



## Waiting to be Worn



My office window overlooks Mentor's Circle. Over the past few weeks there has been an increasing and increasingly boisterous parade of soon-to-be graduates, posing for photos in their academic robes with champagne bottles in hand.

I love my conversations with the students, learning where they are headed next, and how they will change the world. They are a daily inspiration, and they represent perfectly what UD is all about – academics, student success, community, and impact.

My UD academic robe arrived a few weeks ago, and it has been hanging in my closet, waiting to be worn. I can't wait to join all of you as we celebrate together our graduates. I look forward to thanking you in person for your dedication to our students, and to embrace the pomp and circumstance that mark such life-changing moments.

What are your favorite graduation traditions? Please share with me at [lcarlson@udel.edu](mailto:lcarlson@udel.edu).

Best wishes for the final few weeks, and see you at Commencement.

**With Blue Hen pride,**

**Laura A. Carlson**  
**Provost**  
**Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences**  
**University of Delaware**

# Faculty Affairs

## Preparing for a Successful Summer

Summer is often a time for faculty to focus on scholarly work, conduct research, write, and develop and deliver courses. Although many faculty start the summer with high hopes for enhanced productivity, they are often disappointed at the end. An excellent start to a highly successful summer while still enjoying life outside work is to develop a summer plan with detailed SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) goals that achieve an ultimate deliverable. SMART goals provide a framework to achieve a plan within a fixed amount of time, while eliminating generalities and identifying missed milestones.

However, developing a SMART semester plan is not enough to move scholars forward while negotiating work-life dynamics. A critical next step for a successful summer is to map these goals onto available time. Faculty frequently underestimate the time that tasks, such as writing and analysis, take by as much as 2-3 times. Key steps include assigning specific times on a weekly calendar to work on each goal, and then committing to work on that goal during the blocked time. During the summer, when traditional programs for school-aged children and elder-care may have decreased programming, schedules can change from week to week. Distributing scholarly tasks throughout the week and working on the priority goal each day facilitates steady progress even when schedules are unsettled.

## Faculty Achievement Fall Semester Small Group Mentoring Registration

Do you want to develop skills to create a greater work-life balance and increase your scholarly productivity? The UD Faculty Achievement Small Group Mentoring Program works with faculty in small groups of 3-4 and is led by an experienced mentor. This mentoring program is designed to help all faculty achieve their scholarly goals throughout the semester while maintaining, or improving, work-life balance. The program offers an accountability and support system and provides resources to help faculty members succeed even with occasional, unforeseen challenges. These groups meet every week to set scholarly goals, report on progress, celebrate successes, and discuss effective strategies and develop plans to navigate the hardships that the semester, and life, bring faculty members across the University. The Faculty Achievement Program offers a planning workshop, providing guidance, and protected time and space, to work on your summer plan. Space is limited. For more information about the Faculty Achievement Small Group Mentoring Program, register [here](#).

# Graduate College

## First interdisciplinary convocation

In addition to the annual Doctoral Hooding ceremony, the Graduate College is holding a Graduate College Convocation for the first time. Students receiving interdisciplinary master's degrees in data science, microbiology, interdisciplinary neuroscience, and water science and policy will be honored at the convocation on May 26. This year the Graduate College will host its inaugural convocation for interdisciplinary master's students in addition to its well-established Doctoral Hooding ceremony.

The Graduate College hosts [interdisciplinary programs](#) that span the University of Delaware's other colleges. Faculty members representing diverse areas act as one to combine their respective expertise and collaborate to provide the unique and dynamic programs that prepare students for exciting careers tackling the greatest problems facing society and the world.



## Center for Teaching & Assessment of Learning (CTAL)

In the fall of 2023, the provost will begin requesting an annual update about program learning assessment in each department or school as recommended by the 2019 [Task Force on Learning Goals and Assessment](#). In addition to providing deans with information about learning and the resources required to support learning in each department and school, this will also ensure that UD's practices are consistent with the standards of its institutional accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The process will allow for significant flexibility in how departments and schools collect and analyze this information. Updates will be reported via a new webform that is currently being developed and tested. In addition to asking about student learning, the form will also ask about changes (if any) that are being made in the program(s) and the support that is required to continue this work.

