigue, reduced cognitive function, increased ghrelin (a hormone linked to hunger) and self-reported food intake. Other researchers have shown that loneliness is also related to premature mortality, high blood pressure and diminished sleep quality.

Loneliness is a specific kind of stress. It's not the same as being physically alone or isolated. It's about a person's perception of their relationships. "Loneliness is a subjective state," Jaremka says. "A person could be surrounded by tons of people and still feel lonely."

Of course, the pandemic has kept us to ourselves in deeply uncomfortable ways.

But the good news is that we're having more honest conversations about this discomfort, according to Dawn Fallik, an associate professor of journalism and medical reporter who has written about loneliness for NPR and *The Washington Post*.

Fallik spent the early days of the pandemic interviewing everyday people and discovered that "people are much, much more open about the mental health challenges of being socially isolated."

Pre-COVID, someone saying "I'm lonely" would often cause others to withdraw if it made them uncomfortable, she says. Now, as a society, we can all empathize with those feelings and offer more compassion.

"We've gotten better at asking for help," she says, "and better at giving it."

-Beth Miller and Artika Casini

–Diane Stopyra

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4()
ALUNAN NEWS

Saratoga

DOG IS HIS CO-PILOT

The animals know. Abandoned, injured, neglected or abused, the furry souls that board Michael Schneider's airplane somehow know that better days await.

As founder of the Pilots to the Rescue nonprofit, Schneider, AS98, provides weekly life-saving flights for dogs, cats, even the occasional red wolf. It's his way of merging personal hobby with a deeper philosophy.

"Life's not about you," the Blue Hen says. "The more you give to others, the more you gain in return."

Schneider sees an exponential effect in rescuing animals who will bring love to a future home. It's a joy even better than flying. "A lot of people in recovery come to a moment of clarity," says Schneider, who quit drinking for 11 years. "You're seeking out a feeling artificially, but you can reach this moment naturally."

It can come from soaring through the skies, one with the machine, present to every precious moment. But it can also come from giving back, doing good, helping others.

No act is too small, and no life too insignificant.

Take Maynard, for instance, a three-legged lab mix who nuzzles gently in Schneider's arms. Or Hopper, a 60-pound dog with cerebral palsy.

"It makes us all better people to help those in need," says Schneider, "no matter how many legs they have." 10

In 1970s Cameroon, nurses were the "ultimate power role" for a young Tabe Mase. They headed health clinics in the West African nation and exuded undeniable strength.

Decades later, Mase, HS94, still finds inspiration in the world's most trusted profession.

"Without nurses, you will close down your shop," says the nurse practitioner and director of employee health at ChristianaCare in Delaware. "Nurses ask the critical questions and have a voice on exactly how to impact patient survival rates."

As the world emerges from the greatest public health crisis of our generation, one clear answer lies in vaccines. Indeed, when Joe Biden received his first Pfizer-BioNTech dose, it was fellow alumnus Mase who administered the shot.

But beyond the life-changing, life-saving power of the COVID vaccine are deeper lessons to be learned from those on the frontlines of care.

"Nurses deliver amazing patient care rooted in compassion," says Kathleen Matt, AS75, 78M, dean of the College of Health Sciences. "Post-pandemic, I foresee a stronger appreciation for the contribution nurses make to the health of the nation and the sustainability of our health systems."

LEADERSHIP AT ITS BEST

In many ways, the pandemic revealed the profession's critical role.

"It's seems ironic, if not poetic, that COVID occurred in 2020, the year of the Nurse and Midwife," says Elizabeth Speakman, senior associate dean of nursing. "COVID was one of the most defining moments for the profession, proving once again that nurses are resilient."

Mase saw it firsthand, as nurses came together from units across the hospital, "leaning on each other and learning from each other."

The silos of a pre-pandemic world broke, and nurses stepped up, as they always have, to collaborate in new and innovative ways.

As a labor and delivery nurse, Katherine Butler, HS18, saw fellow nurses temporarily reassigned to work in the emergency department, ICUs and medical-surgical floors. On her own unit, she executed new protocols to keep mothers and babies safe during and after delivery. She also found support from her managers, who kept an open-door policy and welcomed questions and concerns.

"But I know that's not the case everywhere," Butler says. "Lack of PPE, unsafe staffing ratios and occupational hazards were challenges for many before the pandemic hit. I hope this past year brings attention to these issues."

BURNOUT AT ITS MOST EXHAUSTING

ICU nurse Gabby Acker, HS19, recalls the anxiety and stress of the pandemic at its height.

