

UDARF

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE

APRIL 2018
NEWSLETTER



Students work with the Urban Tree Connection in Philadelphia to help get inner city urban gardens ready for the growing season.

SPRING BREAK—UD STYLE

More than 500 UD students spent spring break this year participating in a week of service learning with communities in 16 U.S. states, through the University of Delaware Alternative Breaks Program (UDaB). UDaB worked with community partners to design 25 spring service-learning programs that allow students to better understand social justice issues, including autism acceptance, domestic violence, environmental stewardship, food insecurity, homelessness, immigration acculturation and more.



Working with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Oyster Restoration Center in Shady Side, Maryland, students cleaned oyster shells in preparation for their use in "setting tanks," where oyster larvae can attach to the cleaned shells and grow into juvenile oysters.

Photos by Evan Krape

Dear UDARF Members,

We have had a very busy and successful year. We have had three luncheon speakers and one Intellectual Journey presentation with one more luncheon speaker and one more Intellectual Journey presentation scheduled. The speakers were Patricia Sloane-White, professor of anthropology and chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies; Michael Greenberg, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering; and Julie Nishimura, faculty accompanist in the Department of Music with Steve Gleich, a freelance artist who is a member of the Distant Voices Touring Theatre (DVTT). In May, our speaker will be President Dennis Assanis.

Sandra Carberry, professor emerita of computer and information sciences shared her intellectual journey with us in November. Jay Halio, professor emeritus of English and Jewish studies, will be our speaker in April at our Intellectual Journey event.

The Nominating Committee met prior to the March 6 luncheon meeting and presented a slate of candidates for the 2018-2020 term. The nominees were approved unanimously. The incoming president of UDARF will be Frank Murray, the vice president will be Janet Johnson, the secretary, Dick Sacher who agreed to serve for another two-year term, and the treasurer will be John Brook. I want to thank our incoming officers for their enthusiasm and support of UDARF. I also want to note that I found my two years as President of UDARF to be a very worthwhile experience. I enjoyed working with the members of the Executive Committee and having the opportunity to serve the retired faculty who participate in UDARF activities.

Sincerely,
Marian Lief Palley
UDARF President

Julie Nishimura speaks on her father's internment

Hiroaki Nishimura kept a diary throughout his imprisonment in multiple Japanese internment camps in the United States during World War II. His daughter, Julie Nishimura, and her late husband, Danny Peak, created Distant Voices to bring her father's words to life.

Julie Nishimura is a faculty accompanist and instructor for the University's Department of Music. Steven Gleich is the production manager for the Distant Voices Touring Theatre program. Together, they performed a shortened version of their show during a recent luncheon for UDARF in Clayton Hall. Nishimura opened the show by talking about her fascination with her dad's diary and how it inspired the performance.

"Danny suggested we use the diary as a basis for the presentation," Nishimura said. "Danny transcribed sections of my dad's diary and integrated it with articles from the newspapers, magazines, government documents and social features of the time. We then selected music we felt was appropriate to underscore and emphasize the emotion of each section. What emerged was a 75-minute performance." For events such as the UDARF lunch, the group presents a shorter version that lasts about 30 minutes.

Nishimura took her place at the piano while Gleich organized his notes on a music stand at the front of the room. He performed all the speaking parts, which are normally divided between three people. A photo of Nishimura's father was on the

board behind them. Gleich began reading:

"April 29, 1942, Hiroaki says, 'Today is finally coming. It has been very busy for three months since the evacuation order. From today now on I lose my given name and become number 14786. I carry only two suitcases.'"

The audience heard a candid portrayal of Nishimura's thoughts in the larger context of history as he was moved from camp to camp, eventually released and offered a redress check from the government years later. Despite Nishimura's hardships, he still found small moments of joy, like when he reconnected with a friend after moving to another internment camp.

The performance closed with Gleich reading the words on a plaque placed outside the remains of an internment camp called Tule Lake in California.

