Our New President Dr. Harry Lee Williams
with his wife, Dr. Robin S. Williams, and their sons, Austin and Gavin
DSU selects Dr. Harry Lee Williams as its 10th president

Dr. Harry Lee Williams

The Delaware State University Board of Trustees announced the selection of Dr. Harry Lee Williams to be the 10th president in the history of the institution.

The board unanimously decided on the selection after deliberating over two finalists during a Nov. 20 executive session. “DSU is at a place where it needs a leader who can tackle the challenges before us, meet them and find solutions. Dr. Harry Williams has proven in every job he has taken that he focuses on strategic priorities, aligns resources and ensures the institution is on a pathway for success,” said Dr. John Land, acting chairman of the board of trustees.

“Equally important, we are at a turning point in history for historically black institutions, and we need a leader who understands that and can expertly merge our historic purpose with the need to be known as an institution of higher education that exceptionally educates all students for a global marketplace. The board is confident that Dr. Williams will do just that with vigor, enthusiasm and deep commitment,” said Land.

Williams, son of Nancy Williams of Greensville, NC, succeeds Dr. Allen L. Williams, son of Nancy Williams of Greensville, NC, who served as president for 14 years.

“I am deeply honored and humbled to accept this role as president of Delaware State University,” said Williams. “I would like to express my gratitude to the entire Board of Trustees, the faculty, staff and alumni. I look forward to working diligently with the institution to create a vibrant future for DSU.”

Williams, 45, has served as the DSU provost and vice president of academic affairs since July 2008. Under Williams’ leadership, the University established a new general education program, a distance education strategic plan and a middle states monitoring report program. Under his provost leadership, the University successfully completed searches that led to the hiring of a new dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science, a director of distance learning, a director of the Honors Program and an associate vice president for sponsored programs.

Prior to his arrival at DSU, Williams served at the University of North Carolina general administration as interim associate vice president for academic affairs beginning in September 2007 and was later elevated in March 2008 to interim senior associate vice president for academic and student affairs in which he focused on access and outreach for the 17 campuses of the UNC system. He remained in that latter post until he became the DSU provost.

Williams also progressed from an associate director to associate vice chancellor for the areas of academic affairs, enrollment and diversity at Appalachian State University from 1998 to 2000 and from 2004 to 2007. From 2000 to 2004, he served as interim director of admissions for North Carolina A&T University.

In addition, Williams has also served from 2002 to 2008 as a national marketing and recruitment associate consultant with Navi-LeVitz, the top national consultation firm for enrollment and management solutions in the country. In that capacity, Williams provided consultation expertise to 14 different institutions of higher education, including Delaware State University.

Williams earned a Bachelor of Science in communication broadcasting and a Master of Arts in educational media from Appalachian State University. He earned an EdD in educational leadership and policy analysis from East Tennessee State University.

He is married to Dr. Robin S. Williams, and they have two children: Austin, age 14, and Gavin, age 9.

DSU began its presidential search process in September 2008 with the selection of a search committee, chaired by DSU Board of Trustees member Wesley E. Perkins. The presidential search process was facilitated by the Hollins Group Inc. of Chicago.

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DSU’s 10th President
WANTS TO BUILD ON UNIVERSITY’S HISTORIC STRENGTHS

by Jamie Leigh Blair

Dr. Harry Lee Williams and Lady Sacko, associate professor in the Department of English & Foreign Languages at the faculty meeting January 6, 2010.

How do you view DSU’s athletic programs? We are part of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, which is a very competitive conference. We have 17 teams altogether and most are in the MEAC. Here at Delaware State University, we have a very diverse group: bowling, softball, baseball, tennis, soccer — you name it, we have it here. Students do a good job on the field, but they also perform well in the classroom, which is very, very important. Here a student athlete is a student first. Competing—that’s fun, but when all is said and done, you’re going to have your education, which is going to carry you through to the next step.

Do you agree that the school should eventually become a Division I-A school? We are Div. I, except football, we are Div. I-AA in football. I think we’re right where we need to be. We are a founding member of the MEAC and that is something to take pride in. We need to compete at that level, and perform well at that level.

DSU has played some big-name schools recently in several sports, including Michigan and Notre Dame. Do you expect that will continue and perhaps expand? I don’t know. We have to look at the pros and cons. Playing Michigan (in football), I supported the decision because it provided exposure that we wouldn’t have had if we didn’t play them. I want us to be competitive in the MEAC and understand where we belong.

Do you consider yourself easy to work and get along with? Yeah, I think so. I will have to make difficult decisions, but we are going to have openness and transparency. We are going to have a lot of conversations with a lot of people before making major decisions. It is important to keep the community involved. We will have a shared governance of this institution. The administration will have the ultimate say, but we will all collectively talk about the issues. It’ll be very democratic.

How do you plan to boost spirit on campus? The way we do that is by bringing people together. We need to talk about the positive things and gear some energy around that. Not everyone is going to be happy. We’ll have to make some difficult decisions, and what decisions we’re making must benefit this institution. But people will be a part of that. When you get hundreds of emails from the faculty on campus saying, “Congratulations, we’re glad you’re here,” that energizes you knowing that people are out there supporting you. We’re going to get involved and be a part of the process. We have to make sure the community has a shared vision so everybody will be going down the same path. As the leader, you have to set the tone and let the community know “This is where we’re going.” That helps with morale.

Do you consider yourself a leader? Oh yeah, most definitely. This is a leadership position. You shouldn’t apply if you don’t see yourself as a leader. A good leader is so critical at this stage in time. Historically black colleges are at a critical stage. At one time we had more than 300 HBCUs, now we have 105 HBCUs. I need to provide the quality leadership necessary to keep pushing us forward. We’ve been here for 100 years, and we will be here for another 100 years.

What do you want the DSU community to know about you as a leader? We want to be part of the community, and we want the community to be part of DSU. We are an institution of high quality and high standards, and we are proud of what we have here and we are proud of the people we are affiliated with. I will be a very strong advocate of this institution.

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For you, what is the most challenging issue for DSU going forward? I think the most challenging issue for DSU is to keep our tuition low. When you start draining that, you’re going to have your education, which is going to carry you through to the next step.

