

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

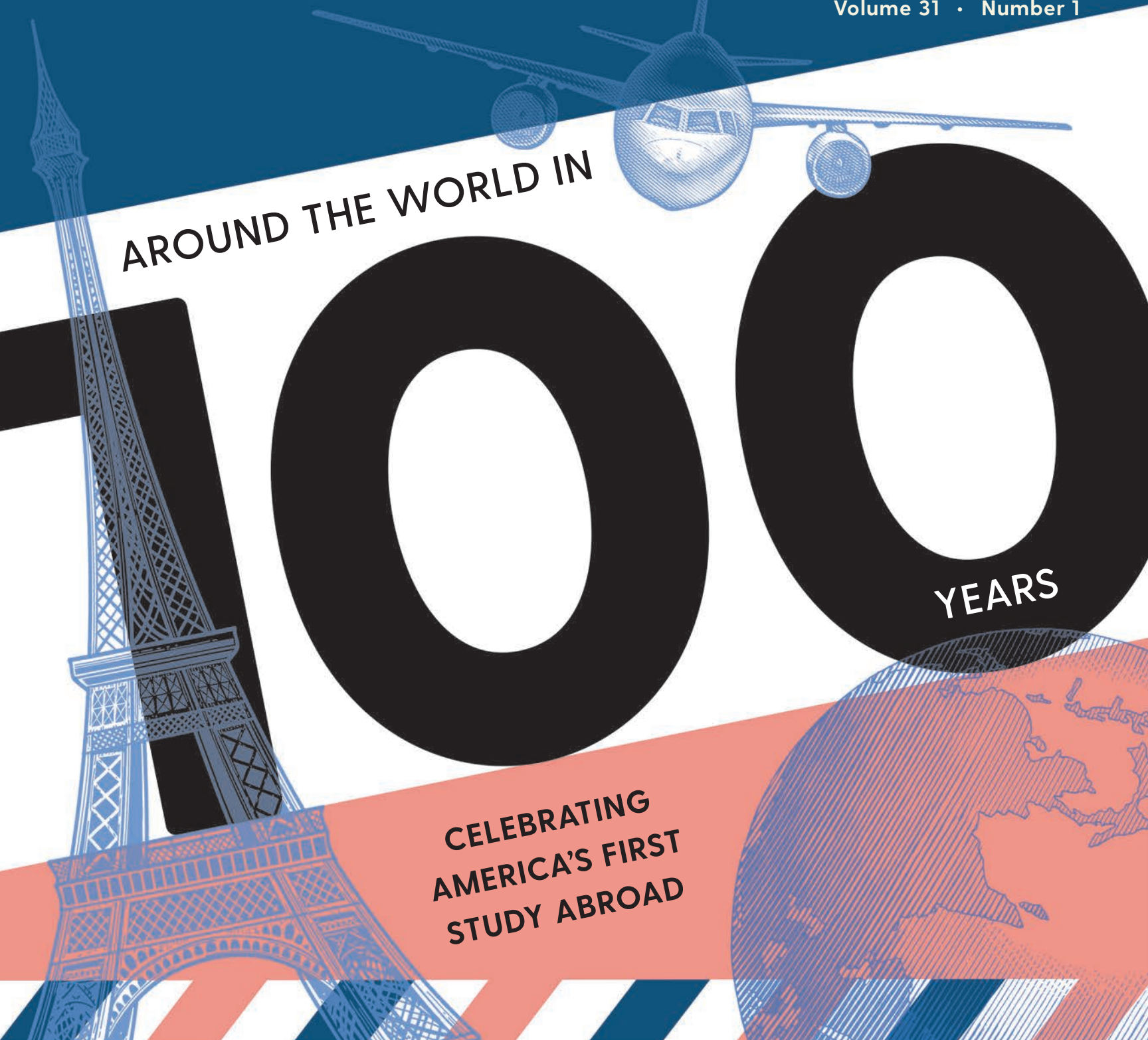
MAGAZINE

Volume 31 • Number 1

AROUND THE WORLD IN

100 YEARS

CELEBRATING
AMERICA'S FIRST
STUDY ABROAD



Worth a Thousand Words

Snapshots of #UDAbroad100.
Use the hashtag to share your
photos and memories.



DID YOU KNOW?

UD awards
approximately
\$1 million in study
abroad scholarships
each year.



DID YOU KNOW?

UDairy has a study
abroad-themed ice
cream: "1923" (French
vanilla with chocolate
and salted caramel).





DID YOU KNOW?

3 in 10 UD students
study abroad
(compared to
1 in 10 nationally).



DID YOU KNOW?

Blue Hens once
broadcast from the
Eiffel Tower on a radio
program about what
American students
gain in France.

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No. 1

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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARGARET CRIVELLI, AS19 | MOROCCO



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GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

The Blue Hens had traveled by camel for hours to camp under the stars. As the sun sank beneath the Sahara, Mar Crivelli, AS19, snapped this photo of her classmate Issy Casey, AS20. The study abroad students were in Morocco to study art and architecture, but made time for this “incredible, unforgettable experience.”

ON THE PREVIOUS SPREAD:

All photos submitted by UD students. Photographers from left to right, top to bottom....Anna Reynolds—London, Renee Rush—British Virgin Islands, Jessica Fogal—South Africa, Danielle Leppo—Rome, Taylor Regan—Argentina, Olivia Boon—New Zealand, Dervla Doherty—New Zealand, Elise LaFramboise—Panama, Michael Irwin—Chile, Taylor Regan—Patagonia, Michael Lance—Athens, Hannah Schaffer—London, Jake Schneider—Italy, Elizabeth Dallara—Australia, Thailand, Christina Le Febvre—New Zealand, Cassidy Pieper—Australia, Thailand, Boris Manjic—Dubai, Lauren Brooks—Paris.

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



CELEBRATING OUR BLUE HEN IMPACT

A century ago, the University of Delaware quite literally changed the world.

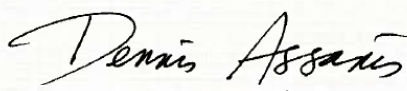
On July 7, 1923, eight UD students and their visionary professor set out for a year in France, launching the first study abroad program in the United States. That journey created the model for global education that is still used today at thousands of institutions around the world. Students who study abroad—including a third of Blue Hens—are forever changed by their experiences.

This year, we are going to celebrate the 100th anniversary of study abroad in a big way. Throughout the University, we are planning a yearlong series of stories, speakers, symposia and other events. There will be multiple ways for everyone in our community to be involved through social media, sharing photos and memories, attending events virtually or in person, supporting study abroad programs and much more.

At UD, we continue to focus on the future of global education. The University has developed outstanding initiatives like our immersive World Scholars program and our support of female Afghan students displaced from their homeland. Making study abroad experiences more affordable through the Delaware Diplomats program and more accessible through exciting winter and summer session trips are also top priorities. These efforts complement the growing community of international students and scholars who enrich our campus with their diverse talents and perspectives.

The University's global impact continues long after graduation. Every day around the world, our nearly 200,000 alumni combine their outstanding UD education with their bold Blue Hen spirit to strengthen their communities, serve the needs of others and effect positive change wherever they work and live. Truly, the reach and impact of the University extends far beyond our campus and endures in myriad ways.

As an international student myself—earning my undergraduate and graduate degrees outside my home country of Greece—I know the transformative power of combining education and exploration. I am extraordinarily proud to be part of the University of Delaware community at this unique milestone moment.


Dennis Assanis, President



President Dennis Assanis and his wife, Eleni, connect with UD students studying in Greece in 2019 and at a Chorale concert in France in 2018.

It's a small world, after all

There are some things that stand the test of time. Global education is one of them.

One hundred years ago, a 28-year-old Army veteran named Raymond Kirkbride had an idea: Expose young people to the world, he thought, and maybe you can change the world.

It did. He did. If you're among the millions of people to have ever studied abroad, you have the late UD professor to thank.

I have my parents. My father was a chief engineer in the Indian Merchant Marine who sailed the world and named me after his first love, the ocean. My mother was a fearless woman whose dreams of stability, security, opportunity and prosperity brought us to this country.

My parents arrived in America, as many immigrants do, on student visas. In Delaware, they found new purpose. My dad, Chakravarthi Ravi Rangan, EOE90M, ENG00M, worked for 29 years as an environmental engineer, monitoring Delaware City's oil refineries and implementing controls to reduce harmful airborne contaminants like sulfur dioxide, which dropped from 140 parts per billion to near-zero, thanks to his efforts.

My mom, Rashmi Rangan, BSPA93M, runs the Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council, a nonprofit dedicated to fair housing, fair lending and economic justice. When an attorney once chided her for helping a client with a legal problem, she immediately enrolled in law school, earning her J.D. while working (and parenting) full time.

My parents taught me how to be a global citizen right here in Delaware. They taught me to love this world and the people in it, and to do my small part to make it better. I try. In this publication, our entire team has the great honor of sharing the stories of those who do, Blue Hens who transform their "small part" into a lasting legacy of positive impact.

One story of positive impact comes from President Dennis Assanis, who has navigated UD through a global pandemic



Editor Artika Rangan Casini, AS05, with her Blue Hen parents, Ravi Rangan, EOE90M, ENG00M, and Rashmi Rangan, BSPA93M, pictured at left at her law school graduation.

while leading the University's largest and most transformative fundraising campaign to date. As it turns out, he also hails from abroad (Athens, Greece) and has sailed the world with a father in the Merchant Marine (his was a captain). The fact that we both landed in Newark, Delaware, of all places, reminds me that it's a small world, after all.

But maybe it takes a small state to understand a small world; to know implicitly that we're all connected, with something to share, something to give and something deeply profound to learn from each other.

Professor Kirkbride knew this well. Expose young people to the world around them, he realized, and their world will change. Almost inevitably for the better.

Artika Rangan Casini

Artika Rangan Casini, AS05
Editor (and a UD study abroad student in
Costa Rica in winter 2003. Pura Vida!)

ON THE GREEN

News

from campus
and beyond

ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING COURTESY OF HGA ARCHITECTS INC.



BUILDING X MARKS THE SPOT

Many hopes and dreams are arising from the ashes of fire-damaged McKinly Lab as the University has begun construction of a new science facility known, for now, as “Building X.”

When completed in fall 2024, the four-story, 131,000-square-foot structure, located along East Delaware Avenue, will provide state-of-the-art research and teaching labs and educate more than 1,000 students annually in critical areas of healthcare need, including biotechnology and biopharmaceutical discovery, as well as disease treatment and prevention, with a special focus on adolescent mental health and racial disparities in clinical patient care.

The state has dedicated \$41 million in federal stimulus funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to support the building project. The remaining costs, currently projected at \$143 million, will be borne by the University, supported by fundraising efforts that could lead to donor naming opportunities for the building. 🐦

—Tracey Bryant



Research on one floor of Building X will focus on the mind, brain and behavior, bringing together faculty and students from psychology, biology and the new Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Graduate Program.

GROWING RESEARCH ON FOREST DECLINE

The world's forests continue to disappear.

Since the turn of the century just 23 years ago, the world has experienced a surge of large-scale land acquisitions—collectively larger than South Africa—in which wealthier foreign entities have gained thousands of contracts for agriculture, logging and mining use in poorer countries, threatening biodiversity in those lands and beyond, new UD research has found.

When used for agriculture, specifically, these transnational agricultural large-scale land acquisitions (TALSAs), and their associated forest loss, pose a threat to biodiversity in the Global South, broadly defined as nations with lower levels of economic and industrial development. Those include Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Geography Prof. Kyle Davis, who also serves as a resident faculty in UD's Data Science Institute, led an international study on this topic. As part of the study, he and fellow researchers used high-resolution satellite data for annual forest cover to quantify where forests were being removed and whether rates of forest loss were significantly higher within land investments. They also looked at when forest loss was happening in relation to the contract year for each TALSLA. It is, according to

Davis, the largest global dataset of georeferenced agricultural land investments to date.

In Asia, they found a significant increase after TALSLA contracts were signed, suggesting that these investments directly led to increased deforestation. In Africa, they noticed enhanced forest loss tended to happen before the contract year, suggesting investments may be capitalizing on places with losses already underway.

For the study, Davis and collaborators relied on data from the Land Matrix Database, a joint international initiative of several research and development organizations run out of the University of Bern in Switzerland, which has been collecting data on transnational and domestic land deals since 2009. 🐦

—Adam Thomas



“What better way to celebrate Black history, Black joy and Black excellence than through a performance like this?”