"Each shift was exhausting, getting no breaks and staying hours late," she says. "The uncertainty behind the virus added a level of fear and risk, and increased death rates added emotional stress."

While things improved once Acker's hospital opened designated COVID units and hired agency nurses, the strain on caregivers persists.

"Post-pandemic, 9 foresee a stronger appreciation for the contribution nurses make to the health of the nation and the sustainability of our health systems" -Kathleen Matt "It is difficult to imagine that this crisis will not have a longstanding impact on our providers," says Greg O'Neill, HSO9, 17M, an advanced practice nurse and health education manager for patients and families. "Most days present new challenges and require everpresent flexibility. Adapting to change has become habit as priorities evolve and demands pull from a limited pool of physical and emotional resources. And yet we find a way to carry on."

It's a matter of survival for many, including Michelle Varisco, HS14.

"I have nursing school friends who are so overworked. I have family members who believe this is a hoax and shout conspiracy theories at me," she says. "It's easy for people to point endless fingers of blame. I just hope that we all emotionally, physically and spiritually survive."

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

But survive we must. And survive we will. So long as we invest in our caregivers, and in ourselves.

"More than just a tag line, self-care turns out to be essential to surviving and even growing through challenging times," says O'Neill. He has made a concerted effort to focus on his diet, spend more time in nature, detach from technology and negative media inputs, and prioritize family wellness. "All have given me improved recovery from difficult weeks," he says.

Even Varisco, who cares for 8-year-old twins and a toddler, finds hope amid the chaos.

"I've often looked at my happy, smiley, full-of-life toddler, Audrey, and envied her current perspective," she says. "Audrey is moving through this entire pandemic stoked to always be with her family, jazzed to sing and dance with the characters on Sesame Street and grateful to be snuggled in between her parents every night. She is our family's light. She has the ability to see past the storm."

"Nurses have a voice on exactly how to impact patient survival rates," says Tabe Mase, HS94. In December, she administered the COVID vaccine for fellow alumnus Joe Biden, AS65, 04H. RECTOR EMPLOY

AD EXEC PAYS IT FORWARD

You've probably already seen the work of advertising executive Karl Lieberman, AS99. He co-created "The Most Interesting Man" campaign for Dos Equis with fellow UD alumnus Brandon Henderson, AS99. Lieberman also penned the 2010 P&G "Thank You, Mom" Olympics campaign, helped bring back "The Colonel" for Kentucky Fried Chicken, and championed the "Dilly Dilly" campaign for Bud Light– again with Henderson–which became a cultural phenomenon.

Since 2016, Lieberman has served as the executive creative director for the New York office of Wieden+Kennedy (W+K), the largest independent advertising agency in the world. As of January 2021, he has taken on the additional role of chief creative officer for the agency's eight offices in New York, Portland, Amsterdam, Delhi, London, São Paolo, Shanghai and Tokyo. Put simply, he has one of the best jobs in global advertising.

"As a company, we try to be rooted in the truth," says Lieberman, who has brought in brands such as McDonald's, Ford, KFC, HBO, P&G, Duracell, OkCupid and The Atlantic. "Real human emotions, real thoughts. The truth doesn't necessarily have to be this super insightful thing. It's reflected in how consumers see the products in their normal lives."

While Lieberman was student at UD, faculty in the visual communications program talked about advertising as a career–something he didn't realize was even a job option. But he credits three UD mentors for his success: Profs. Bill Deering, Martha Carothers and Ray Nichols.

"Their expectations were high, creating an environment where you had to bring something special to a class," Lieberman says. "They opened us up to the world, brought us to ad agencies in New York. Bill pushed me to do an internship in London, and that was my first time outside the U.S."

The collective impact of these experiences is why, as an alumnus, he has hosted UD seniors wherever he's worked for 22 years.

"The UD alumni network is incredible," Lieberman says. "As a student, I would email five people who had real careers in advertising Thursday night and they'd email me back Friday morning with thoughts and advice. I try to really pay that back."

Lieberman now serves on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Advisory Council at UD and looks forward to creating more mentorship opportunities for the college. -Megan Maccherone

OPENING DOORS

A new Wieden+Kennedy Scholarship will support the academic and professional goals of underrepresented Delawareans.

"We realized that the existing creative paths into a career in advertising weren't facilitating diversity in our offices," says Karl Lieberman, AS99, chief creative officer at W+K. "The scholarship is about creating paths, opening doors."

