



International partnerships

The University of Delaware is building education and research collaborations around the world that provide opportunities for both graduate students and faculty. With more than 150 university partnership agreements representing at least 60 countries, the following are just a few examples of the depth of the opportunities for UD's graduate community.

Fraunhofer Institutes

The University of Delaware's partnership with Fraunhofer began in 1996 with a collaboration between the UD's Center for Composite Materials and the Fraunhofer Institute for Advanced Materials, resulting in the establishment of the Fraunhofer Resource Center-Delaware. Later, a partnership between the Delaware Biotechnology Institute and Fraunhofer Institute for

Molecular Biotechnology and Applied Ecology led to the construction of Fraunhofer USA's first laboratory outside Germany, at the Delaware Technology Park in Newark.

Fraunhofer is Europe's largest application-oriented research organization, operating 66 institutes and independent research units around the globe with initiatives focusing on health, security, communication, energy and the environment.

This spring, Fraunhofer and UD held their first joint technology summit and launched a graduate exchange program for selected German students and UD students to participate in research placements in energy and biotechnology, at the University of Delaware or working with Fraunhofer researchers in Germany.

The first Fraunhofer exchange cohort included German students Carolin Hartwig, Elisabeth Bludau and Maria Stössel, and UD students Robert Kaspar, Erin Crowgey and Peter Worthington.

Worthington, a UD doctoral student in biomedical engineering, worked with a lab group at the Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology in Leipzig, Germany, focused on using magnetic particles and microfluidics to create devices that can quickly display if a patient has a disease without requiring sample processing in a dedicated lab. "The chance to work in an industry-focused lab was a big advantage for me," said Worthington. "It was interesting to work with the MRSA device project, since it is quite different from my own lab work and I would probably not have otherwise learned about the topic. Also, it is exciting to be a part of an international partnership."

Elisabeth Bludau, doctoral student in pharmaceutical biotechnology at the Fraunhofer Institute for Toxicology and Experimental Medicine hosted at the Technical University of Braunschweig, worked with the

(Continued on page 2)



The inaugural Fraunhofer-UD graduate student exchange program included, from left, Maria Stössel, Carolin Hartwig, Peter Worthington, Elisabeth Bludau, Erin Crowgey and Robert Kaspar.

International partnerships

(from page 1)

research group of UD's Babatunde Ogunnaike, William L. Friend Chaired Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and dean of UD's College of Engineering.

"I very much appreciated the opportunity to work in an atmosphere of internationality, interacting with other students who have chosen to pursue their doctoral studies in the U.S. for various reasons," said Bludau. "Gaining international experiences is more important than ever, and not exclusively to improve communication skills. Spending time abroad is definitely an opportunity to look beyond the boundaries of your own professional disciplines and to experience different approaches for your particular research."

China

"It's impossible for everyone to look at every piece of the ocean," said Minhan Dai, dean of China's Xiamen University College of Oceanography and Environmental Science, on a visit to UD last year. "You need a global vision."

The University of Delaware partners with at least 15 universities or organizations in China, representing collaborations and projects across the UD campus. One notable example is the 2008 establishment of the Joint Institute for Coastal Research and Management, a world-class global collaborative research initiative by UD's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment and Xiamen University's College of Oceanography and Environmental Science. In 2011, a dual Ph.D. program in oceanography was launched, giving students the opportunity to earn their degree simultaneously from both institutions if they study at least three semesters at the other institution.

Chinese doctoral student Zhaoyun Chen officially became the first Ph.D. candidate in the dual program after successfully completing his oral qualifying exam in Xiamen this spring, where both UD professors and Xiamen University professors participated. Chen's research focuses on coastal upwelling.

Also capitalizing on the opportunities of the oceanography partnership, UD marine biosciences doctoral graduate Emily Maung-Douglass decided to pursue her postdoctoral research at Xiamen. Working there in Professor Kejian Wang's lab, she is examining gene expression to determine how the fish species *medaka* copes with combined exposure to a low oxygen environment and synthetic estrogen pollution, both of which are often present in marine environments affected by wastewater discharge.

"It's a really cool thing to be able to think of your research in a truly global way.... Do not let fear of the unknown or the logistics



Emily Maung-Douglass is pursuing post-doctoral research at Xiamen University in China.

of international research hold you back," said Maung-Douglass. "My interactions with people here have given me a lot of insight and perspective in dealing with environmental issues that I might not have ever been exposed to otherwise."