We have seen a tremendous increase, and we are going to continue to build on that. That’s going to be a key component, to leverage federal resource dollars and go after grants. We also have dynamic faculty members who are committed to doing that is needed.

What is the most challenging issue for DSU going forward? The budget. We have to be able to protect the academic core of this institution. Everything centers around academics. We need to have the currency so students can have the quality of education they need from the best faculty members coming to this institution. When you start draining that, that’s where you can run into trouble. We are going to do everything in our power to protect that.

If you only accomplish one thing as DSU’s president, what would you want it to be? Moving Delaware State University up to the next level and being one of the best HBCUs in America. Being recognized for that would be a major goal in terms of our status in America. We want to be the best.

Has Delaware State been hit hard because of the downturn in the economy? Our students have been hit hard. Our board has made the conscious decision not to raise tuition the past two years in a row. We want to continue to build upon that in a positive way. I’m very excited about it.

Do you believe DSU’s heritage has been forgotten recently? No, I don’t think it has been forgotten. It will always be here. This University was founded with the whole purpose of educating African-American students. That culture and spirit is the essence of this institution. No one will ever forget that. That culture and spirit is the essence of this institution. No one will ever forget that.

What is your goal for DSU in terms of maintaining its heritage? Primarily, it is to build upon the success that other leaders have established, and make it better. I want the University to be one of the best Historically Black Colleges and Universities in America. We are proud of our HBCU heritage—it is a strength for us. We want to continue to build upon that in a positive way. I’m very excited about it.

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DSU signs new agreements with 4 Chinese Universities

In addition, new amendments were formally reached to existing agreements with Hunan University and Beijing Sport University that will result in Chinese students studying at DSU for a semester as part of a DSU - American culture enrichment program. The Chinese students will take courses in English, American and African-American history, economics and international business.

DSU also renewed a five-year agreement with Jilin University for faculty and student exchanges, research collaborations and publication exchange.

Smith said that all of DSU’s Chinese institutional partners are committed to support and enhance the educational value that they give to their students. He added that DSU will benefit from the agreements, too.

“China will continue to be a major economic factor in the world. Smart universities recognize that and will find ways to grow opportunities with those educational institutions there,” Smith said. “We are engaging with Chinese faculty in the disciplines of science, mathematics and energy conservation as well as exchanging ideas in new areas of knowledge.”

DSU officials that joined Smith and Williams on the trip were Dr. Nourredine Melkemi, dean of the DSU College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology; Dr. Rayton Sianjina, director of education graduate studies; Dr. Fengshan Liu, chair of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics; Dr. Yongqiu Jiao, interim dean of the College of Business, and Dr. Li Chen, chair of the Department of Sport Sciences.

Liu, who also directs the DSU Applied Mathematics Research Center, said the DSU delegation gained a new understanding about the culture and economy of China. “After we signed the agreements, there were many students there who expressed interest in coming to DSU,” Liu said. “Several have already started the paperwork.”

DSU joins growing list of higher education institutions to fight global warming

DSU has joined a coalition of universities and colleges that have committed to take steps aimed at reducing and eventually eliminating all global warming emissions that come from their institutions.

The DSU pledge came with the University’s Acting President Claibourne D. Smith and Provost Harry L. Williams, traveled to Asia during the week of June 15 to meet with officials from four Chinese universities. By the end of the trip, DSU had expanded two existing agreements, renewed another one and reached a new agreement with an additional institution.

As a result of the trip, a new formal collaborative agreement was established between DSU and Jilin Business and Technology College. The new accord will facilitate study-abroad opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students from both institutions, collaborations in professional training and development and academic learning in business, science and education.

New Appointments

Dr. Ronald H. Blackmon has been named as the interim provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Blackmon took over the Provost Office on Jan. 6 as a result of the selection of current Provost Harry L. Williams to be the 10th president of Delaware State University. The interim provost will fill that position while a national search process is implemented for a permanent provost.

Blackmon is a 1980 alumnus of Delaware State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. He earned a Master of Science in zoology and a PhD in cell biology from Howard University.

He comes to DSU after serving as the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina from 2005 to 2008. He has also served as dean at that university’s School of Mathematics, Science & Technology from 2002 to 2005, and as the chair of its Department of Biology from 1995 to 2002. During his time at that institution he progressed from assistant professor to full professor from 1989 to 2006.

Blackmon is also familiar with the Minority Access to Research Careers program that exists at DSU. He was enrolled in the MARC program at Howard University during his graduate studies in 1985.

Dr. Peter S. Cookson has been appointed director of distance education.

Cookson received his BS and MS degrees in sociology and Latin-American studies from Brigham Young University and his PhD in adult education from the University of Chicago. He has authored numerous publications and is author and editor of three books about program planning for continuing education and training for adults.

For the past three years he served as the academic director of Consorcio Cajigas, a higher education network of 46 universities and other institutions that offer baccalaureate degrees via online distance education. He previously served as the director of the Center for Education and Information Technology at a United Nations-affiliated university in Costa Rica; professor of distance education and associate vice president of academic and research at Athabasca University, Canada’s Open University; and associate professor and professor-in-charge of the graduate adult education program at Pepper State.

Dr. Dawn Alisha Lott, associate professor of applied mathematics and biological sciences, has been named as the new director of the Honors Program at Delaware State University.

Lott earned her PhD from Northwestern University and has been at DSU since 2003. As director of the Honors Program, She will work with deans, department chairpersons, program directors and faculty members to develop more innovative honors colloquia and courses in the major fields of studies and in the general education curriculum, and she will work to enhance all other aspects of the Honors Program.

Kemal M. Atkins has been appointed for one year as its interim vice president of student affairs.

Prior to his arrival at DSU, Atkins served over the last two years as the vice-provost for student affairs at East Carolina University. In that capacity, he supervised 15 student affairs departments – 500 full-time employees and 13 unit heads – and administered division budgets totaling $77 million. He reviewed the university’s student center and multicultural center construction projects resulted in savings of approximately $20 million. Earlier in his career, from 1994 to 1996, he was assistant director of undergraduate admissions there.