"Tule Lake was one of 10 American concentration camps established during World War II to incarcerate 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry — of whom the majority were American citizens," Gleich said. "Behind barbed wire and guard towers without charge, trial, or establishment of guilt. These camps are reminders of how racism, economic and political exploitation and expedience can undermine the constitutional guarantees of United States



The father of Julie Nishimura was one of the U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry forced into a camp created by the U.S. government during World War II.

citizens and aliens alike. May the injustices and humiliations suffered here, never occur."

The group performed the show more than 250 times over the past 18 years, around the country, often at festivals and in schools. Nishimura said she is proud to share her father's story and continue the work she started with her husband.

"My husband, who's no longer here, I think he would be very happy that we're continuing his work because he was very passionate about this," Nishimura said. "This was his project from the get go. Yes, it was about my father, but it was really Danny's work. It's his work and we're going to keep doing it."

*Article by Carlett Spike
Photo by Kathy F. Atkinson*

Michael Greenberg discusses a theory behind art appreciation

What is art?" is an age-old question that lingers because there is no right answer or interpretation. Taking a different type of analytical approach, Michael Greenberg attempted to address this question during a December UDARF luncheon in Clayton Hall.

"We've been to the moon. We've even managed to come back and we've done many incredible things, but there's one age-old question that's still on the books: 'How does art work?'" Greenberg said. "It's the question of art, I believe, and it's really been untouched."

He promised the audience this wouldn't be another lecture on neuroaesthetics, which often uses a scientific approach by looking at entire systems and processes to explain the arts. Neuroaesthetics is like the new kid on the block, he said.

"I don't see how neuroaesthetics is positioned to answer the question, 'How does art work?'" Greenberg said. "To illustrate that point, this book, *Introduction to Neuroaesthetics*, has a painting on the cover, but you flip through the 450 pages and you don't find a single picture."

A retired professor from the College of

Engineering's Department of Mechanical Engineering, Greenberg instead dedicated his 30-minute presentation to the neuron. Focusing on the micro-level actions of a neuron, we can understand how our vision works when looking at art, Greenberg said. Much of our interpretation has to do with nonlinearity, which is an idea that change does not always have proportional or direct cause and effect.

A fellow retired professor from the audience asked, "What does this have to do with nonlinearity?"

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My Intellectual Journey

Sandra Carberry reflects on successes, challenges

The first time Sandra Carberry worked with a computer, she wasn't impressed.

It was 1961, and Carberry was a teenager attending an eight-week summer workshop on math and computers. These early machines were nothing like today's tech. It took them about 45 minutes to connect wires on a plugboard in order to add two numbers together.

"I thought: This is ridiculous!" she told a crowd during a December lecture at the UD Courtyard by Marriott. "Computers? Ugh. I am not going to do computers. Something else, but not that."

More than a half century later, Carberry is an emeritus professor of computer and information sciences at UD. An expert in natural language understanding, response generation, user modeling, dialogue systems, summarization, digital libraries, intelligent interfaces, and plan recognition, Carberry has published nearly a hundred journal papers, book chapters, and highly refereed conference and workshop papers and authored three books.

In the lecture for UDARF's My Intellectual Journey Series, Carberry recounted her journey, crediting others along the way.

"I started thinking back on the number of people who were responsible for my success and the achievements that I had," she said. "And I was amazed at how many people I am grateful to."

AN EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

Carberry grew up in southern Illinois and went to an all-girls Catholic high school, where there were limited opportunities in science and math.

However, a nun named Sister Patrick Ann noticed Carberry's talent.

"I had her as a math teacher for many years, and she encouraged me to do more than just what was in the coursework in high school," said Carberry. Sister Patrick Ann gave Carberry extra math books and nominated her for an NSF summer workshop at St. Louis University—the one where she encountered the frustrating computer.

Sister Patrick Ann also helped Carberry evaluate colleges, and they determined that



Sandra Carberry started teaching computer sciences classes at UD in 1970 and still teaches in retirement.

Cornell University was the best fit. Carberry enrolled there in 1962 as a mathematics major. She wasn't sure what she would do after college—become an actuary? A theoretical mathematician? During her junior year, a class on numerical analysis inspired her.

"We ended up doing programming on computers of complex math problems, I mean, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, solving differential equations, wow," she said. "This was great. This was what I really liked."

