



August 28, 2017

Dear UD community,

Welcome to a bright, new academic year at the University of Delaware! All of us at UD are thrilled to open our doors and our hearts to our 4,300 first-year students — our largest and most diverse class, chosen from our largest applicant pool, with the greatest numbers of Delawareans and international students in our history. They are joined by 1,200 new graduate students and 85 new faculty who are complementing the impressive talent that is already in place at UD.

As a community of passionate learners and explorers, we are truly inspired by the limitless opportunities ahead to advance our institution and our society. When we link scholarship to action, we extend our reach into the world. Our intellectual power at UD stems from respecting our diverse opinions, perspectives, culture and beliefs. This helps us provoke new thinking in the classroom, propel discovery to innovation and pursue new insights in arts and humanities, business, engineering and the sciences.

We are energized by the groundbreaking partnerships we built last year for our great institution, and we are poised to take this momentum forward. For example, through the new Biden Institute, UD is advancing social-science scholarship and addressing our nation's toughest problems. The STAR Campus is quickly becoming a bustling nexus of education, research, entrepreneurship and community engagement. Our multi-institution partnerships in scientific discovery and innovation — notably the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) and Delaware Innovation Space Inc. — translate UD's research into practice. And our new UDairy Creamery in downtown Wilmington “tastefully” connects our agriculture, business and Associate in Arts programs with the community here in the great state of Delaware.

As your President, I feel proud to be part of a community that is strengthened by the tremendous spirit that bonds us at this University, compelling us all to put knowledge to good use as we shape the future and create a better world, together. UD is a place that overflows with optimism and camaraderie, and you have a prominent role in writing the script of that experience every day. Our students, faculty, staff, alumni, Trustees and friends define our global network of ideas, talent and passion. By carrying our Blue Hen pride far beyond the Green, we collectively strengthen UD as a powerhouse of knowledge, discovery and service. We are at a time in our world when this sense of community is more important than ever before – a time when civil liberties are tested, when human endurance is challenged by the likes of natural disasters that took place in Texas this week, or a time when the collective will to persevere and make a positive impact on society unites us in a shared quest for peace and purpose – here at UD and beyond.

My wife, Eleni, and I enjoyed interacting with so many of you and your families at Move-In Weekend. I look forward to welcoming our new Blue Hens at tonight's Twilight Induction ceremony, which will be streamed on Facebook Live. The beginning of the first semester of a new academic year is always a very special time on our campus, and we are both honored and inspired to have you all here to share this moment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Assanis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

President Dennis Assanis