

HAPPENINGS

MONTHLY DIGEST
October 2023



What course would you take?

One of my favorite podcasts offers interviews with elite runners. The main topics of conversation are always plans – training plans, nutrition plans, race plans – and race recaps, which basically indicate whether those plans all came together in the right way on the right day.

But it is not only running. At the end of the interview, there is a rapid-fire list of questions that tell you a bit more about the person, not just the runner – favorite food, favorite book, who to invite on a run.

And then there is my favorite question – if you could take a class in anything, what would it be? I always answer this question for myself when it is posed. Some days, it is a return to a favorite subject like

chemistry or Latin, which always felt more like solving word puzzles than studying a language. Other days, it is something I enjoy but have never had instruction in, like drawing. Or a completely new field of study like construction engineering – my dad was a builder.

Take a look at the Winter Term special session offerings. What course would you take?

And for those who are teaching – my gratitude to you for making your courses available.

Special sessions are possible for students only because of you.

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

Laura Carlson, Provost

Celebrating Alison Award recipient Joseph M. Fox

The 2023 Francis Alison Award will be presented to Joseph M. Fox on Nov. 7 in Gore Recital Hall. The award is UD's highest competitive faculty honor and recognizes faculty members who have distinguished themselves through their inspired teaching, their innovative research, and their dedicated leadership and service. The recipient is chosen by the Francis Alison Society, comprised of previous recipients.

Fox is a professor of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the director of the NIH-funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence on the Discovery of Chemical Probes and Therapeutic Leads. A native of Philadelphia, Fox completed his graduate studies at Columbia University and studied as an NIH postdoctoral fellow at MIT. In 2001, Fox joined the UD faculty and has built a multidisciplinary program that centers on reaction development in chemical biology. His research group remains highly focused on the development of new organic reactions, including catalytic methods for activating chemistry in cells and in vivo. Applications of this work span biology, drug discovery, radiochemistry, imaging, therapy and materials science. Fox's work was cited in the announcement of the 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.



The award presentation starts at 4 p.m., followed by a lecture by Fox on "Ultrafast Chemistry for Building Molecules and Medicine in Living Systems." A reception is planned for 5 p.m. in Center for the Arts Lobby. [Register here.](#)

Focusing on Workload Equity

UD is committed to improving faculty climate, coaching and collaboration on campus while working to reduce service overburden and sludge in practices and processes.

At the Chairs' Workshop on Oct. 23, Corrie Fountain, associate provost for faculty affairs at Georgia State University, shared her institution's experience with developing equity-minded workloads and workload dashboards.

A study published by the American Council on Education on [Equity-Minded Faculty Workloads](#) (O'Meara et al. 2021) from the NSF ADVANCE project on [Faculty Workload and Rewards](#) at the University of Maryland identified that faculty workloads for women tend to involve more teaching and service, while faculty from historically excluded groups are called on to do mentoring and work in diversity, reflecting racism and sexism still present in academic cultures. Much of this work is not visible, recognized or rewarded, leading to lower scholarly productivity, burnout and decreased faculty success and retention. In the most recent UD [COACHE report](#), faculty identified high levels of inequity in service workload assignment as areas of concern, particularly for women and for faculty of color. Respondents also identified the time spent on administrative tasks, and the lack of recognition for service work as problematic.

The development of equity-minded workloads allows units such as departments to

- enhance transparency around activities that faculty contribute to,
- clarify department priorities and benchmarks,
- give credit to faculty for their contributions,
- recognize the variety of faculty strengths and interests,
- identify department norms, and
- provide context and accountability mechanisms for faculty workloads.

To learn more about Equity-Minded Workload, email vpfaculty@udel.edu or attend Faculty Affairs Coffee Hour from 10-11 a.m. Nov. 3 in the ATS Commons.

Resources along the faculty career path

The National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD) has a wide range of resources available to help faculty, post-docs, and students navigate the academic career path. Through UD's institutional membership, faculty members can access NCFDD's resources. Faculty membership can be activated at facultydiversity.org/join. NCFDD also runs the Faculty Success Program three times a year to help faculty members develop the skills necessary to increase research and writing productivity while maintaining healthy work-life integration. [Priority registration is open](#) for the spring cohort right now.



Two upcoming opportunities to work on promotion and tenure

- **UD ADVANCE Series: Strategic Approaches to Promotion & Tenure** – UD ADVANCE is introducing an interactive series this year on faculty evaluation, with a focus on promotion and tenure. The first session (3-4:15 p.m. Nov. 15 on Zoom) is aimed toward faculty midway through the promotion cycle (about two to three years before going up for promotion to associate professor). It will address topics such as strategically developing professional networks, starting to think about potential letter writers, and making use of peer review feedback to strengthen your tenure/promotion case. See udel.edu/advance for more information about this and the other sessions in the series.

- **ACHIEVE 2024 Spring Dossier Course** – Registration is now open for this course designed to aid faculty in developing their narrative documents for promotion dossiers, providing instruction, individualized feedback, and co-working time over five sessions in the spring semester. [Register here](#).