During a seven-year stint at the University of North Carolina, Atkins served as an assistant vice president for academic and student affairs from 2007 to 2008, as the director of that same division from 2003 to 2007, and as the director for programming and operations, Gear UP NC from 2001 to 2003. He was also the director of ThinkCOLLEGE, a college access program for high school and college students in Charlotte, NC, from 1996 to 2001. Part of the nation’s largest and most effective dropout prevention program, ThinkCOLLEGE serves the 37- school Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC, area.

Atkins has a Bachelor of Arts in English literature with a minor in communications arts and a Master of Arts in English literature with an emphasis in postsecondary instruction, both from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. He also completed the NASPA Institute for New Senior Student Affairs Officers.
Internationally-renowned jazz musician Dr. Donaldson L. T. Byrd, known by his colleagues as simply Donald Byrd, has returned to DSU as a distinguished artist-in-residence.

As a distinguished artist-in-residence, Byrd will conduct master classes and give lectures, conduct fundraising on behalf of DSU, participate in performances when appropriate and serve as an ambassador for DSU.

“We are inspired by the fact that Dr. Donald Byrd is a legend who represents for the young people all that they work and strive for,” said DSU Acting President Claibourne Smith. “We are honored to have such a legendary person with his artistry and thirst for excellence.”

Byrd served as a distinguished artist-in-residence at DSU from 1996 to 2001. After pursuing other projects elsewhere, the legendary jazz musician has decided to return to DSU, and as an expression of his renewed commitment to the University, the famed musician has established a $10,000 endowed scholarship fund in his name that will benefit music students at DSU.

In announcing the endowment, Byrd drew a parallel between his life and the life of famed jazz trumpeter Clifford Brown, an influential 1950s musician who attended then-Delaware State College.

“Like my father, I never drank or smoked…Clifford Brown didn’t drink or smoke,” Byrd said. “This school is outstanding, and here I am just trying to follow in (Brown’s) footsteps.”

Byrd, a professional jazz musician since the 1950s, became known as one of the top trumpeters of the jazz hard-bop genre, performing with well-known musicians such as John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Herbie Hancock and Thelonious Monk. Ironically, at one point in the 1950s, Byrd actually replaced Clifford Brown in Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers band.

In the 1970s, Byrd began to record jazz fusion that combined jazz with funk, soul and R&B. While teaching music at Howard University, Byrd formed a jazz fusion group that consisted of his best students and called them the Blackbyrds. The group produced the 1972 album Black Byrd, which became Blue Notes Records’ highest-ever selling album. In the 1990s, Byrd’s jazz fusion explorations expanded into the hip-hop genre.

Byrd has recorded 38 jazz albums and performed on countless other musicians’ recording projects. In 2002, the National Endowment for the Arts recognized him as one of its NEA Jazz Masters. As an educator, Byrd has developed a “Music + Math = Art” education program that he has introduced to youth across the country.

A native of Detroit, Byrd is an alumnus of Wayne State University and the Manhattan School of Music. In 1982 he earned an EdD from Columbia Teachers College of New York City.

Legendary jazzist Donald Byrd is distinguished artist-in-residence

DSU Acting President Claibourne Smith and Dr. Donald Byrd hold a display check, symbolizing the new endowment established by the legendary jazz musician.

2010 Commencement weekend date changed to May 21–23

DSU has changed the dates of the 2010 Commencement to May 21–23. The previously scheduled dates would have conflicted with a Dover Downs race weekend.

Dover Downs had informed DSU officials that NASCAR moved its race weekend dates to May 14–16, prompting the University to change its commencement plans to avoid conflict with the mass of race fans that come to Dover that weekend.

“We sincerely appreciate Dover Downs’ consideration in making us aware of the race weekend date changes far in advance so that the University can comfortably revise its commencement weekend schedule,” said Tony Colema, chair of the commencement committee.

The revised DSU commencement schedule of events will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 21</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Commencement rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
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<td>Honors rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<td>President’s event for Class of 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 22</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Nurse pinning ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Honors program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 23</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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DSU to host annual Delmarva Chicken Festival in June

On June 18 and 19, the beautiful campus of DSU will be the site of the 54th annual Delmarva Chicken Festival, an event that is expected to draw 25,000 people in 2010.

The event provides a venue for trade shows, arts and crafts, amusement rides, entertainment and food—and, of course, lots and lots of chicken. The event will provide DSU an opportunity to connect with the masses of people who come from throughout the region and beyond for the two-day festival.

The family-focused celebration of Delmarva’s number one bird will feature the world’s largest frying pan (10 feet in diameter) that can fry 800 chicken quarters at a time. There will also be many of the standard fair food, such as funnel cakes, corn on-the-cob, boardwalk fries, ice cream, fresh-squeezed lemonade and much more.

All proceeds will go toward scholarships.

The DSU/Delmarva Chicken Festival committee is seeking volunteers to assist with the two-day event. Alumni interested in volunteering or selling arts and crafts should contact Lorene Robinson, director of alumni affairs, at 302.857.6050 or visit www.desu.edu/chickenfestival.
Lisa Dunning received the Rising Star award in recognition of her work with College of Business students.

Lisa A. Dunning, director of the College of Business Advisement Center, recently received the 2009 Rising Star Award from the American Council of Education Office of Women in Higher Education during the organization’s annual dinner in Dover.

The Rising Star Award is presented annually to women in higher education in Delaware who exhibit great potential to achieve and who demonstrate a commitment to higher education, community service and overall leadership.

“Each day the opportunity to make a difference in the education and career paths of so many talented individuals renews my energy and uplifts my spirits,” Dunning told the audience at the awards event. “As I peer through an insightful lens, I see boundless opportunities for all of us in higher education to positively guide, equip, empower and encourage our students to be successful in their future endeavors.”

Dunning, a DSU alumna, was one of three recipients honored with the Rising Star Award. LeaNora Ruffin, Esq., of Widener University School of Law and Simone George of Wilmington University were the other awardees.