Brazil

A \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and International Science and Education program (USDA-NIFA-ISE) fuels UD's partnership with the Federal University of Lavras (UFLA) in Brazil. With the goal of expanding global curricula and staying atop leading international agricultural practices, UD's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is the grant's main recipient, along with the College of Arts and Sciences.

Associate professors Nicole Donofrio of plant and soil sciences and Greg Shriver of entomology and wildlife ecology were the initial co-principal investigators on the grant, with projects including research on rice blast fungus and coffee rust fungus, both of which are devastating to important South American and worldwide crops. UFLA graduate students Glauco Teixeira, Silvino Intra Moreira and Brenda Neves Porto, as well as post-doctoral researcher Thiago Maia from Brazil's



Allison Rogers helped to collect genetic samples from backyard chickens in Brazil.

University of Viçosa, have worked or are currently working in Donofrio's lab on these projects.

During spring break and again this summer, UD animal science graduate student Allison Rogers worked at UFLA to secure future collaborations for research on broiler chickens and to assist Carl Schmidt, associate professor of animal and food sciences—who has since joined the USDA grant—in his research on the global genomic diversity of chickens. Rogers helped to collect genetic samples from backyard chickens in Brazil, which will help aid Schmidt's studies on the genomics of the common chicken and how they respond to different environments, with the hope that this genetic information will lead to flock improvement in the United States.

Rogers noted that she saw similarities between UFLA and UD's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, making for a seamless collaborative environment. "UFLA is an agriculturally and historically based university and so we felt very at home when we arrived."

A UD-UFLA symposium and "Brazil week" activities are being planned for May 2014 in order to highlight projects and interactions between UD and other universities in Brazil.

Colombia

"Colombia is among the top three countries in South America in higher education investment, and in total we have awarded more than 25 M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at UD as part of this global partnership," said UD's Gonzalo R. Arce, Charles Black Evans Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Arce, together with Hernan Navarro, research associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development, pioneered the UD-Colombian University partnership in 1997. An annual exchange program brings Colombian scholars to UD for a summer of research. Many of these outstanding students are typically admitted to UD doctoral programs. The collaboration is gradually expanding into other areas of engineering and into the College of Arts and Sciences.

This summer, 16 visiting scholars from universities in Colombia, Venezuela and Bolivia conducted research with UD faculty as part of the College of Engineering Summer Research Program. The College of Engineering now has formal agreements with a dozen Colombian universities, and over 100 applications every year for its graduate programs.

In Spring 2013, Henry Arguello, Cesar Duarte, and Ana Ramirez, all faculty members at the Industrial University of Santander in Colombia, earned doctoral degrees in electrical and computer engineering at UD. Taking advantage of a program encouraging faculty in Colombia to earn a Ph.D. in the U.S., they completed their doctoral degrees here while on leaves of absence from their university, and have since returned to their faculty positions.

The Colombia partnerships have since expanded to include a musical collaboration with the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá and will expand to other Colombian universities. In 2011 a delegation of UD music professors and alumni traveled to Bogotá to perform a concert and to establish connections for future collaborations and programs. This summer, nearly 70 student musicians from UD's Symphony Orchestra participated in the orchestra's first international tour, performing with musicians from Central University and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.

"It's an opportunity to immerse in another culture," said orchestra director James Anderson. Long-term, he sees this three-year cycle—of establishing a partnership in the first year, bringing UD musicians overseas in the second, and bringing international students to UD in the third—as a model to build relationships across the world.

"This project is about perspective," said Anderson. "It's stepping out of your comfort zone to become better performers, better musicians and better citizens of the world."



Top Colombian scholars participate in a recent summer research exchange in the College of Engineering.

Global research and engagement

Celebrating the 90th anniversary of its study abroad program this year, the University of Delaware is a national leader in study abroad programs, ranking fourth among doctoral institutions in student participation at more than 36 percent. For graduate students, international engagement more often takes the form of research travel and international collaborations.