—FATIMAH CONLEY,
UD's chief diversity officer



◀ *Suite Blackness: Black Dance in Cinema* explored the personal history and styles of Black dancers from the 1920s to the early 2000s. The limited-run performance was directed by Hassan El-Amin, a member of UD's Resident Ensemble Players theatre troupe, and Prof. Lynnette Young Overby, director of the dance minor program. 🐦



FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

For all of humanity's advances, we still know scant little about the world's oceans. An estimated 80% remains unmapped, unobserved and unexplored, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

But that will change, with Delaware leading the charge.

NOAA has awarded UD's College of Earth, Ocean and Environment a two-year, \$1.3 million grant to make Delaware a leading national center in the application and development of autonomous systems, artificial intelligence and workforce development.

Known as Project ABLE—Align, Build, Leverage and Expand—the effort is a collaboration between Delaware State University and the UD Center for Autonomous and Robotic

Systems designed to advance the “Blue Economy.”

The Blue Economy refers to any economic activity made possible by the ocean, including efforts to sustain humanity, like offshore wind power.

“There is no separating the ocean from the global environment,” says Fabrice Veron, college dean. “Project ABLE represents an effort to connect industry and government with the expertise of our faculty and students. This new initiative will set us on a path to creating an incubator for the Blue Economy right here in Sussex County, and the state of Delaware as a whole, as we build a dynamic place for innovation that will reach out to the Atlantic Ocean and far beyond.” 🐦



WE GOT THE SPIRIT!

The results from the 2023 UCA & UDA College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championships have given Blue Hens a lot to cheer about: three national titles for the Coed Cheer, Dance and Mascot teams.


2023 marks the 17th straight year that the Delaware Spirit Program has brought national championships back to Newark. Overall, the Blue Hen spirit teams have won 27 national championships (10 from Cheer, eight from Dance and nine from Mascot). 🐦

THEIR WORD IS THEIR BOND

It's a wall of names. But for the students, alumni, faculty and staff members who have signed the DEI Action Promise Wall in Alfred Lerner Hall, these signatures represent a commitment to advancing equality and racial justice.

The promise states:

As members of Lerner College, we dedicate ourselves to continuously improving our community and to encourage awareness, advocacy and action. At Lerner, we embrace the opportunity to understand and appreciate both the shared and unique backgrounds and talents that all of us offer... To create this inclusive environment, we are committed to creating connections and fostering dialogues across our communities. Through specific and determined efforts, we will achieve a higher standard of diversity, equity and inclusion; one of which everyone can be proud.

To read the full promise and add your name, visit udel.edu/DEIpromise. 

TIMES TWO

UD has doubled the number of undergraduate applications in the past five years

TOP-RANKED ONLINE GRADUATE DEGREES

Five UD online graduate degree programs were ranked among the best in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*:

- 20th:** Best Online Master's in Education
- 33rd:** Best Online MBA
- 66th:** Best Online Business Program
- 67th:** Best Online Master's in Engineering
- 109th:** Best Online Master's in Nursing

130%

Increase in graduate applications from last year


JEFFREY C. CHASE/EVAN KRAPE



ADVANCING WORLDWIDE COOPERATION

UD engineering Prof. LaShanda Korley has been appointed a 2023 U.S. Science Envoy for the U.S. Department of State. In this role, she will join six other distinguished national scientists in leveraging their leadership, influence and expertise to advance solutions to shared global challenges.

Like their 23 predecessors, the 2023 Envoys are approved by the U.S. secretary of state and engage internationally to develop partnerships, improve collaboration and enhance relationships between other nations and the United States.

Korley is a global leader in applying biologically inspired principles and approaches to the sustainable use of polymer-based materials, including plastics. Among her many roles at UD, she directs UD's Center for Plastics Innovation, which works to chemically transform plastic waste into fuels, lubricants and other valuable products. 



Charting the course

**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AT UD**

Photo submitted by Izzy DeFrancesco, AS21 | New Zealand



From Delaware to the World

**PUTTING OUR STAMP ON STUDY ABROAD
AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

Stories by Diane Stopyra



University of Delaware students are rafting through caves in New Zealand. They're dancing around 20-foot bonfires during sacred festivals in India. They're hiking mountains in Tanzania, connecting with ancient civilizations in Brazil, snorkeling through underwater volcanoes in Hawaii. Around the globe, they are meeting the most exhilarating, awe-inducing moments of their lives.

Such transformative study abroad experiences are par for the Blue Hen course. This is an institution with 100 innovative program options in 40 countries, a University that kept cross-cultural learning alive even when COVID-19 torpedoed the objective at schools around the country. Unless you've been living under the Rock of Gibraltar (which Blue Hens have scaled), you already know UD is a globally recognized leader in international education, consistently named a top-tier choice for study abroad.

And what's more... we were first.

This year, the University celebrates the 100th anniversary of its trailblazing study abroad program, which set the global standard for institutions of higher education, making the world just a bit smaller—and, arguably, quite a bit better.

"Through our programs, students build intercultural competence, broaden their worldview, acquire new language skills, expand their networks—all things that enrich society," says Ravi Ammigan, a Mauritian citizen of Indian descent and the associate provost for international programs at UD.

That was, indeed, the goal of Raymond Kirkbride, an Army veteran who'd driven ambulances in France during World War I. The foreign language professor fervently believed that cross-cultural understanding was key to preventing future global



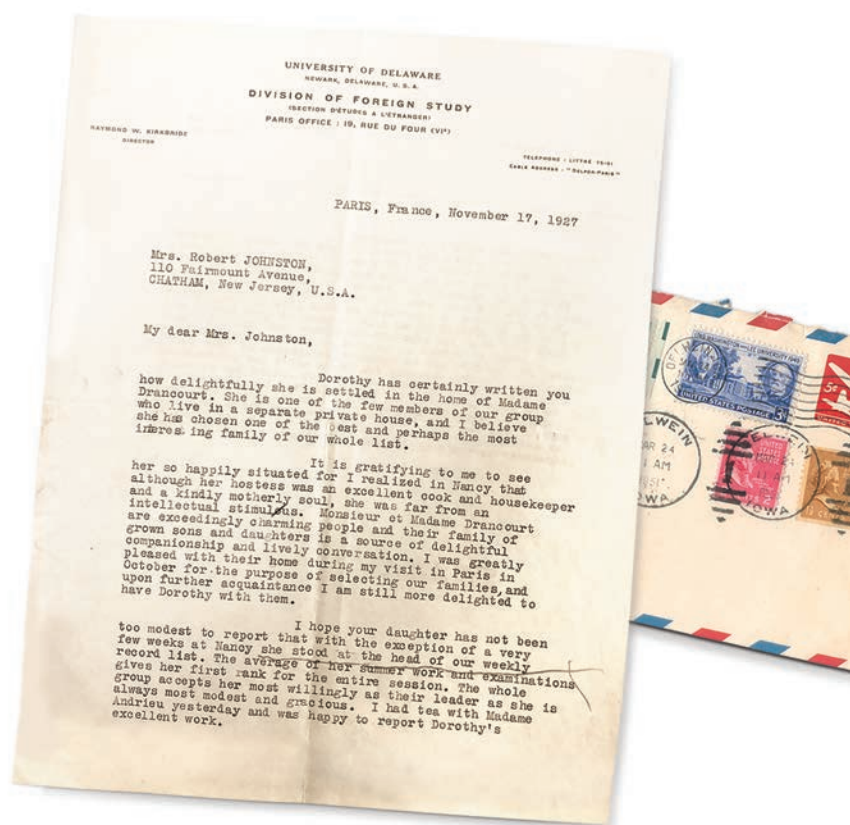
conflicts. So, at the dawn of the roaring 20s, he presented a pioneering diplomatic experiment: the Foreign Study Plan. The 28-year-old wanted to accompany a group of Blue Hen students back to France, where the young men (only men, in those early days) would earn credit toward their degrees and become more empathetic humans.

The idea left some clutching their pearls. Critics feared, according to one Philadelphia newspaper, that the nightlife of Montmartre might “blast the educational hopes of some fond parent back in the States.” But the Plan received support from UD President Walter Hulihan and then-U.S. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, who recognized the need for internationally minded employees in a world of increasing global commerce. A particularly poetic student reporter called the proposal “a solid brick in the long-sought foundation of world peace.”

On July 7, 1923, eight eager scholars piled onto a French ocean liner for a year-long adventure that one leading journal labeled among “the most interesting in international commercial education yet attempted by an American university.” Between an intensive curriculum and extracurricular schedule (26 operas!), the trip proved a grand success. In the years that followed, 127 peer institutions, including Princeton and Harvard, sent their own students on the UD experience. One called his memories the “rosy souvenir of a nice dream.”

But then, the dream went dark.

After 25 years, the influential program, which had expanded briefly into Germany and Switzerland, ended. Post-World War II conditions coupled with a change of UD leadership meant a waning appetite for study abroad. Graduates of the Foreign Study Plan kept the legacy alive.



One member of the original eight established an organization for world peace, the Friendship Foundation for International Students, that persists today.

Still, members of the University community lamented this lapse in programming for decades. In 1971, UD's Community Design Commission called the pause “a paradox... and a rather embarrassing one.” By the following year's end, campus visionaries organized a relaunch—and raised eyebrows nationwide in the process.

“The University was ahead of its time,” says Lisa Chieffo, AS88, longtime associate director for study abroad. “When the vast majority of



BONJOUR, BLUE HENS!

In honor of UD's first study abroad location, the UD Alumni Association (UDAA) is launching an inaugural trip to France this July. Join fellow Blue Hens, and explore the same country UD students did 100 years ago.

You'll set out to Omaha Beach and other famed D-Day sites, savor local wines, enjoy lunch at a 10th-century castle and experience France's grandeur and beauty, as experts share illuminating insights throughout the eight-day trip.

This is the first alumni excursion of its kind, although the UDAA hopes to expand this model and eventually offer quarterly trips to a variety of international destinations. For more information on the France 2023 trip or to suggest future locations, email alumni-association@udel.edu or visit delaw.ahitravel.com. Please note that space is limited and may be sold out by the time of publication.

1923

2023

schools were pursuing semester-long programming, we found a way to serve a broader swath of the student population.”

Blue Hen leaders accomplished this through Winterim break (now the five-week Winter Session between semesters). They recognized that scheduling shorter-term trips in this window would open study abroad to more students—namely, those with commitments that precluded a full semester away. Faculty and staff became imbued with renewed passion for the cause. Campus legend has it that late Prof. Bill McNabb, known by colleagues as “Mr. Study Abroad,” once jumped off a bus when he spotted in a shop window a garish jacket checkered with the flags of various nations. He wore it with pride while evangelizing the transformative power of travel.

“We were an outlier for a very long time,” says Matt Drexler, UD’s director of study abroad. “Peers thought short-term programs were glorified field trips—can you really facilitate cross-cultural learning in a matter of weeks? The answer is: Yes. We see so much growth.” (Since the relaunch of study abroad at UD, nearly 24,000 Blue Hens have experienced this growth.)

Part of the magic, Drexler adds, is that students aren’t left to fend for themselves. They are accompanied overseas by globally networked professors who enable access to extraordinary experiences. Just ask the design students who’ve worked behind-the-scenes at Paris Fashion Week, or the budding physicists who’ve peered into Switzerland’s Large Hadron Collider (the world’s most powerful atom smasher). Due partly to these efforts, institutions around the country have since taken up UD’s model.

“We’ve got this exceptional history,” says Ammigan. “But it’s not enough to bask in the glory of what we started. We are using this legacy to innovate a path forward and develop accessible, inclusive programs for every member of the campus community.”

Today, the University offers short- and long-term programming from Barbados to Budapest, Malta to Martinique. The trips are both traditional (touring European architecture) and unconventional (learning hospitality aboard a working cruise ship). Most importantly, the lineup is dynamic, forever evolving to meet the needs of a changing world.

Consider the University’s successful navigation of COVID-19. During the worst of the pandemic, study abroad coordinators engineered remote internship opportunities with overseas partners. When programming relaunched during the 2021–2022 academic year, schools nationwide experienced a 91% decline in participation, but thanks to robust contingency planning and transparent communication, UD saw only a 50% drop. And the University has since wished *bon voyage* to some of its largest cohorts.

