Don Wright
achieves Golden Arch success

$10 million in state funding to help establish an optics research facility

Professor Mable Morrison
approaches 50 years of teaching
Dear DSU alumni and friends,

Now in the middle of my second year as president of this great institution, it is with joy that we are witnessing a new and growing “culture of giving” among alumni. It is clearly an unprecedented spirit of alumni financial support that is much needed amid the current economic challenges facing DSU — and, most critically — our students.

Following the DSU Alumni Association example in January, in which it donated more than $88,000 to its alma mater, this developing culture of giving of late has manifested in two individual alumni groups. Members of the Class of 1961 traveled from far and wide in the spring to meet at DSU to map out an ambitious five-year giving program. The Class of 1961 arrived to celebrate its 50-year anniversary at the 2011 Commencement and brought a donation of $10,000. Inside this issue, you will also read about the DSUAA, which will have an infectious impact, by the classes of 1961 and 1965, as well as the DSU Alumni Foundation segment.

It is my belief that the examples being set by the classes of 1961 and 1965, as well as the DSUAA, will have an infectious impact, prompting other alumni to ensure that they are a solid part of this ongoing Delaware State University success story. In doing so, alumni will be instrumental in helping DSU produce graduates who will make their indelible marks on the world — and through their success help attract future students to cast their dreams and aspirations with this institution.

The institution has set its course to move beyond its current 17th ranking among Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the country to become one of the top universities. It cannot make progress toward that goal without a significant improvement in its giving, retention and graduation rates. Because of the ongoing formidable financial challenges that students face to stay in school and complete their degrees, the role of alumni financial support that is much needed amid the current economic challenges facing DSU.

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Alumni spirit shines through with growing ‘culture of giving’
Donald Wright and his wife, Paula, are a major McDonald’s franchise duo whose restaurant chain outside of Boston, Mass., has been recognized by the corporation as being among the top franchise groups around the world.

When Wright, Class of 1965, thinks of the success he has experienced, he credits longtime 1940s through 1960s DSU sociology professor Dr. Maurice Thomasson as being influential. “His grasp on concepts was great,” Wright said. “He got me to thinking in a conceptual way instead a linear way.”

It has been the Wrights’ conceptual visionary approach that has elevated the couple as one of McDonald’s top franchise enterprises.

In addition to owning four individual McDonald’s franchises in the Boston suburbs, the Wrights also own four U.S. 90 turnpike travel plazas that are each anchored by a McDonald’s restaurant. Ever bustling with travelers, the plazas also include Auntie Anne’s pretzels, Ben & Jerry’s ice cream, Honey Dew Donuts, Original Pizza of Boston and Fresh City (healthy wraps and salads).

The Wrights provide jobs for more than 1,700 people within their enterprise. That not only encompasses employees involved directly in each restaurant’s operation, but also landscapers, plumbers and electricians. “We wanted to become self-sufficient, so we do our own landscaping, mechanics, accounting,” Wright said. “Very rarely do we need outside services.”

In 2005, the McDonald’s corporation validated the Wright’s meteoric rise as franchisees by presenting them with the prestigious Golden Arch Award, given to the top 1 percent of franchisees in the world.

College days

The immigration of his father, Donald Wright, from Nova Scotia, Canada, and his mother, Mary Britto, from the Cape Verde Islands led to the DSU alumnus’ 1941 birth in West Medford, Mass. After his high school graduation there, he was accepted by Boston University and the University of Massachusetts. But economic necessity directed Wright to enroll at then-Delaware State College.

He first arrived at the DSC campus with a shopping bag of his clothing in one arm and a basketball in his other. He was not astounded by the DSC campus and its surroundings. “At that time, there was a cornfield across the highway and the campus was like a dust bowl,” he said.

Donald Wright talks with an employee making a sandwich at McDonald’s in one of four U.S. Route 90 turnpike travel plazas in Massachusetts he and his wife, Paula, own. Below left, Wright joins workers behind the counter at Auntie Anne’s pretzels in the travel plaza.

“Fortunately, there was a cornfield across the highway and the campus was like a dust bowl,” he said.

The clothes he wore that day—which apparently did not conform to youth fashion of the early 1960s—didn’t exactly impress the students he first encountered, who appointed themselves the DSC fashion police to give Don a ridiculing welcome.

But the future restaurant entrepreneur was not discouraged. “I knew that I had something that those guys didn’t have. Because I had been around whites all my life, an inferiority complex
During Wright's years at DSC, race relations in Dover were still problematic. As a result, he and his peers were confronted with racial incidents from time to time, including discriminatory practices by downtown merchants and other forms of bigotry.

"We started boycotting all of the businesses, and we forced them to look at us differently," he said. Those incidents notwithstanding, young Donald assimilated well into the DSC community. Majoring in sociology, he was an honor student, and although his basketball aspirations did not materialize, he found his athletic calling as a lifeguard in the Memorial Hall swimming pool.

Wright said that DSC turned out to be the right school for him, and the faculty was a big reason.

"A lot of professors didn't have it easy going, but they poured their lives into getting you to the next level," he said.

Dr. Maurice Thomasson was Wright's favorite. "He was the gentleman of the campus; he always tipped his cap to the ladies," he said.

But it was the conceptual thinking lessons Wright learned in Thomasson's sociology classes that stayed with him. As far as retirement from his commercial ventures goes, Wright said.

"I didn't have any opportunity to move up until I met Don and Paula and went to work for them," said Donald Wright. "They saw my skill and potential and gave me the opportunity to go to school." The Wrights insist on keeping their managers with a salary of $56,000 upwards a year, a car, health insurance and a healthy bonus when they turn 40 years old. The Wrights have a real knack for seeing the potential in people. "I don't see others investing in people like Don does," Timas said. "He creates a high level of motivation."

Angelo Castillo, another Ray Kroc winner from the Wright organization, said he had been a crew person at another McDonald's, but was going nowhere. "I didn't have any opportunity to move up until I met Don and Paula and went to work for them," Castillo said. "They saw my skill and potential and gave me the opportunity to go to school." The Wrights take care of their managers with a salary of $56,000 upwards a year, a car, health insurance and a healthy bonus when the Wrights' high standard of business success is met. Timas said the Wrights' investment in people has been a critical factor in their success. "People give him the return on his investments through their efforts," he said.

Now in his 27th year as a McDonald's franchisee, Wright believes in investing in his employees and developing them to be the best they can be. "McDonald's is the only job company anyone can work for," he said. "It is a company with many opportunities." The Ray Kroc Award is given annually to the top 1 percent of McDonald's managers in the country -- that's out of 14,000 restaurants. Five managers from the Wright's franchises have won it.

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Wright earned a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from DSC in 1965 and went on to a brief employment stint at a YMCA in Baltimore, where he met his wife, Paula. It wasn't long, however, before he landed a job at the Massachusetts Office of Economic Development and later for a 20-year stint as state director of ACTION (an umbrella federal agency that encompassed VISTA and the Peace Corps).

During that time, Paula Wright was experiencing her own success in the corporate world. A graduate of Morgan State University, she worked in a high-level position with IBM. But as profitable as the Wrights' separate livelihoods were, both decided after 20 years that they wanted to try something different — and that turned out to be as McDonald's franchise owners.

Road to a franchise

Both spouses successfully completed McDonald's independent owner/operator certification program, paving the way for the establishment of their first McDonald's franchise in a mall in downtown Boston in 1984.

Failure is often the pivotal road to success; their first McDonald's franchise was not a success, largely because the location was a failure. "The mall was only 40 percent occupied," Don Wright said. Despite that bad start, the McDonald's brass continued to support the couple and persuaded them to pursue McDonald's success in the Boston suburbs. It was that redirection that put the Wrights on the road to success — or more succinctly, on the turnpike to success.

In addition to developing several individual McDonald's restaurants in the suburbs, the Wrights also seized the opportunities of the U.S. Route 90 Massachusetts turnpike. They established their first McDonald's-anchored turnpike plaza in 2001 and currently operate four of them along the major highway.