TAIWAN

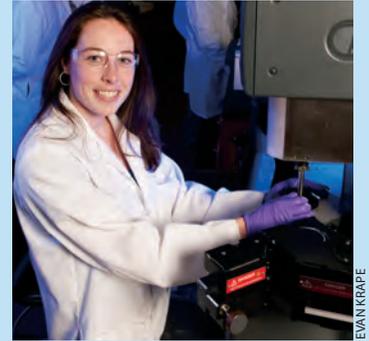
Doctoral student in biomechanics and movement science Ling-Yin Liang recently returned from several months at the National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan where she collaborated with Professor Jia-Jin Jason Chen in a special brain imaging study examining children with autism. With existing evidence suggesting that the prefrontal cortex area of the brain may be functioning abnormally in those with autism spectrum disorders, Liang's dissertation research uses the fNIRS (functional Near Infrared Spectroscopy) imaging technology to learn more about the brain activity known as default mode network (DMN). It is hoped that a better understanding of DMN could lead to earlier identification, and help therapists and health care providers plan interventions for children diagnosed with autism. Liang is currently initiating a parallel study at UD.



KATHY ATKINSON

FRANCE

The work of UD doctoral student in chemical and biomolecular engineering Amanda Kate Gurnon may ultimately help save astronauts as well as troops in the field. Gurnon's research involves testing the performance of shear thickening fluids (STFs), which, when incorporated into ballistic textiles such as Kevlar, demonstrate increased protection and puncture resistance. Gurnon is part of a collaboration between the Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble, France and the NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) Center for Neutron Research in Gaithersburg, MD and was instrumental in the successful design of new analysis methods using small angle neutron scattering (SANS). "The scientific collaborative relationships I have with researchers in France and Germany have changed the course of my graduate research at UD, exposing me to new scientific questions and allowing me to grow both personally and professionally while working with some of the world's experts in my field."



EVAN KRAPE

WORLDWIDE

Recent doctoral alumnus in physics and astronomy James Dalessio is the creator of a software program called Maestro that is helping astronomers study stars in a new way, automatically processing the hundreds of gigabytes of images produced during observation runs of the Whole Earth Telescope (WET), a worldwide network of observatories. Administered by a UD team including Dalessio and led by UD's Judi Provencal, the WET coordinated springtime observations of over 30 telescopes located in all corners of the world, from Delaware and Texas, to Chile, Brazil, South Africa, Europe, Australia, China, Taiwan and Southeast Asia. The observations were primarily of a newly discovered type of star, the extremely low-mass white dwarf. First used by the UD team at WET headquarters at Mount Cuba Astronomical Observatory in Greenville, Delaware, astronomers all over the world are beginning to adopt Maestro.



AMBRE ALEXANDER

POLAND

Recent historic preservation alumna Allison Rice led a 10-day study-abroad trip to Poland this spring with eight fellow graduate students from the School of Public Policy and Administration's public administration, historic preservation and urban affairs and public policy programs, examining post-World War II cultural revitalization and architectural preservation in Warsaw and Kraków. "The topics we studied have great relevance for how we commemorate negative American events like the Japanese containment camps during WWII, the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, and more. How the Poles rebuilt their cities and their identities after WWII and communism, respecting the past while forming a new identity for the future, is a lesson that American preservationists, planners and policymakers are still trying to grapple with."



COURTESY OF ALLISON RICE

SOUTH AFRICA

Craig Lee is a doctoral student in art history who was recently awarded an Ailsa Mellon Bruce Predoctoral Fellowship from the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art. While his research focuses primarily on modern American architecture, the grant will support Lee's architectural research in South Africa in 2014. "South Africa presents a unique case study since its colonial past, vast and varied landscape, diverse indigenous and immigrant population, and difficult history of racial segregation and struggle share a similar correspondence with those of the United States. Also, since the history of modern architecture rarely includes Africa as part of the discourse, I hope to build a more synthetic understanding of modern architecture and its global movement."



EVAN KRAPE

CHINA

Chunyan Yang, doctoral student in school psychology, is working with researchers at South China Normal University and Soai University (Japan) on two different cross-cultural studies: examining differences between the U.S. and China in students' and teachers' perceptions of school climate and conduct problems; and differences between China and Japan in students' self-esteem, guilt and shame. "The international comparative research on school climate will help foster the current growth of school psychology in my home country China," said Yang. "It also provides school psychologists in the U.S. with new insights regarding school climate promotion and school discipline."



MENGQIANG ZHU

Remodeled 44 Kent Way offers new facilities for graduate students

The stately Georgian building at 44 Kent Way on the University's Newark campus has been remodeled, providing new space for graduate student services. The refurbished building opened in November.