Of course, the mission of internationalization goes well beyond study abroad. At UD, a place that boasts 300 global

partnerships, research collaborations lead faculty from deep below the icy surface of the South Pole to the far reaches of the universe (the International Space Station has hosted several Blue Hen experiments).

Meanwhile, UD’s international population represents more than 3,000 people and more than 100 countries. But the University isn’t merely doling out course schedules and wishing these scholars the best. To nurture their acculturation—which boosts the cultural competency of all students on campus—UD offers more than 100 engagement opportunities each year. It also conducts extensive research on how best to support this community, redefining the professional discourse worldwide. As a result, the office dedicated to this demographic regularly ranks top 20 globally in international student satisfaction, per data from the International Student Barometer benchmarking tool.

Beyond tangible outcomes—bridges engineered in Bolivia, schools built in Burkina Faso, oral histories collected in Peru—campus leaders infuse global perspectives into every classroom, every office, every laboratory on campus. “It’s embedded into the very muscle of the University,” Ammigan says.

Success in this arena is attributable to the full support of many—including UD’s president and provost, Blue Hen students willing to step outside their comfort (and time) zones and, of course, eight adventurous young scholars who launched it all, 100 years ago.

“It’s easy to lose sight of, because we’re so busy planning year-round,” Drexler says. “But all these years of international education at UD have absolutely contributed to a better, more understanding world—and we have thousands of alumni who agree.” ✈️



Share your study abroad memories with #UDAbroad100 and visit udel.edu/studyabroad100 for more



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LANEY FREDERICK | ROME



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARCAELA ALLEN | GREECE

FUN FACTS & DOMESTIC FARE

1. UD's original study abroad trip, known as the "Delaware Foreign Study Plan," cost each participant \$1,000.
2. Pierre S. du Pont, famed entrepreneur and man partially responsible for the Empire State Building, funded UD's first study abroad program. His wife, Alice, was a fierce advocate.
3. One participant on UD's first study abroad trip, Herbert Lank, met his wife in Paris.
4. Another, a blind student named Frankie Cummings, received international recognition for ranking 4th out of 71 (mostly French) students during his tenure abroad. Today, his distant descendant, Sarah Cummings, works in UD's Office of Residence Life and Housing.
5. Misperceptions about the U.S. reported by UD's early study abroad students include that all Americans like their meat raw and American husbands die at 45.
6. In 1929, reported the *New York Herald*, one of UD's study abroad students joined American bankers and Parisian artists for "as odd a baseball team as was ever assembled in Europe."
7. To ensure intensive language training, the earliest study abroad students were fined \$4 for each English-speaking infraction.
8. During World War II, the Gestapo took over UD's Parisian headquarters and destroyed most archival material.
9. In just two weeks in 1940, UD's study abroad alumni raised nearly \$500 (the equivalent of \$10,000 today) to assist the Red Cross during World War II.
10. So many UD students signed up for study abroad in 1972, Pan American Airlines painted "Delaware Clipper" on two of its planes.
11. Ten days after receiving France's highest civilian honor, the cross of the Ordre National De La Légion D'Honneur, a young Raymond Kirkbride died at age 36, presumably from sarcoma.
12. Organizing UD's study abroad archive has been a 10-year (and counting) process.

Special thanks to the encyclopedic Lisa Gensel, ASOIM, archives coordinator, for all her time, help and expertise with this piece.



Out of their Bubble

BLUE HENS MAKE THEIR MARK
AROUND THE GLOBE

REPRESENTATION BY COUNTRY

Afghanistan ●●	Cote d'Ivoire	Italy ●●●●	Palestine ●
Albania ●	(Ivory Coast) ●	Jamaica ●●●●	Panama ●●●●
Algeria ●●	Croatia ●●●	Japan ●●●●	Paraguay ●●
Antarctica ●●	Cuba ●●●●	Jordan ●●●●	Peru ●●●●
Antigua and Barbuda ●●	Curaçao ●	Kazakhstan ●●	Philippines ●●●●
Argentina ●●●●	Cyprus ●●●●	Kenya ●●●●	Poland ●●●●
Armenia ●●●●	Czech Republic ●●●●	Kuwait ●●●●	Portugal ●●●●
Aruba ●	Denmark ●●●●	Kyrgyzstan ●●	Qatar ●
Australia ●●●●	Dominica ●●●●	Laos ●●	Romania ●●●●
Austria ●●●●	Dominican Republic ●●●●	Latvia ●●●●	Russia ●●●●
Azerbaijan ●●	Ecuador ●●●●	Lebanon ●●●●	Rwanda ●●●●
Bahamas ●●	Egypt ●●●●	Libya ●●	Saudi Arabia ●●●●
Bahrain ●	El Salvador ●●	Lithuania ●	Scotland ●●
Bangladesh ●●●●	Ethiopia ●●●●	Luxembourg ●●●●	Senegal ●●●●
Barbados ●●●●	Fiji ●●●●	Malawi ●●●●	Serbia ●●●●
Belarus ●	Finland ●●●●	Malaysia ●●●●	Seychelles ●●
Belgium ●●●●	France ●●●●	Maldives ●●●●	Sierra Leone ●●
Belize ●●●●	Georgia ●●●●	Malta ●●●●	Singapore ●●●●
Benin ●●●●	Germany ●●●●	Martinique ●●	Slovakia ●●●●
Bermuda ●●●●	Ghana ●●●●	Mauritius ●●●●	Slovenia ●●●●
Bolivia ●●●●	Greece ●●●●	Mexico ●●●●	South Africa ●●●●
Bosnia-Herzegovina ●●	Guadeloupe ●●	Monaco ●●●●	South Korea ●●●●
Botswana ●●●●	Guatemala ●●●●	Mongolia ●●●●	Spain ●●●●
Brazil ●●●●	Guyana ●●●●	Morocco ●●●●	Sri Lanka ●●
British Virgin Islands ●●	Haiti ●●●●	Myanmar ●●●●	St. Kitts and Nevis ●●
Bulgaria ●●●●	Honduras ●●●●	Namibia ●●●●	Sudan ●●●●
Burkina Faso ●●●●	Hong Kong ●●●●	Nepal ●●●●	Sweden ●●●●
Cambodia ●●●●	Hungary ●●●●	Netherlands ●●●●	Switzerland ●●●●
Cameroon ●●●●	Iceland ●●●●	New Zealand ●●●●	Syria ●●●●
Canada ●●●●	India ●●●●	Nicaragua ●●●●	Taiwan ●●●●
Cayman Islands ●●	Indonesia ●●●●	Nigeria ●●●●	Tanzania ●●●●
Chile ●●●●	Iran ●●●●	Northern Ireland ●●●●	
China ●●●●	Iraq ●●●●	Norway ●●●●	
Colombia ●●●●	Ireland ●●●●	Oman ●●●●	
Congo ●●●●	Israel ●●●●	Pakistan ●●●●	
Costa Rica ●●●●			

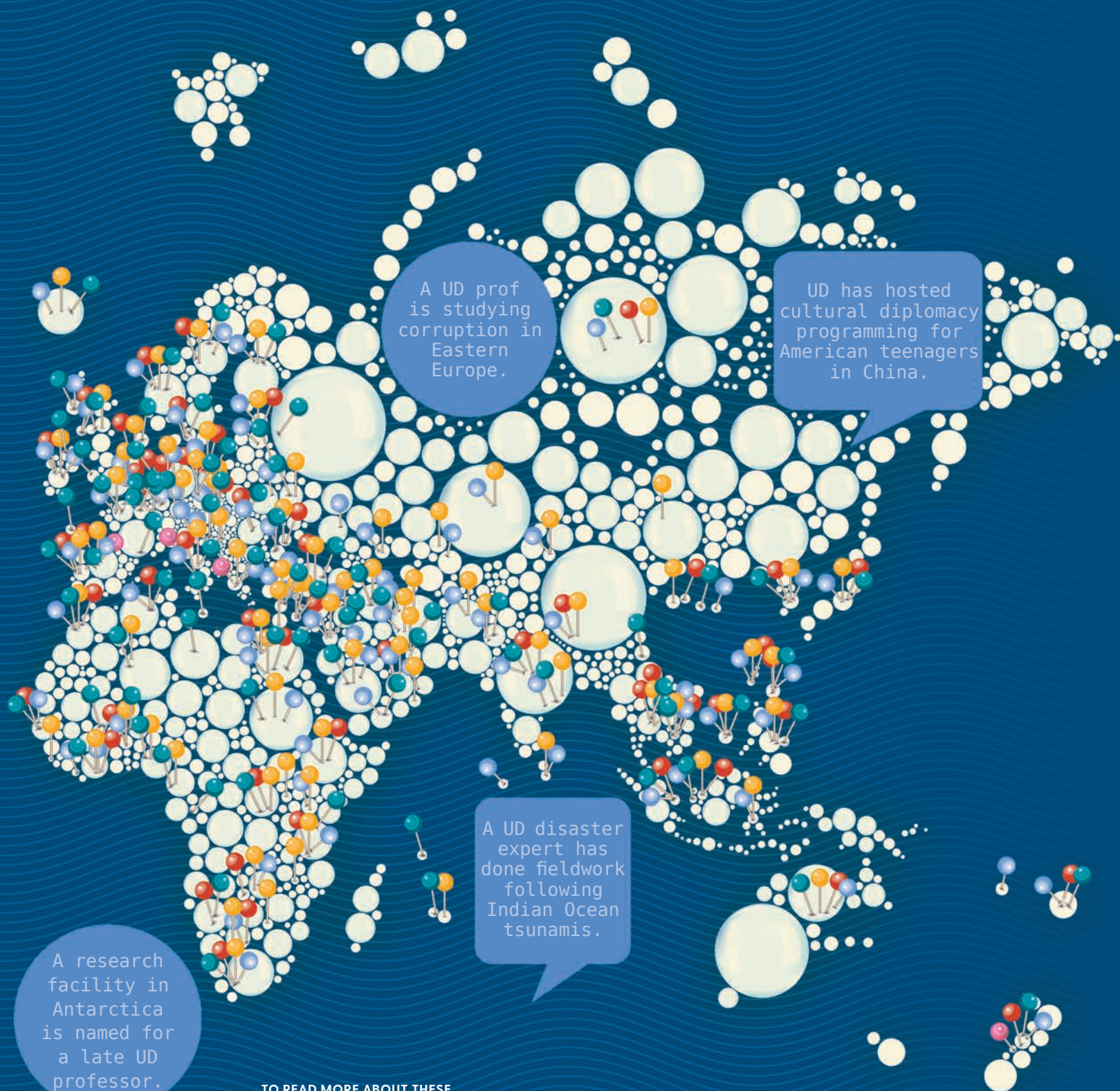
KEY

Countries of Origin for International Students ● World Scholars ● Study Abroad ●
Research and Global Partnerships ● Alumni living abroad ●

Blue Hens deploy to Greenland to study glacial melt.

UD Fulbright scholars are worldwide—from Cambodia to Canada.

Blue Hens dig into the seafloor to understand microbial life deep within Earth's crust.



A UD prof
is studying
corruption in
Eastern
Europe.

UD has hosted
cultural diplomacy
programming for
American teenagers
in China.

A UD disaster
expert has
done fieldwork
following
Indian Ocean
tsunamis.

A research
facility in
Antarctica
is named for
a late UD
professor.

TO READ MORE ABOUT THESE
AND OTHER GLOBALLY FOCUSED
STORIES, VISIT: [UDEL.EDU/UDAILY/](https://udel.edu/udaily/)

20 Reasons Why **WE** **STUDY** **ABROAD**

1

Maybe it's beauty, like turquoise waterfalls in Patagonia. Or maybe it's adventure—a hike through Dominica's aptly named Valley of Desolation. It could be the character building that comes from volunteering in a Brazilian favela. The human connection. The expanded worldview. The food. No, the number one reason to love study abroad is, perhaps, "that there are limitless reasons," says Ralph Begleiter, professor emeritus who's facilitated trips through Cuba, Turkey, Antarctica and the Middle East. For some of our favorites, venture on...

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY IZZY DEFRANCESCO, AS21 | NEW ZEALAND

**“We felt combusive,
free of inhibition
and perfectly alive.”**

—Capt. Sara Sajer, AS17, on dancing in a treehouse-like cabin around a 20-foot bonfire during India's sacred Bihu festival to celebrate harvest season, rhinos harumphing beneath her. The Fulbright scholar credits the experience with leading her into geopolitics: An intelligence officer for the U.S. Army, she has deployed to Syria and Iraq, helping remove ISIS from its final land holding.