The scholarship will award \$60,000 in tuition over four years and provide three summer internships, as well as the option to join W+K full time upon graduation.

"It's a huge priority for me personally, and for all of us at Wieden, to make sure underrepresented talent has equal access to a career in the creative industry." For more, visit art.udel.edu/ WKScholarship

SCENES FROM THE SENATE FLOOR: 'SHOTS FIRED'



As a veteran Capitol reporter, he had sat through many drowsy scenes from his perch above the U.S. Senate floor.

But in a moment, it all changed. The calm setting became a place of panic, and serenity turned to chaos. The assault on the Capitol was underway.

Paul Kane, AS92, had a disconcertingly intimate view of that awful day, watching as the first hints of trouble grew into a frantic rush for



safety inside and outside this icon of Democracy. As senior congressional correspondent for The Washington Post, Kane watched as a rifle-toting officer suddenly appeared on the Senate floor, listened as ominous sounds grew near, and scurried away with lawmakers and aides.

"I could hear a loud thwacking sound-possibly a billy club being

wielded against the invaders," Kane wrote in The Washington Post after the insurrection. "Soon, the Senate was sealed off and the session was adjourned. Capitol Police raced around the two-story Senate Chamber locking every set of doors. Then Sen. Amy Klobuchar looked at her phone and announced: 'Shots fired.'"

Armed officers prepared for battle in every corner. Police barked instructions. "They marched us all-a phalanx of senators, staff and press-through multiple office buildings in search of the safest grounds to shelter on the Capitol complex."

Some senators walked, Kane wrote. Others ran. Elsewhere, people he knew prepared for the worst. "One senior GOP aide, who has an office not far from the Senate floor, said he took a steel rod and barricaded his door when the pro-Trump mob approached," wrote Kane. "For what seemed like 20 minutes, he said, rioters banged on his door, trying to break in.

"Others huddled in silence in small rooms with doors locked and cellphones turned off while the rioters walked past."

Recounting the tale recently for a UD journalism class, Kane recalled the odd sensation of being at the nexus of a crisis that he actually knew little aboutthere were no TVs nearby to give him a sense of the attack's full scope, and his cell phone was in another room.

The true scale of horror only became evident once he retrieved the phone. "I called an editor who was crying because tear gas was being fired off in the Capitol Rotunda," he told Prof. Dawn Fallik's class.

Before long, news would come that the building had been secured, and that senators' solemn duty could resume: The Senate parliamentarian had enlisted volunteers to grab the boxes of electoral college certificates, crucial for legally affirming Biden's victory.

"Biden would still be declared the winner," wrote Kane, who came to political reporting after a brief UD flirtation with a law career-a trajectory that was forever doomed after he took a course with legendary UD political science professor Jim Soles.

"I took the course because everyone said Jim Soles will change your life. It was an amazing course. It was the sort of course that ended with a standing ovation at the very last lecture. And I was one of those people giving an ovation," Kane said to UD's budding journalists. "But I knew as I was clapping for him that I hated the law. So that class helped keep me from going into law schoolsomething that I would have hated." -Eric Ruth, AS93

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DELAWARE ORTHOPAEDIC SPECIALISTS

CLASS NOTES



Bill Mate, BE67



Mary Means, AS77



Honey Parker, AS85



Lois Hoffman, BE86

1960s

Charles Derrick, HS63, of Venice, Fla., wrote a song called *Truth Has Gone Astray* on his 81st birthday and placed a performance of it on YouTube. "I think Joe Biden would like to hear it," he tells the *Magazine*.

Bill Mate, BE67, of Jupiter, Fla., has been elected president of the Jupiter-Tequesta-Hobe Sound Realtors Association. He is also director of the Florida Realtors Association and the National Realtors Association.

John Schuyler, BE68, of Wilmington, Del., has obtained two patents on rotary lawn mower blades and licensed one of them, The Flipper Clipper®, inspired by the humpback whale and designed to increase mower speed and efficiency.

1970s

Karen Jessee, AS73, of Wilmington, Del., has won a national writing award for her latest article on holiday displays of faux foods in Delaware's museums. It is her seventh writing award from the National Federation of Press Women.

Linda A. (Costic) Seidel, AS76M, 80PhD, of Kirksville, Mo., has written her memoir, *The Belinda Chronicles*.

Bob Cannon, AS77, of Lewes, Del., has released a new music CD, *On Second Thought*, on his label Rivanna Records.