A 12-year veteran of the higher education vocation, Dunning is the director of an advisement center that serves 600 undergraduate College of Business students. Dunning has proven to be a leader in fostering the personal growth and professional development of college students, according to her award nominators, Genevieve Tighe, director of testing, and Kimberly Sudler, interim assistant vice president of continuing education and institutional research.

Dunning earned both her Bachelor of Science in management (Summa Cum Laude) and her Master of Business Administration from DSU. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in business administration from Wilmington University.

About 15 years ago, chemistry major Cherese D. Winstead looked up to Dr. Preston H. Hayward and other DSU faculty members who helped her achieve her bachelor’s degree. Now, Winstead, a PhD, is reunited with Hayward—as an assistant professor teaching side-by-side with him and other faculty in the DSU Department of Chemistry.

“I am so excited to be back at DSU, but I never thought I would be their colleague,” Winstead said. “Life takes its turns.”

A 1991 graduate of Dover High School, Winstead’s returning to DSU also means returning to the capital city in which she spent most of her childhood.

After earning her master’s degree at Hampton University in 1997 and her PhD at Virginia Tech in 2002, she spent about five years in private industry as a chemist with Whitford Worldwide in Chester Worldwide, Chester, PA. Since returning to teach at her alma mater in 2008, Winstead has found that her still-youthful looks have served her well with the students she taught.

“Because I look young, some were worried that students would give me problems,” she said. “But it has been the opposite. They relate and feel more comfortable with me.”

It was that comfort level with students that prompted the University to select her as the fall 2009 Convocation keynote speaker. In her address, Winstead gave contemporary examples of role models and anti-role models, as well as of the fruits of longevity and the failings of short-term gratification.

“I knew students didn’t want to hear about my experiences,” she said, “so I focused on them, where they are and things they were familiar with in pop culture, athletics and the mass media.”

While at Whitford she founded a Young Chemist Society, and since her return to DSU, she has established a chapter at DSU to prepare students for education careers in the science and technology areas.

Winstead returns to DSU to teach chemistry
DSU has been awarded a $5 million research grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a NASA-URC Center for Applied Optics for Space Science on campus.

CADOSS will foster new NASA-related developments based on optical sciences and technology and will enhance the national aerospace science and technology workforce. The new center will also develop partnerships with industry, NASA research centers, federal laboratories and minority and nonminority-serving colleges and universities.

The CADOSS will also inspire and engage students from underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. The research center will work in conjunction with an established optics research center, the Center for Research and Education in Optical Sciences and Applications (CREOSA), which will be funded through the National Science Foundation-Center for Research Excellence in Science and Technology program. The two centers will be merged within one year to become the Optical Science Center for Applied Research (OSCAR).

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The grant was announced during a Sept. 30 event on campus in which DSU Acting President Claibourne D. Smith was joined by Delaware Gov. Jack Markell and Dr. Noureddine Melikechi, the research grant’s principal investigator, in celebrating the achievement.

“DSU has been home to some of America’s top optics programs and research, and this grant will serve as a significant boost to our continued growth in these fields,” said Smith. “Today’s announcement of another $5 million research grant reflects that America has a sound confidence in our optics scientists.”

Principal investigator Melikechi is interim dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, as well as the chair of the Department of Physics. Melikechi, who first arrived at DSU in 1995, was the founder and director of both the University’s first Applied Optics Center in 1997 and later CREOSA in 2006.

The newly established research center will initiate research programs in planetary science, space communications and navigation, and astrobiology. The proposed projects will support the goals of NASA’s Exploration Systems Mission Directorate, the Science Mission Directorate and the Space Operations Mission Directorate.

The projects will include the development of optical instruments for space operations infrastructure, such as space atomic clock and optical gyroscope, polarimetric laser detection and ranging, and an augmented reality visor interface for human-robot interactions and emergency medical support of astronauts.

“CADOSS will also be involved with Mars exploration through its research and development of the ChemCam Mars Rover LIBS instrument and a remotely-operated laser scanning confocal microscope for analysis of extraterrestrial environment,” said Melikechi.

The center will collaborate with Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA/NSF/ASTROBIOLOGY Laboratory, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Northwestern University, Juxtopia, Vassar College and the Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation on various projects.

DSU receives $5 million NASA grant for optics research

Federal Omnibus bill funds 2 DSU research projects

The effort by DSU’s congressional delegation has resulted in research funding for DSU from Congress’ 2009 Omnibus Spending Bill. The University announced the funding during an Aug. 24 visit by Delaware’s U.S. Sen. Thomas R. Carper, U.S. Sen. Ted Kaufman and U.S. Rep. Michael N. Castle. The Omnibus funding will support the following two DSU research endeavors:

NEW HYDROGEN STORAGE SYSTEM FOR VEHICLES

Nearly $1.43 million in federal funding has been awarded to DSU to develop hydrogen storage materials and to test them in a hydrogen storage container system for use in vehicles.

Scientists in the DSU Hydrogen Storage Center will test materials in an effort to identify the ones that can absorb and release significant quantities of hydrogen. This would be a novel improvement in hydrogen storage capacity over the currently known low absorption performance of most other materials. Once a suitable material has been identified for hydrogen storage, the researchers will then move the work to the University of Delaware’s mechanical engineering scientists, who will design, fabricate and test a hydride-based hydrogen storage system for fuel cell application.

MOBILE CRIME SCENE AND EVIDENCE-TRACKING APPLICATIONS

DSU will receive $2 million to test the efficiency of day-to-day crime scene investigatory capabilities to allow greater effectiveness of law enforcement. The DSU Department of Public Safety has designed a mobile crime scene and evidence tracking pilot project in close cooperation with other state and local law enforcement agencies. The federal funding will enable the pilot project to be implemented.

The funding will support the testing of advanced visual and analytics systems that are expected to help law enforcement more effectively combat increasingly mobile and complex criminals as well as terrorist operations.
After graduating from DSU in 2000, Mosley began working toward making his dream a reality, working various jobs to raise the requisite filmmaking funds. “It has been all toward the goal of following my own dreams to make films and write my own screenplays,” he said. His focus on making his aspirations come true has resulted in the establishment of his own production company, Lotus Films, based in Philadelphia, where he now resides with his wife, Heather. In addition to his first feature film, Lotus Films is currently shooting “Don’t Shoot the Messenger,” a pilot for television, for which Mosley is serving as first assistant director.