A Graduate Welcome Center is being created in the 44 Kent Way Building. The Graduate Welcome Center will house the Office of Graduate and Professional Education's Graduate StUDent Connect Program.

Beginning graduate studies can be a stressful transition. The Connect Program addresses some of the universal issues new graduate students face by putting them in touch with other graduate students at UD

and building a greater sense of community among graduate students on campus.

Graduate Ambassadors are the cornerstone of the Connect Program. These returning students volunteer their time for the program, and connect throughout the year with a small cluster of new students. They address problems and questions, plan social activities, and participate in Graduate Office sponsored events. See the article on page 10 for more information about the UD Connect Program and Graduate Ambassadors.

"The new center will provide a great anchor for the Connect program as well as offering a welcoming place for graduate students to congregate," said Mary Martin,

assistant provost for Graduate and Professional Education. "We feel this will truly enhance the quality of the graduate experience at UD."

Emily Bonistall, past president of UD's Graduate Student Government and a doctoral student in sociology agreed. "In my experience as president of Graduate Student Government, I saw firsthand how beneficial a graduate student center would be for our campus community," said Bonistall. "Our graduate students haven't had a particular place to congregate, meet other students, have events, hold meetings, study, etc. With the Welcome Center, they'll be able to do all of those things in a place specifically intended for graduate students."

UD's historic Wright House

Built in 1926 by Mr. and Mrs. E. Brinton Wright, the Georgian house at 44 Kent Way was donated to the University by Mrs. Wright in 1966. The building has served as temporary administrative office space, a women's residence hall and a student infirmary during renovation of other campus buildings. From 1971 until 2009, it was the home of UD's Blue and Gold Club.



TYLER JACOBSON



UD's historic 44 Kent Way location will become the new home of these University of Delaware centers



KEVIN QUINLAN

The building will provide a home for UD's Graduate Student Government. Led by a six member executive board and a senate comprised of graduate student representatives for each graduate level academic program, the Graduate Student Government advocates for the graduate student community.

A new Graduate and Faculty Lounge will also find a home at 44 Kent Way. The Lounge will offer a spot for graduate students and their professors to meet and to celebrate milestones like passing qualifying exams and successful dissertation defenses.

"Building community among graduate students definitely enriches the quality of their graduate school experience, commented Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education Jim Richards. "A space to relax and enjoy collegial conversations is a great enhancement to our facilities. We hope it will be put to use by generations of students to come."

UD's international initiatives will also find a consolidated home at 44 Kent Way. Long located in separate buildings across campus, the renovation allows the Institute for Global Studies and the Office for International Students and Scholars to have offices in the same building.

"We are extremely excited to move to this new location, which we feel will provide us with a great professional environment where we can carry out our role of advising and advocating for UD's international students, scholars and employees," said Ravi Ammigan, director, Office for International Students and Scholars. "Our hope is that this space will not only become a hub for international students and scholars but also engage the larger UD community through opportunities for cross-cultural interactions and international programming."

Office of International Students and Scholars

UD's Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) provides advising and support services to the more than 3,500 international students, scholars and family members from over 100 countries who are on campus each year. A critical resource for UD's international community, OISS provides information and support for the challenges of living, studying and working in a different culture or country, as well as celebrating the presence of international students and scholars on campus and their important contributions to the university's research and teaching missions.

Institute for Global Studies

The Institute for Global Studies (IGS) is the premier center for international education at the University of Delaware, forging partnerships in academics, research and public service around the world and educating engaged, global citizens. Its global initiative focuses on helping students to expand their awareness and knowledge of the economic, political, cultural and social issues facing the world—and the skills to address them. This commitment to preparing students to be global citizens embraces diversity in all of its richness, on campus, across the U.S. and in countries and cultures worldwide.

Center for Global and Area Studies

The Center for Global and Area Studies (CGAS), which is part of UD's College of Arts and Sciences, brings the six Area Studies programs (African, Asian, European, Islamic, Jewish, and Latin American and Iberian studies) into a single unit, thus combining the efforts of more than 100 faculty members, numerous graduate students and some 150 undergraduates majoring or minoring in one of the programs.

Graduate Welcome Center

The Graduate Welcome Center will become the home of UD's Graduate StUDent Connect Program and Graduate Ambassadors, serving as a central location for prospective, new and current graduate students and their families to connect to the University and the surrounding community.