Carberry enjoyed the class so much that she asked the professor, Robert Walker, if she could be his teaching assistant during her senior year. He said yes, despite the fact that the position was usually reserved for graduate students.

When Walker fell ill and required hospitalization, Carberry ended up teaching some of the classes.

"It was thrilling to try to explain complex principles in a way that other people could understand," she said. "And I thought maybe what I wanted to do was be a university professor in computer science."

She started applying to graduate programs in computer science, a new field at the time. The first doctoral degree in computer science was granted in 1965.

Since computer science was new, it was often tangled up in other academic departments, such as mathematics and industrial or electrical engineering. During one meeting with a professor involved in admissions, Carberry saw a list of five

applicants and their awards. The first two names were men. The last two names were men. Her name appeared third.

The other candidates had "fellowship" listed by their names. Next to hers: "teaching assistantship."

"And I said to him: 'Is that a ranking of the applicants?'" said Carberry. He confirmed that it was. Carberry asked why she wasn't picked for a fellowship.

"He said: 'You're a woman. You're just going to get married and have babies and you're not going to contribute to the profession. We want to put our money where it's going to do the most good,'" said Carberry.

Carberry went to a different school—Carnegie Mellon—instead. However, she hit a snag. When she applied to the school, the computer science program was in the math department. By the time she got there, it had moved to a different one. Her fellowship was good for the math department only, and she didn't want a doctorate in math. She dropped out after five weeks and went to work at Bell Laboratories.

Carberry then married her husband, who was working for DuPont in New Jersey. When he was transferred to Houston, Carberry went to Rice University and got her master's degree in computer science. When her husband was transferred to Delaware, she became an instructor of computer science at UD in 1970. After several years, she became stymied.

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Appreciating art *continued from page 2*

Greenberg used two works of art to prove his point. The first work by an artist Greenberg said he truly admires was “The Dance” by Henri Matisse. The artwork, shows a circle of women holding hands. Pointing out the shapes created by the hands, Greenberg said our eyes follow the jagged patterns and our brains sees depth perception. The concept of figure-ground is one example of this.

The idea behind figure-ground is that your brain is able to distinguish between the figures in an image and what is supposed to be the background, said Greenberg. Your eyes and brain pick up on these cues.

“Figure-ground is not where we’re going, but it gets our foot in the door,” said Greenberg. Think of it as “jumps,” he told the audience. These different “jumps” processing in our brain ultimately create sustained pleasure and hence we enjoy a



College of Engineering Professor Emeritus Michael Greenberg discusses connecting micro-level brain function to the human ability to appreciate art.

piece of art.

To bring his point home, he turned to the painting “Green Chair,” by Milton Avery, where he argued our natural ability to create depth perception does not work.

To the eyes, this photo looks flat. Greenberg pointed out an unnatural section where the table, floor, and wall of the photo meet at one point, he said, failing to create the illusion that the table is in the foreground.

If a portion of a painting is off or counters our natural understanding of how things work, the brain will not adjust, said Greenberg. In order to have an appreciation for a work of art, it has to logically work with our brain’s natural process of correcting.

“The bottom line, I think, in understanding art, is a different way of looking at it,” Greenberg said. “And it’s based on a model which has to be based on physiology. You don’t need the whole brain to figure this out. A simple neuron gives you all the clues you need.”

*Article by Carlett Spike
Photo by Kathy F. Atkinson*

IN MEMORIAM

Catherine ‘Kitty’ V. Bieber, former associate dean of the College of Human Resources (now the College of Education and Human Development), passed away on Nov. 11, 2017. She joined the UD faculty in 1956 and served as associate dean of the college and associate professor of what was then home economics education from 1969–79. During her tenure as associate dean, she served as acting dean twice. A 1964 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award, she retired in 1989.

Bobby F. Caviness, professor emeritus who shaped UD’s Department of Computer and Information Sciences, died Jan. 11, 2018, at the age of 77. During his six years as chairperson of the department, the size of the faculty more than doubled, with an emphasis on building strong research groups. He retired in 2005 after 23 years at Delaware.

George E. Collins, a Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Delaware from 1985–86 and 1995–2002, died Nov. 21, 2017. He was 89. A computer scientist, he made many fundamental contributions to the field of computer algebra.