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES

Checking in with students — formally and informally

As the semester continues, faculty are encouraged to get feedback from students on how their learning is going. One way to do this is through [mid-semester feedback](#). By asking students a few short questions (What should we start doing that would help your learning? What should we stop doing that is not helping your learning? What should we continue to do that is supporting your learning?), you can quickly take the pulse of a course.

If you've noticed that students are not taking advantage of your office hours, we have some suggestions to help make this time more impactful. There's lots to consider, [from small tips to bigger modality and schedule changes](#).

Do you have an issue that's emerged in your teaching this semester? The Center for Teaching & Assessment of Learning provides [confidential consultations](#) to talk through what's going on.

Supporting students at UD and beyond

The Center for Academic Success is committed to fostering an environment that supports the success of all UD students. Through initiatives like the Student Support Services Program (SSSP) and THRIVE, in the Office of Academic Enrichment (OAE), the center provides students with opportunities to succeed at UD and beyond.

The federally funded SSSP provides resources, academic counseling and support to income-limited students, first-generation students and students with disabilities, with the goal of increasing retention and graduation rates. Later this fall, a select group of SSSP students will attend the Circle of Change Leadership Experience in Los Angeles and receive career leadership experience that will position them for personal and career success. In addition, SSSP students are eligible for winter and/or summer aid

for up to seven credits to fulfill course requirements for degree completion. SSSP students will also be provided with free tutoring and academic counseling during special sessions. Contact Kenny Holmes at kholmes@udel.edu for more information.

The OAE provides tutoring, workshops and skill-building courses and works directly with students in the academic coaching program. The OAE is also excited to announce a new initiative, THRIVE, that focuses on student success and support of limited-income students. THRIVE students will receive academic coaching, free tutoring and financial support in accessing experiential learning opportunities or coursework during Winter and Summer sessions. For more information, contact Joanna Martin-Granger at joannarm@udel.edu.

Winter and summer offer research opportunities

Several programs sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research allow undergraduate students to conduct research under faculty mentorship during special sessions.

The Winter Fellows Award enables full-time undergraduate students to engage in paid research or creative work during Winter Session. Awards range from \$500 to \$1,000 depending on the scope of the student's project and number of weeks worked. In 2023, the first year of the program, 44 students and 36 faculty mentors participated. The program concludes with a Winter Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works, where students present a poster or lightning talk of their completed research project. Applications for the 2024 [Winter Fellows Award](#) open Nov. 1.

The Summer Scholars program provides full-time undergraduate students the opportunity to devote full-time attention to a research or creative project for 10 weeks. Students receive a \$4,000 stipend, work under the supervision of a faculty mentor, and can attend research-related workshops and events sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research. Summer Scholars are expected to present a paper or poster of their work at the [Annual Summer Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity](#). Applications for the 2024 [Summer Scholars](#)

[Program](#) open Jan. 3, and the Summer 2024 Symposium will be held Aug. 8.

The Summer Fellows program is ideal for students who want to take on a smaller project that can be combined with other summer activities such as employment or coursework. Applications for the 2024 [Summer Fellows Program](#) open in mid-March.

For the Scholars and Fellows programs, students must already have identified a faculty mentor to work with at the time of application.

The McNair Scholars Program is ideal for undergraduate students interested in conducting research and pursuing graduate degrees. Funded by the federal government, this program is geared for first-generation students, limited-income students and students from racially minoritized backgrounds underrepresented in Ph.D. programs. Over 10 weeks of summer, students devote full-time attention to a research project under the close supervision of a faculty mentor. Throughout the academic year and summer, students participate in workshops focused on graduate school preparation and research skills, and they participate in team-building exercises and graduate school visits. Students receive a stipend, housing and meal allowance during the summer. Applications are currently open for the [Summer 2024 McNair cohort](#).

PCS associate dean candidates visit campus

Candidates for associate dean of Professional and Continuing Studies participated in town hall meetings on Oct. 18 and 25 in Mitchell Hall. Each candidate presented their vision for PCS, followed by a question-and-answer session. Reporting to the dean of the Graduate College, the associate dean provides strategic leadership and tactical management

of the Division of Professional and Continuing Studies. The division's mission is to empower learners to achieve their educational goals throughout life. For information about viewing the candidates' biographical information and recordings of the town hall, see [this UDaily story](#).

Global 360: Visualizing UD's Global Impact

The [Center for Global Programs and Services \(CGPS\)](#) has implemented a highly collaborative model, known as the [Global 360](#), to advance UD's internationalization and international engagement efforts. The model (and interactive dashboard) engages academic units and partner offices across campus and in the local community to increase UD's visibility, brand and global impact in strategic regions around the world. Global 360 draws from six dimensions of institutional engagement and serves as a roadmap for linking global student experiences, scholarship, recruitment, partnerships, advancement, and UD's reputation as premier global institution. Most recently, CGPS facilitated the development of new institutional partnerships in India through the State of Delaware, faculty initiatives with Newcastle University in the UK, and study abroad programs with Lincoln University in New Zealand. Recent visits to partner institutions in Athens, Rome and Madrid aim to leverage existing World Scholar Program partnerships into gateways that would support the expansion of UD's student mobility programs, faculty engagement and research collaborations abroad. CGPS is available to advise and provide guidance to

those interested in establishing initiatives with partners globally. Contact CGPS at go-global@udel.edu or 302-831-2115.



