

HAPPENINGS

MONTHLY DIGEST
November 2023



International students celebrate Thanksgiving at the Tower at STAR

Showing Gratitude Throughout The Year

It is the season for giving thanks, with so many traditions for sharing gratitude.

Our family holiday traditions growing up near Boston included going to the Winchester-Woburn high school football game, hosting dinner for my grandparents and close family friends, playing cards, and ending with a big pick-up basketball game in the driveway at night, with car headlights on full beam so we could see the rim. Each of these moments was defined not simply by what we did, but by the people we were with. My fondest memories are tied up in snippets of these moments – my dad blowing over a cup of hot coffee at the game, my mom dealing the next hand of cards, my sister at the free throw line.

That said, gratitude should not be limited to a particular day. During the pandemic I started a habit of gratitude – closing each day by noting what I was thankful for.

As I think back over the fall semester, it is chock full of shared moments with you that I so appreciate – concerts and plays, laps around the reservoir, meetings across campus, time in Southern Delaware, talks and vigils, sharing a meal, talking about research, learning, and simply listening to each other.

The magic of UD is its people, and I am grateful each day for our community.

All the best.

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

Laura Carlson, Provost

Responding to UD's COACHE report

The final report of the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) [faculty satisfaction survey](#) committee has served as a roadmap this year to help organize and prioritize implementation activities that respond to the committee's recommendations.

The survey found that there is a need to improve the climate at UD, particularly for women and under-represented minority faculty. This academic year, UD worked to develop and emphasize inclusive standards of excellence in faculty achievement by hosting the inaugural Faculty Senate Award Ceremony and Reception in September, re-evaluating current awards and developing new ones. In addition, [UD ADVANCE](#) will pilot workshops on implicit bias in faculty evaluation and promotion processes to provide better support and training for hiring and retaining diverse faculty.

Effective coaching is critical to improving and maintaining a supportive environment, while promoting faculty success, diversifying academic leadership, and empowering campus leaders. Formal mentoring of early career faculty is available through departments, while informal small group mentoring is facilitated by [UD ACHIEVE](#) (to sign-up for spring, click [here](#)). Development of improved mid-career mentoring will continue with a workshop in the spring semester. In addition, revisions to the Faculty Handbook, particularly around the peer review process, are also being developed to help clarify

formal faculty review processes to ensure equity and consistency. Leadership training is also being revised and expanded to create greater opportunities and promote inclusiveness in the development of current and future faculty leaders in all roles.

Collaboration allows faculty to work together to pursue a common mission and is a means of equitably distributing and appropriately rewarding faculty work. The Fall Chairs' Workshop focused on how the [development of equity-minded workloads](#) enhances transparency around faculty activities (especially service), clarifies department priorities and benchmarks, gives credit to faculty for their contributions, and provides context and accountability mechanisms for faculty workloads. Faculty Affairs will be working with volunteer units to help characterize service loads and facilitate the development of tools to assist departments in defining and rewarding faculty service, updating workload policies to ensure equity and revising service and teaching expectations. This project will also help units address sludge and reassess committee service as a way to relieve faculty of some administrative tasks.

Each month, we will be providing an update on activities developed to address COACHE recommendations. If you would like to learn more about any of these efforts, please email vpfaculty@udel.edu.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES

Available Now: Suite of Services to Guide New Programs

Ideating or putting the finishing touches on a new academic program to offer? Take a moment to review the suite of services being launched by the Office of the Provost to help support your program. All new ideas for programs are eligible for these services:

Market analysis

Delivery recommendations

Enrollment projections

Financial analysis

Break-even analysis

The Office of the Provost is offering these services to give faculty and unit directors the time to focus on developing the curriculum for their newly created program.

Please contact Kimberly Isett, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and University Initiatives, using her program [consultation scheduler](#) to schedule a time to discuss your interest. We look forward to partnering with you on your innovative ideas!

Encourage Students to Take Advantage of Winter Session

The end of the fall semester is fast approaching, and there is still time to encourage students to take a course during [Winter Session](#). Encourage your students to retake a class, get ahead, or take a class that just piques their interest. Remind them that the five-week Winter Session (Jan. 3 to Feb. 4) has smaller class sizes that are offered in-person, virtually and in hybrid format. The Winter Session [housing application](#) is open with a priority deadline of 5 p.m. Dec. 4 at 5 p.m.



UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Student Give Back and Get Involved with the FYS Program

A team of 120 Peer Mentors is ready to welcome and support the members of the Class of 2028 when they arrive on campus next fall. Peer Mentors are a central component of the First Year Seminar (FYS) course required for all first-year students to help them adjust to daily life at UD, learn about campus resources and help ensure a smooth first semester.