2



3

**“I climbed into a
giant hamster ball.”**

—Mike Fox, AS05, on zorbing (aka, rolling down a hill in a giant orb) in New Zealand. He also bungee jumped, jet boated, skydived, hiked a rainforest and braved a small sightseeing plane over the Southern Alps.



4

Because Monkeys Make Great Teachers

Steve Goodwin's students held out their arms, and spider monkeys swooped out of trees to swing across them. During this trip to the Amazon, one primate took a 20-minute nap in the lap of Goodwin's wife (cute, until the monkey peed on her leg). Another cheeky simian stole a student's notebook. (“Instead of ‘The dog ate my homework,’” Goodwin says, “She could say: ‘The monkey destroyed my journal.’”) But these are only a handful of wildlife encounters the professor has facilitated. In the Rio Negro tributary, Blue Hens swam alongside piranhas (the fish only bite if you're bleeding). In Ecuador, they watched blue-footed boobies divebomb at 100 kilometers/hour. In South Africa, they safaried within arm's reach of an elephant. And, in Australia, they snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef, seeing up close its “life-changing beauty”—and the devastation wrought by climate change. “These experiences increase commitment to the environment and, ultimately, one another,” Goodwin says. “Without that, nothing will ever be successful.”

Because It Reminds Us Who We Are

Kevin Chang, EG14, recalls a two-story building filled with skeletons. The monument exists in one of Cambodia's Killing Fields, mass graves where a radical dictatorship disposed of 1 million murdered bodies in the 1970s. The Blue Hen's visit felt personal—this same regime once forced his dad into agricultural labor, until he fled. Now, Chang says, “I'm filled with gratitude for the life I've experienced.”

5

**I'm filled with
gratitude for the life
I've experienced.**

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY TREVOR NOON, HS21 | SOUTH AFRICA



6

“You look around and realize everyone is naked. That’s a culturally immersive moment where you think: I can either stand out in underwear... or just be naked with everyone else.”

—Ryan McLoughlin, AS22, on baring all in a 10-century Moroccan bathhouse. The aspiring lawyer says learning how to step outside his comfort zone has served him well, helping land a job with a New Jersey law firm.

“They weren’t meek, and they weren’t oppressed. They were out here defying their government.”

—Ashley Steele, AS22, on meeting with Afghan refugees in Greece who changed her perception of women in the Middle East. Hearing their experiences fleeing the Taliban, she says, crystallized her commitment to social justice.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DELANEY PRICE, BE20 | GREECE



7

Because Quality Education Depends on It

Scottish teachers don’t coddle. Instead, they speak to children like adults: (“Yer bums oot the windae”—aka, “You’re talking nonsense”—is a common refrain in the urban lowlands.). During her time observing an Edinburgh school, this is one of many things that took Jenna Lisa, EHD93, aback. “The experience helped me see beyond my bubble,” she says. “Education doesn’t have to be cookie cutter.” Today, UD offers a variety of international student-teaching opportunities—from Greece to Grand Cayman.

Because History Needs a Witness

The students could see military tanks outside their window. Their faculty director, Audrey Helfman, felt fear. But—in the midst of Arab Spring—she also recognized an important learning opportunity. Isolated within an Egyptian hotel, she contextualized the anti-government protests and helped students process this impactful moment—one of many times Blue Hens have watched history unfold in real time. Prior to World War II, they saw Nazis march in Berlin. And they’ve borne witness to natural disasters (Australian wildfires in 2019); anti-war marches (like the kind that erupted in Madrid at the launch of Operation Desert Storm in 1991); even major sporting events (Olympic games, World Cup finals). Why does any of this matter? Study abroad veterans maintain that bearing witness connects us with the full range of the human condition: the desperation that spurs a political uprising, the sense of community that develops after an earthquake, the national pride that radiates from a soccer pitch after a goal. “It’s a reminder that we’re not alone in the world,” Helfman says. “No matter where we are from, we are all striving for the same things. We are all human.”

9

This experience gives you confidence to make your way in the world.

8



THESE PATAGONIA FALLS "LOOKED LIKE SILK," SAYS ALYSSA SANTIAGO, AS20. "THIS VIEW FOREVER CHANGED MY LIFE."

10

Because There's Value in Getting Lost

Steve Bondy, AS84, BE86M, is U.S. ambassador to Bahrain, where he's responsible for the full range of foreign policy interests. How'd he acquire the self-assurance necessary to thrive in such a high-pressure role? Partially, a study abroad experience that had him lost and confused locating hostels and navigating public transportation throughout Europe. "It's about resilience," he says. "This kind of experience gives you confidence to make your way in the world."

Because the Rapids Are Revelatory

In Argentina, when not hiking the Andes for an ethereal Milky Way view, Leigh Zakutansky, AS06, whitewater rafted the Manso River. This ignited a passion that's taken her around the globe, including 16 days in Grand Canyon rapids. The sport introduced her to her husband, and it continues informing her professional life—she works as a rafting guide in the Poconos. Says the Blue Hen: "One experience changed everything."

11

Because It Creates Unlikely Alliances

At the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Ben Olarsch, AS20, completed a group project alongside Palestinian and Israeli classmates—at a time when cross-border rocket launches regularly forced both these Palestinian and Israeli classmates into shelter. Still, they collaborated. The experience made Olarsch, now a case worker for a U.S. Congressman from New Jersey, a better public servant: "I've seen the power of sympathy for another's experience."

12

Because You'll Want to Give Back

Allen Gula, AS09, studied abroad 15 times. (His professor mom allowed him to start tagging along at age 8.) From recognizing his privilege in Ecuador to scuba diving in Galapagos, "I wanted to pay it forward." In 2015, Gula was hiking through Nepal when an earthquake struck. He stayed behind to rebuild, and he founded the Conscious Impact nonprofit, which still recruits globally for the cause.

13

16



“This is the only place as a straight, white male that I have endured discrimination. It was just a taste, yet even this minor inconvenience made me angry. It forced me to consider: What about people who are constantly being told: ‘You cannot be who you are’.”

—James Weaver, AS08, EHD12M, on being denied a cell phone in Japan because of his foreign status

14

“You never know what—or who—is around the corner.”

—Prof. Diane Rudolphi on meeting Sir Richard Branson with her nursing students in the British Virgin Islands in 2023.

15

“It was poetic, and indelible in my mind.”

—Brian Townsend, BE03, a Delaware state senator, on the sound of ice cascading into the sea around him, as he drifted to sleep under the stars on a glacier in Antarctica.

17



“We each ate a leg of the tarantula. Learning to try new things opens your mind to new possibilities, which enriches your life long after graduation. Plus, it wasn’t that bad—kind of like french fries.”

—Deniz Hatiboglu, BE19, on the wild menu options of Vietnam

18

Because Plumbing Is Overrated

There are no toilets, just pits you dig yourself. Sometimes, it’s 120 degrees. You might wake up to an elephant relieving himself beside your head. These are the conditions in Tanzania, where wildlife ecology Prof. Jake Bowman’s students regularly live in tents among Aboriginal groups, observing their hunting practices and helping collect tubers and honey. Through a translator, the group learns that topics ranging from female circumcision to animal conservation aren’t as black and white as they’d imagined. (It’s easy to plaster a save-the-elephants sticker on a Yeti bottle... until a pachyderm levels your home.) A major takeaway happens when the students see just how little these communities possess—and how little it matters. “They’re very happy,” Bowman says. “They don’t need saving.”

Because You’ll Discover Shared Humanity

When Lauryn Isaacs Marcus, AS07, entered the room, a four-year-old orphan backflipped. While the Blue Hen hadn’t known what to expect from this South African clinic for kids of the AIDS crisis, gymnastics—the kind she’d enjoyed herself as a young girl—took her aback. It served as an important reminder: “Humans are more alike than we are different.” As a study abroad devotee, Isaacs Marcus relearned the lesson many times: building houses in Fiji, exploring art in China, studying French in Martinique. But it was volunteering at this Atteridgeville clinic that clarified her path. Today, the mom of two works in international development for RTI International, a nonprofit tackling everything from environmental protection to global health disparities. On her hardest days, she’s grounded by a photo of little Nhlanhla, her unlikely teacher: “Studying abroad helped shape me.”

19

20

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MCKENZIE GIRVAN, AS21 | AUSTRIA

Twists & Turns

Congrats! You're the newest study abroad coordinator in UD's Center for Global Programs and Services. This is no trivial pursuit—experts in this office spend 15 jam-packed months vetting and planning a new trip, while also ensuring the health and safety of Blue Hens already abroad. Your journey will be filled with unexpected detours, so do not pass go and do not collect \$200. Take a deep breath, and jetset to the starting line at left.

Let's get started!

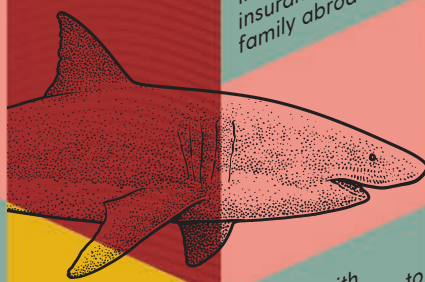
Receive faculty proposals for innovative new study abroad programs. Get ready to dig in!



Disappoint eager professor by telling him he cannot take students shark diving. Move back 1 space.



Oh no!

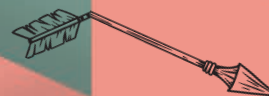


Student in Germany has appendicitis. Lose a turn while you activate UD's international health insurance to fly family abroad.*

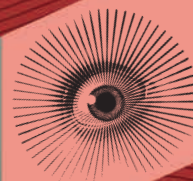


Connect with overseas partners to negotiate logistical and academic support. Move ahead two spaces.

Liaise with registrar's office to ensure overseas curriculum will meet one space. graduation requirements. Move ahead one space.



Send 4,117 emails to nail down program budgets. Lose one turn when your eyes go bleary.



Volcano erupts in Iceland, creating a plume of ash that grounds global air travel. Lose a turn as you support Blue Hens in Europe needing to rebook flights. Draw a card for more info.*



Because the unexpected happens, UD partners with Crisis24, widely considered the world's leading global security risk management company, for real-time, on-the-ground intelligence.



Host information sessions for interested students and receive great turnout. Move ahead three spaces.

Read live reports from students witnessing a Syrian refugee crisis unfold in real time. Feel humbled by their thoughtful reflections.*

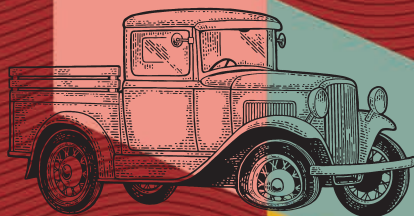
Confirm safety of Blue Hens following an earthquake in Japan. Lose two turns while you reassure parents and coordinate successful evacuation.*



Drink 10 cups of coffee to get through visa applications. Lose a turn until your hands stop shaking.



Get a flat tire while dropping off travel documents for processing at embassy in New York. Move back two spaces.



You're making progress!

Host pre-departure orientation for faculty to cover crisis management. Move ahead two spaces.

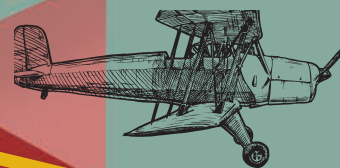


Convene UD's risk and security assessment committee to monitor unfolding of a pandemic. Get all 96 students home before borders close. Draw one card.*



Bid students farewell knowing they will never be the same. You've reached the end! (Which is really only the beginning...)

Bon Voyage!



UD relaunched programs more than a year later—with planning that included reserving extra rooms for quarantine; procuring local support to provide meals and medical care; equipping students with protective equipment, testing kits and more.

Yikes!

Student drops passport in Amazon River. Lose a turn while you walk her through next steps.*



Host successful pre-departure orientation for students, and help calm their butterflies. Skip ahead two spaces.

*Yes, these things really happened!

Be a World Citizen

THE WAY

You probably won't find a waffle on Main Street that matches the pillowy miracle produced in a Belgian cafe. And you'll never replicate the experience of savoring an espresso in Rome's Piazza Navona. But if it's the eye-opening, identity-shaping thrill of an international experience you're after, UD has you covered. In 2019, the University joined forces with the ACE Internationalization Laboratory, an acclaimed community of experts, to analyze global engagement efforts on campus. The process made clear: There exists a pan-institutional effort to prioritize intercultural learning—even for students who never venture beyond The Green. Here, we highlight some of the ways your average Blue Hen can fly the coop (airplane not required). As for those world-class waffles, happy hunting!