Study abroad programs are bouncing back

Now that pandemic-related travel restrictions have eased or ended, study abroad programs are growing in popularity. This winter, more than 820 students will travel abroad on 43 faculty-led programs with the support of the Center for Global Programs and Services. More than 430 students attended the fall study abroad fair, and 146 students registered for spring semester programs. CGPS encourages departments to take advantage of this renewed enthu-

siasm for studying abroad and consider ways they can expand their international education footprint. Study abroad programs are an ideal opportunity to engage students with departments and further internationalize curricula. [Proposals for Winter 2025](#) faculty-led study abroad programs are now being accepted through Dec. 1. Contact the CGPS study abroad team at studyabroad@udel.edu.

Celebrate International Education Week at UD

CGPS invites campus partners to help UD celebrate [International Education Week](#), which is Nov. 13-17, with internationally-focused programming that showcases UD's global communities, connections and cultural identities. Submit event information on

the [2023 IEW event form](#) or by tagging your event as "IEW" in the tag section and "Global" in the event type section of the UD Events Calendar. IEW events will be highlighted on a special [IEW at UD webpage](#).

LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS AND PRESS

Panel on Public Access to Federally Funded Research

In 2022, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy issued a memorandum that will make taxpayer-funded research immediately available for the public to freely access and fully use by the end of 2025. On Oct. 25, an esteemed panel of speakers gathered in Morris Library for [Public Access to Federally Funded Research: Making Science More Transparent, Inclusive and Reproducible](#) to explore how these new requirements impact UD researchers and how public access can help make science more transparent, inclusive and reproducible.

Get ready for space renovations

We are planning two renovations in Morris Library that will be completed in 2024. More student seating will be added to Room 116 (formerly known as the Reference Room), and a renovation to the Class of 1941 Lecture Room will provide extended-hours access to study space for students when Morris Library is closed.

Visit our gallery spaces

Five new exhibitions are currently on view in our gallery spaces across campus. These exhibitions include [Architectural Expressions in Stone, Steel and Imagination](#); [Insights: Staff Selections from the Art Collections](#); [Insights: Staff Selections from the Mineral Collection](#); [50 Feminist Books That Changed Our Lives: Celebrating 50 Years of Women & Gender Studies at UD](#); and [The Gettysburg Address in 2023: Words That Long Endure](#).

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Encourage students to get ahead or catch up over Winter Term

UD is offering more than 570 unique courses in the Winter Term (Jan. 3-Feb. 2, 2024) to help students advance their academic goals. The Special Session Growth Team is working with colleges and departments to enrich the course and program offerings offered in each of UD's four special sessions (Winter and 3 distinct terms in the Summer). Undergraduate and graduate students can use Special Sessions courses to get ahead or catch up in their academic studies, add a certificate or a minor, fulfill a breadth or general education requirement, or take a course for the fun of it. "UD is fortunate to have a fairly long winter break, which allows students to take one or more entire courses between the fall and spring semesters," said Provost Laura Carlson. "It provides so much flexibility for students to create an academic plan that meets their individual needs." Registration began Oct. 23. More information can be found at udel.edu/academics/special-sessions/



CIE opens to encourage dialogue and action

The new Center for Intercultural Engagement formally opened Oct. 6 in Perkins Student Center. Established as part of the University's five-year Advancing Racial Equity and Inclusion Plan, the CIE serves as a physical space for students to gather and connect to discuss current events and issues related to social justice, diversity, equity and inclusion. Student Diversity and Inclusion has already used the center this fall for several events, including its recurring dinner discussion series, "Engaging Matters: Hot Takes Over Hot Plates." The space includes an ablution station, all-gender restrooms, a food and supply pantry for students facing food insecurity, an interfaith meditation and prayer room and a Clothing Coop, which offers free professional attire and UD-branded gear for students in need.



OTHER EVENTS

November

3 – Faculty Affairs Coffee Hour, 10-11 a.m. in the ATS Commons

6 – [Faculty Senate](#) meeting

6 – Pitfalls and Promise: Generative AI, Disability, and Access – Join Dr. Andrew Jenks for this session of the [Artificial Intelligence Seminar Series](#). [Register here](#)

7 – Francis Alison Award and Lecture – Recipient Joseph M. Fox will speak on "Ultrafast Chemistry for Building Molecules and Medicine in Living Systems." Lecture at 4 p.m. in Gore Recital Hall, followed by reception at 5 p.m. in Center for the Arts Lobby. [Register here](#)

14 – [Friends of the UD Library Fall Faculty Lecture on Brain Health and Aging](#) – Held in the Reading Room of Morris Library, the lecture will feature associate professor Matthew Cohen from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

15 – [Strategic Approaches to Promotion & Tenure 1](#), offered by UD ADVANCE. [Register here](#)

29 – Navigating the AI Landscape: A Framework for Evaluating Assessment Tools in Higher Education – Join Kevin Guidry and Joshua Wilson for this session of the [Artificial Intelligence Seminar Series](#). [Register here](#)