“I decided to come to UD because of the sense of community, wholeness, and the feeling of home that UD gave me. Becoming a Peer Mentor allows me to continue to bring the community feel to more students,” said Fashion Merchandising major, Chloe Schlegel.

Newly hired Peer Mentor and statistics major, Colin Pie said, “As a student who was fortunate to have older siblings who attended the University of Delaware, I know the importance of role models for a freshman in college. I learned so much about how to handle my transition from high school to college, and I am excited to be able to share those lessons with other new students who may be feeling a variety of emotions during this huge changing point in their lives.”

For more information about FYS and Peer Mentors, please email Meghan Biery at mbiery@udel.edu.



Submit Spark! in Five: Call For Proposals by Feb. 4

The Graduate College invites all UD graduate students and postdocs to submit proposals by Feb. 4 for participation in the spring 2024 [Spark! in Five Symposium](#).

Five people will be selected to share a five-minute presentation about their research at the symposium, scheduled for 4–7 p.m. on April 18 at the FinTech Innovation Hub on the STAR Campus. The theme for this event is “Advancing Financial Health: Technologies, Literacy, Access, Policies and Implementation.” Proposals should address the relevance of the theme to the applicant’s research.

As examples, relevant research could be conducted by:

engineers researching digital technologies

educators enhancing financial literacy

policymakers addressing barriers to safe and equitable access to the financial system

public health experts deploying technology solutions to improve population health

data analysts exploring strategies to promote equity and inclusion

Previously known as the Spark! Symposium, the new Spark! in Five Symposium format calls for presentations of five minutes rather than approximately 10 minutes. The event is hosted bi-annually by the Graduate College to support UD graduate students and postdocs in developing cross-disciplinary communication skills. With individual and small group help from expert coaches, Spark! presenters gain confidence in public speaking while learning techniques for communicating their research to diverse audiences.

New OLLI Director Champions Lifelong Learning

As the new director of UD’s [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute](#) (OLLI), Karen Asenavage Loptes arrives to the role from a diverse career in international and higher education, including more than 12 years at UD’s English Language Institute (ELI) as associate director and director of academic programs.

“As one of the first and largest lifelong learning programs in the United States, we have an unprecedented opportunity to provide the educational connections and learning opportunities for growth and development for this population, and to be known as the University and the State that embraces and supports fully engaged aging,” Asenavage Loptes said.

With more than 2,000 active members at UD’s OLLI locations in Dover, Lewes, Ocean View and Wilmington, the program’s statewide collaborations expanded during the pandemic. OLLI members have fully embraced online learning, virtual classes and programs, statewide member collaboration and leadership.

One of Asenavage Loptes’ priorities will be on increased collaborations between OLLI and the larger UD community. “OLLI already has had creative collaborations with many faculty, staff, students and programs at UD, and I’m looking to strengthen and



build those connections even further, while telling OLLI’s story.”

“We have opportunities for even more intergenerational collaboration and programs – opportunities that allow for increased exchanges between UD students, faculty and researchers, and the OLLI community, who offer such vast expertise, experience and enthusiasm. There is so much more potential for the exchange to happen not just in one direction, but in both directions, from mentoring to research participation to sharing knowledge and experience.”

To learn more about UD’s lifelong learning program, click here to [read the full conversation with Asenavage Loptes](#).

Assessing International Student Satisfaction

For the fifth time since 2017, UD's Center for Global Programs and Services (CGPS) is participating in a worldwide assessment of international student experiences at UD. Through Dec. 18, more than 3,000 of UD's international students and scholars are invited to complete the International Student Barometer (ISB), a global benchmarking survey administered by [i-Graduate](#).

The ISB measures student satisfaction with four dimensions of their overall experience: arrival, living, learning and support services. It includes a measure of students' propensity to recommend UD to their family and friends. Feedback from the ISB has a direct impact on enrollment management strategies and the programs and services that support a positive and successful experience for international students at UD. Several programs, such as the [In-International Student Advisory Committee](#), the [iBuddy Mentoring](#) Program, Before You Arrive webinar

series, [International Student Orientation](#), international student tax services, and the global career readiness program are all direct results of feedback from previous surveys.

After the first ISB, CGPS ranked 19th globally out of 120 institutions with a 94% satisfaction rate for international student support services, and the University received a 90% rating regarding overall student satisfaction with their UD experience. The trend continued through 2022 with students reporting higher levels of satisfaction with their overall UD experiences (92%).

International students can access and complete the ISB via an email sent from oiss@udel.edu. Results from the 2023 survey will be available in the spring. Any questions can be directed to the Center for Global Programs and Services.