There are 107
international
visiting
scholars at
UD.



SCHOLARS OF THE WORLD

When Penelope Velasco, AS19, enrolled at UD, she knew she wanted to become—in her words—a “helpful person.” But she admits to being naive. Until this point, the closest she'd come to giving back was buying shoes from a company that promised, with each purchase, a bit of investment into social causes. The Blue Hen wanted to serve the world in a more meaningful way, but she didn't know her options.

And then she became a World Scholar.

This program, one of only a handful like it in the U.S., is a four-year framework for Blue Hens looking to internationalize their undergraduate careers. Through two study abroad experiences and a series of intercultural events and workshops on campus, students grow into global thinkers and communicators—people with a keen sense of civic and social responsibility. People set to thrive no matter where their hearts or careers may lead.

“We owe it to the individual participants who

have these very real goals,” says Amy Greenwald Foley, EHD13EdD, director of global outreach and partnerships. “We owe it to our community, because these students enrich every aspect of it. And we owe it to the world. It’s imperative that we graduate people who can help solve humanity’s greatest challenges.”

Since its launch in 2015, the invitation-only program has enrolled 759 students. These Blue Hens have studied indigenous ecotourism in New Zealand, culturally competent education in Barbados, immigration in Denmark. And they’ve joined forces with peers from all over the world—right in Newark—to share everything from fashion trends to perspectives on the state of global democracy. With each picnic and presentation, they leave with greater understanding of a world that, turns out, isn’t so big after all.

For Velasco, it was coming together over a Turkish dinner table on campus—complete with traditional singing and dancing—that opened her eyes to one pathway for serving the world in that meaningful way she’d envisioned. Following graduation, she joined the first cohort of National Health Corps, an Americorps program, in Delaware. As the community engagement coordinator, Velasco organized mobile food pantries to provide meals for the state’s most vulnerable. Now a graduate student in Colorado, she’s focused on advancing food sovereignty around the world—a field necessary for environmental and cultural health.

“I feel so lucky to have been a World Scholar,” Velasco says. “I learned the tools for empowering and uplifting communities in need. Now, I advocate for the program to incoming Blue Hens. I want to keep this legacy alive.”



DIPLOMATIC WAYS

Study abroad transforms everything from your earning potential to your innate humanity—but only if you put in the work. And that work begins long before you sink your teeth into your first Parisian croissant. It starts right here on campus.

“Travel is not magic,” says Matt Drexler, study abroad director. “There needs to be a deliberate process. We can’t just say: ‘Here’s your trip; go buy your plane ticket.’”

Enter Delaware Diplomats. Launched in 2014, the program originally began as a way to make study abroad more affordable. Participants earn three badges, Girl Scout-style, for completing multicultural activities on campus. Each badge translates to a cash award, meaning Blue Hens earn up to \$1,500 toward international expenses. To date, UD has issued over 260 awards totaling more than \$300,000. But in many cases, the monetary benefit is secondary.

Take Curtis Aiken, AS22. As a diplomat, he mentored a UD student from Shanghai—an experience he calls “mind altering” for all that it taught him: “Many people operate in their own bubbles, but connecting with people from different backgrounds is how we’ll get to a place of alignment in this world.”

Another diplomat, Kalli Ruffennach, AS23, attended a presentation on New Zealand, a so-called Kiwi Night where she discovered that the island country is not just a remote land of pretty beaches, but an enchanting place rich in geography and culture. She was so moved, she joined a student board to organize future programming.

These and other Blue Hens admit: They initially viewed this opportunity as the means to a global-learning end, the thing that would grant them access to Spain or Barbados or Oman where the *real* international education would begin. But the Diplomats quickly discovered: This program is itself a conduit for global learning—right in Newark.

“I’ve grown as a person,” Ruffennach says. “This was among the best experiences of my college career.”



LEFT: Penelope Velasco, AS19, far left, spent time teaching English in France with fellow Blue Hens Megan Bahnson, AS19, and Devon Grant, HS19.

BOOK SMART

Travel opens one's eyes to things you can't learn from a book—but the truism goes both ways. Standing in the shadow of a Japanese temple or walking through a nomadic yurt camp in Kyrgyzstan? Full-body, immersive experiences. But for a deep understanding of these places and—crucially—how we relate to them, the classroom matters. For this reason, UD's internationalized curriculum requires cultural exploration from students across disciplines. "We're not just teaching about other regions," says Rachael Hutchinson, Australian citizen, professor of Japanese studies and interim director of UD's Center for Global and Area Studies. "We're helping students break free from ideological vacuums." UD's latest offering is a global studies major, which equips Blue Hens to think critically about transnational trends and challenges—and the role they play in each.



300+

**Middle Eastern and
North African
students have had
leadership training
at UD**

20

**African women
are hosted by UD
for empowerment
training each year**

11

**European Union
diplomats held
discussions at UD
during COVID-19**

50+

**Foreign
ambassadors
visited UD in
August**

HELLO, RSO!

Want to eat Italian biscotti? Learn an Irish jig? Study the water distribution systems of Cameroon? There's a registered student organization (RSO) for that. UD boasts more than 300 of these special interest groups—around 50 with an international angle. "This allows students to travel beyond Delaware without getting on a plane or navigating that expense," says Alex Keen, associate director of University Student Centers. "It's a comfortable way to broaden your perspective on the world." The Anime and Manga group explores Japanese pop culture. The Indian Student Association brings the colors of Holi and lights of Diwali to campus. And the Delaware African Student Association celebrates the rich heritage of a fantastically diverse continent. Meanwhile, an in-the-works RSO is collecting supplies for the people of Turkey, following February's devastating earthquake. Through these efforts, Blue Hens from all over the world "become more to each other than pins on a map," Keen says. "They become fellow students—fellow humans—to engage with and understand."

RIGHT PAGE: International students Shubh Pahwa, EG22, left, and Gbenga Taiwo, EG23Phd.

LEFT: Members of the Delaware African Student Association, Ngozi Ikpeama, HS23, Favour Omoaregba, BSPA23, Adaeze Amanfo, HS24, and Angela Akumiah, AS22, cultivate a deeper appreciation for the continent and its myriad cultures with events such as the Ms. DASA Pageant.

Internationalization at home

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ANTHONY FOGGIO, EG21 | DUBAI

UD international students have contributed an economic impact of nearly \$81 million per year and support 860 jobs.

YOU'VE GOT AN IBUDDY IN ME

For foreign-born students, seemingly mundane experiences become cultural tripwires: ordering coffee, registering for classes, decoding guidelines from the DMV (okay, that one's tricky for anyone). Helping with the transition is iBuddy, a support program that pairs incoming students from around the globe with veteran Blue Hens—mentors who provide friendship, encouragement, recommendations for UDairy Creamery. Above all, these advisors ensure that international students feel part of the UD community, comfortable sharing global perspectives that enrich the educational environment for everyone. The learning, participants attest, is a two-way street. "The program has changed my life," says Ioannis Vasileios Chremos, EG23, PhD, a mentee-turned-mentor from Greece who's connected with peers from China, Bangladesh and India. "I've seen how multidimensional the world truly is."





HOME AWAY FROM HOME

It's not a glamorous life, living out of a suitcase. The days are long; the jetlag, brutal. But, for members of the international student recruitment team at UD, traversing the globe is more than a job. It's a calling.

"Diversifying campus—and society—is what I jump out of bed for every day," says Song Hoffman, director of international admissions. A Beijing native, she joined the Blue Hen community nine years ago, when the majority of UD's international students hailed from China.

Her mission: Help develop a recruitment strategy to put UD on the global map. The approach that's materialized since is almost unheard of in the industry.

In addition to sending admissions officers overseas to evangelize about the University (aka, the traditional model), UD also collaborates with representatives from various units: career services, student life, alumni relations and more. In nearly 20 countries per year, prospective students from Nepal to Nigeria glean a 360-degree look into life as a Blue Hen—from admissions to graduation and beyond—as well as the plethora of support programs available along the way.

"The total immersive engagement of UD during the entire student life cycle is the most innovative and entrepreneurial approach I have seen during my 25 years in the industry," Hoffman says.

The strategy works. UD's international student population—more than 3,000 Blue Hens from over 70 countries—increased by 172% from 2009 to 2020. The result is a campus melting pot, boiling over with opportunities for cross-cultural learning. Take the International Coffee Hour, a weekly event in which American students regularly mingle with peers from Poland, Venezuela, Zimbabwe. Or the iHouse Living and Learning Community, where international students bunk alongside undergraduates raised in the U.S. Through these and other initiatives, unlikely friendships forge. Networks expand. And, most crucially, global-minded citizens are born.

This is what makes the jetlag worthwhile, Hoffman says: "These are the experiences that change lives."

SING YOUR HEART OUT

Here's something worth crooning about: The UD Chorale is among the most acclaimed University choirs in the U.S.—the group's harmonies have moved even the discerning audiences of New York's Carnegie Hall. But beyond applause, members are motivated by the opportunity for an intercultural experience. Under Director Paul Head, the Chorale tours extensively through Europe and Asia. When not busy placing in international competitions, they simply perform for delighted passersby. Such was the case last summer, when Blue Hens took to the cobblestone streets of Robinj, Croatia. Children and adults who stopped to dance along served as a reminder: Music transcends borders. Participant Sarah Wojcik, AS21, says she'll never be the same. "I've felt my entire world shift on its axis."

UD's
internationalization
plan has won a
global award for
innovation.*



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CAROLINA GOMEZ, EG21 | FRANCE

Did you know?

You're already aware of Blue Hens surfing in Sydney, touring in Toulouse. But UD is itself a study abroad destination. The world-class English Language Institute on campus partners with 15 schools around the globe to "bring the world to our doorstep," says director Scott Stevens.

*The Institute of International Education's Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education.

World Health: Up Close + Personal

by Amy Cherry

Within 10 minutes of stepping foot inside a hospital in Italy, Ryan O'Connor, HS25, saw her first live birth. She'd see two more, including a C-section, that same day.

The occupational therapy major still marvels at her experiences inside San Martino Hospital, a teaching hospital in Genoa where she and 19 other students spent the bulk of their Winter Session.

Aptly named, UD's "International Healthcare Practicum" study abroad course affords undergraduates like O'Connor a firsthand look at care overseas. Through the class, they shadow doctors in surgery, neonatology, gynecology, urology, neurology, emergency and orthopedics.

Meanwhile, in Spain, budding athletic trainers take a course on "International Perspectives of Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy," where, among their many experiences, they watch Olympians train inside the Madrid Olympic Training Center.

Such unparalleled, immersive experiences are part of a wider effort in the College of Health Sciences (CHS) to expand students' understanding of global health practices, ensuring UD graduates provide optimal care in an intercultural, interconnected world.

CHS Dean William Farquhar and Thomas Buckley, associate professor of kinesiology and applied physiology, led 32 students on the Barcelona trip, an experience Farquhar credits with strengthening student connections and bolstering programs to facilitate career success.

"Immersive experiences like study abroad expand a student's mindset," Farquhar says. "Travel provides an opportunity to view the world through an expanded lens, and then apply this new perspective to any field of study."

Enriching cultural perspectives can come from unexpected places, too—like a Flamenco dancing class or a soccer game in Barcelona, the latter of which taught Victoria Ciatto, HS25, the power of psychology in stadium design. ("Barcelona's locker room is full of bright colors, while the visitors' locker room is dark and dim," recalls sports health major Ciatto. "The walls outside are full of pictures of Barcelona wins.")

Nearly 2,000 miles away, students in the Italian hospital observed surgeries "so close you could touch a body," O'Connor says. Emma Cunningham, HS24, witnessed the hospital's first-ever robotic knee replacement surgery, a four-hour process in which the

medical staff "explained the entire procedure in English and even took the time to teach us every step of the way."

"It's a one-of-a-kind experience," says faculty director Saskia Richter, who led the Italy study abroad trip and directs UD's Medical Scholars Program, a dual-track premedical eight-year academic program.

Hospital-based study abroad also affords a rare glimpse into Europe's universal healthcare system. But "the grass isn't always greener," says Matthew Carr, HS25. "Major necessary surgeries can take weeks in Europe."

Ultimately, students emerge from their time abroad with a greater awareness and appreciation for the world and their place in it.

