

Carol E. Hoffeecker Doctor of Humanities

Respected and inspiring teacher, Richards Professor Emerita of History, you received your bachelor's degree with honors here at the University of Delaware. You earned a master's degree at Radcliffe College and a doctorate at Harvard University, and then you returned to Delaware to complete a fellowship program at the Hagley Museum and Library, where you also became coordinator of the Hagley Graduate Program. In 1973 you joined the UD history faculty full time.

For the next 30 years, you devoted yourself to your teaching and your scholarship. Your students, both undergraduate and graduate, respected your knowledge and passion for history and benefited from your commitment to their education. We at the University always knew what a special teacher you were; the national higher education community also recognized your excellence when you were named 1999 Delaware Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Esteemed colleague, you have contributed to your beloved alma mater in ways uncountable. At various times during your three-decade tenure at the University, you completed terms as vice president and then president of the Faculty Senate, chaired the history department, served as associate provost for graduate studies, led the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Education, chaired the University's Commission on the Status of Women, and served on the board of the University of Delaware Press. These formal roles were undertaken in addition to your day in, day out support of the University and its mission. You also made lasting contributions to the University by researching and writing four scholarly works about various aspects of our history. Your significant efforts and accomplishments have been recognized with numerous awards, including a named professorship, induction in the Alumni Wall of Fame, the Francis Alison Faculty Award, the E.A. Trabant Award for Women's Excellence, a University of Delaware Medal of Distinction, and the first-ever College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lifetime Service Award. You also have been honored with inclusion in the Hall of Fame of Delaware Women.

Delaware's premier historian, a native of the First State, your interest in Delaware history extends back at least as far as your undergraduate years, when you wrote your senior thesis on Delaware during the War of 1812 and the siege of Lewes. Since then you have chronicled the state and its people in numerous books, including *Corporate Capital: Wilmington in the Twentieth Century*; *Federal Justice in the First State*; *Honest John Williams: U.S. Senator from Delaware*; and *Democracy in Delaware: the Story of the First State's General Assembly*. Generations of children received their introduction to the state's history through your book, *Delaware, The First State*, which is used in classrooms throughout the state. You recently co-authored *The Delaware Adventure*, a fourth-grade social studies textbook. You have edited *Delaware History* magazine, a publication of the Historical Society of Delaware, and over the years you have spoken frequently on Delaware history to organizations throughout the state.

Another distinguished historian of today, David Thelen, has said, "The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present." Throughout your career, as teacher, administrator, scholar, and author, you have done just that, reclaiming the people, events, and meaning of the past to the benefit of us in the present.