



Celebrating UD in the spring

Welcome

Happy spring and welcome back from spring break! I hope the week brought you some peace and restoration.

I am pleased to share the first issue of our **Monthly Digest** that offers a round-up of initiatives, updates, and upcoming events from the various units in the Provost Office, all compiled in one place. The creation of this digest is a response to recommendations from the [COACHE committee's final report](#) to foster collaboration and good communication

among faculty and administration.

Another initiative centered on fostering collaboration and communication is my monthly Office Hours with the Provost. These 1:1 meetings offer me a wonderful opportunity to get to know you and to hear what is on your mind. These began in February, and the conversations were the high points of my day. Please [sign up for the upcoming open hour meetings](#) in the coming months.

At the foundation of collaboration and communication are relationships. And so, in the spirit of getting to know each other, I'll take the opportunity each month to share some of my favorite discoveries of UD and Newark as I am getting to know my new home.



One of my favorite running routes is the Reservoir. The hill up to the top is perfect for hill repeats, the path around the reservoir is marked for intervals, and the woods along the way offer trail running and has become one of my dog Bean's favorite outings. When you get outside, where do you go? Please share with me at lcarlson@udel.edu.

Best wishes for the rest of April.

With Blue Hen pride,

Laura A. Carlson, Provost

Faculty Affairs

Let's Declare War on Sludge!

One of the cross-cutting issues that came up in the COACHE faculty job satisfaction survey was the proliferation of demands on faculty time. Concerns about the nature and scope of workload demands — especially service — figured prominently in the survey feedback. The Faculty Affairs team, in partnership with many others, will be taking steps to address these concerns in the coming weeks and months. One way that some campuses have sought to address part of this problem is by looking for sludge. In this context, “sludge” represents the extra (and often unnecessary) time and energy needed to do relatively straightforward tasks. It's the stuff that mires us down (think redundant processes, approval steps, reporting requirements, etc).

As a first step in addressing sludge in our work lives, we encourage academic units to consider doing the following:

- Identify three instances of sludge – considering processes within a department, within a college/school, and across the campus.
- Compile these, share publicly, look for commonalities and low hanging fruit, and set priorities for eliminating sludge.
- Consider examples/models in units (here or at other institutions) where particular types of sludge have been eliminated.

Addressing sludge as a first step in responding to faculty concerns makes sense because sludge is often self-inflicted and is something within our power to clean up.

To learn more about sludge, visit [this insidehighered.com article](https://this.insidehighered.com/article).

Academic Programs and University Initiatives

Unleashing the Latent Power of the Academic Program Review

Working across the Provost's Office, we have been asking the question “in an ideal approach, what would you hope units could learn about themselves from the APRs? How would we redesign the process and guidelines to facilitate achieving that learning?” The answers to this question are serving as the framework to retool what units will be expected to do in the APRs moving forward. We are aiming to reduce the administrative burden of the current process while also developing guidelines that can facilitate strategic “dreaming” of where units would like to grow and identifying the pathways to get there.

Office of Sustainability Seeks Green Grant Proposals by April 30

The University of Delaware's Office of Sustainability is accepting [applications for the 2023 Green Grants program](#). Created in 2010, the Green Grants program provides seed grant project funds to facilitate

an increased level of student, staff and faculty engagement to practice and enhance the principles of sustainability across operations, academics, student life, research and community engagement that support the UD's strategic plan.

Office of Sustainability accepting nominations for Green Hen Award due April 30

The Office of Sustainability is [accepting nominations for its third annual Green Hen Award](#), which is given to outstanding students, faculty and staff members for contributions advancing UD's campus and community sustainability efforts.

Celebrating the many dedicated members of the UD community who are actively making UD's campus greener and helping to better position the University as a leader in sustainability is the goal of the Green Hen Awards.

Community Engagement Initiative

Carnegie Foundation reclassification application begins

UD's [Carnegie Foundation community engagement reclassification application process](#) began with the creation of a steering committee in February. The first Carnegie Foundation classification was in 2015. Since then, many faculty and students have collaborated with CEI to create impactful partnerships and engaged scholarship opportunities.