Mosley said his first film has already drawn some interest from local film festivals. The release of the film will take place sometime this year.

Numerous accolades from the Wolverines faithful poured in to DSU following the Oct. 17 Michigan game. Many were impressed with the football players’ sportsmanship during a trying game, while others raved about the marching band’s rousing performance.

Although the DSU football team was thoroughly outmatched by the much larger Division I-A Michigan team, the Hornets players never let that impact how they represented the school, and game attendees noticed. After DSU Head Coach Al Lawson returned from the game, he listened to a voice mail from an Ann Arbor surgeon who praised the Hornets players on how they conducted themselves during the difficult and dominating game.

“I was really impressed with the good sportsmanship of your players. I saw your players’ hands going out to help the Wolverines players up after big plays. I saw a lot of hugs and slaps on the backs of the opposing players,” said Dr. Jason Olly, a Detroit surgeon and UM alumnus. “Given how frustrating it was for a lot of your players, I thought it showed amazing sportsmanship, and I know all those good manners come from your coaches.”

Michigan fan Bill Richardson sent DSU Athletics Director Derek Carter an email of praise. “They showed a lot of class and sportsmanship,” Richardson said of the players. “I appreciated Delaware State’s appearance at the Big House.”

While the team conducted themselves well, the DSU Approaching Storm Band also left an indelible mark among the 106,000-plus who attended the game. DSU Acting President Claibourne D. Smith, who traveled to the Michigan game, was astounded by the response of the crowd to the band’s performance.

“The audience at the Big House was stunned that it was watching a band that was so atypical of what they see in the Big 10,” Smith said. “People actually stood and gave us a standing ovation at the end of the performance. What we saw in their emotional response was astounding. What a band that was so atypical of what you see in the Big Ten.”

Numerous students and alumni have been inspired by the band and are now looking at DSU as a university to attend. “At least 15 school band directors from Michigan have contacted me with interest from their band students who may want to attend DSU and be a part of our band,” Johnson said.

The DSU Approaching Storm Band’s role has been to musically showcase the great image of Delaware State University since the band was first established in 1910. It has always been an ambassador for DSU throughout its history.

The Approaching Storm Band kicked off 2009 by performing in the Jan. 21 Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C., ushering in the administration of President Barack Obama. The entire band performed in September on the Rehoboth Beach band shell stage, and a split-off group—the DSU Brass Ensemble—traveled to Germany to participate as a featured group at Lichtenberg Brass Festival.

Justin L. Robins, a senior trumpet player for the band, said representing DSU near and far is a great honor for students. “We understand that we can influence a great number of students to come to DSU,” Robins said. “People know that we can play, but how do DSU kids act? We have a great responsibility with respect to our conduct.”

He added that it goes beyond representing DSU. “When you see the band, you see a representation of a HBCU,” Robins said.
Spears stars as Justin Barber, the executive vice president of Spencer Publications, who is a long-time friend to Bill Spencer Jr., the company’s president (played by Don Diamont).

HARD WORK PAYS OFF FOR DSU ALUMNUS TURNED ACTOR

It wasn’t until the end of his senior year that Aaron D. Spears ’94, of Washington, DC, was bitten by the acting bug that changed the former Hornets’ career aspirations from playing in the NFL to playing roles on screen.

Hard work and tenacity turned that fortuitous bite into a successful acting career for Spears. He landed a role on the internationally popular soap operas The Bold and the Beautiful and has earned roles in other major soap operas, such as Angel, General Hospital, Criminal Minds, CSI: Miami and Everyone Loves Raymond.

In 2006, he portrayed a small role as a border guard in one of the pivotal scenes in the Academy Award nominated film Babel. It was only about eight speaking lines, but it gave him some important exposure.

“It opened a lot of doors,” Spears said. “Even though it was a small part, for some reason it was a small part with legs.”

Also in 2006, Big Mouth Productions became Henna L.L.C., changing its focus from spoken word and music to producing thought-provoking film and television productions. The first Henna breakthrough came with the 2009 BET Network premiere of the prison-based film Mansfield ’62, in which Spears was the lead actor and executive producer.

2009 proved a watershed year for the DSU alumnus as he landed a regular contract role in The Bold and the Beautiful (the only third African-American to do so in the soap opera’s 23-year history) as Justin Barber, executive vice president of Spencer Publications and long-time friend to Bill Spencer Jr., the company’s president (played by Don Diamont). Spears said his work on The Bold and the Beautiful has made him a better actor. “Any time you are working in something that involves your passion, it can only expand you,” he said. “You are going into that fire continually, and then you have to consistently deliver.”

During its shooting season, The Bold and the Beautiful tapes two episodes a day, eight episodes a week. “Sometimes I have four to five pages of script with lots of dialogue, and they expect you to know it,” Spears said. “So it has definitely increased my memory, and it has flexed my acting muscles.”

Spears said the show’s executive producers graciously allow the actors on the show to do other projects, as long as they don’t interfere with the show’s shooting schedule. That allowed Spears to star in the movie Divisum/Domestic, shot in 2009. He plays an undercover officer working to keep the American cartel’s drugs out of the U.S. The part challenged his ability to learn lines quickly and take direction effectively from different directors.

Given what he has learned, Spears imparts this advice to DSU students: “Do something for yourselves every day to achieve whatever it is you want to do in life—while in school and while trying to make it in the professional world—and believe in yourself.”

“You have to have the mindset that you are going to make it happen, no matter what,” he said. “If you install that in yourself and show that drive, other people will see that.”

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Hornets look ahead after tough 2009 grid season

A season that featured just four home dates plus road games against the Michigan Wolverines, Delaware Blue Hens and MEAC champion South Carolina State Bulldogs ended on a positive note for the Delaware State University football team. The Hornets won two of their last three games, including a 30–20 victory over long-time rival Howard in the season finale, to post a 4–7 overall record, 3–5 in the MEAC, in 2009. In addition to the difficult schedule, the Hornets were beset by a number of injuries during the campaign. However, despite the record, there were plenty of bright spots and encouraging signs for the future.