"My experience makes me wish I knew another language, as most of the doctors here speak three," says O'Connor. "I know my future patients will come from different backgrounds and ethnicities, so this experience gave me a new perspective."

Study abroad experiences help broaden students' understanding of global health



Natalie Stein, HS23,
left, and Sharon
Kung, AS22.

Q & A < < < TIPS, TRICKS AND

> > > STUDY ABROAD IN... > >



ITALY
WITH PROF. MICHAEL
MCCAMLEY



SOUTH AFRICA OR
BARBADOS
WITH PROF. EMERITUS
NORMA GAINES-HANKS

> > > COURSE(S) TAUGHT OVERSEAS > >

Travel writing;
Introduction to Rhetoric
and Writing Studies

Experiential Education;
Experiential Learning; Culture
and Context

> > > BIGGEST DIFFERENCE TEACHING ABROAD > >

Studying abroad brings material to
life in a way studying at
home cannot.

We're taking students out of
their "bubble" while helping them
experience personal growth.



> > > ADVICE TO ANYONE TRAVELING HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME > >

Slow down and savor
everything. And, of course, eat
as much delicious food as you can!

Be open to dispelling
preconceived notions about the
country and its people.

> > > THE COUNTRY HAS TAUGHT ME > >

You do not have to "earn" the
right to enjoy the pleasures
of life. They are meant to be
enjoyed without guilt.

To immerse myself into the local
culture—learn about the people,
traditions, all of it.

> > > FUN FACTS > >

Italy (as a unified country)
is younger than the
United States.



In South Africa, many children
speak at least two languages.
Rihanna is not the first or only
person to make an impact
outside of Barbados.

> > > SOMETHING YOU'D LOVE TO SEE AMERICA ADOPT > >

1. Universal health care.
2. Work to live, not live to work.
3. Every meal can be a celebration.

South Africa: The concept of
Ubuntu ("I am who I am
because of who you are")
suggests we are all connected
by our shared humanity.
Barbados: Care and concern
for others.

> > > SOMETHING YOU DO DIFFERENTLY NOW > >

I am always looking for ways
to walk to places rather
than using my car.

I try to make a special effort to
recognize others' "human-ness."

TIDBITS FROM <<<<FACULTY LEADERS IN STUDY ABROAD < < <



HAWAII
WITH PROF. JACK BARTLEY

Elementary Evolutionary Ecology;
Environments and Cultures
in Conflict

We have no classroom.
The Hawaiian Islands—coral reefs,
lava flows, volcanoes, cultural
exhibits, museums, plantations—
are our classroom.



There are teachable moments
all day, every day.



NEW ZEALAND
WITH PROF. LESA GRIFFITHS

International Animal
Agriculture and
Sustainable Farm
Management

Be prepared to experience the
stunning presence of nature in the
Southern Hemisphere: the fiords,
mountains, plains and night sky.



**FRANCE (AND TURKEY, ITALY,
GERMANY, LUXEMBURG, SPAIN,
GREECE OR PORTUGAL)**
WITH PROF. ISMAT SHAH

Materials Science for Engineers;
Energy and Society; Ethics
in Nanotechnology

It offers a historic perspective and
the ability to examine issues from
a very different angle.

Do not restrict yourself to
one island.

How different people can
work together harmoniously.
Even the "pidgin" language
is an amalgam of Hawaiian,
Japanese, Filipino, Chinese
and English.

Systems: how rain impacts the soil, which
impacts the plants, which impacts the
health and nutrition of grazing animals,
which ultimately impacts the people who
consume both the plants and animals.

You can take France out of
its colonies but you can't remove
the culture that came from these
colonies.

It is the fastest growing state
in the United States—literally.
Lava flows into the ocean
forming new land.

There are about the same number of
people on the South Island of New
Zealand as in the state of Delaware.

Chartreuse is one of the most
delicious liqueurs of southern
France, produced by monks with
a formula they have guarded
for centuries. You will find the
Chartreuse factory in Voiron, a
must-visit town near Grenoble.

Well, since it IS part of America,
nothing. Perhaps the rest of the
country should try to adopt the
laid-back attitude that permeates
most of the islands.



Greater use of natural
fibers—like wool!

Outdoor cafes and diners.

I developed an idea for a young
adult novel set 200 years in the
future, which has been accepted
for publication by Histria Books.

I eat more lamb and wear more wool!
But more importantly, I think a lot more
about perspectives other than my own.

I found a newly developed
appreciation for good bread and
cheeses.

LOST IN TRANSLATION

The University of Delaware is the only university in the nation to offer a three language major, meaning undergraduates can conjugate verbs, diagram sentences and learn proficiency in not one but three... tres... trois... drei... thalatha... you get the idea... languages. Fluency has been a priority at the University ever since that first study abroad trip 100 years ago, which included an intensive French curriculum.

So, why does the institution place so much value on the pursuit? Research shows understanding a foreign language increases marketability—between 2016 and 2021, the number of U.S. job postings targeting bilingual applicants tripled. But beyond professional success, acquiring this skill has world-changing potential. “It establishes a common humanity,” says Persephone Braham, professor of Spanish as well as Latin American and Iberian studies. “A lot of the xenophobia in this country is coming from a place of fear. But once you can defend yourself in a foreign language—have an argument, get around, negotiate or bargain—you become less afraid. And that is key to functioning as a U.S. citizen in a changing world.”

To help kickstart your own foreign language journey, Blue Hen experts have provided their favorite, most colorful idioms from around the globe. Because when it comes to speaking in a foreign tongue, the last thing you want is *estar pez* (to be a fish who knows nothing). 🐟

POSER UN LAPIN

From French Prof. Ali Alalou

Translation: Put a rabbit to someone

Meaning: To stand someone up

Example: Chaque fois qu'on se donne rendez-vous au Stone Balloon, Marie me pose encore un lapin; Every time we agree to meet up at the Stone Balloon, Marie puts me a rabbit again.

IN BOCCA AL LUPO

From Italian Prof. Laura Salsini

Translation: In the mouth of the wolf

Meaning: Said to people needing a bit of luck.

(Reply with *crepi lupo*: “May the wolf die.”)

Example: La professoressa dice sempre ‘in bocca al lupo’ agli studenti prima di un esame; The professor always wishes her students ‘in the mouth of the wolf’ before an exam.

I’VE BEEN FLAT OUT LIKE A LIZARD DRINKING

From Aussie Prof.

Rachael Hutchinson:

Translation: I’ve been flat out like a lizard drinking

Meaning: To be exceptionally busy

Example: Between studying for my biomedical engineering final and prepping for my study abroad trip Down Under, I’ve been flat out like a lizard drinking!

DIE BELEIDIGTE LEBERWURST SPIELEN

From German Prof. Iris Katharina Busch

Translation: To play the offended liver sausage

Meaning: To be unnecessarily offended

Example: Ich wollte meinem Mitbewohner beibringen, dass er sein Stinktier nicht mit in unser Wohnzimmer bringen kann, aber er hat die beleidigte Leberwurst gespielt!; I tried explaining to my roommate that he couldn’t bring his pet skunk into our dorm, but he played the offended liver sausage!

JIǔ NIÚ YÌ MÁO

From Chinese professor Jianguo Chen: *duì niú tán qín*

Translation: Play the harp to a cow

Meaning: To explain something complicated to a simpleton

Example: Jié rui mí shì tú jiě shì yǒng měng lán jī měi shì zú qiú duì zui hòu yī cì hù qiú huí chuán de zhòng yào xìng. Dàn shì duì fāng yī liǎn máng rán shén sè de biǎo qíng gào sù tā tā de nǚ lì wán quán tú lǎo wú yì, chún cuī shì duì niú tán qín; Jeremy tried to explain the significance of the Fightin’ Blue Hens last punt return, but a blank stare let him know he was playing the harp to a cow.

ALUMNI NEWS



REUNION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you've ever wanted to help plan your class reunion—choose the music, suggest the activities, reconnect with classmates from your era—you can. And to quote Dave Wartell, AS72, who recently served on his 50th class reunion committee, you should.

"Do it!" Wartell enthuses. "If you think you're interested, try it. I found it to be a lot of fun and a very rewarding experience."

This year, UD will host eight milestone reunions: the 5th, 10th and 25th-year reunions for the respective Classes of 2018, 2013 and 1998, at Alumni Weekend (June 2-4), and the 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th and 50th reunions for the Classes of 1993, 1988, 1983, 1978 and 1973 during Homecoming (Oct. 14).

Each reunion will need four to six alumni volunteers, who will

work with a member of UD's Office of Development and Alumni Relations to plan and market the event. Planning meetings are held monthly and typically last one hour.

"We're looking for enthusiastic Blue Hens who want to reconnect with classmates and the University and share their campus memories," says Marianne Lazarski, BE92, director of alumni engagement. "You have to be interested in providing input and encouraging attendance. That's it. We just want you and your fellow alumni to have a great time at your milestone celebration." 🐦

To get involved, email ud-reunions@udel.edu or visit udel.edu/alumni-volunteer.

HOW DO I LOVE THEE UD?

Find the philanthropic cause that's right for you by pretending to be a student again.

Plan your Saturday.

*It's Gameday!
I'm there.*

I'm working.

I'm at a voter registration drive.

I'm doing my own thing.

I'm Volunteering.

BE A FAN WHO GOES BEYOND

You share the indomitable spirit of your favorite Hen, along with a team-first philosophy. Help today's student-athletes excel through the **Blue and Gold Fund**, which provides leadership development, nutrition, counseling, academic support and much more to UD's 600-plus undergraduates.

BE A GUARDIAN ANGEL

As someone who knows that it's better to give than receive, consider making a gift to the **Blue Hen Strong Fund**, which supports students' most immediate and urgent needs, from emergency tuition and housing to laptop loaners to mentorship programs to food security to much more.

BE A PROFESSIONAL BOOST

You remember the days of resumes, ramen noodles and real jobs without real salaries. Gaining practical work experience has never paid much (if anything), but that's why **UD's Internship Grant Program** helps cover housing, food and travel expenses for students with unpaid or underpaid internships.

BE UNIQUELY YOU

Reading the *UD Magazine* and taking a quiz on how to support the University? Your Blue Hen love clearly runs deep. Find the cause that's right for you through **UD's online crowdfunding platform** at www.udel.edu/henfunder

BE A JEDI

Like the *Star Wars* heroes, you, too, seek to be the light in turbulent times. Consider a gift to the **Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Fund**, which educates Blue Hens on the challenges surrounding equity and social justice while equipping them with tools to create substantive solutions.

www.udel.edu/makeagift/quiz



7 fun facts about your favorite alumni association

The UD Alumni Association, better known as UDAA, exists to help Blue Hens thrive in their lives and careers. It offers professional development resources, networking opportunities, enriching activities (including some of the great events featured here). Read on for UDAA facts that all Blue Hens should know.

To find an upcoming event in your area, visit udel.edu/alumni-friends/blue-hen-networks.



PHOENIX BREWERY



SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA TAILGATE



PHILADELPHIA "WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD" EVENT



PITTSBURGH BOARD AND BRUSH



BOSTON FLIGHT CLUB



NORTHERN NEW JERSEY-NEW YORK CITY TIE-DYE

1

YOU'RE A MEMBER.

All UD graduates are automatically granted entry upon graduation, making the UDAA 200,000 members strong.

2

IT'S FREE.

Unlike many other colleges and universities, there's no UDAA membership fee. Funding comes from alumni donations, merchandise sales, license plate and graduate pin orders, and third-party partnerships.

3

IT'S DESIGNED TO CONNECT.

Alumni can experience UD-hosted events at a discount, including the ones pictured above. The UDAA also supports signature events like Alumni Weekend and Homecoming.

4

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE MAGIC HAPPEN.

With 24 board members and additional members at large, the UDAA also partners with volunteers across the country to help support alumni engagement activities.

5

IT HONORS EXCELLENCE.

The UDAA annually recognizes standout Blue Hens through the UDAA Alumni Wall of Fame, Outstanding Alumni Awards and Warner and Taylor Awards for Outstanding Seniors.

6

IT CELEBRATES GENERATIONS OF HENS.

Prospective or current students with one alumni parent or stepparent can attend UDAA-hosted family receptions during Decision Days and be eligible for Academic Enrichment Awards.

7

YOU CAN HELP.

To join the board or learn about other ways to volunteer your time, visit udel.edu/alumni-friends/connect/udaa or email alumni-association@udel.edu.