The Wrights' McDonald's enterprise is especially known for two things — the opportunities provided to its employees and the attractiveness of the restaurants and travel plazas. "I want people to walk into my restaurant as if it was opened yesterday," Don Wright said.

Externally, that means landscaping is a constant activity — so much so that the Wrights employ a team of their own landscapers who continually maintain all of the restaurant and travel plaza properties. Even the restaurant's drive-through sections — which Wright says account for 40 percent of revenue — are richly mulched and adorned with flowers, shrubbery and other plants.

The Wrights' individual restaurants are roomier than many McDonald's that exist throughout the country, as big as 10,000 square feet. "We always build and staff to handle the maximum business," Wright said. It has truly been a family enterprise. The Wrights' son, Donnie, grew up not just watching the development of his parents' success story, but also learning the business beginning with working behind the counter and in the kitchens. Now 26, Donnie is the owner/operator of five McDonald's franchises in Massachusetts.

Last January, the Wrights' McDonald's restaurant in Norwood, Mass., was awarded as the 2010 Small Business of the Year by the Natick Valley Chamber of Commerce. The attractiveness of the restaurant — especially with respect to the landscaping attention and its cleanliness — was a major factor in the honor.

Thomas O'Rourke, president of the Natick Valley Chamber, said the Norwood McDonald's is a business that residents are proud to have as part of their community.

"He creates a high level of motivation."

It stands out as a well-designed and maintained business property," O'Rourke said. "That McDonald's abuts a residential area, and it makes the residents feel good that Mr. Wright cares so much about how his business makes the neighborhood look."

Giving back

The Wrights' community service includes their financial assistance in the construction of a shelter for battered women in the Cape Verde Islands, a Boys' Club building in Massachusetts, Ronald McDonald's House charities and other local projects.

"Most of the things we do involve helping children to have better lives," Paula Wright said.

Don Wright added that giving back should begin with one's college or university, because "college developed you." A DSU donor for years, he helped that talk up during 2010 Homecoming Weekend by donating $10,000 to the DSU Athletics Program for baseball and football scholarships. He is also collaborating with other members of the 1965 DSU class to make significant financial commitments over the next five years and thereby become class leaders to model the way for developing a robust culture of giving among alumni.

As far as retirement from his commercial ventures goes, Wright said he doesn't think about it. "When God is ready to call me home, then it is time to retire," he said.

Dr. Maurice Thomasson was Wright's favorite. "He was the gentleman of the campus; he always tipped his cap to the ladies," he said.

"As a result, because I had a passion for food and people, I could conceptually see the success," Wright said. "Now I get people to help me make that concept a reality."
**What’s new on campus**

**For optics, a $10M boost**

Governor earmarks funding to initiate creation of a campus research facility

Gov. Jack Markell used DSU as the site from which he announced his proposal to make significant investments in the three state institutions of higher education — Delaware State University, University of Delaware and Delaware Technical & Community College.

Markell made the announcement as part of the unveiling of his “Building Delaware’s Future Now” job plan, which recommended investments in early childhood and higher education to get people to work now and improve economic opportunity in the future. His plan — which received legislative approval June 30 — includes a $30 million one-time investment to build and expand research and training facilities at DSU, UD and Delaware Tech.

“Education can’t begin the first day a child shows up for kindergarden and, whether it’s job training or college, education can’t end the minute someone receives their high school diploma,” Markell said. “When deciding where to expand or where to locate, many businesses take a hard look at a state’s institutions of higher education, including the research those schools produce and the quality of their graduates to see if they could get right to work helping those companies grow.”

Markell said $10 million in one-time state funds for DSU will be utilized to leverage additional federal dollars to establish a state-of-the-art, world-class optics research facility. The facility will position DSU to be a national leader in establishing an optics institute.

DSU’s optics pursuits have developed into the most prolific research area at the University. Under the leadership of the program’s founder, Dr. Noureddine Melikechi, since its beginning in 1998, DSU optics research has attracted outstanding scientists whose work along with Melikechi has inspired significant confidence from the federal government. That confidence has translated into federal financial support for DSU optics research endeavors. In recent years, DSU’s optics researchers have attracted a $5 million grant from the National Science Foundation and another $5 million grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

DSU’s diverse optics research projects continue to be overseen by Melikechi, who is currently the dean of the College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology as well as the University’s vice president for research.

DSU President Harry L. Williams said the University is extremely appreciative of the importance Markell places on higher education in Delaware and cited this announcement as further evidence.

“We, like the governor, know that higher education can be a competitive advantage, fuelling a knowledge-based economy. DSU is proud of its unique breakthroughs in optics and the STEM areas, and this infrastructure funding will allow the University to further secure a niche for Delaware in research, job creation and professional workforce development.”

DSU President Harry L. Williams

**DSU makes first intellectual property transfer**

During the spring semester, DSU announced the first-ever transfer of an intellectual property created by its optics scientists to a technology company for the development of a device for use in hospitals and laboratories.

Dr. Noureddine Melikechi, vice president of research and dean of the University’s College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology, said Dr. Yuri Markushin, DSU senior research scientist, has been instrumental in the work that led to the intellectual property transfer from DSU to Photon Machines.

DSU reached an agreement with Redmond, Wash.-based Photon Machines Inc., in which a Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy-Tag Method (LIB-Tag) developed from the University’s optics research work will be used in the creation of laser technology that can be used in hospitals and labs for diagnostic work.

This breakthrough is an innovative development in the evolving area of proteomics — the large-scale study of proteins, their structure and functions. The DSU optics-method addresses the need in proteomics to be able to rapidly identify proteins and enzymes.

“This is a significant major step in our scientific and technological pursuits,” he said. “It is a strong indication that with a little help and support, DSU can play a major role in enhancing knowledge-based economic growth locally, regionally and nationally.”

Melikechi said he is particularly proud of the contribution of students in the research work of the optics program. “Our students are part of the future, and they have to be a part of designing it,” he said.

Photon Machines has the exclusive worldwide license from DSU to develop the LIBS-Tag technology. The University is in the process of getting a patent finalized for this intellectual property.

“Photon Machines is excited to be licensing this innovative technology from DSU which bolsters one of our core technologies, and also promises to be an important innovation in biomedical diagnostics,” said Dr. Steve Buckley, co-founder and president of Photon Machines.

Buckley said this new advancement has the potential to make a tremendous change in the lives of people through the advanced method of analyzing individual proteins.

“Proteins in your blood has a lot of information about one’s health,” Buckley said. “This can be a game-changer in health care.”

**DSU’’s optics research**

DSU President Harry L. Williams, who is currently the dean of the College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology as well as the University’s vice president for research, looks on.

Dr. Steve Buckley, co-founder and president of Photon Machines Inc., after the intellectual property transfer announcement.

Dr. Noureddine Melikechi, DSU vice president of research, looks on.

Above: From left, Dr. Proopaparmag, Sivakumar, Dr. Yuri Markushin, student Leon Taha, Dr. Noureddine Melikechi and student Alissa Mezzacappa work in a Delaware State University optics lab.

At right: DSU optics graduate student Franz Delima shies Gov. Jack Markell some of the technology used by the University’s optics researchers.
What's new on campus

Music lab, recording studio updates enhance learning

$400,000 gift funds improvements

The DSU Department of Music is now widening the educational possibilities for its students with the addition of a professional music technology lab and recording studio.

The facility additions are expanding the aspirations of DSU music students beyond the performance and music teaching arena and into the diverse areas that make up the music industry. These music department enhancements have been largely the result of a generous $400,000 gift by an anonymous donor. The funding allowed the department to expand its existing music technology lab in the Education and Humanities Building, as well as design and renovate an adjacent area into a recording studio.

Dr. Yvonne Johnson, chair of the Department of Music, was instrumental in the planning of the new facilities and in working with the anonymous donor.

The music facilities expansion includes the installation of 12 synthesizer keyboards in its technology lab, each one outfitted with a Mac computer workstation that is all loaded with the latest music technology software. The expansion also included the construction of a sound-proof recording studio that features a Pro Tools HD integrated C-24 mixing console.