Mary Means, AS77, of Silver Spring, Md., has received the National Trust for Historic Preservation's top award for conceiving the pilot project for small-town revival that would become the now-widespread Main Street America initiatives.

Rachelle Hope (Riki) Saltzman, AS77, of Eugene, Ore., has edited Pussy Hats, Politics and Public Protest. Featuring contributions from Susan Eleuterio, AS74, the book focuses on the womencentered aspects of the protests that started with the 2017 Women's March.

Dyane Lewis Carrere, AS78, EHD79,

of Southampton, Mass., has published her book, *The Re-Set Process: Trauma-Informed Behavior Strategies* (Brookes Publishing Co.). She is an educational consultant and staff developer who specializes in trauma-informed school practices.

Brian C. Sammarco, BE79, of Glen Ellyn, Ill., has been named chairman of the board of directors at Delta Dental of Illinois.

1980s

Phil Brady, AS81M, has authored The Elsewhere: Poems & Poetics (Broadstone Books). Brady is a distinguished professor at Youngstown State University, where he teaches creative writing, literature and composition.

Laura O'Toole, AS81, 88M, 91PhD, of Middletown, R.I., and retired professor Jessica Schiffman, AS90M, EHD10PhD, recently published the third edition of Gender Violence: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, along with colleague Rosemary Sullivan.

Craig Cutler, AS83, of New York, N.Y., won the platinum in the Graphis Photography 2020 Awards for a study of flowers. Laurie Frankel, AS83, of San Rafael, Calif., won gold for her entries *Underwater Dandelion* and *Jasmine* in the Graphis Photography 2020 Awards.

Timothy Gager, AS83, of Dedham, Mass., has authored his 16th book (his ninth of poetry), titled 2020 (Big Table Publishing). He also has hosted Virtual Fridays Dire Literary Series since the pandemic, featuring a variety of writers.

Tracy Boyd, AS85, of Frederick, Md., was named Creative Marketing Manager's 2019 Designer of the Year by Experient.

Honey Parker, AS85, of Park City, Utah, has released her debut novel, Carefulish–A Ridiculous Romp Through COVID Living as Seen Through the Eyes of Ridiculous People.

Lois Hoffman, BE86, of Newark, Del., published her fifth book, titled Barriers: The life and legacy of Tom Evans, about the former U.S. congressman from Delaware who worked his way into the center of political power until scandal brought him down.

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1990s

Sourav Sengupta, EG91PhD, of

Wilmington, Del., was named by DuPont Co. to the company's most distinguished technical rank, Laureate. He is a leader in many areas of catalysis and chemical engineering.

Julie Carrick Dalton, AS92, of Boston, is the debut author of the literary suspense novel Waiting for the Night Song (Forge Books/Macmillian), recently featured on Buzzfeed's most anticipated mysteries/ thrillers of the year.

John Doll, BE93, of Scotch Plains, N.J., has been promoted to chief financial and administrative officer at RWJBarnabas Health in New Jersey.

Mia Muratori, AS96, of Wilmington, Del., had a solo painting exhibit at Building 98 in Marfa, Texas, and a group show for Clay Arts Vegas in Las Vegas, Nev.

Dana Herbert, BE98, of Bear, Del., has been inducted into the Delaware Business Hall of Fame. He is a nationally known baker and owner of Desserts by Dana.

2000s

Amy Yoder Bryan, ASOO, of Middletown, Del., has been promoted to program

manager of personal supports at Bayside Community Network in Elkton, Md.

Kaveri R. Sawant, EG04PhD, of Malvern, Pa., is now working as a global raw material specialist at Johnson Matthey, and is co-chair of the company's Diversity and Inclusion Employee Resource Group/Gender Equality Network for Devon and Audubon, Pa.

Double Dels **Dr. Edward Cohen, EHD05**, and **Kara Wade, HS06**, of Middlesex, N.J., join big brother Shane in welcoming baby Troy Edward on October 14, 2019.

Mike Fox, ASO5, of Crozet, Va., was named state legislative lead of the Virginia Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. He was previously the legislative head of the Crozet group.

Michael Kelly, AS05, BE08, of Landenberg, Pa., celebrated his 12th anniversary as a CPA with Belfint, Lyons & Schuman, which has offices in Wilmington, Del., and West Chester, Pa.