Junior quarterback Anthony Glaud ranked among the MEAC passing leaders in his first full season as the Hornets’ starting signal caller. Glaud was fourth in the MEAC in passing average (143.8 ypg), sixth in passing efficiency (103.8 rating) and sixth in total offense (153.4 ypg). For the season, the Sicklerville, NJ, native completed 127 of 220 passes (57.7%) for 1,294 yards and five touchdowns. He closed out the year by completing 23 of 31 passes for a career-high 315 yards against Howard, the fifth-best single-game total in team history. Glaud also tied for the team lead with four interceptions this season. This year’s defense forced a total of 22 turnovers, returning three of them for touchdowns.

Senior free safety, Jerome Strumis from Williamsburg, CT, was third in the MEAC with four interceptions this season. He accounted for two of the defensive touchdowns, returning a pick for a touchdown against Delaware and scoring on a fumble return at Winston-Salem State. Strumis also recorded eight pass deflections and four break-ups during the 2009 campaign. Freshman Travis Tarpley was second in the conference and 11th nationally with a .369 kick return average.

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The 2009–10 Lady Hornets worked six newcomers into the line-up, including a trio of first-year collegiate players.

Senior Selena Galloway and junior Cortney Crockett have led the backcourt this season. Despite missing three games with an ankle injury, Galloway leads the team in scoring at 8.8 points per game. Crockett is second on the team in scoring in 7.9 points and tops in assists (24). She is the only player to start each game this season.

Lady Hornets hampered by early misfortunes

A rash of injuries, an array of unseasoned players and a challenging schedule have proven to be a sticky combination for Delaware State University women’s basketball team this season. After winning their season opener against Lincoln (84–26) on Nov. 12, the Lady Hornets dropped their next 11 games to end 2009 with a disappointing 1–11 overall record. They are beginning to turn things around for the rest of the season.

Delaware State’s intense schedule has included Big East opponents Seton Hall and Syracuse, in addition to Kent State, Army, Navy, William & Mary and Georgia State. The team also traveled to Los Angeles to compete against Cal. State-Bakersfield and Dartmouth in the University of Southern California’s Women of Troy Classic.

A patchwork crew of injured and new players comprised the team going into the new season to handle the tough schedule. Four players were unable to start the season due to injuries, then senior forward Ashley Thompson went down with a knee injury six minutes into the opening game. Thompson, who is out indefinitely, was the lone returning starter from last year’s squad.

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McDonald makes All-MEAC in men’s XC, team takes 2nd

While the Delaware State men’s cross country team fell just short in its bid for the 2009 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Championship, senior Andre McDonald ran the 8K race in a career-best time of 27:17.23 and finished 12th, earning him All-MEAC recognition.

The top 15 finishers earn All-MEAC recognition. Three of McDonald’s teammates finished in the top 25 with him. Freshman Kourt Falker missed the All-MEAC mark, by less than four seconds, finishing 17th with a time of 27:49.06. Keith Thibou was 22nd with a time of 28:14.09, and Jamaal Devere was the 23rd runner to cross the finish line at 28:23.54.

“I’m really proud of the effort our guys put forth,” said Delaware State head coach Daane Henry. “We have a pretty young team, so I’m excited about the future of the program.”

The Hornets men’s cross country team placed second with 100 points in the conference championship meet at the University of Marywood Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, MD. It was their best team finish since capturing the championship in 1989. Norfolk State claimed its ninth championship title in the last 10 years with 33 points.

2009 MEAC Cross Country Men’s Team Results:
Joyner leads Hornet volleyball team to 2009 success

The most wins in team history and the end of a brilliant career highlighted the 2009 Delaware State University volleyball season. The Hornets closed out the campaign with a loss to eventual champion Florida A&M in the MEAC Tournament semifinals in Baltimore, MD.

Delaware State was in the tournament’s final four for the third straight year after topping South Carolina State in the quarterfinals.

The MEAC tournament exit did not overshadow the success of the winningest season in team history. The Hornets posted a 20–12 overall record and a program-best 8–2 mark in the MEAC regular season. The team posted two five-game winning streaks and a four-gamer during the year.

The ’09 season was also the swan song for Hornet senior Cassandra Joyner, arguably the best player in team history. Joyner became the first Delaware State player to reach 1,000 career kills this season, finishing her career with 1,256 winners. A two-time All-MEAC First Team selection, the Claymont, DE, native also recorded 869 digs and 204 blocks at DSU. This season, Joyner, the lone senior on the team, was third in the MEAC in points (4.11 pg), fourth in kills (3.30 pg) and sixth in hitting percentage (.254).

Returning to lead the Hornets next season are seniors Ashley Herman, Erica Tajchman and Sarah Wheatcroft, along with sophomore Martina Ferrari. Herman was No. 1 in the nation in service aces (0.68 aces per game), as of the Nov. 22 NCAA rankings report. She was also fourth on the team with 44 blocks. As a team, Delaware State ranked third in the nation in service aces at 2.07 per game.

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DSUAA top Legacy golfers recognized

The Delaware State University Alumni Association’s second Annual Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing took place on Oct. 23 at Wild Quail Golf and Country Club in Camden, DE. Thirty-eight men and women participated this year, capping off the first place trophy and bragging rights. We salute all players and give special recognition to the trophy winners. Men: Walter Macklin, first place; Dr. Dymerele Marsh, second place; David Jones, third place. Women: Kim Kennedy, first place; Carolyn Whitaker, second place; Crystal Gregg, third place.

Save the date for our third annual Legacy Scholarship Golf Outing planned for Friday, Oct. 15, 2010. During the 2010 outing, we will feature not only competition between players but also between alumni chapters. So come out, join in the fun and help support a legacy student.

For more information, email Alfred A. Outlaw at alfreda@nssu.com.

Prepared to take flight: CJ Charleton

Charleton. “Children today use the Internet and play sophisticated video games. We show them the similarities of our jobs and the games they play.”