The steering committee will work with the UD community and community partners to gather data, outcomes and impact details that will be incorporated into the application process. A mechanism for sharing community engagement will be announced after the working groups have been announced.

Undergraduate Education

Interdisciplinary Programs Task Force

The Interdisciplinary Programs Task Force, chaired by Greg Dobler, will explore the feasibility and implementation measures for a new cross-college and cross departmental interdisciplinary undergraduate program. This task force is an initiative supported by the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Senate.

Excused Absence Task Force

In May 2022, the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education brought recommendations to the Faculty Senate regarding revisions related to unexcused absences and the related policies and practices.

This was sent back for further discussion. Faculty Senate President Getchell and Provost Carlson agreed to establish a task force to look at the current policy, identify challenges or gaps created by the current policy, make recommendations for improvements and explore resources needed to

operationalize the policy effectively.

The task force is co-chaired by Rusty Lee and Avron Abraham, and will include additional faculty and representatives from undergraduate student government, student affairs, CTAL, and the assistant deans.

Undergraduate Research Four UD Goldwater Scholars Announced

The annual Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships recognize students who have excellent academic records and demonstrated interests in research careers in mathematics, natural sciences, and engineering. The award covers eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year. There were 413 scholarships awarded this year. Each higher education institution can nominate four students. This year, all four UD nominated students received the prestigious award. This year's Goldwater scholars include **Dana Kulligren**, physics and astronomy major; **Miyu Mudalamane**, chemical engineering major; **Derek Wu** – life sciences major; **Qi Zhang** – chemical engineering major.

Undergraduate Research Summer Fellows Program

The [Summer Fellows Program](#) provides an alternative to the [Summer Scholars Program](#).

The Summer Fellows Program is ideal for students who wish to undertake a smaller scale project – many of whom have worked on projects during the previous academic year or wish to begin working on

projects that will continue during next academic year.

Summer Fellowship awards range from \$300-1500 depending on the amount of time committed to the project. For questions please contact [Dr. Lauren Barsky](#), associate director for the Undergraduate Research Program.

Applications for the Summer Fellows Program opened in mid-April.

Center for Health Profession Studies

John Buckley supports all UD students who are exploring health professions or considering academic programs that complement their health professions interests. He also guides students in gap year or parallel career planning. Students can make an appointment with him through the [center's academic advising website](#) or [Blue Hen Success](#).

Library, Museums and Press

Celebrating 100 years of UD Press

The UD Press is a valuable asset for UD faculty and graduate students, many of whom have their research published or gain professional experience with a publisher.

The support the Press provides the research community reaches far beyond the Blue Hen community. The Press truly enhances the University's position as an outstanding R1, research University, and the

high-quality scholarship it publishes carries the name of our institution around the world to the global scholarly community.

Through the Press, UD is known as an institution that actively supports and contributes to the dissemination and production of diverse material within the scholarly communications ecosystem.

With its entry into open access publishing, the Press will strengthen the University's reputation even further, putting UD on the cutting edge of developments in scholarly publishing.

International Programs

Celebrating 100 years of Study Abroad

This spring marks the beginning of the [100th Anniversary of Study Abroad](#) at UD and in the U.S. Center for Global Programs & Services is leading (CGPS) a campus-wide committee to coordinate celebrations and events through spring 2024. [#UDAbroad100](#)

CGPS is expanding its [Study Abroad Storytelling Contest](#) to include new media categories and the opportunity for *anyone* who has ever participated in a UD study abroad program - *including faculty* - to submit photos, videos and/or essays about their experiences.

The Study Abroad team is launching a [monthly faculty social event](#) to network and socialize with the community

of faculty and staff who lead or are interested in leading study abroad programs.

[Mandela Washington Fellows will return to the UD campus](#) this summer through the U.S. Department of State program for the [Mandela Washington Fellowship Young African Leaders](#). Volunteers are being sought to act as American host families, or professional mentors. Contact the UD Mandela Washington Fellows team via udmwfellowship@udel.edu for details.