CLASS NOTES



Kathryn Haggerty's "fellow classmates wore her out with repeated admonitions to 'toe-in,' yet her particular mode of walking is as characteristic of her as her nose-wrinkling laugh and her love of sleep and merriment."

From *The Blue and Gold Yearbook, 1940*

1940s

KATHRYN RUTH HAGGERTY, EHD40, was interviewed by *UD Magazine* for her 105th birthday on Dec. 29. Sadly, she passed away on Feb. 5.

1960s

JOHN BARTLEY STEWART, M.D., AS60, of Newark, Del., received the Ricardo Castro M.D. Community Service Award in October. A pediatrician for nearly 40 years, he continues seeing patients at Newark Pediatrics.

THOMAS J. ROMAN, AS64, of Newark, Del., has retired and returned to Main Street, living in the Washington House Condos after 20 years as a Delaware state trooper and 38 years at the law firm of Kimmel, Carter, Roman, Peltz and O'Neill.

SALLY DONATELLO, AS66, of Newark, Del., has published a photo essay in *Confluence*, the journal of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs.



Women's College callback: "The owner of the soda shop on Main Street at the time would allow us to call and order what we wanted, and he would bicycle down and deliver it to us. We weren't supposed to do this, so when he got to our campus, he would go to the back windows and tell us he was there."



CARL MARK KOCH, EG66, of Glen Mills, Pa., has self-published a poetry book entitled *Pandemic Poet: The First Two Years*, which contains over 250 poems about the pandemic, childhood memories, nature, travel adventures and more. Originally from Orefield, Pa., the author met his wife, **NANCY VARADY, EHD66**, at UD in 1962. She edited the book.

KATHRYN RYON MCKAY, AS83, of Bethesda, Md., has been hired as a writer for the chief officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity at the National Institutes of Health.

CAROLINE JONES, ANR84, of Fairfield, Pa., published a self-help memoir, *Broccoli for Breast Cancer*, which follows her cancer battle and includes anecdotal and evidence-based tips.

1970s

WILLY MIRANDA, AS70, of Newark, Del., received his Ph.D. in art history from University of Madrid, Spain.

MICHAEL LARKIN, AS73, of Wilmington, Del., has published nearly 400 choral compositions, as well as a new book on choral conducting. Larkin conducts the Newark Chorale and the Brandywine Pops Orchestra.

PAUL SCHERER, AS77, of Chicago, had his opera *La Trout Lily* premiered in its fully staged version at the Otherworld Theater with the New Moon Opera Co. in March.

COL. (RET) LEWIS E. GORMAN III, ANR73M, of Cherry Hill, N.J., received the Camden County, N.J., Vietnam Era Service Medal.

1980s

MICHAEL SULLIVAN, AS82, of Somerville, Mass., married his longtime partner, Ed Barton, on June 3, 2022, in the MIT Chapel. It was the 40th anniversary of their relationship.

Fond memory: During one UD Winter Session, Lew Gorman completed a study abroad trip to five countries—Denmark, France, Germany, Belgium and Holland. While there, he met with ministers of agriculture to see how they managed the land (or, in the case of Holland, reclaimed it from the sea). But the trip wasn't all work and no play—Gorman still remembers how, after a wine tasting 32 varietals strong, his German hosts asked which one he would "like to try," the Blue Hen says. "But at that point, most of us were on the floor."





DENISE STOUT HOLCOMB, AS89, of Bel Air, Md., has been published for the fifth time. Her story, "The Cottage on Washington Street," was featured in the anthology, *Beach Holidays: Rehoboth Beach Reads*.

1990s

TONY MAKOWSKI, AS91, of Lansdale, Pa., has been awarded the Gould Award for Teaching Excellence, the most prestigious teaching award at Delaware County Community College.

JULIE CARRICK DALTON, AS92, of Boston, has written the novel *The Last Beekeeper*. Inspired by the sudden death of her own beehives in Massachusetts, the author paints a mesmerizing portrait of a world without bees.

ANTHONY VARALLO, AS92, of Charleston, S.C., won the 2023 Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction for his forthcoming short story collection, *What Did You Do Today?*

Review, in the rearview: At UD's most recent Homecoming, Dalton, a former editor of *The Review*, revisited the old newspaper stomping grounds. "We cracked ourselves up going through old clips we wrote in college."

Julie Carrick Dalton, AS92, far left, has published more than a thousand articles in *The Boston Globe*, *Business Week*, *The Hollywood Reporter* and other publications.

VANESSA LOGAN PEOPLES, BE92, of Haw River, N.C., welcomed grandson Kai Peoples, pictured at right.

DARRYL CONWAY, HS93, of Ann Arbor, Mich., was promoted to executive senior associate athletic director at the University of Michigan.

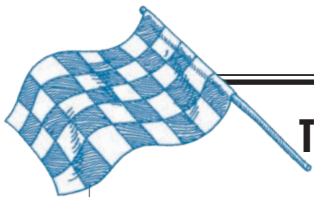
GREGORY R. BABOWAL, AS94, of Dover, Del., was appointed commissioner for the Kent County Court of Common Pleas. Babowal previously worked as a criminal prosecutor for the Delaware Department of Justice for more than 22 years.

SHAWN VREELAND, AS95, of Fredericksburg, Va., was named head of the publishing and website branch for the Naval History and Heritage Command, the U.S. Navy's official history



program. He previously served as senior editor for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, for which he received the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award.

SCOTT HIPPENSTEEL, EOE96M, EOE00PHD of Charlotte, N.C., published his third book on material he studied at UD. *Sand, Science and the Civil War: Sedimentary Geology and Combat* acknowledges the contributions of UD Profs. John Wehmiller and James Pizzuto.



THE FAST AND THE LITIGIOUS

The wheels of justice turn slowly, but the wheels of a race car? **DONALD DICKSON**, an Austin-based litigator who moonlights as a race official for Formula 1 and IndyCar events, once experienced a car coming at him—on fire—at 125 miles per hour. (It managed a miraculous stop before careening into his stand.)

"I spent half my life wondering if I would ever get to even see a Formula 1 race, now I'm 6 feet from the track," says Dickson, AS81. "It's been the most fun, exciting and unlikely thing I've ever done."

To fellow Blue Hens who might be interested in taking up this horsepowered hustle, the lawyer's pro bono advice is to go for it. He fell into the sport accidentally, when car trouble led him to the backseat of a ride-share. The driver's husband happened to be a flag chief at Austin's iconic track, Circuit of the Americas. They got to talking, and the rest is high-octane history.

"If you've ever wondered if the marshals are imported from Italy or something, they're not," Dickson says. "Anyone can experience this wild ride." 🐦



Donald Dickson, AS81, (right) with three-time F1 World Champion Sir Jackie Stewart at the 2020 United States Grand Prix.

KELLY JOHNSON, AS96, of Midlothian, Va., has launched a philanthropic venture, Wish for More Birthdays, a line of birthday candles in which 100% of net proceeds support the American Cancer Society, raising more than \$50,000 to date.



A bright memory: Johnson developed her candle idea after losing her mother, Ann Kline, a longtime UD employee.

SZCZEPAN BARAN, ANR97, of Natick, Mass., has been named chief scientific officer for VeriSIM, a company that uses machine learning to assess drug development.

DAVID A. PIZZI, EHD99, BSPA01M, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., was promoted to vice president, government relations at Florida Blue, the state's Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan. He was also named chairman of the Florida Insurance Council.

2000s

APRIL MYERS, AS00, of Baton Rouge, La., and **MIKE BULLARD, AS99**, of Merrimack, N.H., are helping vulnerable residents purchase the land on which their manufactured homes sit. As the communications associate and vice president of communications, respectively, for the ROC USA national nonprofit, they work to create generational housing security for low-income homeowners. Recently, they've partnered with **PAUL D'ANGELO, BE89**, of Boulder, Colo., to assist tenants of the Thistle Community Housing organization in Colorado purchase the land under the neighborhoods.



JUSTIN FRENZEL, BE05, of Montville, N.J., **JAMES GALLAGHER, AS05**, of Newtown, Pa., **KEVIN BLAIR, BE05**, of Newtown, Pa., and **CHRISTOPHER DEPATRIA, BE05**, of Montville, N.J., won the most recent Shaft Classic with a first all-Delaware alumni team in the golf tournament's 13-year history. The annual, two-day tournament (held in 2022 at Baywood Greens in Long Neck, Del.) is invitation only. As reigning champions, the Blue Hens have already secured their spot in the 2023 event and will be looking to defend their title.

A MISSION BORN AT UD

ANDREA HODGE-JOHNSON, CAS92, is a tech architect for JP Morgan Chase & Co. In layman's terms: she determines which applications should be decommissioned and which will work well together. In December, she received the One JPMC Award for her contributions to the organization's Tampa Tech Center.



"Very early on at UD, I learned the importance of networking and relationship building," Hodge-Johnson says. "Those skills have been critical drivers of the success I've had."

But more than professional accolades, the Blue Hen's college experience shaped her as a person.

Because racial tensions ran high off campus and on during the early '90s, Hodge-Johnson and her Black peers (a very small percentage of the student body back then) frequently sought solidarity in UD's Center for Black Culture. There, they hung out, bonded and organized. Hodge-Johnson helped stage a sit-in on the steps of Smith Hall to address the public safety concerns of students of color, and she saw firsthand the power of community to kickstart dialogue and effect change.

Today, Hodge-Johnson is an active member of the Black Alumni Organization, and she is working with UD leaders to sponsor a scholarship for Black students interested in study abroad. During her 23-year tenure at JP Morgan Chase & Co, she's actively championed diversity, equity and inclusion. Recently, she established the Black Women in Tech group to advocate for a demographic that comprises less than 2% of the industry's workforce. Its reach will soon extend into Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Hodge-Johnson finds hope in an evolving world and is inspired by a new, more inclusive generation, including her son, **CHRISTIAN DORSEY, EG19**. "They are more open to building relationships across racial, religious and cultural lines. And that is a wonderful thing."



Celebrity shout-out: Comedian John Oliver acknowledged this work on his late-night show, *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, saying the Blue Hen-heavy nonprofit is "having real success in helping tenants get financing" to protect themselves from predatory developers.

APRIL CAPOCHINO MYERS, AS00, of Baton Rouge, La., recently published a nine-part series, "The Fentanyl Project," that uncovers the vast impact of the synthetic opioid crisis on the Baton Rouge community (aprilcapochinomyers.com). The Blue Hen is an award-winning journalist who has written for *The Washington Post*, *National Geographic Kids*, and other publications.

BRENT J. FRECCIA, AS02, EHD05M, of Wilmington, Del., was selected in the September issue of *Delaware Today* magazine as one of the publication's "Top Teachers" of 2022.

MICHAEL ALEXITCH, EG05, BE11M, of Landenberg, Pa., has been appointed executive director, U.S. Market Access Strategy for the Respiratory and Immunology and Vaccines and Immune Therapies at AstraZeneca. In his role, Alexitch will lead a team of 13 marketers working to secure affordable access for patients to AstraZeneca's medicines.

2010s

JUAN MEDINA, TK00, of Seattle, launched the mobile app Lalo for preserving family memories. Previously, he spent 20 years in industry, including eight years

at Amazon working across marketing, product and business development roles. Medina was inspired to make a career shift, he says, “based on my experience of losing my dad and wanting a safe, calm space to connect with families.”

MICHAEL TAIT, AS10, 11M, of Villanova, Pa., received the International Linear Algebra Society’s Richard A. Brualdi Early Career Prize for “outstanding contributions to spectral theory of graphs” and will deliver the prize lecture at the ILAS Conference in June 2023 in Madrid.

VIRGINIA VASSALOTTI, ANR13, and **STEVEN HOGSTEN, EG13**, of Philadelphia, were married in September in Cape Cod, Mass., surrounded by Blue Hen alumni.

JUSTIN PEPPER, EG16, 17M, HS18DPT, and **AMELIA ALTOE, EHD17M**, of Middletown, Del., were married on Oct. 8, 2022. The Double Dels had their first date at Santa Fe on Main Street and enjoy returning to campus for Homecoming.

DANIEL GIORDANO, AS16M, of Newburgh, N.Y., is presenting his first solo exhibition, currently on display at the MASS MoCA museum in North Adams, Mass. Entitled “Love from Vicki Island,” the exhibition features provocative and playful sculptures that speak to the artist’s New York hometown and Italian-American heritage.