Shaun Rieley, ASO5, of Hyattsville, Md., has completed a Ph.D. in political theory from the Catholic University of America and has been named director of Civics and Veteran Programs at The Philanthropy Roundtable. Jason Ferguson, ASO6M, of Grass Lake, Mich., has joined with UD Art Prof. Lance Winn to create a collaborative sculpture exhibit called TOPOGRAPHIES–Layers, Mapping & Paths, at the Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Chris Gironda, ASO6, of Commack, N.Y., welcomed daughter Danielle Norma Gironda on May 22, 2020.

Joel B. Wagner, BEO6, of Basking Ridge, N.J., has been promoted to partner at Ernst & Young LLP.

Emily Bunce, AS08, has been promoted to vice president of insights for G&S Business Communications, an integrated public relations and communications agency in New York City.

Karly A. Laughlin, BEO9, of Landenberg, Pa., celebrated her 11th anniversary as a CPA with Belfint, Lyons & Schuman.

2010s

Miriam Wartell, AS11, of Philadelphia, has published her second book, *Lessons in Law of Attraction*, which focuses on spiritual self-help.

Jim Casey, AS12M, 17PhD, of Metuchen, N.J., and Sarah Lynn Patterson, AS12M, 18PhD, of Northampton, Mass.,



CLASS NOTES •

Sourav Sengupta, EG91PhD



Julie Dalton, AS92



Troy Edward Cohen



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collaborated with affiliated UD Prof. Gabrielle Foreman to edit The Colored Conventions Movement, a book that examines Black political organizing efforts in 19th century America.

Alli (Bell) Eudy, HS12, of Concord, N.C., married Caleb Eudy on July 4, 2020, accompanied by a bevy of Blue Hens.

Laura Graham, AS12, of Miami, Fla., has received a Green/Sustainable business award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for her company, Wanderlust, which makes ecoresponsible swimwear and active wear, and where she serves as director of apparel.

Luke A. Walmer, EG12, and Katherine D. Walmer, AS12, of Lititz, Pa., welcomed baby Hadley Elizabeth on Nov. 23, 2020.

Irmak (Hatiboglu) Donahue, BE14 and Rob Donahue, BE14, of Islip, N.Y., were married July 31, 2019, in Dublin, Ireland.



Irmak and Rob Donahue's pre-COVID wedding in Ireland was filled with Blue Hen pride.

Andrea (DeMaio) Szot, BE14, and Eric Szot, AS14, of Summit, N.J., were married on Sept. 27, 2020.

Blue Hens traveled from around the world to attend the wedding of Kimberly Buchanan, AS16, and Jacob Lewin, HS16, of The Colony, Texas, on Oct. 10, 2019

Gabrielle Pirro, AS16, and Shubi Bose, AS16, of Middletown, N.J., were married on Sept. 19, 2020.

Eric Wroten Sr., ANR17, and Elizabeth D.S. Wroten, EHD20, of Parsippany, N.J., welcomed baby Eric Christopher Wroten Jr. on Aug. 22, 2020.

Brandon Heggan, BE18, of Lansdale, Pa., was one of 175 people selected from among 75,000 CPA exam test takers for the prestigious Elijah Watts Sells Award.

Sylena Miller, EHD19, and Steven Lenkiewicz, EG19, of Smyrna, Del., were married on Oct. 3, 2020.

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Eric Christopher Wroten Jr.

2019-2020 UD Curatorial Fellow Sam Whalen, AS19M, of Columbus, Ga., has curated Spill Over, a group exhibition hosted by the Delaware Contemporary.

2020s

0 106

Jason Austin, AS20M, of Milford, Del., will be a resident artist in the Creative Alliance Residency Program in Baltimore. 🦕

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Laurence E. Wadman Jr., EG49 Bruce W. Farnum, AS70PhD

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FACULTY AND STAFF

Mae Riedy Carter, pioneering staff advocate for women's equality, December 2020 Biliana Cicin-Sain, retired director of the Center for Marine Policy, September 2020

Mary Ann Finch, Cooperative Extension leader, November 2020 Margaret Hassert, retired

director of the Writing Center,

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

Catherine Figest Stouffer, AS70 Edmund G. Pierce, BE72M

Helen Tygielski Morgan, BE82, 90M

Clement L. Counts III. EOE84PhD

Emmanuel Caulk Jr., EHD96, 02M

William Joseph "Billy" Pierce, AS21

Dolores Conrad Cowan, AS00

Ethan Alyea Anderson, BE22

Sally Higgins, AS48, EHD72M,

Paul Sammelwitz, professor

sciences, January 2021

Jewel Harrison Walker

November 2020 🦤

emeritus of animal and food

trustee emerita, December 2020

Jr., professor emeritus of theatre,

November 2020

Linda Rossiter Robinson, AS84

Richard C. Simpson, BE73

Thomas E. Beach, BE85

Ralph Spagnolo, EOE91M

JAMES "JIMMY" FLYNN

James "Jimmy" Flynn, star athlete, longtime coach and lifelong Blue Hen, died on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020. He was 87.

