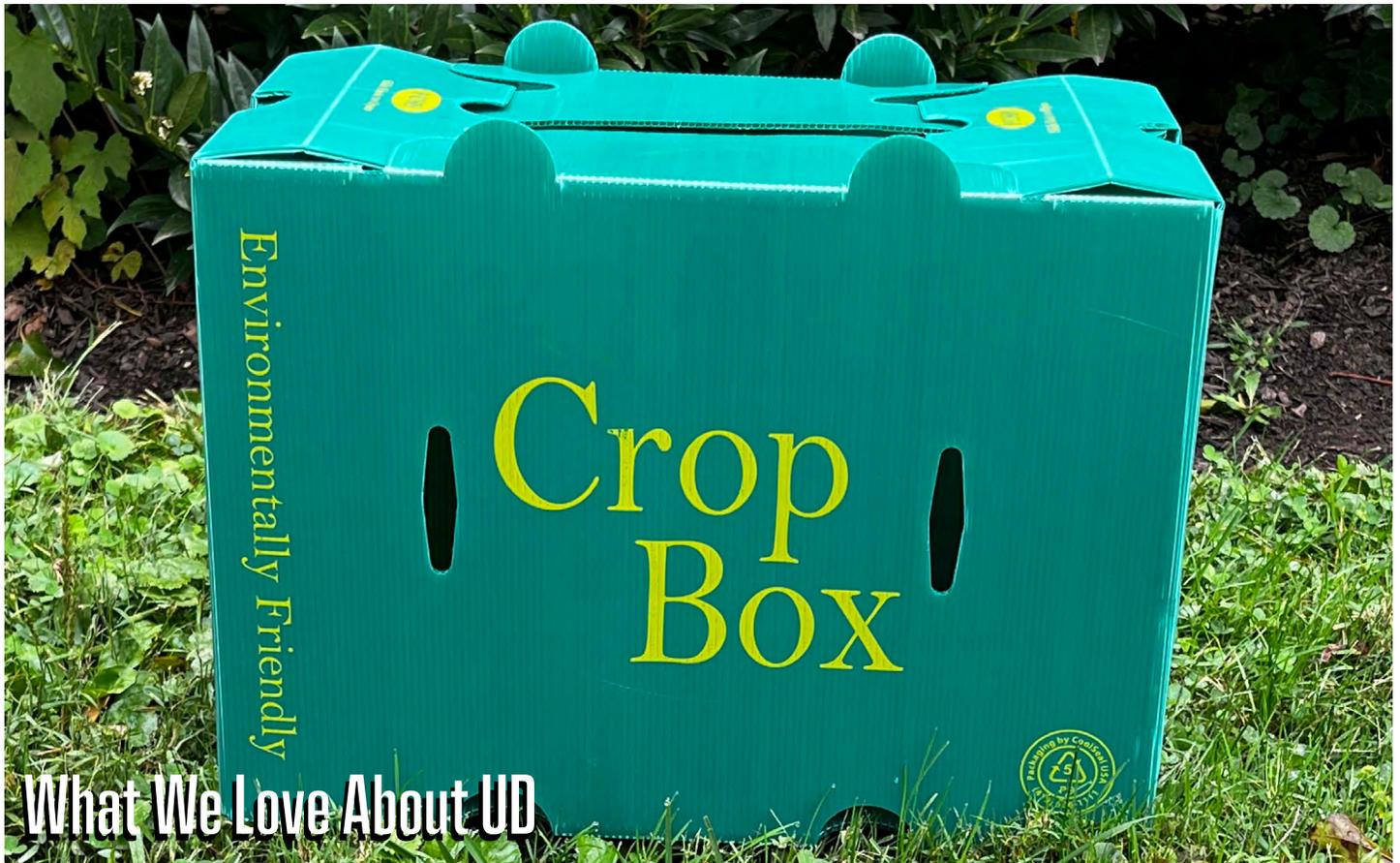


# HAPPENINGS

MONTHLY DIGEST  
September 2023



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
PROVOST



## What We Love About UD

One of the best parts of UD is what I see embraced every day on campus: an underlying commitment to the integration of academic excellence, community and impact.

Here's a wonderful example. Over the summer, I spent time at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, touring the labs and facilities, farms and gardens, offices and classrooms at Newark, Dover and Georgetown. Faculty explained their research and described its impact on our lives, from how we grow the food we eat to how we tend to our land and streams to care for our planet. And, of course, there were the animals – from bees to dairy cows, from baby lambs to insects – where being able to hold and touch, nurture and tend is part of the course curricula.

The best part of these visits was the students – their passion, leadership of a whole host of activities and clubs, and their vision for the world that they are shaping. The second best part – UDairy.