The technological enhancements moved the department to an expansion of its degree offering — in which a student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in music will be able to earn it with a concentration in music industry. The new concentration received Faculty Senate approval during the spring semester.

"Under a music industry concentration, students will be able to gain skills in recording technology, commercial composition, as well as in the business side that includes marketing, promotions and music management," said Dr. David Tolley, associate professor of music. The new recording facility opened up an internship opportunity for music students, as it has resulted in the establishment of a student-run Class Records, which is responsible for putting together compilation CD projects and marketing them. The students split up the responsibilities into the areas of marketing, sales, artists and repertoire and Internet.

Already one year old, Class Records was slated to release its third compilation CD in the spring. "Instead of doing their internship working for a company, they are the company," Tolley said. "I have benefited tremendously from this studio here," Gueh said. "Now I don't have to go to an unfamiliar studio and get charged an arm and a leg."
Go Green Initiative in spotlight

Delaware State University’s Go Green Initiative to establish sound environmental practices on campus was affirmed June 23 when the institution received the Climate Leadership Award from the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment.

Given at the fifth annual Climate Leadership Summit in Washington, the award — which was presented in the Master’s Colleges and University category — recognizes DSU for the work it has done since it committed to be part of the Green initiative. It was the most important of which was the engagement of all segments of the campus in the effort.

DSU’s Go Green Initiative was also highlighted in the annual report of the ACUPCC, as well as in the Minority-Serving Institution Green Report. DSU was among nine that were chosen to be featured in the report, recognized for the work it has done in the Green initiatives on campus.

The report notes the University’s distribution of reusable mugs to freshmen, the dissemination of green tips in the campus newsletter, the campus composting of pre- and post-consumer food scraps, as well as a green office competition.

“We are pleased that DSU’s efforts to do its part to preserve the environment and set an example for other institutions of higher education has been recognized in these two reports,” said DSU President Harry L. Williams. “The University takes its commitment to reduce its carbon footprint seriously and will continue to do so.”

DSU launched its environmental agenda in August 2009 when the institution joined the ACUPCC and soon after established its Go Green Steering Committee, led by Vita Pickrin, associate vice president of Development.

The report recognized the Go Green initiative for being featured in articles in Jet Magazine and Black College Today, for having two students selected to be EPA OnCampus Ambassadors to promote environmentally conscientious initiatives on campus, as well as for participating in a side event hosted by the United Nations Office in New York in 2010.

PARTNERSHIPS IN CHINA GROW

Agreements will result in new faculty, student exchanges

Delaware State University has expanded its partnerships in China with agreements with three universities that will bring about 100 Chinese students to DSU in the fall and send DSU faculty members to teach in that Far East country.

DSU Provost Alton Thompson recently returned from China, where new accords were signed with Ningbo University of Technology, Samning University and Zhaoping University.

“With the good meetings of the minds with these three universities,” Williams said. “We all want the same thing for our students — to provide them the opportunity to grow intellectually by exposing them to other cultures, something we have agreed to work together to make happen.”

The agreements with Samning University and Zhaoping University facilitate student and faculty exchanges with DSU. About 60 Chinese students from those two institutions will attend DSU in the fall as part of the American Cultural Program, in which the students will take English courses to improve their fluency and also courses in American literature and history.

While in China, Thompson gave an address at the dedication of the Global Village at Jinhua Chinese Foreign Language Institute, which entered into a formal agreement with DSU in 2009, and will send students here this fall. Thompson impressed the audience of more than 1,000 with his knowledge of Confucius, and left no doubt that the Jinh students would be in good hands at DSU.

“Our No. 1 job is to give our students a quality education, such that they will become well-read, well-spoken, technically proficient, socially responsible and globally competent as productive and contributing citizens in our knowledge-based global society,” Thompson told the audience.

Another 40 Chinese students from Samning and Zhaoping will enroll this fall in a regular degree program during the upcoming school year. According to Dr. Fengshan Liu, DSU associate vice president of External Affairs, the agreements with Ningbo University of Technology that will send DSU students to that university to teach courses that will introduce the latest curricula, education resources and teaching methods in the United States in the field of accounting, as well as help familiarize Ningbo students with international accounting practices and sound business principles.

Thompson said the agreements will also result in study abroad opportunities for DSU students in China — an opportunity a group of students has already taken advantage of this month. A group of 15 DSU music and science students traveled to China in late May for a learning experience trip. In addition to a wealth of cultural tours, the science students took a course in ecology and the music students gained an appreciation of the culture through a music course.

Diamond Moore, a junior biology major from Newark, Del., said it was exciting being out of the country for the first time in her life.

“It showed me how similar we are to other cultures,” Moore said. “We are all human and we do all similar things; it’s just language that divides us.”

 вечером города. Рассказывают, что в этой стране есть уникальный институт, который объединяет студентов из разных стран мира. Это Институт Дельта Политехнический Сотрудничество (Delta Tech Reaffirm Partnership). Он был образован в 2010 году с целью предоставить студентам возможность изучать виды науки и технологии в области информатики, математики и физики. Институт сотрудничает с университетами из разных стран и предлагает различные образовательные программы. В рамках этого проекта было достигнуто много успехов, включая создание совместных исследовательских центров и организацию международных конференций.

Важно отметить, что программа Института Дельта Политехнический Сотрудничество предоставляет студентам возможность получать высшее образование за границей, что позволяет им расширить кругозор и приобрести новые навыки. Сотрудничество с другими университетами также предоставляет студентам возможность изучать различные аспекты науки и технологии, что позволяет им быть конкурентоспособными на рынке труда.

В целом, Институт Дельта Политехнический Сотрудничество укрепляет тесные связи между университетами и обеспечивает студентам возможностей для профессионального роста и развития. Это является ярким примером успешного сотрудничества между учебными заведениями, которое позволяет студентам получать качественное образование и открывает двери к успешной карьере.
As Professor Mable Morrison approaches 50 years at DSU, teaching remains music to her ears.

Never mind that Mable Morrison has been a Delaware State University music faculty member for 49 years and she remains "no ways tired." She says that retirement is not in her thoughts.

"As long as I enjoy teaching music, stopping doesn't enter my mind," said Morrison, who has taught piano and music theory at the institution since her 1962 hire by then-Delaware State College President Luna I. Mishoe.

Four years ago, Morrison acquired an additional honor and duty — to serve as the University’s grand marshal for Commencement and other events. A New Orleans, La., native and the daughter of a Baptist pastor and a church pianist, Morrison began playing the piano at age 5 under the tutelage of her mother, Viola Morrison. As a youth she would have other teachers as well, including Edwin B. Hogan, the uncle of famed choral composer and arranger Moses Hogan.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Xavier University in Louisiana and a Master of Arts in music from DePaul University in Chicago, she received a teaching position at Mississippi Valley College. It was there she was connected with DSC.

The chair of the MVC Music Department was Ferdinand Althabam, who was a close friend of Mishoe. "The chair was willing to recommend me," Morrison said. "Dr. Mishoe called immediately to express interest in me."

In those early DSC years, Morrison spent her summers studying piano and theory at prestigious schools in France and Austria. "I was particularly proud of a French government grant I received, because I had to perform well to get it," she said. She would also receive a U.S. Intercultural Grant to give performances in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

In the subsequent almost five-decade tenure, Morrison has helped prepare generations of DSU students for their music professions and performance pursuits. Since her arrival at Del State, she has served under five presidents (Mishoe, Dr. William B. DeLauder, Dr. Allen L. Sessoms, Dr. Claibourne D. Smith (acting) and Dr. Harry L. Williams), as well as a number of music department chairs — and she has nothing but good things to say about all of them.

"Each president was the right man at the right time and place," Morrison said. "I believe divine providence has been responsible for sending these leaders here."

Morrison added that she has enjoyed working with the numerous music department chairs and faculty members "who have been very supportive."