Graduate Student Government

The Graduate Student Government (GSG) provides a forum for graduate student advocacy at UD, serving as a conduit between the University's graduate student community, faculty and administration. GSG supports activities facilitating graduate student professionalism and collegiality, and seeks to participate in the formation and execution of university policy through representation on university committees. GSG organizes and supports events such as the Graduate Student Forum, and coordinates service opportunities.

Graduate and Faculty Lounge

The new UD Graduate Student and Faculty Lounge will be located in the lower level of the historic 44 Kent Way location. The venue will host social and academic events, and will allow the graduate community to institute campus traditions such as celebrating academic defenses and exam completion, and building community.

Resources for graduate students

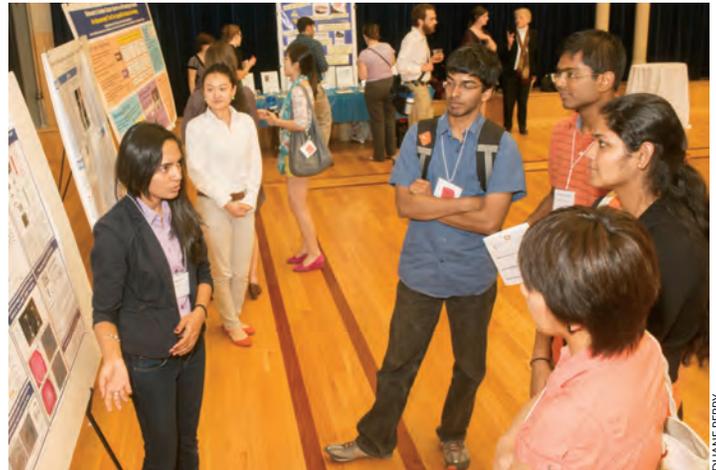
Annual graduate student forum highlights innovative research

Now in its third year, the Graduate Student Forum provides a valuable opportunity for students across the UD campus to share their research with colleagues and peers.

“The importance of knowing how to convey your research to broad audiences can’t be overestimated,” noted Vice Provost for Research Charlie Riordan at the inaugural forum in 2011. “It will serve you in communicating your work to family members to funding agencies, school districts and the community at large.”

This year’s event featured more than 50 presentations organized into panels as well as 20-plus posters, with topics ranging from high-performance composite resins, to mental health screening in public housing, to public perception and decision-making during tornadoes.

“The Grad Forum is such an important event for graduate students because it allows us to highlight our research, share our findings in an interdisciplinary forum and get practice for presenting at other



Graduate students from across the University of Delaware came together to share their research at the third annual Graduate Student Forum on Friday, May 10.

conferences,” said Emily Bonistall, past president of UD’s Graduate Student Government. “It’s also a fantastic social event where students get to meet new people, enjoy a reception and have a chance to win fabulous raffle prizes. All around, the day was wonderful, and I look forward to seeing the event continue to grow.”

DUANE PERRY

UD’s English Language Institute delivers successful pre-MBA program

The MBA Conditional Admissions Program is a joint program of UD’s Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics, and English Language Institute (ELI), providing international students whose native language is not English with an opportunity to be accepted into the UD MBA program without the TOEFL exam. Instead, students enroll in the English Language Institute before beginning their MBA coursework.

ELI’s pre-MBA program includes training in case study analysis and critical reading and writing skills required for MBA programs; exposure to economics,

management and finance vocabulary and concepts; and workshops and lectures by entrepreneurs and MBA faculty.

“We have been able to admit a much larger population of future international MBA students through the collaboration with ELI,” said Denise Waters, assistant director of recruitment and admissions for graduate and executive programs in the Lerner College. “We often find that applicants who would otherwise be qualified for admission are lacking only in English language skills, so it is a win-win if we are able to offer them the opportunity to study in the ELI pre-MBA program prior to becoming matriculated MBA students.”

“The program takes a great deal of coordination and communication between the Lerner College, ELI, the Office of International Students and Scholars, and the Office of Graduate and Professional Education,” added Waters, “We feel it is worth the effort for the end result, as some of our top students have come through this program.”



TA training supports transition into teaching

Graduate teaching assistants (TAs) contribute significantly to the teaching mission of most research institutions, and the University of Delaware is no exception. UD's annual conference for graduate teaching assistants introduces newly appointed TAs to UD's teaching community and provides a supportive forum to help TAs transition into their teaching roles and responsibilities. Over 200 new TAs attended this year's conference, representing 26 academic programs across UD.