One outcome of spending time with CANR is that I joined UD Fresh to You, a student-run community-supported agriculture program that features fresh produce that our students are growing. Each week I return to CANR to fill my crop box with the latest – which right now seems to always include eggplant, tomatoes and more tomatoes. Indeed, we have now perfected our gazpacho and eggplant parmesan recipes.

The crop box offers an interesting way to mark the passage of the seasons, with watermelon being replaced with pumpkins and okra replaced with squash.

And it is a weekly reminder of our collective commitment to the wonderful integration of research, teaching and impact that permeates all of UD.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Laura'.

Laura Carlson, Provost

## Recognizing faculty, reconnecting to campus

This summer we welcomed more than 100 new faculty members to the University, developing connections, sharing resources, and preparing for the fall semester. As these newest members of the Blue Hen family settle in, and the rest of the faculty resume the rhythm of the fall semester, it is a great moment to recognize the energy, creativity, innovation and purpose that each of you brings. Indeed, a new way to commemorate such purpose took place on September 18 at the inaugural Faculty Senate Award Ceremony and Reception that celebrated our great role models, mentors, teachers, scholars, innovators and researchers.

Fall semester is a good time to reconnect to the campus community and resources. Consider taking part in one of the [Employee Wellness Programs](#), such as a fitness course or a meditation retreat, or meet up with international scholars at the [Friday Coffee Hour](#). Up your skills in managing work-life dynamics through [semester planning](#), or carve out and protect some creative time to work on your research and/or teaching at a [write-on site](#). Learn about a rapidly developing area in higher education centered on the use of [artificial intelligence in teaching and learning](#). Refamiliarize yourself with the policies and



processes associated with [grant writing](#), working with students, and evaluation and promotion.

This fall, Faculty Affairs and partners will be hosting and facilitating workshops focused on mentoring, AI for Teaching and Learning, equity-minded workloads, reducing sludge and moving beyond burnout. Events can be found on the [UD Events Calendar](#) by clicking on the Faculty Affairs tag.



## Seminar series on AI Teaching and Learning

The Provost's AI for Teaching and Learning working group is offering a yearlong seminar series discussing how AI might change the nature of teaching and learning in higher education. The symposium will bring expert faculty and staff together to explore the many implications that this technology has on teaching and learning through 10 monthly seminars. The first seminar on Sept. 26 featured Dr. Hui Fang from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and focused on Large Language Models. For more information on AI, visit the [AI for Teaching and Learning website](#).

## New Program Incubator launched

The Provost's Office has created the New Program Incubator to support new and refreshed ideas and initiatives for academic programs. We are offering a suite of analytics to inform decision making including understanding the potential to attract students, assessing feasibility, articulating the resources need,

and making a plan for approval implementation. If you have an idea for a new program or want to refresh an existing one, let us know. We want to help. [Make an appointment](#) with Kim Isett, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and University Initiatives, to learn more about the process.

## New assessment reporting process for degree-granting programs

This fall, UD is launching a new process for collecting assessment information about degree-granting programs. Ongoing assessment and documentation of learning are critical elements of our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning and a requirement of our Middle States accreditation.

To help make the collection of program assessments easy, this process enables academic units to submit brief descriptions of their assessment plans and results via a [Webform](#) each October. Like the collection and publication of program educational goals in the academic catalog, this process was recommended by the [Task Force on Learning Goals and Assessment](#). The questions on the Webform are brief and provide meaningful information to faculty and staff in each department/school. Moreover, chairs/directors and deans will be able to use the reports

to help guide collaborative discussions and planning each spring.

Academic units are asked to assess all of their program educational goals at least once by fall 2027 or by their next APR self-study, whichever comes later. Many programs may use the first year or two of this new process to significantly revise or reinvent their assessment processes or program educational goals. This means that initial reports may focus more on plans to collect and analyze data than completed collections and analysis.

Additional details about this process are available from CTAL, including [resources, programs and guidance](#) to support this effort. CTAL staff are also eager to collaborate with faculty to develop, revise, or review assessment plans and data.

## UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

### Supporting students in multiple ways

As the Division of Undergraduate Education develops, we would like to highlight the numerous ways that we are ensuring students' success throughout their academic journey. For example, the Center for Academic Success supports students through a variety of resources including advising, tutoring, and academic coaching. Staff are dedicated to working with students in these capacities, and faculty are encouraged to consider referring students to these resources.