\* Story by Carlos Holmes

Summer 2011 www.desu.edu The Echo 15
Dr. Gabriel Gwanmesia created synthetic minerals for study

During fellowship, Dr. Gabriel Gwanmesia worked with host Professor Toru Inoue at Ehime University on the island of Matsuyama, Japan.

The research work involved using Ehime University's geophysics facility to produce synthetic minerals that exist deep in the earth. Because those minerals cannot be accessed, scientists have to create synthetic versions to study. "Such studies allow us to understand the causes of earthquakes," he said.

Gwanmesia said his research interests in mineral physics are dedicated to understanding the behavior of sound waves as they travel through different materials. While it helps researchers gain better insight into how the earth has evolved, data from such studies can also yield valuable information in evaluating the causes of earthquakes, hurricanes or other natural disasters.

In addition to creating synthetic material for his future research, Gwanmesia also observed the high-pressure conversion of graphite into diamonds at the Geodynamic Research Center at Ehime University.

Gwanmesia earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and mathematics from then-Delaware State College in 1985 and went on to obtain a Ph.D. in geophysics (mineral physics) from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. A native of Cameroon, West Africa, he has been a DSU faculty member since 1991.

During his fellowship, the DSU physics professor was residing mostly on the Japanese island of Matsuyama on the southern end of the country — which was not directly impacted by the earthquake. As fate would have it, he and his host had flown to Tokyo to get to the neutron lab dedication on the same day as the quake.

Research work

When he returned to Matsuyama, Gwanmesia resumed his research work that involved utilizing Ehime University's geophysics facility to produce synthetic minerals he could bring back to DSU and continue his study of materials that exist deep in the earth. Because those minerals cannot be accessed, scientists have to create synthetic versions to study. "Such studies allow us to understand the causes of earthquakes," he said.

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Quick Glimpse

**Dr. Dolores Finger Wright**, a DSU associate professor of social work, was honored for the role she played in the historic public accommodation demonstrations in Greensboro, N.C., during the early 1960s. Finger Wright received the International Civil Rights Center & Museum Sit-In Hero’s Award during the 51st Anniversary Gala Commemorating the Greensboro Sit-ins. Presenting the award was retired Maj. Gen. Joseph McKinley, one of the “Greensboro Four” who gained worldwide notoriety for their sit-in protests at segregated lunch counters in Greensboro in 1960.

**Dr. Kevin Vincent**, a DSU associate professor in natural resources, was awarded a competitive Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and do research in South America as part of her ongoing work on bat species.

**Dr. Mary P. Watkins** of the Department of Nursing has been named professor emeritus by the University’s Board of Trustees. Visit www.desu.edu/news to read the full stories.

**Dr. Gabriel Gwanmesia** worked with host Professor Toru Inoue at Ehime University on the island of Matsuyama, Japan.
NUMBER OF DIPLOMAS AWARDED

617
500 bachelor’s degrees
112 master’s degrees
five doctoral degrees

HONORS STUDENTS

121
23 summa cum laudes
40 magna cum laudes
42 cum laudes
16 honorable mentions

PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Undergraduates who maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA:
- Kelly Cheng, movement science, Australia
- Martina Ferrari, political science, Italy
- Suzanne Klein, art education, Middletown, Del.
- Parth Patel, computer science, India
- Jasmina Woodson, accounting, Newark, N.J.
- Andrew John Hobbs, computer science, Laurel, Del.
- Anna Ratnikova, criminal justice, Russia

PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

- Jennifer L. Gray, biology, 3.3 GPA, Dover

1. Graduates wave to the crowd during Sunday’s noon Commencement ceremony.
2. Keynote speaker Queen Latifah greets a graduate as Gov. Jack Markell, left, and President Harry L. Williams look on during Sunday’s 3 p.m. ceremony.
3. Graduate Ashley Thompson, left, leads the way during Sunday’s 9 a.m. ceremony.
4. President Harry L. Williams gives a Presidential Academic Excellence Award to Jasmina Woodson during Sunday’s noon Commencement ceremony.
5. From left, Doctorate of Education degree recipients Jennifer Lee Akey, Lennea Shirelle Campbell, Dwight K. Dockery II, Cheryl Heath and Kathy Sokola took part in Saturday’s 2 p.m. ceremony of the School of Graduate Studies and Research.
6. Alumna Quincy Lucas was the keynote speaker for Saturday’s Commencement ceremony.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
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6. Alumna Quincy Lucas was the keynote speaker for Saturday’s Commencement ceremony.
7, 8. Graduates take part in Sunday’s noon Commencement.
9. A graduate is greeted with a bouquet after her ceremony.
10. Keynote speaker and journalist, social activist and political commentator Jeff Johnson addressed graduates during Sunday’s 9 a.m. and noon events.
It was a joyous occasion for 13 members of the Class of 1961 as they gathered May 21-22 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation from then-Delaware State College, joined by family members, friends and well-wishers from the University community.

The two-day affair included an anniversary reception, where the class presented a check for $10,000 to the University. The reunion was capped off by the celebrants’ participation in the 119th Commencement ceremonies held May 22. The alums were among the dignitaries seated on the platform, receiving recognition from President Harry L. Williams, the guest speakers and applause from the Class of 2011 and the audience. Aptly distinguished by commemorative, imprinted gold sashes, these DSU treasures stood out regally from the crowd.

Delaware State University President Harry L. Williams greets Class of 1961 member Jerome H. Pinkett during a May 21 reception honoring the class as part of Alumni Weekend. Alum Phil Sadler ’62 looks on.

Class of ’61 celebrates milestone

The Rev. George H. Beachum IV
BIO. Retired after 38 years in education from the Vineyard, N.J., public school system; 43 years of ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church; serves as a part-time educational consultant.

MEMORIES. “The role that DSC played in my life was to encourage Afro-American students to enlarge their world, to begin to explore and exercise their minds, to bring young men and women to accept new challenges and find new ways to be creative.”

Olivia Tyler Blackwell
BIO. Is a certified nursing assistant with Laurel, Del., Adult Day Care; serves as a lay speaker at her church

MEMORIES. “The role that DSC played in my life was to encourage Afro-American students to enlarge their world, to begin to explore and exercise their minds, to bring young men and women to accept new challenges and find new ways to be creative.”

Halvin T. Blocksom
BIO. Retired in 2003 as a school counselor with the Christians School District in Newark, Del.

MEMORIES. As a student, he worked on campus to help fund his education and was in the college band and choir; “the camaraderie that existed among the students on campus was great.”

Doris Blocksom-Jenkins
BIO. Retired in 1991 as an elementary school teacher; serves as substitute teacher in Seaford, Del.

MEMORIES. One of 13 siblings, five of whom were matriculating at DSC at the same time, she dropped out for a semester to help with expenses and ended up graduating with her brother, Halvin; “I loved the fact that due to the small enrollment at the time, you knew every student on campus. Lifelong friendships were formed during my time at DSC.”

Geraldine Ryder Depp
BIO. Employed at DSU for 38 years; administrative assistant and budget analyst in the Office of the Provost for 35 years.

MEMORIES. Making lifelong friends; and Dr. Jerome “Bruz” Holland, who had an impact on her undergraduate experience.

Marion E. Gibbs
BIO. Retired with 40 years of service from Christina School District in Newark, Del., as a grade level administrator, student advisor and counselor.

MEMORIES. “DSC was the beginning of some of the best years of my life. I learned independent skills and gained educational experiences that continue to be the basis for my ongoing growth.”
JOAN DEAN GRINNAGE
BIO. Retired after 32 years of service teaching in the Philadelphia Public School System.
MEMORIES. Served as the Statesman Yearbook editor and an attendant for Miss OSC, met husband John Grinnage ‘60. “The thing that I appreciate most about my college experience is having made lifelong friends.”

CLIFFORD L. HARMON
BIO. Private business owner for 35 years; retired from the Baltimore Public School System as a math teacher.
MEMORIES. Time as an undergrad was “meaningful, fulfilling and enriching.”