Part of the curriculum for the students is designing their own airport. “We have them construct an airport they envision—including all the entities that go into the operation, for example a fire department, emergency management—and plan runways and roadways,” Charleton explained. He and the other instructors tell the students there are no right or wrong answers, but they do give them the basics to begin construction. “It’s amazing to see the students’ creativity,” he said.

The goal is to get the children to focus on their future at an early age by spotlighting the importance of education and how it can lead to a fulfilling career. “The role models these kids have are athletes and musicians,” Charleton said. “We show them that hard work and education also lead to a rewarding job.” He and other ACE Academy volunteers meet with the parents of students who express a continued interest in aviation and help set up life plans to assist the kids in reaching their aviation career goals.

Charleton has taken his volunteer experience with the ACE Academy and developed his own foundation. This year, he launched Charleton Camps for Aviation, Science and Technology Training (CCASTT), which offers curricula for children ages 6–9 and 10–13 and one for teens ages 14–18. To learn more about CCASTT and the aviation camp, visit ccaastfoundation.org.


The Heritage Society: a legacy in the making

Making a bequest to the Delaware State University Foundation is a thoughtful, flexible way to achieve your charitable and financial goals without making an outright gift today. Your bequest to DSU might reduce your estate taxes and provide you with other benefits, for example:

- Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime.
- You may direct your bequest to a particular purpose, program, school or college.
- You can modify your bequest at any time if your circumstances change.
- You are recognized in the DSU Honor Roll of Donors as a member of the Heritage Society.

For more information about making a bequest or other planned giving options, contact Vita Pickrum, assistant vice president for development, at 302.857.6064 or vpickrum@desu.edu.
Alumna Ronika Money makes her mark in Student Affairs

Ronika M. Money ’02 had help and encouragement getting into college and succeeding as a college student from an underprivileged environment. She in turn, helped others while a student worker in the DSU Office of Student Affairs. That experience propelled the psychology major into her current career in student affairs at Penn State.

Money has parlayed the knowledge and work experience she gained from DSU and the Master of Arts in student affairs she earned in 2004 into her current position as assistant director of student affairs at Pennsylvania State University’s Commonwealth campus in Brandywine, PA.

“For the psychology knowledge, I am able to use my counseling background to understand the behavioral decisions of the students,” said Money, a 29-year-old single mother who resides in Dover. “I am able to help students mentally and academically and provide them support in becoming well-rounded students.”

Money’s success in earning two degrees and her current position in higher education are the result of the helping hand she received from Delaware Futures.

As part of Delaware Futures, the organization introduced her to DSU through a trip to the campus. “We were allowed to go into individual classes with DSU students,” said Money. “When I applied to attend DSU, that trip made writing the essay on why I wanted to attend the University so much easier.”

On Oct. 16, Delaware Futures honored Ronika as one of its outstanding graduates at the organization’s annual awards luncheon in Wilmington, DE. Although her life is quite full in her student affairs capacity at the 2,000-student Penn State Brandywine campus and as a single mother of two-year-old daughter Kimberly, Money is still looking to advance her future. She plans to begin working soon toward a doctorate in educational leadership.

DSU Alumna Ronika Money with education and second lady Jill Biden, who gave the keynote address at the Delaware Futures event that honored Money.

Philadelphia Alumni Chapter is back...members welcome!

On Nov. 8, the Philadelphia Chapter of the Delaware State University Alumni Association sponsored a membership meet-and-greet reception at the historic Centennial Hall in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.

The chapter held elections. The new officers are: Alfred Outlaw, president; Anthony Lawrence, vice president; Rose Austin, secretary, and Cynthia Alvin, treasurer. The newly elected officers were formally introduced during the reception by immediate past president James Roundtree. Dr. K. Bernard Chase, National Alumni Association vice president, and Beverly Swann, secretary, also attended the event.

Outlaw gave an overview of the chapter’s “Five Ships of Hope” strategic plan: scholarship, fellowship, network-ship, University-ship and community-ship. In his concluding remarks, Outlaw asked all in attendance to “get on board and sail with us!”

Should you desire to “sail along” with the Philadelphia Chapter, email Southphiladelphian Saturdays or phone 609.970.8197.
Alumnus establishes endowment to benefit sociology/criminal justice majors

Matthew W. Horace ’85 said he needed to figure out how to give back to his alma mater in a meaningful way. The 21-year veteran of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives took over as the special agent in charge of its newly created Newark, N.J. field division in early 2008. After receiving a briefing on three DSU students who were fatally shot in that city, Horace said he found “a cause worth pursuing.”

The alumnus is establishing a $10,000 Horace Foundation Endowment to provide scholarships to DSU sociology/criminal justice majors in memory of the students—Terrance Aeriel, Dashaon J. I. Harvey and Iofemi D. Smith—and their families. The endowment is being set up to help kids who are pursuing criminal justice degrees, and hopefully, it will help make it possible for such students to make a difference or even possible to solve or prevent such crimes.

Horace announced the endowment during the Oct. 23 DSU Alumni Association Legacy Banquet and Hall of Fame Inductions held at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino Rulettes Center. The ATF special agent, who earned a BA in English from then-Delaware State College, was one of the DSUAA’s 2009 inductees for his achievements in government and law.

He was also a Hornet offensive lineman under then-head football coach Joe Purzycki, who introduced Horace during the induction program.

“My personal development started at DSU,” he said. “It taught me something about making a difference.”

He said the Horace Foundation Endowment Scholarship is a way in which other alumni can make a difference as well. Horace said he hopes other alumni will be inspired to continue the endowment’s growth and thereby help more DSU criminal justice majors achieve their degree and professional aspirations.

“I think people want to give but also want to know they are giving to a specific cause,” Horace said. “I am hopeful that there are alumni who will find this endowment a worthy cause.”

The stated mission of Horace Foundation Endowment for Criminal Justice Studies is to develop “educated, confident and caring leaders” who will find this endowment a worthy cause.

To contribute to the Horace Foundation Endowment Scholarship, visit www.desu.edu/giving.