Peter J. McCarthy, long-time member of the music faculty, passed away Nov. 12, 2017. He was 79. He retired from UD in 2000 after 26 years of service and was named associate professor emeritus. A certified choir master of the American Guild of Organists, he was co-founder of the Delaware Singers and the Brandywine Singers. He also was a Master Gardener of Delaware.

William Wren McNabb, who worked in study abroad programming at UD for more than 30 years, passed away on March 13, 2018. He was 77. Originally an instructor in German at UD, Mr. McNabb was involved in study abroad

throughout his career, traveling with students to a variety of destinations throughout the world. For a time, he served as director of the former semester program in Vienna. He retired in 2008.

Harold R. ‘Tubby’ Raymond, one of the most successful coaches in the history of college football during a nearly 50-year career at UD, passed away Dec. 8, 2017. Coach Raymond, who won 300 games and three national championships at UD and was one of the innovators of the famous Wing-T offense, had celebrated his 92nd birthday on Nov. 14. Coach Raymond was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2003 and was also a member of the University of Delaware Athletics Hall of Fame (2002), the state of Delaware Sports Hall of Fame (1993), the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Hall of Fame (2017), and the Flint, Michigan, Hall of Fame (1983).

Harris E. Ross, longtime associate professor of journalism and film, passed away on March 28, 2018, at the age of 71. He joined the UD faculty in 1984 and received the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2003. During his last decade at UD, he and his wife, Kathleen Duke, also of the English department faculty, led numerous study abroad programs in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Ireland. He retired in 2014.

Norman B. Schwartz, professor emeritus of anthropology, died Jan. 31, 2018. He was 85. He retired from the UD faculty in 2005 after 36 years of service, including two years as acting chair and three years as chair of the Department of Anthropology. While completing his doctorate, he discovered San Andres, Peten, Guatemala, which remained the lifelong center of his research, informal teaching and mentoring. He was internationally recognized for his expertise in conservation and natural resources management.

Robert M. Stark, professor emeritus of mathematical sciences and civil and environmental engineering, died Nov. 18, 2017. He was 87. He earned his doctorate in civil engineering at UD in 1965 and rose to the position of professor and, in 2001, professor emeritus, with appointments in the departments of Mathematical Sciences and of Civil and Environmental Engineering. In 1999, he received an Outstanding Alumni Award from the College of Engineering. In addition to his work in math and engineering, Prof. Stark was a lifelong student of American history. He taught several classes and completed a manuscript, “Benjamin Franklin, An American Innovator.” A founder of the UD Association of Retired Faculty, he served as its president at one point.

The Rev. Monsignor Michael F. Szupper, Catholic chaplain at UD from 1964–2006 and founding pastor of the St. Thomas More Oratory, passed away on Dec. 18, 2017. He was 86. In his years at UD, Monsignor Szupper rarely missed a football game, arriving early for every home game and cheering on the team and the Marching Band. Students who wanted him to marry them or alumni who wanted their children christened in the fall knew those events would have to be scheduled around the Blue Hens’ football schedule. In 2003, Monsignor Szupper was presented the University’s Medal of Distinction, the highest non-academic award bestowed by the Board of Trustees.

Mary Cornelia Weil, former editor of the University of Delaware *Messenger*, died on Jan. 24, 2018. She was 75. Ms. Weil worked in public relations at UD for 24 years, retiring as *Messenger* editor in 2008. During her tenure as editor, the *Messenger* won several press awards and the UD Innovation Award.

Carberry's Intellectual Journey continued from page 3

"I was able to teach some advanced courses in computer science, but I wasn't doing any research," said Carberry. "It wasn't really as fulfilling as I wanted it to be, so I decided I should go get a PhD."

Helen Gouldner, then the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Hatem Khalil, then a professor in computer and information sciences, helped Carberry secure a university fellowship.

She earned her doctoral degree in 1985 and was a faculty member at UD until retiring in January 2016. Two main people she credits with her success are her husband of 50 years, who has always supported her ambition, and Prof. Bob Caviness, who was chair of computer science; he hired her as an assistant professor, despite reservations about hiring his own graduates, and encouraged her throughout her career. She dedicated the talk to Caviness.