REV. DR. GERALDINE JOHNSON JONES
BIO. Employed as a visiting teacher/homeless liaison with the Capital School District in Dover; employed with state of Delaware for 47 years.
MEMORIES. Years as an undergrad were “meaningful and memorable.”

ALDRICH MORGAN LITTLE
BIO. Retired in 1997 as an assistant principal with the Schenectady (N.Y.) School System.
MEMORIES. The late Bennie George came to a poor boy in Dover with a college application — the rest is history, “the fundamental family environment of the campus set a foundation for my life.”

GLORIA WATERS NOWLIN
BIO. Twice retired; was a principal in New York and a substitute teacher in Illinois.
MEMORIES. Was valedictorian of her class; her mother and son are DSU graduates; “At (DSU) I received an excellent preparation for the start of my teaching career. My cadet teaching experience gave me the confidence all new teachers should possess.”

JEROME H. PINKETT
BIO. Retired in 1992 from BrandYWine School District in Wilmington as a guidance counselor.
MEMORIES. Class president; lettered in two sports as an undergrad; “My years at DSU allowed for immeasurable personal growth and development.”

HOWARD L. WEST SR.
BIO. Retired in 1992 as principal of Bangs Avenue School in Ashby, N.J.
MEMORIES. Met his late wife, classmate Wilhelmina (Billie), on campus, OSC “helped me to hone skills which taught me to effectively meet challenges, to be a change agent, to be a problem solver and… to be successful in the professional and corporate environments.’’

DAVID M. EVANS ‘59, Robert G. Draine Sr. ‘60, Sussex County Alumni Chapter president, and Raymond L. Moore Sr. ‘60 attended the May 21 alumni “Making a Difference” awards luncheon.

2. From left, Bernice Stewart ’74, Linda Wirl, wife of alumn Albert Wirl; Don Conway ’64; and Priscilla Thomas ’69 enjoy the anniversary reception celebrating the golden Class of 1961.

3. From left are Dr. William Nowlin, husband of Class of ’61 member Gloria Waters Nowlin, Glenn Wolff ’74; and Albert Wirl ’74.

4. Donald M. Evans ’59 and New Castle County Alumni Chapter President Ned W. Brown Jr. ’71 also took part in the alumni luncheon.

5. Dr. Cora Selby ’40, celebrating 71 years at the event, sits with Peggy J. Swygert ’62.

ALUMS FROM OTHER CLASSES JOIN THE DAY’S EVENTS

1. From left, Mary Evans Monroe ’60, Robert G. Draine Sr. ’60, Sussex County Alumni Chapter president, and Raymond L. Moore Sr. ’60.

CARR ELECTION TO DSUAA POST
BERNARD W. CARR ’77 was elected to the position of alumni representative during the DSUAA’s annual May meeting. Carr will represent the DSUAA at University activities and act as a liaison between the student body and the association. The position is a two-year term, running until 2013.

BURNETT IS ONE OF FIVE MEN OF MCCAFE
HAROLD BURNETT ’07 was selected as one of five winners of the Men of McCafe Casting Call, a national search for five community service-oriented men who are making a difference in the African-American community. Burnett and the other winners made their first official Men of McCafe public appearance at the July 1-3 Essence Music Festival in New Orleans. They also volunteered with New Orleans-based organizations and assisted with service programs through Ronald McDonald House Charities of New Orleans. The DSU alumni was the first-ever Mr. DSU during his 2006-2007 senior year. He currently works at his alma mater as an admissions counselor.

DSUAA AWARDS HONOR FACULTY AND STAFF, ‘RISING STAR’ ALUMNA
On May 21, the Delaware State University Alumni Association held its annual alumni meeting on campus with more than 75 alumni joining administrators and staff for the events. During the afternoon Alumni Fellowship Luncheon, the DSUAA presented “Making a Difference” awards to faculty and staff members to recognize significant contributions toward the advancement of DSU and its students, and it also gave a “Rising Star” award to an alum.

COACH JEFF SAVAGE
Savage was nominated and selected for a “Making a Difference” award for his contributions to the achievements of the women’s softball team and for his role in the accomplishments of the student athletes under his tutelage. This year, the team again competed for the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Championship, just missing the title in a close contest. The program boasts the MEAC Softball Player of the Year, and two additional players were named First Team All-MEAC.

STEVE SPEED
Speed, director of the Airway Science program, was nominated and selected for his contributions to the success of the program, with students achieving honors at the National Intercollegiate Regional Flight Competition, and for the program being a feeder for major airlines, including Continental.

DR. NOUREDINNE MEHLECHI
Mehlechi, dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Technology, was nominated and selected for his contributions as founder of the University’s first Applied Center for Optics (CREOSA), has excellent mentorship to DSU students and for his key role in acquiring millions of dollars in funding for research and program development.

KELLEY EVERTT
Evertt, a graduate of the Class of 1990, received the “Rising Star” award for her efforts in the community and in the field of education. Everett has been a K-12 educator for more than a decade, is a college professor, a career counselor and serves youth and families as chief executive officer of ASK For Tomorrow LLC and president of Youth Angel Scholars Inc., a nonprofit organization. Affectionately known as “Coach Kell,” she holds a master’s degree in educational management from Strayer University. She is married to DSU classmate Willie Everett Jr.

Airway science program director Steve Speed, left, softball Coach Jeff Savage, second from right, and Dr. Noureddine Mehlechi, right, were recipients of DSUAA “Making a Difference” awards. Alumna Kelley Everett, second left, received the DSUAA’s “Rising Star” Award.
**Chapter notes**

**New Castle County Alumni Chapter**

30TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

The New Castle County Alumni Chapter will present its 30th annual Scholarship Luncheon on Aug. 21 at 2 p.m. at the Bella Vista at Cavalier’s Country Club, located at 100 Addison Drive in Newark, Del. The theme for this luncheon is “Thirty Years of Progress Still Pursuing and Achieving.” All net proceeds will benefit scholarships.

The keynote speaker for the occasion will be William L. Allen, CEO and president of ALW Sourcing LLC. The chapter will honor and recognize four alumni — Kathleen Charised, Erin Wallace-Simms and Mr. and Mrs. Narwood Coleman — for their contributions to Delaware State University and the community.

Tickets are $50 and can be purchased online at www.desu.edu/ncasc. Contact chapter president Ned Brown Jr. at 302.593.6203. For driving directions, visit Cavalerugolf.com.

**COOKOUT/AUCTION**

Join the Sussex County Alumni Chapter of the DSUAA for its 30th annual Cookout/Auction on Aug. 2 at the Rabbit’s Ferry Community Center, 19112 Robinsonville Road in Lewes, Del., at 6:30 p.m. Meet new football Coach Kermit Bunt and Athletics Director Derek Carter will join chapter members in meeting, greeting and launching the new Hornets. For more information, contact Ned Brown Jr. at 302.593.6203 or nedbrown1@comcast.net.

**Alumni highlights**

While many say most people who have at least one book they can write from their life experience and that of others, Delaware State University alums and lifelong educator Dr. Elsie McIntosh Collins has produced three. Collins, 89, who graduated from Delaware State in 1945, published her memoir last year titled “Blessed Are the Meek, the Humble and the Bold.” The book not only tells her life story, but also that of her immediate and extended family in an accounting that goes all the way back to slavery.

Ms. McIntosh is a former president of the Delaware State Alumni Association, and she and her late husband had two daughters and five grandchildren.

**COLLINS’ BOOKS**

- *Blessed Are the Meek, the Humble and the Bold* / her memoir
- *Smalltown Strutters*: a folk history book on the people of Wilson Mills, N.C.
- *Gentle People From A Not-So-Gentle Past*: about relatives who were slaves.

After a one-year stint teaching in the Williamsburg Jewish School System in New York City, she later moved to Camden, N.J., from where she commuted to Trenton to teach social studies at Junior High School No. 5. Collins said she developed a reputation for being able to handle and teach children who had been troublesome to other instructors. Her reputation in that area was a factor in her elevation to assistant superintendent of curriculum and staff development.