An integral part of the TA conference are the TA fellows who lead concurrent sessions, as well as faculty and staff from academic programs across the university who volunteer their time to share their expertise on such topics as enhancing learning through technology, engaging students through active learning and effective classroom communication. The TA fellows are senior TAs who reflect on their teaching experiences at UD, providing strategies for enhancing student learning and becoming an effective teaching assistant. Topics at the 2013 conference included:

- Engaging Students and Making Learning Fun
- Teaching Challenges and Surprises: How Might We Respond?
- Enhancing Learning, Organization and Communication via Technology
- Seven Ways A Librarian Can Make Your Life Easier
- Giving Feedback on Students' Written Work
- A Practical Approach to Diversity in the Classroom

The annual TA conference is co-sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Assessment of Learning, the Office of Graduate and Professional Education, and the Graduate Student Government. All first-time TAs attend.

In addition, newly appointed international TAs participate in a four-week International Teaching Assistant (ITA) training program conducted by the University's English Language Institute (ELI). The program is designed to help prepare new international TAs for their responsibilities, with special instruction in speaking and listening skills for the classroom as well as a cultural and pedagogical orientation to the U.S. college environment and the University of Delaware in particular.

Ken Hyde is ELI's program director for ITA. "We are extremely pleased with the role the ITA program has played for the last 27 years in preparing UD's international graduate TAs to be valuable contributors to their departments, and to their students as teachers and mentors," commented Hyde. "When we get positive feedback from those graduate students, it gives us a sense of pride in helping them toward their goals."



New graduate teaching assistants participate in a concurrent session on Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities this summer.

On-campus health care resources for graduate students

For University of Delaware graduate students, UD's Student Health Services (SHS) provides a full range of primary care, treatment, and referral services, as well as



related health education programs. For more information, visit www.udel.edu/studenthealth.

For spouses of UD graduate students, UD's Nurse Managed Health Center (NMHC) offers comprehensive health care services, including short-term illness management or ongoing care for chronic illness (e.g., asthma). The NMHC opened in 2010 in alliance with Christiana Care Health System, and accepts UD's graduate student insurance plan. For more information, visit www.udel.edu/nmhc.

For more information about health insurance for graduate students, visit www.udel.edu/RM/student-insurance.html.

Library provides electronic article delivery

The University of Delaware Library launched a new Article DELivery Service this year, available to UD faculty and graduate students. Provided through UD's interlibrary loan (ILL) services, library staff can scan requested journal articles and book chapters from the Library's print and microform collections, and are delivered electronically to users' ILL accounts. Service are typically delivered within two business days, at no charge. For more information, visit www.lib.udel.edu/ud/ill/.





KATHY ATKINSON

New assistant director of recruitment and diversity

Keeley M. Powell began her post as the assistant director of recruitment and diversity in the University of Delaware Office of Graduate and Professional Education this summer. In this newly established position, Powell will help academic departments increase and retain enrollment of minority and underrepresented graduate student populations.

“I believe my role contributes to a larger mission at UD to increase diversity within the student body and to improve the experiences of underrepresented students on this campus. Inclusion of historically underrepresented students in graduate education improves the educational experience for the entire university community, and ultimately contributes to diversity among scholars. Students of all backgrounds are preparing for careers in a diverse society and part of our responsibility in preparing them for life after graduation is exposing them to different ideas, life experiences and points of view.

“I enjoy my interactions with current UD graduate students. I am learning so much about the work they are doing in their disciplines, their life stories and the experiences and choices that led them to UD.

“I’ve been a resident of Newark for about 15 years and I have two UD degrees, so I’m really happy to be back here, and I’m excited to serve the UD community.”

Previously assistant director of academic transition programs at Rowan University, Powell earned her honors bachelor’s degree in educational studies and a doctorate in educational leadership at UD, and maintains a strong connection to the community.

“Connect” program supports new graduate students

The Graduate StUDent Connect Program is designed to help new graduate students successfully transition into their studies at UD, connect them with other UD graduate students and foster a greater sense of community among graduate students on campus. The Connect program employs a “cluster model” which places students into small cluster groups led by a returning graduate student—a Graduate Ambassador.

UD’s Graduate Ambassadors help with connecting potential and new students and their families to the University community, answering questions about the University and life as a graduate student, and promoting the latest advances and achievements of UD graduate students.