Enrollment Management

Summer Enrollment Open – Classes begin June 5

Students are encouraged to enroll in the [University of Delaware's Summer Session](#) courses as a part of their graduation plans. Summer Session 2023 offers two five-week terms, a seven-week term or a 10-week term beginning June 5. [Summer Session Registration](#) is now underway.

Faculty and advisers are encouraged to discuss the benefits of Summer Session courses with students – including pursuing a dual major or minor or simply focus on a tougher subject in a shorter period.

Professional Continuing Studies

Two New Non-credit Certificates

PCS launched two new non-credit certificate programs during the spring semester: *Foundations of Instructional Design* and *Cybersecurity Fundamentals for Practitioners and Managers*. Both are taught online and provide convenient, high-quality and applied professional education to early and mid-career professionals in the mid-Atlantic region. Participants who successfully complete a UD PCS certificate receive a digital badge that allows employers to quickly see the skills that they learned. UD faculty and staff can enroll in UD PCS certificates.

Professional and Continuing Studies Access Center serving 45% more students than spring 2021

The PCS Access Center, which provides academic advice to nontraditional, credit-seeking students, is serving 45% more students in the spring 2023 semester than the spring 2021 semester. The growth is due to an increase in dual enrollment students (high school students taking UD courses) and more part-time online students enrolling in the greater number of UD online courses that UD now has available.

Events & Deadlines:

April

17 – Study Abroad [Study Abroad Faculty Tea Hour](#) from 4 - 5:00 p.m. at Horn Entrepreneurship Venture Development Center, 132 E. Delaware Ave.

18 – from 2-3:15 p.m., the [UD ADVANCE Institute](#) will host a Zoom workshop about how to write an effective COVID-19 impact statement. UD Faculty can [register here](#). In this interactive online session, facilitators and participants will share recommendations for writing effective COVID-19 impact statements, which are currently required in P&T dossiers. Learn more about COVID-19 impact statements [here](#). Participants are encouraged to prepare a rough draft statement prior to the session and come prepared to share your ideas and questions.

19 – [Curator's Talk: The Artist's Book in Our Times](#) 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Special Collections Gallery, Morris Library with curator Curtis Small.

20 – [4th Annual Provost's Symposium on Engaged Scholarship](#)

27 – at the Audion at UD's STAR Campus for the **Spark! Symposium from 4-7 p.m.** Come meet fellow Blue Hen graduate students, learn about research projects that are solving the biggest societal challenges, and start new conversations, ideas and collaborations. Reception to follow. [Register now](#).

27 – [Creating and Understanding Visual Materials for Teaching and Learning](#) 3-4 p.m. Morris Library Coffee Hour

27 – [ICPSR in Research: Data Collection, Secondary Data and Data Sharing Services](#) 2-3 p.m. virtual webinar

30 – [Green Grant Proposals](#) and [Green Award nominations](#) due.

May

2 – [Study Abroad Storytelling Contest](#) Deadline at 11:59 p.m.

3 – [I Heart UD Day](#)

31 - June 1 – The Center for Teaching & Assessment of Learning (CTAL) presents its [Summer Institute on Teaching \(SIT\)](#). This is an intensive and celebratory event that brings together educators from across UD to build and strengthen a community around teaching and learning.

June

6-9 – The Center for Teaching & Assessment of Learning (CTAL) promotes its [Course Design Institute](#). [Registration](#) is limited to 45 participants and is open through April 21, 2023, or until seats are filled. The institute will provide a personalized course (re)design experience. CTAL experts will guide faculty as they create a new course or revise an existing one.

Ongoing Activities

[International Coffee Hour](#)
Every Friday during the fall and spring semesters from 4 to 6

p.m. at Trabant University Center. Meet our students.

UD's [Faculty Achievement Program](#) offers numerous *Write-On Sites* sessions each semester as an effective way of increasing scholarly productivity through co-working sessions. Sessions are offered both in person and via Zoom. These sessions help protect faculty time and provide writing motivation. For the spring 2023 semester schedule, [click here](#). Learn more by emailing: facultyachievement@udel.edu

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