“Impact Report: Strengthening Connections”

The University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press recently released its Impact Report, entitled [Strengthening Connections](#), covering July 2022 through June 2023. We invite the entire community to review the publication, which includes a variety of ways the Library, Museums and Press connected and engaged with the University community and beyond.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

And The Award Goes To...

The Division of Enrollment Management is proud to announce that we have earned the esteemed Hispanic Diversity Champion award at the 2023 Delaware Hispanic Awards.

The Delaware Hispanic Awards is the leading award ceremony for the Latino community in the state of Delaware. It recognizes individuals and organizations that are going the extra mile to serve the Hispanic Delawareans.

Nominees and winners were chosen by the community, making these awards a genuine reflection of the community's sentiment. The red-carpet ceremony was held in November, shortly after Hispanic Heritage Month.

Earning the recognition of Hispanic Diversity Champion is a source of immense pride for the Division of Enrollment Management, as it reflects our dedication to providing effective higher educational support while remaining attuned to the unique needs of our students.

We express our sincere gratitude to all the staff that make up the Division, which also includes the Department of Admissions, Registrar's Office, and Student Financial Services. Their outstanding performance made this fine achievement possible.

Introducing Prospective Students to the Blue Hen Way!

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions hosted 2,577 prospective students and their families totaling over 9,000 visitors during three Blue and Golden Saturdays this fall. A University-wide collaborative effort, these events included academic sessions from each college, academic discovery and resource fairs, Student Life Hub, student ambassador tour stops, information sessions about study abroad, Honors College and more. Blue and Golden Saturdays are a great way to showcase our beautiful campus as we recruit rising classes of Blue Hens!

On Nov. 1, the Office Undergraduate Admissions hosted 121 people, including 57 prospective students, at the Community Education Building in Wilmington for the Associate in Arts Program (AAP) Open House. There were more than 20 department tables at the resource fair, including the Office of Institutional Equity, Career Center, Dean of Students, Student Financial Services, Community Engagement Scholars, and AAP faculty. The families enjoyed a catered meal,

funded by Aramark, met with students and faculty, and learned more about Delaware SEED scholarship and the AAP admissions process. Admissions staff assisted students with completing their application and answering questions about next steps in the process.



The Fight Against Gender-Based Violence

In September, UD sponsored the Equitable Approaches conference, a two-day event for more than 200 researchers, Delaware policymakers, survivors, advocates, filmmakers and UD students to come together and discuss the fight against gender-based violence.

The conference included a panel discussion about college-based sexual assault with Jennifer Hirsch and Seamus Khan, authors of the book “Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power and Assault on Campus.” Moderated by Fatimah Conley, UD’s vice president of equity and chief diversity officer, and attended by President Dennis Assanis, Provost Laura Carlson and other senior leaders, the discussion focused on how institutions can make campuses safer and more inclusive.

The conference was hosted by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence. The

first of its kind, the center is dedicated to the study, prevention, and support for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, human trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence. Its scholarship seeks to document, investigate and improve the causes and effects of gender-based violence. Providing professional training at the undergraduate level to prepare students to work in the field of gender-based violence prevention and intervention is a key component to the center’s mission.

To reach UD’s 24/7 Sexual Offense Support program for crisis support and victim advocacy, call (302) 831-1001 and press “1”. Members of the UD community are also encouraged to download and use the free [LiveSafe app](#). For additional information on safety and wellness topics at UD, visit www.udel.edu/students/safety/.

OTHER EVENTS

December

4 – General Faculty meeting: Join President Dennis Assanis at the General Faculty meeting for a State of the University presentation. All faculty, as well as students and staff, are invited to attend. 2:30 to 3:40 p.m. in Trabant Theater. The event will be [livestreamed](#).

4 – Faculty Senate meeting, 4 p.m. in Trabant Theater

5 – Board of Trustees Semiannual Meeting, 3-5 p.m. in the Audion at the Tower at STAR.

6 – “[Beautiful Monsters](#),” a lecture by UD Professor Miranda Wilson in The Rossettis: Radical Victorian Artists and Writers series. Morris Library, 4:30-6 p.m.

7 – [AI and the Future of Higher Education](#): Part of the [AI Seminar Series](#), the lecture will be presented by Provost Laura Carlson and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Matthew Kinservik. 1-2 p.m. in the Morris Library Lecture Room and on Zoom.

January

9 – “[What’s New in the Goblin Marketplace?](#)” a lecture by UD Professor Margaret Stetz in The Rossettis: Radical Victorian Artists and Writers series. Virtual program, noon-1 p.m.