Graduate Ambassadors serve as a resource to support any needs and concerns that arise among the new students within their cluster during the transition period. Ambassadors also provide guidance to students in the cluster group as needed, as well as plan and take part in social networking activities for the group periodically throughout the semester, sponsored by UD’s Office of Graduate and Professional Education.

Graduate Ambassadors complete training that includes serving as mentors and peer-advisors to new students, facilitating connections between new and returning graduate students, promoting university services and departmental activities and reflecting on their experiences as mentors.



EVAN KRAPE



Vistasp Karbhari, who earned his doctorate at the University of Delaware and was a scientist in UD's Center for Composite Materials (CCM) from 1991-95, has been named president of The University of Texas at Arlington this year. "UD was a great place to get my start in composites research," Karbhari says. "I really appreciated CCM's facilities, collaborative and multidisciplinary environment, and connections to industry and federal/DoD laboratories. My time there laid the foundation for everything I've done since." Karbhari previously was provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Prior to that, he served as professor, chair and vice chairman of the structural engineering department at the University of California, San Diego.

Doctoral alumni **Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo** and **Renosi Mokate** met while studying at Lincoln University in the U.S., eventually marrying and earning their graduate degrees in UD's School of Public Policy and Administration with the goal of returning to South Africa to make a difference in their changing nation. Returning in 1991, Mokate helped run the country's first democratic elections, in which Nelson Mandela became the first black president in South Africa's history. Vil-Nkomo was appointed public service commissioner by Mandela in 1994 and later joined the faculty of the University of Pretoria, going on to become its first black rector. Today, he is an executive director of the University of Pretoria and a founding member and chairman of the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) think tank. In February 2013, a UD faculty contingent traveled to South Africa to explore higher education partnerships as part of a State of Delaware mission, visiting universities across South Africa. The UD team also took part in a symposium sponsored by MISTRA and the Tshwane University of Technology focusing on priority areas for South African development, including public education, higher education, economic development, global marketing strategies and community development.



Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo on a visit to UD in 2012 with University of Delaware President Patrick Harker.



Suen-Zone (Jack) Lee, a 1993 doctoral alumnus, has been named president of Chia Nan University (CNU) of Pharmacy and Science in Tainan City, Taiwan. Lee, who earned his doctoral degree in civil and environmental engineering at UD, is a leading expert in environmental engineering in Taiwan, particularly in groundwater contamination. He began his career as an associate professor at CNU (then known as Chia Nan College of Pharmacy), rising to full professor and chair of the Department of Environmental Engineering and Science. He championed the addition of the College of Sustainable Environment to the university and served as the college's first dean. That same year, the Taiwan Water Resources Agency commissioned Lee to develop the Taiwan Hot Spring Research Center, a first of its kind center focused on water quality, recycling and sustainable development of Taiwan's hot spring resources. At UD, Lee studied soil heavy metal chemistry in order to establish soil cleanup standards, under the advisement of Herbert Allen, professor of civil and environmental engineering. Lee returned to UD this past May to receive the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering's Outstanding Alumni Award. Lee attributed much of his success in research and educational leadership to Allen's influence.

UD alumna imparts wisdom, experience to RISE graduates

Marlyse Williams, a UD alumna and first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, returned to the UD campus in May to deliver the keynote speech at the 21st annual University of



DOUG BAKER

Delaware Resources to Insure Successful Engineers (RISE) student achievement convocation. The ceremony honored 17 graduating seniors and recognized awards and scholarships earned by students in the program.

Asking them, "Are you ready to take flight?" Williams encouraged RISE graduates to emulate the Wright Brothers' dedication and commitment, saying, "Strive for nothing short of greatness." Once a RISE student herself, the Trinidad and Tobago native earned her bachelor's degree in environmental engineering at UD in 2004 and continued to earn a master's degree in civil engineering with a concentration in environmental engineering in 2006, as a Bridges to the Doctorate Scholar and a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholarship recipient.

Following graduation, her master's thesis was published as a textbook in 2007. She subsequently earned her doctorate in agricultural and biological engineering from the Pennsylvania State University in 2010. Today, Williams supervises more than 1,100 military and civilians, and assists in the maintenance and repair of over 4,000 buildings and facilities on 44 acres at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, the only tri-service joint base, which has more than 44,000 personnel.



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