An All-American running back and record-setting sprinter who graduated from UD in 1955, Mr. Flynn would spend nearly 70 years at his beloved alma mater.

"If you cut one arm, I bleed Blue," he often remarked. "You cut the other, and I bleed Gold."

UD is where Mr. Flynn met his wife, Frances Bennett, EHD59; where he and she served as founding members of the University's Catholic campus ministry; and where he devoted his life and career to coaching studentathletes in football and track and field.

As a coach, he was relentless. He taught perseverance and instilled confidence. "But he also made you understand that playing well was more important than winning," said daughter Tracey Gianforcaro, HS91.

Former Athletic Director Edgar Johnson, HS67, called Mr. Flynn "one of the greatest Blue Hens ever."

"He loved kids, he loved coaching, and his style was eclectic," Johnson said. "You got 60 kids on a track team with 18 different events. He gave each kid what they needed."

Mr. Flynn was head men's track and field coach at Delaware from 1961–1979. He took a struggling team and in two years, turned it into a conference champion. In the early 1970s, he helped establish the women's track and field program and was proud to help women compete at the collegiate level. Flynn also served as Delaware's freshman and assistant varsity football coach.

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A CONVERSATION with...

Historians view most things through a human-centric lens, and places often serve as mere context for events and their actors. But for **William C. Allen, AS72**, history resides in a place itself. As the architectural historian for the U.S. Capitol for 29 years, this UD Alumni Wall of Famer revealed the stories hidden beneath the mosaic floors and lustrous limestone blocks, twice now attacked by foes of Democracy. We asked him to share his experiences peeking into the past.

Bill, we know it must have been tough seeing what happened Jan. 6. How are you handling it?

I was horrified, like everyone. The story of the Capitol took me 500 pages to tell. So when you see it desecrated, it's not just glass being broken. I try not to watch too much. It really cut too close to the bone.

It cut too close for a lot of us. Let's get back to you. Tell us about your UD days back in the late 1960s.

I had the idea I was going to be a lawyer then. I had no idea you could make a living–modest as it might be–as a historian of old buildings. I started taking these art history classes at UD, and the professors, men like George Tatum and Wayne Craven, they just made me immediately forget

about a law career. I was going make art history my life.

How does one approach researching the architectural history of a building?

You've got to be able to read the building–and you've got to be able to allow the building to reveal itself. You have to be able to peel away the later additions and get back to the core of the building. The answers often lie in old documents, in wills and even in bills for materials and services.

You started as a historic preservation expert for the state of Mississippi. How did you end up at the Capitol?

I was hired by the Capitol architect to investigate the construction history of the West Front, to answer the question: 'Is it a finished architectural work?' [It was.] Two years later the Capitol curator asked if I wanted a full-time position. I was told: 'You invent your job, you make it happen.' So I did.



"I WAS TOLD, 'YOU INVENT THE JOB, YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN.' SO I DID."

-WILLIAM C. ALLEN

We hear you've debunked some Capitol myths.

No one had ever researched the building in comprehensive way until I started. Usually I would stumble on things that I didn't know were misconceptions until I started. There was a story that they had painted the West Front to hide scorch marks from the War of 1812, but the truth was less dramatic. They painted it to protect it from the weather. That was one myth that blew up.

Tell us more about slaves' role in the construction.

They were given a blanket, and they were given housing, huts or barracks, and they were given medical attention. And I think they would earn \$5 a month for their owners. The slaves could earn their own money if they worked on Sundays, and many of them did. Slaves were used to quarry the stone, saw the stone, help make the bricks, lay the bricks–women and children, too.

Anything else that readers might like to know?

The second architect to be put in charge of the Capitol project was Benjamin Latrobe, and in the early years of the 1800s, he lived in a little cabin on the top of Iron Hill in Newark, surveying for the construction of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. So he was doing some work for the Capitol, doing the drawings, writing the

letters, while he was in Delaware. We get this incredibly minute look at this process, thanks to him being in Delaware, surveying the canal.



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