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Alumni establishes endowment to benefit sociology/criminal justice majors

Matthew W. Horace ’85 said he needed to figure out how to give back to his alma mater in a meaningful way. The 21-year veteran of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives took over as the special agent in charge of its newly created Newark, N.J. field division in early 2008. After receiving a briefing on three DSU students who were fatally shot in that city, Horace said he found “a cause worth pursuing.”

The alumnus is establishing a $10,000 Horace Foundation Endowment to provide scholarships to DSU sociology/criminal justice majors in memory of the students—Terrance Aeriel, Dashaon J. I. Harvey and Iofemi D. Smith—and their families. The endowment is being set up to help kids who are pursuing criminal justice degrees, and hopefully, it will help make it possible for such students to make a difference or even possible to solve or prevent such crimes.

Horace announced the endowment during the Oct. 23 DSU Alumni Association Legacy Banquet and Hall of Fame Inductions held at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino Rulettes Center. The ATF special agent, who earned a BA in English from then-Delaware State College, was one of the DSUAA’s 2009 inductees for his achievements in government and law.

He was also a Hornet offensive lineman under then-head football coach Joe Purzycki, who introduced Horace during the induction program.

“My personal development started at DSU,” he said. “It taught me something about making a difference.”

He said the Horace Foundation Endowment Scholarship is a way in which other alumni can make a difference as well. Horace said he hopes other alumni will be inspired to continue the endowment’s growth and thereby help more DSU criminal justice majors achieve their degree and professional aspirations.

“I think people want to give but also want to know they are giving to a specific cause,” Horace said. “I am hopeful that there are alumni who will find this endowment a worthy cause.”

The stated mission of Horace Foundation Endowment for Criminal Justice Studies is to develop “educated, confident and caring leaders” who will find this endowment a worthy cause.

To contribute to the Horace Foundation Endowment Scholarship, visit www.desu.edu/giving.

DSU begins regular season football tradition vs. UD

DSU played its first-ever regular season football contest against the University of Delaware on Sept. 19, transporting its regular game-day element to Delaware Stadium in Newark.

DSU hosted a fan center for a couple of hours prior to the game where the Hornet faithful gathered for food and fellowship while building excitement about the gridiron contest. In a tent between the stadium and UD’s practice field, DSU fans were able to enjoy the sounds of the UD and DSU marching bands as they alternately practiced their music and choreography outside of the tent. The DSU dancers and flag team also showed off their moves.

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Help your alma mater recruit and mentor students through the Alumni Connections Team, under the auspices of the Office of Alumni Affairs. As a member of ACT, you will be called upon to represent the University at college fairs and other recruitment events in your area. In addition, you may join the Alumni Connections Team, under the auspices of the Office of Alumni Affairs.

JOIN THE TEAM…ACT!

DSUAA inducts eight into its Legacy Hall of Fame

On Oct. 23, the DSU Alumni Association held its annual Legacy Banquet and Hall of Fame Inductions at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino. The event was part of the 2009 Homecoming weekend of activities. This year’s inductees join an impressive list of predecessors who have made laudable achievements in their professions and in their communities.

More than 200 well-wishers were on hand to celebrate the occasion with inductees Dr. William H. Davis Sr., Kent B. Amos, Major T. Hairston Jr., Matthew W. Harcase, Dr. Oliver “Jerry” Harmon, Dr. Scott King, William H. Collalti and Delores N. Handy, who was unable to attend. In addition, special honors were accorded alumni Dorothy B. Cooper, William K. Stevenson (posthumously), Courtney W. Stevenson, Lolita T. Thomas and Bertha A. Turner for dedicated and long-time service to the DSUAA and their alma mater.

Honoree Matthew Harcase ’85 accentuated an already magnificent occasion by announcing the establishment of the Horace Foundation, Inc. in memory of three DSU students who were murdered two years ago in their hometown. He presented the University with the first installment of $3,000 toward a $10,000 goal. See story, p. 26.

In Memoriam

We sorrowfully acknowledge the deaths of the following alumni and offer our condolences to their families and friends:

Catherine L. Knight ’49 .......................... July 2
Margaret M. Ward ’56 .......................... July 2
Walter C. Filb Jr. ’73 ............................. July 8
Laura Cuffe Thompson ’73 .......................... July 14
Reba D. Brown Bray ’50 .......................... July 30
Diana Askah ’75 .......................... Aug. 2
John Evans Ryan ’99 .......................... Aug. 11
Alkatha Holland Short ’48 .......................... Aug. 25
Kriste L. Miller ’99 .......................... Aug. 29
Marie J. Hill McCann ’77 .......................... Sept. 6
Michael R. Dawson ’77 .......................... Sept. 9
Juanita “Randy” Singleton Blake ’84 .......................... Oct. 3
Portia R. Baker Rogers ’76 .......................... Oct. 8
Russell L. Williamson ’72 .......................... Nov. 1
Rebecca A. Melvin ’87 .......................... Nov. 28
Alkatha D. Williams ’90 .......................... Dec. 28

ATTENTION NJ AND VA ALUMNI—

If you live in the south Jersey area or the northern Virginia area and are interested in establishing a chapter of the DSU Alumni Association in your area, please contact the following alumni for information:

South Jersey area: Yaniece Spencer ’08 YanieceSpencer87@yahoo.com
Northern Virginia area: Bernard Carr ’77 703.307.1800, bwcarr99@aol.com
Or email the Office of Alumni Affairs: alumni@desu.edu

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If you would like to submit an article, story idea or class note, please call or email Director of Alumni Affairs Lorene Robinson at frobhson@desu.edu or 302.857.6050.

ATTENTION, DSUAA MEMBERS!

DSU Alumni Association Annual Alumni Meeting and Election of Officers Saturday, May 22 at DSU main campus

Nominations form will be mailed to all eligible, paid members. Only eligible, paid members may participate in elections.
The past generosity of our donors and other supporters has enabled thousands of students to make their marks on the world. Just as education is an ongoing process, so is the need for financial support from our alumni, family and friends.

Now, you have the opportunity to give to this life-changing institution by contributing in a variety of ways:

- Visit www.desu.edu/giving
  - MasterCard, Visa and Discover are accepted.
- Fill out the enclosed envelope and mail to DSU
- Call 302.857.6056 with any questions