She still teaches two classes in the fall semester and serves on advisory committees for several PhD students.

HER LATEST RESEARCH

After recounting her journey, Carberry told the audience about her most recent research projects, which involved studying graphics.

"About eight to 10 years, ago I found myself looking at graphics and thinking: Graphics convey something. They convey a message,"

she said. "They may not be words, but in a sense they are language."

Carberry and grad students gathered graphics from publications such as *U.S. News and World Report*, *Newsweek*, *USA Today* and more.

They found that over 60 percent of the time, the message conveyed by the graphic was not repeated in the article's text. In order to fully understand an article, you may need to get the message from the graphic and the message from the text and integrate them.

"Infographics are an important knowledge source that should not be ignored, and they should be retrievable in a digital library," said Carberry.

She uses computing to pull out all kinds of information about graphics, from the sizes of elements to words in the captions and analyze them to deduce the meaning of the graphic and provide a summary.

Carberry's research also aims to make infographics more accessible to blind individuals.

At the end of her talk, Carberry reminded the audience that computer science isn't her only interest. In her spare time, she reads, volunteers, and plays bridge, tennis, and golf.

Article by Julie Stewart

Photo by Kathy F. Atkinson

IN BRIEF

William W. Boyer, Messick Professor Emeritus and visiting scholar at the School of Public Policy and Administration, represented the University at the Feb. 27 inauguration of In Chul Kim's second term as president of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea. At the inauguration, Boyer presented the University of Delaware certificate signed by President Assanis congratulating Kim. Boyer was In Kim's adviser during the 1980s and chair of his Ph.D. committee in the Department of Political Science and International Relations.

For Women's History Month, **Anne M. Boylan**, professor emerita of history and women and gender studies, and **Ann V. Bell**, assistant professor of sociology and women and gender studies, gave presentations at the Delaware Historical Society on Thursday, March 15. Boylan's presentation was entitled "Florence Bayard Hilles and Women's Rights Activism in Delaware." Bell's presentation was entitled "Comstock Laws at 145."

Theodore E.D. Braun, professor emeritus of French and comparative literature, organized and chaired a session on "Enlightened Censorship (with Tongue Firmly Planted in Cheek) or Censorship in the Enlightenment" at the South Central Society

for 18th-Century Studies, held Feb. 23-24, in Oxford, Mississippi. He also read a paper, "Cyrano de Bergerac's *L'Autre Monde ou les Empires et Etats de la Lune* Censored." Braun also chaired a panel on enlightenment censorship at the 49th annual meeting of the American Society for 18th-Century Studies held March 22-24 at Orlando, Florida. At the same meeting, he read a paper on a professional roundtable panel on scholarship, community and retirement, entitled "Preparing for Retirement."

Leslie F. Goldstein, Judge Hugh M. Morris Professor Emeritus in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, is the author of "An Unacknowledged Constitutional Crisis: *U.S. v. Shipp II* (1909)," published in the *University of Maryland Law Review* (Number 1 2017) 77: 200-222.

James M. Jones, Trustees Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Psychological and Brain Sciences and Africana Studies and director of the Center for the Study of Diversity, is delivering a lecture on "What and How Diversity Matters: A Personal and Intellectual Journey" at 4 p.m., April 16, in the Gore Recital Hall of the Roselle Center for the Arts. On May 10, he will discuss the development of the Diversity Competency Model at 4 p.m., in 202 Old College, as part of the Center for the Study of Diversity's colloquium series.

Peter Weil, associate professor emeritus of anthropology, is the author of "Typewriters at the Exposition—Part 2: Writing Machines at The Pan," *ETCetera*, no. 119, fall, 2017, pp. 10-14.

Enjoy Courtyard Newark at the University of Delaware hospitality

Bill Sullivan, managing director of the Courtyard Newark on the Laird Campus, has generously renewed a special rate for UDARF members, their families and friends.

The special rate is half off of the prevailing room rate for the dates of travel, based on room availability. Reservations must be made personally with Bill at 302-218-4541 or billsull@udel.edu. Do not ask at the hotel main desk.