In 1985 Collins was lured to Trenton State College (now the College of New Jersey), where she would teach for 21 years. Her instruction specialty was teaching secondary education majors how to provide instructors in their subject areas. It was during her higher education teaching years that in 1977 she earned her Ed. D. at Unison Institute/University of Cincinnati, Ohio.

By the time she retired in the early 1990s, Collins had been given the college’s title of professor emeritus. “After I retired, I was asked to work with inexperienced teachers in a workshop setting,” she said. “Today I still volunteer my time to work with teachers.”

“Blessed Are the Meek, the Humble and the Bold” can be purchased by emailing heritagecenter@johnsoncme.com.

**Story by Carlos Holmes**

2 alums are Delaware Teachers of the Year

Two products of the DSU Department of Education — Barbara Stein Rosen and Pamela Sheldon — have been recognized among the 2011 group of Delaware Teachers of the Year by the state Department of Education.

Rosen, who earned a 1989 Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from then-Delaware State College, was selected as the Teacher of the Year from the New Castle County School District, where she teaches at Lake Forest South Elementary School. Sheldon — currently in her eighth year of teaching — is close to completing a Master of Science degree in art education at DSU.

Rosen’s teaching philosophy: “Heads, Hands and Hearts. Within each classroom experience, I utilize a variety of methods to engage students cognitively (Heads), build in kinesthetic activities (Hands) and try to impact them emotionally (Hearts).”

Sheldon, who earned a 2001 Bachelor of Arts degree in art education from DSU, was selected as the Teacher of the Year from the Lake Forest School District, where she teaches at Lake Forest South Elementary School. Sheldon currently in her eighth year of teaching — is close to completing a Master of Science degree in art education at DSU.

Rosen’s teaching philosophy: “Empower the student with lessons that stimulate their senses. The more personally connected a student is to a lesson, the more motivated he or she becomes and the more likely to enjoy an aesthetic experience.”

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**New Castle County Alumni Chapter**

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**BUCKET LIST**

Prior to the scholarship luncheon, the chapter will host its third annual “Summer Send-Off” on Aug. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Police Athletic League Center, located at 37th and Market streets in Wilmington, Del. The event celebrates New Castle County students entering DSU in the fall and their parents. There will be a giveaways and a breakfast/lunch.

DSU President Harry L. Williams, new football Coach Kermit Bunt and Athletics Director Derek Carter will join chapter members in meeting, greeting and launching the new Hornets. For more information, contact Ned Brown Jr. at 302.593.6203 or nedbrown1@comcast.net.

**Sussex County Alumni Chapter**

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**Philadelphia Alumni Chapter**

**COOKOUT — PHILLY STYLE**

The Philadelphia Chapter will host a Cookout — Philly Style with golf, softball, horseshoes and prizes Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at FDR Park, Plots 6 & 7, next to Lincoln Financial Field. Grills and charcoal will be provided; bring your own food. From 3 to 4 p.m., DSU President Harry L. Williams, new football Coach Kermit Bunt and Athletics Director Derek Carter will attend. Tee time is 9 a.m. for golf, and the fee is $40; all other events are free.

For golf tickets, contact Al Outlaw at 215.680.3049 or asoutlaw@ialcd.com.
Sentiment and significance meet with class reunion gifts

Class reunions represent special and significant milestones in the lives of alumni, occasions when they revisit their glory days as undergraduates, while commemorating their current place in the life and history of their school. This process is often reflective as well as nostalgic about what their school has meant to them and introspective as alums wax nostalgic about what their place in the life and history of their school was like as undergraduates, while revisiting their glory days as undergraduates, during Commencement weekend, May 21-22. During a reception sponsored by the University, class president Jerome H. Pinkett presented a check in the amount of $10,000 to President Harry L. Williams, right.

More than 75 take part in Golf Classic

Despite inclement weather and a shortened round, more than 75 players participated in this year’s Delaware State University 16th annual Hornet Golf Classic in April at Cavaliers Country Club in Newark, Del.

How your gift can help a student make a mark

Your financial gift makes a tangible mark in the lives of DSU students. With tuition rates and expenses rising throughout the country, we would like to demonstrate how you can make your mark in a big way. These figures are based on 2011-12 tuition and fee rates:

- **$588 per month** = full tuition and fees for a year
- **$396 per quarter** = student meal plan for a semester
- **$27 per week** = student’s average book expenses for a year

The average book expense for a student is $700 per semester and $1,400 per year; enrolling in our weekly electronic funds transfer (EFT) program will allow you to have an automated weekly deduction of $27 to cover the cost of a student’s books.

- Making your mark is easier than ever. Give the gift of education in the mode that is best for you:
  - Weekly, monthly or quarterly EFT
  - Check
  - Online
  - In person

Visit www.desu.edu/giving • Call 302.857.6056

Inspire SCHOLARSHIP

Visit www.desu.edu/inspire for more details

Delaware high school students with a minimum 2.75 GPA who are admitted to DSU for the fall semester following their graduation are eligible to apply for the Inspire Scholarship.

Delaware State University Foundation, Inc.
Generous contributions celebrated at President’s Society reception

DSU President Harry L. Williams had a lot of good news to announce during a reception held June 2 to honor President’s Society-level members — donors who have given a minimum of $1,000 or more to DSU within the current fiscal year. About 80 President’s Society members were in attendance to be celebrated at the event held in the Martin Luther King Student Center. In total, there are 175 President’s Society donors as of that reception. The brainchild of Norman Oliver ’85, he enlisted some friends to help with the event, including Alfred Outlaw ’71 and Sylvester Woolford ’65, as well as Ernest “Sammy” Congo ’67, James Gilliam Sr., Michelle Taylor ’65, and Bebe Coker.

While highlighting the President’s Society, Williams also announced that the myDSU Scholarship Drive — a 90-day fundraiser — had already surpassed the campaign’s goal of $150,000. The DSU president said that the President’s Society and myDSU donations will be used to help students meet the financial cost of staying enrolled.

“In this way, we are going to demonstrate our strong commitment to President Obama’s goal to produce more college graduates by 2020. In this way, we are going to demonstrate our strong commitment to President Obama’s goal to produce more college graduates by 2020,” Williams said.

During a reception to honor President’s Society-level members, alumnus Alfred Outlaw ’71 noted the strong showing of members of his Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity in the President’s Society and issued a challenge to other fraternities and sororities to match that level of support. Outlaw, left, and other members of Kappa Alpha Psi joined President Harry L. Williams, second from right in front, for a photo.
While there were a number of newspapers in Delaware during the time of the establishment of the State College for Colored Students in 1891 — the institutional forerunner of Delaware State University — only The Smyrna Times has been consistently preserved from that period.

Published in the town of Smyrna approximately 10 miles north of the then-fledgling college, The Smyrna Times is therefore the only surviving newspaper that documents the news of the preparations for Delaware’s only college for blacks and its February 1892 formal dedication. That news can be found in the newspapers that have been preserved on microfilm in the Delaware Archives in Dover.

As can be well understood from the tenor of those segregated times, news concerning the blacks of that day in central Delaware was infrequent in newspapers at best. However, it was clear from even the infrequent items in The Smyrna Times that there was a bit of curiosity among whites concerning this new college.

The following five newspaper items that appeared between Aug. 19, 1891, and Feb. 17, 1892, reveal some of the preparations and plans for the State College for Colored Students (which would be the name of the institution until the Delaware General Assembly changed its name to Delaware State College in 1947). The first four brief newspaper blurbs reveal that the college originally had plans to open earlier on several occasions between September 1891 and January 1892, only to have those openings postponed. The college finally opened Feb. 2, 1892.

The last item is the only known surviving newspaper account of the formal dedication of the State College for Colored Students on Feb. 17. While it may be considered a moderately short article by today’s journalism standard, for an article relating to the blacks of that day, it was a remarkable amount of reportage.