TOMMY YOVIENE, EG17, and **HALEY ENSOR, HS18**, of Baltimore, were married on Oct. 8, 2022, in Easton, Md. There were UD grads of all ages in attendance (including the groom’s parents, **TOM YOVIENE, HS88**, and **MICHELE YOVIENE, HS87**, of Easton, Md.).

ALLY SCHNETZER, AS18, and **JAKE STANFORD, AS19**, of Peachtree Corners, Ga., were married on Oct. 22, 2022, at Dunwoody Country Club in Atlanta. The bride and groom grew up in suburban Atlanta less than 20 miles apart, but they did not meet until enrolled at UD more than 700 miles away.

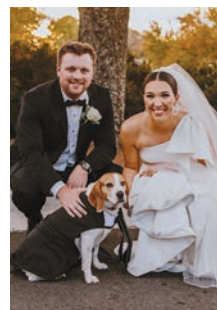
NEHA SHANKER, CAS22, of New York, N.Y., received the Public Relations Student Society of America National Gold Key Award. 🐦



We don’t know about something borrowed or old, but Justin Pepper, EG16, 17M, HS18DPT, and Amelia Altoe, EHD17M, definitely had their something blue covered.



Tommy Yoviene, EG17, and Haley Ensor, HS18, tore up the dance floor at a Hen-heavy reception.



Virginia Vassalotti, ANR13, and Steven Hogsten, EG13, tied the knot in Cape Cod. Right: The wedding party of Ally Schnetzer, AS18, and Jake Stanford, AS19, featured a Blue Hen bridal party, including canine ring bearer Tubby, named for legendary football coach Tubby Raymond.



RUSSELL REUNION

Alumni who lived in Russell C between 1999 and 2000 held a mini reunion along with fellow Blue Hen friends. They include: **BRET STROGEN, EG03**; **MALI (LIU) COSDEN, AS03**; **CARI (LOVELAND) HEINZEL, HS04**; **JOHN HEINZEL, EG02**; **ALLIE (KRIEGER) FESER, AS03**; **JOE FESER, EG03, EG05M**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at UD; and **SEAN MCINTOSH, EG03, EG05M**.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

The Magazine encourages alumni to send us news to share with your fellow Blue Hens. A new job, a promotion, a personal or professional award ... they're all accomplishments we want to announce. Email a note or a press release to magazine@udel.edu. Please include your hometown, graduation year and college or major.

COLLEGE DEGREE LEGEND

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 AS • ARTS AND SCIENCES
 BE • LERNER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
 EG • ENGINEERING
 EOE • EARTH, OCEAN AND ENVIRONMENT
 EHD • EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
 HS • HEALTH SCIENCES
 BSPA • BIDEN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

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 PHD, EDD, DPT • DOCTORAL DEGREE
 H • HONORARY DEGREE



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Come meet our students and teachers, tour our beautiful campus and learning spaces, and learn more about Ursuline Academy. Upper School Shadow Days are also offered throughout the year for 8th grade students.

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IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD J. FAHEY, EG51, BE64M, Dec. 3, 2022	IRENE FARRELL TOWT, AS75, April 19, 2020
FRANCES THOMAS LEHMAN, EHD51, Oct. 7, 2021	GLENN R. HOEY, BE76, Sept. 1, 2022
JOHN L. TULEY, EG55, Nov. 10, 2022	ROGER L. CASON, BE77M, AS98M, Feb. 28, 2022
FRANK J. MOSSMAN, AS62, Oct. 17, 2022	ANDREW BOBIK, EG80, Dec. 22, 2021
WOODROW L. WHALEY, ANR64, Dec. 11, 2022	TERESA LYNCH SHIREY, AS81, June 8, 2022
GREGORY B. BENNETT, AS67, Jan. 10, 2023	CHAKA K. WILLIAMS, BE93, Sept. 17, 2022
CAROLYN KRAJEWSKI LAFAZIA, HS68, Oct. 19, 2022	WILLIAM R. HALL JR., EHD97EDD, Oct. 6, 2022
ROBERT W. DERRICKSON, BE71, Oct. 27, 2022	JOHN M. PAPALIA, EGO6PHD, May 21, 2022 🐦
LEONARD W. EARL JR., BE75, Oct. 15, 2022	

FACULTY AND STAFF

PAUL BILLY, EHDD68, <i>longtime coach for wrestling, football and men's lacrosse, and associate professor of physical education,</i> Nov. 28, 2022	MICHAEL FERRARI, <i>professor of human development and family sciences,</i> Feb. 25, 2023
GEORGE A. CICALA, <i>professor emeritus of psychological and brain sciences,</i> Nov. 8, 2022	WILLIAM R. HALL JR., <i>marine education specialist,</i> Oct. 6, 2022
JOHN M. CLAYTON JR., <i>UD's first archivist and retired assistant director of planned giving in University Development,</i> Feb. 23, 2023	STEPHEN LUKASHEVICH, <i>professor emeritus of history,</i> Oct. 30, 2022
RICHARD A. DAVISON, <i>professor emeritus of English,</i> Jan. 19, 2023	LOUISA CLAFLIN MANKIN, <i>student health physician,</i> Nov. 24, 2022
WINIFRED 'ELLEN' ERBE, <i>library supervisor for the Marine Studies Library,</i> Dec. 11, 2022	CONNIE MCKINNEY, <i>retired art director, Office of Communications and Marketing,</i> Jan. 29, 2023
	DAVID G. ONN, <i>retired professor of physics and astronomy,</i> January 2023
	BRADLEY "BRAD" SCOTT, <i>career services specialist,</i> Jan. 8, 2023 🐦

S. ALEXANDER BILLON

S. Alexander Billon, professor emeritus of business administration who advanced international study at UD, passed away on Nov. 30, 2022. He was 93.

Dr. Billon joined UD as a business administration professor in 1965 and retired in 1997, teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses in business policy and strategy and international management.

During his tenure at UD, Dr. Billon co-founded the Geneva Program along with colleagues from the departments of economics and political science, and he led numerous study-abroad trips to Switzerland. He also served as a consultant to the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development and numerous large enterprises on restructuring, privatization and economic reform.



A native of Zhitomir, Ukraine, Dr. Billon became separated from his parents at age 17 and fled war-torn Europe with his sister, Julia, arriving in the U.S. through a program for orphans established by Eleanor Roosevelt.

At UD, Dr. Billon began several exchange programs with the Kyiv State Management Institute in Ukraine, and in 1991 became a Fulbright Scholar at Kyiv State University. He was an adviser to the Economic Reform Commission of the Parliament of Belarus in Minsk from 1994-96.

Dr. Billon traveled extensively with his wife, Irene, and they hosted colleagues and groups of students from all over the world in programs designed to teach management. 🐦

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<https://inmemoriam.udel.edu>

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Patrick J. Ward, MD

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J. Douglas Patterson, MD
John M. Reynolds, MD
Peter F. Townsend, MD

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Steven M. Dellose, MD - UD '91
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A CONVERSATION with...

On Feb. 24, 2022, **Atnre Alleyne, ASO9M**, awoke to the sound of bombs. Two days later, the Ukraine resident returned to work, speaking virtually to students in TeenSHARP, the college-prep, youth leadership program he co-founded with his wife as a UD graduate student that has sent hundreds of students to the country's top universities. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," he told them, quoting the immortal words of Dr. King. Here, the political science and international relations alumnus reflects on the past year and offers a hopeful but sobering reminder of our shared humanity.

How are you and your family?

We're okay. We reached the Poland border on March 5, last year. Technically, we're refugees, but I have a job. I make American dollars. I feel like I've been blessed in so many ways.

Some people argue against overseas philanthropy, citing overwhelming, existing need in the U.S. Yet you're overseas, focusing on American students while raising three kids of your own. What drives you?

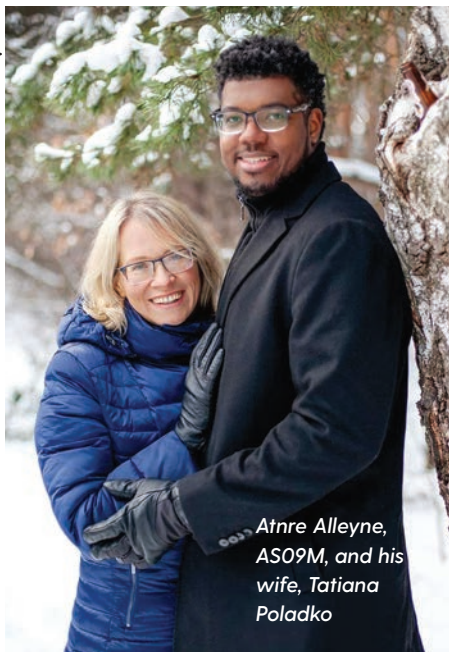
I feel like we have a capacity to do both/and. You can care about humanity—all of it—when you put good into the world. Everything connects.

Is that the message you shared last February?

Yes. Whether it's Putin or racial injustice, you need a fierce urgency of now. You need courage. There needs to be a fire that keeps burning. There will always be a level of distraction, but what really matters, and how do you stay connected to those things?

How do you?

At TeenSHARP, we have a community that sharpens each other. We believe "love is candor," so we give honest, open feedback. We coach students in academic rigor, college know-how, financial aid, everything. We're crafting future leaders. It's tiring, but very rewarding work.



Atnre Alleyne,
ASO9M, and his
wife, Tatiana
Poladko

What has life taught you that school could not?

Imagine living in Newark and there's a war. You'd think, 'Who's coming here? This isn't a strategic target.' But neither was Bucha [the site of a Russian-led massacre that left 458 dead]. I don't care what kind of political science training you've had, it's hard to theorize. It's hard to think like a depraved dictator. That's why I think America struggles with Putin. We can't imagine someone killing civilians, women and children like this.

What do you wish more Americans understood about the war?

There were a lot of videos of how badly Black people were treated. I heard people say, 'Why should we care [about the war]? Look how they're treating us.' My response is, 'Some of

this is true, but be careful. Americans are not used to cyberwarfare.' Putin was creating and fomenting dissention. We believe it can't happen to us, and that's what makes us so vulnerable.

When you reflect on such a harrowing year, what memories stand out most?

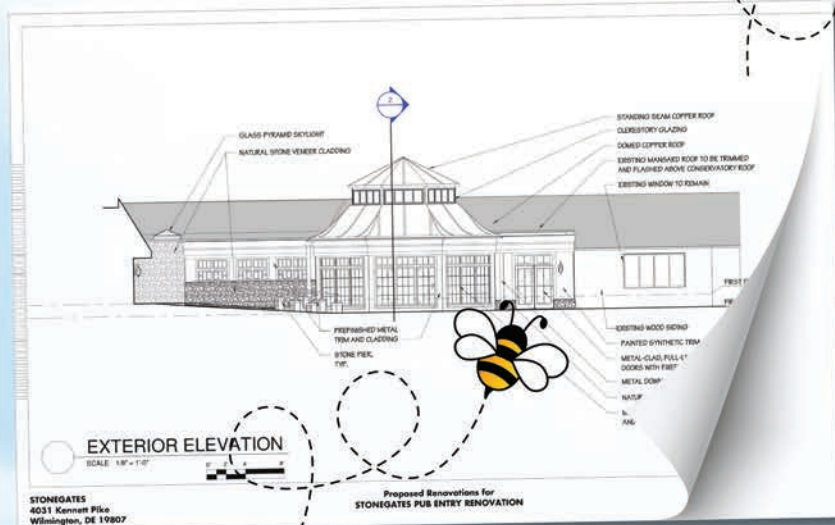
I was sleeping with one of our children; my wife was in the bedroom with another child. We were outside Kiev, but it felt like it was right there. The bombs were everywhere. There's disbelief, an indescribable fear that America, fortunately, has been spared. My daughter's 7th birthday was the next day, and we had a cake. She had a whole plan—she wanted to wear leather pants and get her hair straightened. It was sad.

What gives you hope?

On the morning of the war, we walked to the store, and people were there, working. When we arrived at the hotel, the chef had left, so other staff cooked us breakfast. On trains, people wouldn't accept our money. The volunteers who took us to the border wouldn't take money. Our daughter still takes virtual Chinese lessons, taught in the dark by her Ukrainian teacher because of attacks to the infrastructure there. My kickboxing coach is fighting in the war. I am continually inspired by the Ukrainian people. 🇺🇦

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