### Resources and support

- Overview, examples, and resources — <http://www.udel.edu/007847>
- Materials for units engaged in revising or developing assessment plans — <http://www.udel.edu/009709>
- Fall 2023 and spring 2024 workshops for teams of faculty engaged in revising or assessment plans: information, including dates and applications, — <http://www.udel.edu/0010130>

CTAL staff members are ready to assist you and your colleagues.

## Library, Museums and Press

Best-selling author Sara Paretsky spoke at the Friends of the UD Library's annual dinner held at the Delaware Art Museum. Thank you to those who donated to the [Children's Book Drive](#) for National Library Week.

The library is promoting *Stress Less Week* programming to help our Blue Hens stay calm during finals.

If you're around for [Alumni Weekend](#), stop by our [Trip Down Memory Lane](#) event. We'll be showcasing our collection of old UD yearbooks dating back to 1948!

Remember, [we're moving our catalog, DELCAT, to a new platform](#) on June 13 and [it may impact you](#).

Sign-up [here](#) for the latest Library news. Also, [like](#) and [follow](#) us.

## Rally for the Freedom to Learn

Intrepid UD students braved the cold and rain to *Rally for the Freedom to Learn* on the South Green on May 3<sup>rd</sup> as part of a [National Day of Action](#). The [UD Anti-Racism Initiative](#) (UDARI) brought students, faculty, and staff together to speak out against nationwide efforts to undermine critical thinking and to read from banned books. Articulating the sentiments of all, Assistant Professor Davy Knittle noted that over 500 anti-trans bills have been proposed across the nation since January. "Anti-trans legislation is a concern for all people because of the way that anti-Black and anti-trans logics have been historically intertwined. Anti-racism must involve queer and trans justice, and queer and trans justice must be anti-racist to be effective....Critical race studies and queer and trans studies are shared parts of one project, integral to providing accurate information about the conditions of power in the US and to affirming students' lives and right to exist in the face of punitive forms of state power."



## International Programs

The University is celebrating the 100th anniversary of study abroad in Washington, D.C. this spring with a reception at the French Embassy and large presence at the 75th annual [NAFSA conference](#) for international educators.

CGPS will host a [UD Global Festival](#) to celebrate winners of the [Study Abroad Storytelling Contest](#), graduating international students, [World Scholars](#), and [Delaware Diplomats](#) and close the academic year with food, music and games.

The [World Scholars Spring Symposium](#) is the culminating event of the 4-year UD World Scholars Program that helps to internationalize students' academic programs. The class of 2026 represents 38 majors, 7 colleges, and 31 honors students. Interviews are still available for class of 2028 students.

The [UD Mandela Washington Fellows](#) program seeks faculty or staff mentors for the Summer 2023 cohort of young African leaders from sub-Saharan Africa. This six-weeks commitment mentors the fellows in person or virtually on their individual projects and post-institute goals. Contact [udmwfellowship@udel.edu](mailto:udmwfellowship@udel.edu).

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## Events & Deadlines:

### May

**17** – [UD Global Festival](#) – Noon to 2 p.m., Alumni Circle

**19** – Proposal Summit and Reception – Mitchell Hall

**18-22** – Morris Library is hosting *Stress Less* activities to help our Blue Hens stay calm during finals. For more information checkout the Library's [Upcoming Events](#).

**22-27** – Celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2023 with [festivities scheduled from Monday, May 22, through Saturday, May 27](#).

**31 - June 1** – [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

**1** – Deadline for students to [apply for the Seth Trotter Book Collecting Contest](#)

**1** - 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The [Faculty Achievement Program](#) is hosting a 90-minute workshop to guide faculty through developing a summer plan that uses SMART goals to achieve scholarly objectives.

**6-9** – The Center for Teaching & Assessment of Learning (CTAL) is promoting its [Course Design Institute](#). [Registration](#) is limited. 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

[Student Support Services Program](#), a federally funded TRIO program, seeks to retain and graduate first-generation, income-limited and documented disabled students. [UD's Student Support Services](#) is currently [accepting rolling applications](#). Please encourage students to apply. For more information, contact Kenny Holmes at [kholmes@udel.edu](mailto:kholmes@udel.edu).

[International Coffee Hour](#) – Meet UD's international students! Every Friday during the fall and spring semesters from 4 to 6 p.m. at Trabant University Center. Meet our students.

[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](mailto:facultyachievement@udel.edu).

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