The following articles have been reproduced verbatim in the exact vernacular as published in that period:

- **Story by Carlos Holmes**

**Newspaper records college’s early days**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9, 1891**

**Colored College to Open**

The state college for colored students will open at Dover on January 1st next. A member of the board of trustees stated that so far 15 colored students had been entered, and the board hoped to have several more entered before the new year begins. The trustees had made strenuous efforts to have the college fully equipped and ready to begin with the studies mapped out by the coming of the new year.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19, 1891**

**Delaware Colored College**

The managers of the State College for Colored Students have decided to buy the Drew farm of 97 acres with a mansion house thereon, three miles from Dover for the proposed new college. Wesley Webb, editor/publisher of the Farm and Home of Dover, but a native of Maine, was elected president of the college. Manrey M. Beaum, of New Castle, and Samuel L. (could be “”) Cornwell, of Milford were elected professors. The curriculum will be selected and the college opened in September.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 1891**

**The Colored College**

In a short time, the old Lockerman farm property, near Dover, will be so transformed from what it was in the days of the original owner, Lockerman, that even the oldest person would not know it. In this day the slave quarters were there, a prominent feature, and they are still standing, being now used for stables. Instead of being menial, the colored people will have facilities for advancement of those at the command of any white person in the county. The dwelling has been completely renovated and dormer windows added. An electric light plant has been introduced and the houses and the out building will be lighted by electricity. Tallow dips carried by slaves were used in Lockerman’s time, now all the colored students will have to do will be to touch a button and light himself to any part of the grounds. Large and commodious buildings for mechanical purposes are to be erected and fitted up with the most approved machinery, a boiler being put in place this week to furnish power. No other establishment is to be found in the state.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16, 1891**

**Colored College Affairs**

The new Dover college for colored students will be opened for the reception of students about the 25th of October. The college building contains ample accommodations for a large class of colored students. There will be full course of study in classics, science, agriculture, engineering and chemistry. Candidates for admissions must be 14 years of age and must be examined in common English branches, be of good moral habits and industrious character. Tuition is $10 a term; a college term consists of 3 terms or 32 weeks. Tuition will be furnished to Delaware students free. Students will be furnished board at college cost, which will not exceed $2 a week. Rooms will be furnished and a charge of 50 cents a week will be made to cover cost of janitor in attendance to rooms and heating and lighting of the building. Each student upon entering, will be required to pay a matriculation fee of $2. A short winter course for students and farmers will be announced later. Day students will be charged 2½ cents a week. The building will be heated by steam and illuminated by electricity.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 1892**

**College for Colored Students**

The famous old Lockerman mansion on the Smyrna Road, near Dover, drew perhaps a greater and more distinguished crowd to its doors on Thurs., before than its portals ever opened to before. The mansion has been remodeled and turned into Delaware’s College for Colored Students, and on that day was formally dedicated to that use. Two a clock was the hour set for the opening of the dedicatory exercises, and at that hour the large orchard in front of the building looked like an old time camp meeting ground; horses and carriages were everywhere visible about the grounds, and their owners were scattered all over the mansion and its outbuildings.

There were also about fifty ladies from the vicinity of Dover present, who manifested much interest in the building and its appointments. President Webb and his family are already established in their Queen’s Anne cottage situated to the right of the main entrance. All the buildings are lighted by electricity, all the apartments being liberally supplied by lights. The school opened Thursday with three students — Howard D. Young of Sussex County, Andrew Walter of Delaware City, and John Benn, of West Dover. The faculty included Professor Wesley Webb, president; N.N. Beamer and L. Cornwell, assistants; Mrs. Drueilla Mitchell is the matron.

Addresses were made by Hon. Charles B. Lore, who recited the history of the movement which developed into a complete college. Rev. W. D. Cook, colored, congratulated the people of the State on the successful inauguration of the college. Rev. P.B. Rawlings spoke in the same congratulatory manner, primarily to the colored people.

A Cheshold correspondent writes: I was at the dedication of the College last Thursday and among other good things said by Dr. Cook (colored) of Wilmington, he told them this story as related by Bishop Keyman. The Bishop while traveling in the far south was asked by a pious member of the colored church “what kind of people the Southern Yankees were?” “What do you mean?” said the Bishop. “Why,” said the member, “It seems they can do anything. In the first place, when we were slaves, they set us all free, then got to running the railroad with lighting, and now they do more than God ever did, they make ice in the summer time.” The speaker was dwelling on the new departure and change in sentiment that had been wrought in the past twenty-five years on the subject of educating the colored race, and spoke of the establishment of a Colored College in Delaware and other states as a new epoch in the history of the nation. The story greatly amused the audience.

Waring, of the Baltimore bar, was a fine speaker, and dwelt for some time on the point that education was a great civilizer and tended to counteract the vicious in our nature. make better citizens and lessen crime everywhere of entering.

**FLASHBACK: COMMENCEMENT IN 1970s**

Commencement ceremonies at Delaware State University have always been exciting for spectators and participants. The beaming smiles of these graduates indicate that the feeling has not changed through the years. Of course, the shuttlers were there perching on chairs and standing in the aisles, trying to capture the moment ... and we are glad they did.
V

erior coach Kermit W. Blount will lead Delaware State University’s Hornet football program in the 2011 season that kicks off Sept. 3 at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va. Blount has 27 years of intercollegiate coaching experience, including 16 as head football coach at Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina, where he had a career record of 91-87-3. During his final season with the Rams in 2009, he led the team to an 8-2 record. He guided the Rams to two Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships and three CIAA championship game appearances, and also to two Pioneer Bowl appearances, including a victory in 1999.

In addition to his on-field success, Blount increased the Winston-Salem players’ graduation rate from 42 percent in 1993 to 80 percent by 2009.

Prior to his work at Winston-Salem, he served from 1983-1992 in assistant coach stints, he coached quarterbacks and receivers; Blount also served as the offensive coordinator for S.C. State.

A native of Richmond, Va., Blount has a Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education from Winston-Salem State University. He and wife, Ava, have two grown children, April and Bryan.

In advance of this year’s opener, The Echo asked Coach Blount his thoughts leading into the season.

What attracted you to the Delaware State University post?

This is a great university with a proud football tradition. There’s an opportunity for success here, given the talented number of student athletes in the region. I’m very excited about the challenge of building a championship program here.

What can Delaware State expect from a Kermit Blount team?

Our goal is to build this program the right way. We aim to recruit young men who are as serious about their studies as they are football. I consider myself a disciplinarian, and our players will know what we expect of them from the beginning. We will work extremely hard, and hopefully give the university and our fans a team they can be proud of.

Now that you have completed four months at DSU, including your first spring camp, how would you assess the players’ response to the changes you have brought to the program?

I couldn’t be more pleased with the way the returning players have adjusted to the changes we’ve made. The young men who stayed through the transition have been leaders on and off the field. They want to be successful and are looking for direction. We are demanding a great deal from them, so we hope this attitude will carry through the summer and into the season.

What role can alumni play in the success of the team?

We want the alumni to play an active role in our program. Everything from promoting Delaware State University to potential recruits to attendance at the games provides a benefit to the team. I want our alumni and fans to know that their support means more to the team than to attendance at the games provides a benefit to the team. I want our alumni and fans to know that their support means more to the team than

DSU vs. UD

SEPT. 17

DSU’s 2011 football season ticket packages will provide an option to purchase a ticket for the Hornets’ Sept. 17 contest at the University of Delaware for an additional $30. All other tickets for the DSU/UD game must be purchased through UD.

Join us at the fan tent before the game. Additional information on DSU football tickets can be obtained by calling the DSU Ticket Office at 302-857-7497 or logging onto www.DSUHornets.com.

This year’s DSU/UD contest will be the second regular season meeting between the teams. Delaware won the first battle 27-17 in 2009 at Delaware Stadium in Newark.

Season in Review

Hornets enjoy softball success

The 2011 Delaware State University softball season was full of highs, including a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference division title, an appearance in the league tournament championship game and a second straight award-winning campaign for outfielder Jordan Reid.