[University Studies](#) (UST) provides academic advisement for undeclared students who would like to explore UD's vast number of academic programs prior to committing to a major. In addition, students who are considering a change from a current major, the addition of a minor, or other adjustments to their academic plans are welcome to connect with a UST

advisor, as well. Topics may include personal reflection and assessment, short-term and long-term goal setting, and ways to enhance educational experiences through co-curricular opportunities.

[The Office of Academic Enrichment](#) (OAE) has resources to help students who are struggling, as well as those who are successful and looking for ways to sharpen their skills. Tutoring is available in several formats, including individual, drop-in, study groups and PASS (Peer-Assisted Study Sessions for targeted sections of certain courses). In addition, we offer support through academic coaching, workshops, and skill-building courses. Students can meet with an Academic Success Coach to discuss time management, study strategies, academic self-management, or anything else a student would like to improve.

## Spark! Symposium breaks boundaries

Spark! is not your typical research symposium; it's an action verb. The events ignite new conversations, ideas, and collaborations among diverse researchers and professionals through short-form, engaging presentations and audience participation.

The fall Spark! Symposium held on Wednesday, September 20, was entitled "Mobility: From Atoms to Ideas." Presenters included Abigail Bower, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience; Brigette Romero Carpio, Medical Sciences; Rene Hoover, Microbiology; Cara Kelly, Human Development and Family Sciences; and Thabu Mugala, Entomology and Wildlife Ecology. About 75 people attended to hear presentations on slug-destroying nematodes, assessments of quality in day care, iron-eating bacteria and more. Bower received the Ignite award, presented by the six judges, and Mugala won the Glow award, as judged by the audience.



## Check out our new catalog

Our [catalog](#), DELCAT, has been updated to a new cloud-based service platform. The catalog now offers enhanced search capabilities, a more intuitive user-interface and easier resource discovery. The new platform also ensures Library operations are connected across teaching and research initiatives and allows staff to use analytics to make evidence-based decisions.

## Encourage students to try our peer-to-peer services

This semester, we're piloting a Peer Reference Service to lower barriers to research access by leveraging the social advantages of peer learning. Every Monday through Thursday from 2 to 9 p.m., current Blue Hens will be on-site in Morris Library to answer questions and provide guidance on using databases and search strategies and conducting known-item searches in the catalog.

## Participate in the Library Use Cost Study

Over the next year, students, faculty, staff and other visitors to Morris Library and branch libraries will be asked to participate in a two-minute survey to identify what library services and resources are used in support of teaching and funded research at UD. This study, managed by Attain Partners, will allow the University to include research-related library expenses in negotiating a Facilities and Administrative (F&A) cost recovery rate with the federal government. An online version for digital visitors will also be administered in the new calendar year. Please complete the surveys each time you receive one, as they are an important tool in supporting the Library's commitment to teaching, learning and research.

## Building the Class of 2028 already underway

After a record-setting year for applications to UD, applications for fall 2024 are already beginning to come in and daily campus tours for prospective students are in full swing. The fall also brings UD's large open houses for prospective students, [Blue and Golden](#), this year hosted on Sept. 30, Oct. 21 and Nov. 11. More than 3,000 prospective students visit the open houses each year. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is also hosting events for high school counselors around Delaware, the nation and the world. This summer, 78 international counselors visited campus as part of Admissions' International Fly-In, and on Sept. 20, we welcomed 54 national and international counselors to campus to discuss how UD can help their students realize their academic potential. On Oct. 6, the Admissions office will host a similar event specific to the needs of Delaware counselors. Finally, we are pleased to announce two new appointments in our division Amanda Steele-Middleton, who many of you knew as our University Registrar, will be expanding her portfolio as the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management. In addition, Yosmeriz Roman will be joining us in October as our Executive Director of Admissions. Please join congratulate Amanda and welcome Yosmeriz to our community!



## New resource builds and strengthens connections

The new [Center for Intercultural Engagement](#) on the second floor of Perkins Student Center will be formally dedicated on Oct. 6. The center offers a space for students to interact, explore and grow together around social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The CIE houses student organization offices, an interfaith meditation and prayer room, a food and supply pantry, an ablution station, all-gender restrooms, and a clothing coop, in addition to staff offices and multipurpose programming space.



### OTHER EVENTS

## October

- 2 – [Faculty Senate](#) meeting, Trabant Theater
- 5 – [Navigating Scholarly Publishing: Everything You Need to Know About Publishing Your Research](#)
- 6 – Faculty Affairs hosts Monthly Coffee Hours on the first Friday of each month from 10–11 a.m. in the ATS Commons. Stop by to enjoy coffee and pastries, meet the team, and ask questions. This month, Jess Pieper, Program Manager of Employee Engagement, will be available to discuss employee wellness initiatives.
- 18 – [Finding Funding with Pivot Database](#)