The Hornets, under head coach Jeff Savage, finished the season with an overall record of 32-19. They captured the MEAC Northern Division crown with a 12-6 mark in league play. In addition, the team made its third appearance in the last six years in the MEAC Tournament championship round.

DSU fell short of its second MEAC title with a 5-4 loss to Bethune-Cookman in extra innings in the title game. The Hornets advanced to the championship round of the double-elimination tournament with a 2-1 victory over Bethune-Cookman, handing the Wildcats their first loss to a MEAC team this season.

Delaware State’s 2011 season was also highlighted by a 5-3 victory over Virginia on April 13, the Hornets’ first-ever win against an Atlantic Coast Conference team. DSU also took the season series against the University of Delaware, winning two of the three games between the state’s only Division I softball teams.

Reid, a junior, was selected as the MEAC Player of the Year for the second consecutive season, becoming the first Hornet to achieve the feat. She was also named to the All-MEAC First Team and 2011 Northeast Region NFCA Division I All-Mid-Atlantic First Team. Reid was also named to the All-MEAC Second Team and the MEAC Northern Division All-Conference Team. Reid also posted a school-record 77 hits to lead the team in hitting (.324) and fielding (.963) while placing eighth in the nation in slugging percentage (.627). She was fourth in the MEAC in batting average with a .497 batting average and led the MEAC by nearly 90 points. Her on-base percentage of .519 is good for 13th in the nation. She also posted a school-record 77 hits to lead the MEAC. The DSU outfielder was tied for first in the league with five triples and tied for first in total bases with 97 this season.

Reid was joined on the All-MEAC Second Team by teammates Ashley Davis (freshman/P), Stephanie Sarris (freshman/1B), Ashlyn Campbell (freshman/P) and Stephanie Martello (freshman/1B).

Sarris and Campbell also added their names to the Hornet softball history books in the saves category as Sarris finished first in first with four while Campbell is tied for third with two. Sarris finished second in the conference and fourth in school history with a 1.72 ERA, while Campbell was fourth with a 2.45.

The seven DSU players honored were the most by any league school. The Hornets led the MEAC in overall win percentage (.627), team batting average (.324) and fielding (.963) while placing second in team ERA (2.92). Off the field, the DSU softball placed 13 student athletes on the MEAC Commissioner’s All-Academic Team.

Senior Jordan Reid was selected as the MEAC Player of the Year for the second season.
1600-meter relay team competes at NCAA nationals

The Delaware State University men's outdoor 1600-meter relay team earned 2011 U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division I All-America distinction after finishing seventh in the NCAA-1600-meter relay national championship race in June. The Hornet team of Tyquan Brown, Ryan Carter, Tariq Devon and Leslie Murray posted a time of 3:08.49. Texas A&M won the race and captured the overall team championship with a time of 3:00.62.

The Hornets advanced to the NCAA championship race with a school-record time of 3:04.22 in the preliminaries. The team captured CAC and Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championships in the 1600-meter relay this outdoor season.

In addition, Murray earned All-America Second Team status after finishing 10th in his second trip to NCAA nationals 400-meter hurdles. Kendra Mayers captured her first Eastern College Athletic Conference long jump championship and qualified for the 2011 national long jump competition after a career-best leap of 6.16 meters at the NCAA East Regional. Mayers earned All-America Honorable Mention with her 17th place finish at nationals.

Scott Davis

DAVIS NAMED MEAC’S TOP BASEBALL PLAYER

Delaware State University second baseman Scott Davis (Junior, Lake Lehman, Pa.) has been selected as the 2011 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Baseball Player-of-the-Year in voting by league head coaches and sports information representatives.

Davis is joined on the 2011 All-MEAC First Team by teammate Ryan Haas (1B), Delaware State’s Jordan Elliot (P), Cameron Cecil (C) and Troy Drummond (OF) were named to the All-MEAC Second Team. Davis was tops in the MEAC and ninth among all NCAA Division I players with a .416 average (74-for-179). He also led the MEAC (11th in NCAA) with a .516 on-base percentage. In addition, Davis ranked third in the MEAC in Hs (74) and led for fourth in doubles (17).

Haas was second on the Hornets and 10th in the MEAC with a .356 average (76-for-212). He also ranked among the league leaders in his hits (76) and batted in (49), while leading the team with five home runs. Haas was 3-1 with a 3.74 earned run average as a pitcher this season.

All in the family...

Willy ’82/’84 and Dr. Bobby C. ’69 Jones traveled to Atlanta, Ga., in May to attend their granddaughter Jessica Lauren Carney’s commencement exercises at Spelman College. Jessica graduated from Spelman with a major in international business. Her parents, Jeff ’86 and Al Bynum Carney ’88, and daughter-in-law of Willy and Bobby Jones, are also DSU alumni. Jessica is also the granddaughter of alumna Juanita Bynum ’40 and the late Lorraine Bynum ’79. First Lady Michelle Obama was the keynote speaker. The Joneses report that Mrs. Obama was “indeed, awesome!”

1977 & 2002

Cynthia M. Vincent was honored as John M. Clayton Elementary School’s 2011 Teacher of the Year. The 21-year educator has been a first-grade teacher for the last 12 years at Clayton, formerly Frankford Elementary School. Before that, she taught for eight years in Kent and New Castle counties. Vincent now assists with Clayton’s Parent-Teacher Organization and is a member of the Family Literacy Committee, which hosts several Family Literacy Nights during the school year. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from DSU.

1990

Eric D. Gass has been appointed director of off-airport sales strategy with Hertz. In his new role, he is responsible for providing leadership to execute off-airport insurance replacement initiatives; this includes partnering with the North American sales team to develop and implement sales strategies that will lead to new account signings as well as retention and increased revenue from existing accounts. Gass began his career with Hertz in 2000. He holds a bachelor’s degree in marketing from DSU.

2008

Lynzee Nichols of New Castle, Del., is currently a senior credit analyst with Discover Financial Services. In April she became the owner of her first home.

2010

Debra Fletcher works with AmeriCorps VISTA as a program coordinator for the Delaware CHAMP Network mentoring program for youth ages 16-21 who are transitioning out of foster care. Fletcher’s responsibilities in the program — currently in the implementation phase — include recruitment through tabling events, presentations and disbursing program materials. With the scholarship received after her year of service with AmeriCorps VISTA, Fletcher plans to go to graduate school. She earned a bachelor’s degree in social work from DSU.

To our sports columnists...


Randolph W. Cameron published his third book, “Finding a Way to the Top: Career Moves for the Minority Manager” (AuthorHouse, 2004), which was recently presented at the seventh annual New Title Showcase at the 2011 BookExpo America in New York.

The step-by-step guide tells readers what they need to know to not only survive, but to thrive in today’s job market.

LaToya K. Bailey, Ph.D., has published a book, “You Are Already A Winner ... Long Before the First Date: The Character Building Guide for Women Called by God” (USA: Calla Lily Publishing, 2010). The book delivers "personal anecdotes with spiritual principles" as the author seeks to encourage women to understand their roles as wives. Bailey is a teacher with the School District of Philadelphia and director of the Destiny Bible Institute in Wilmington, Del.

LaToyca Caesar has published a book, “Damn, If I Had Known,” in which he shares his life story and provides inside financial and business principles on what he has learned through personal and work experience so that consumers can gain knowledge that will help them avoid the same mistakes. Caesar also shares principles on what it took for him to overcome adversity before reaching success. Visit him on the Web at www.latroycaesar.com.

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Delaware State University
Making our mark on the world

HOME SCHEDULE

September 10 – Shaw University 6 p.m.
October 8 – Norfolk State University 1 p.m.
October 29 – Morgan State University (HOMECOMING) 1 p.m.
November 5 – N.C. Central University 1 p.m.
November 19 – Howard University 1 p.m.

Meet new Head Coach
Kermit Blount

Sussex County
Aug. 2 cookout

Philadelphia
Aug. 6 cookout

New Castle County
Aug. 6 Summer Send-Off

Scan me to see full schedule and for ticket information

For full event details, see the Chapter Notes on Page 25