Dear Colleagues,

As 2020 ends, let us reflect on things that went well.

This has been a difficult year for many people across the globe. Loved ones are no longer here, businesses have closed, people have lost jobs, and sickness has stricken families of those we know and care for deeply. Distancing ourselves from family and friends for what seems like an eternity has been hard.

But let’s look at the brighter side. We learned how to survive during a pandemic! Technology has become our best friend and we have all learned something new. Some people learned how to successfully use Webex, Teams, Zoom and other technological applications for the first time. We celebrated our first virtual Commencement, our first virtual dissertation defense and our first female Provost, to name a few.

Now is a time to reflect on the positive in the midst of challenges and obstacles. As we leave 2020 behind us, let us look at 2021 as an opportunity to reset goals we did not get to achieve in 2020.

Thank you for a phenomenal fall semester filled with support, patience, and understanding for our students and one another. Have a wonderful and restful time during the winter break while enjoying the holiday season and all it has to offer!

Sincerely,

Marquita Thomas Brown
Founder & Editor in Chief

College of Business hosts first virtual DEEP DAY

The College of Business hosted its annual Delaware Executive Exchange Program (DEEP Day) as a Virtual Conference on October 22. Now more than ever, digital and virtual experiences are not only how people engage, but more importantly how they learn. As the world continues to change, event organizers found innovative ways to do the same.

The theme this year was “Innovating Virtually, Thinking Globally & Leading Change.” DEEP Day provided the 523 student attendees with professional development strategies to be innovative and engage with 13 corporate partners through the virtual company fair, workshops, panel discussion and networking. This year’s DEEP Day made history with over $120,000 raised for student scholarships, professional development and engagement.

As a part of the DEEP Day activities, the College of Business successfully conducted its 4th Annual Business Case Competition, generously sponsored by Barclays Bank. The prizes consisted of $10,000 scholarships for each first-place team member, $3,000 for each second-place team member, and $1,000 for each third- and fourth-place team member. Each faculty coach also received an honorary $500 gift card. The total value for sponsorship from Barclays was $77,000.

This year four finalist teams, representing different colleges and majors, were competing on addressing the topic of diversity and inclusion. The specific case problem was “How should Barclays define, measure, analyze, and report diversity and inclusion (D & I) to internal audiences (employees, colleagues) and external audiences (investors, general public)?” The first-place team winners, coached by Dr. Michael Casson, consisted of Jonte Simmons, Yazmin Harris, Tysun Hicks, Corban Weatherspoon and David Hawkins from the College of Business. The second-place team winners were from CHESS, third place from CAST, and fourth place winners again from COB.
Dr. Ozbay among USDA food and agricultural sciences teaching award recipients

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) recently honored public university faculty with U.S. Department of Agriculture national and regional teaching awards, including six regional recipients of the 2020 Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards for Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Among the regional award recipients was Dr. Gulnihal Ozbay, Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

In recognition of their scholarship, exemplary pedagogy, and dedication to instruction, the annual awards include stipends of $2,000 for regional and early-career honorees to be used for improving teaching at their respective universities.

Click here to view the program booklet

SEVERAL FACULTY PUBLISH ARTICLES IN DELAWARE JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Please check out several faculty who published articles in the Delaware Journal of Public Health’s November 2020 edition (Volume 6, Issue 5). The articles can be found by clicking the link below.

www.djph.org

DR. MURRAY-JACKSON PREPARES VIDEO PRESENTATION FOR MIDDLE STATES WEBINAR

Dr. Lynda Murray-Jackson, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, prepared a video presentation for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) which was included in the Nexus of Communication — A Webinar for New Accreditation Liaison Officers on October 14. The webinar attracted over 100 recently appointed Accreditation Liaison Officers (ALOs). Dr. Murray-Jackson provided advice based on her years of experience as an ALO which was immensely helpful to the audience as well as to the Commission.

DR. PATTERSON PARTICIPATES IN COVID-19-RELATED TV, RADIO INTERVIEWS

Dr. Donna Patterson, Chair of the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy, interviewed with 47-ABC on November 7 in the segment: Biden talks COVID-19 plans during victory speech, DSU professor weighs in.

Click here to view the interview

On November 13, Dr. Patterson spoke to Delaware Public Media (NPR) about the current COVID-19 resurgence in Delaware and beyond.

Click here to listen to the interview
The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice successfully completed its Fall 2020 agenda for the department’s ongoing colloquium series titled “Sustaining Social Science Research Culture at DSU” with five speakers giving virtual talks on various topics. The talks were presented to our faculty, staff and students.

The series, which began in Fall 2019 and will resume in Spring 2021, has provided faculty the opportunity to showcase their scholarly work and expose students to a variety of research topics. Drs. Xuanren Wang-Goodman and Tanya Whittle organized the series with the support of their Department Chair, Dr. Raymond Tutu, who also provided opening and closing remarks for the virtual talks.

Below are the speakers and their topics for the Fall 2020 semester. If you would like to view recordings of any of the talks or if you are interested in presenting your research for the series next semester, please contact xsgoodman@desu.edu.

- **Dr. Tanya Whittle:** “Justice Dissonance & Role Adaption: Prisoner Reentry Service Providers’ Roles, Perceptions of Justice, & Discretion”
- **Mr. Kimeu Boynton:** “Repeated, Ongoing, and Systemic Incidents of Racism and their Harmful Mental Health Effects: Addressing Trauma in the Lives of African Americans”
- **Dr. Xuanren Wang-Goodman:** “Education, Wage, and Mental Health Outcomes of Post-1965 Immigrants and Their Children”
- **Dr. Anwar Ouassini:** “Imprisonment through a Custom Lens: Mass Incarceration, Urf, and the Islamic Legal Framework.”
- **Dr. Kevin Ralston:** “It’s a Power Struggle: Examining the Relationships between Incarcerated Individuals and Correctional Officers in a PA Prison.”

Department faculty have also recently published articles and given conference presentations.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**


Share your accomplishments! Send information on your recent presentations, awards, grants and other accomplishments by the 15th of each month to acadaffairs@desu.edu.
Quantum Sensing Center celebrated

Dr. Gour Pati (Principal Investigator) and Dr. Renu Tripathi (Co-Investigator/Director) discuss their quantum sensing research with U.S. Sen. Chris Coons during a Nov. 5 visit by Delaware’s Congressional Delegation to celebrate the recently awarded $7.5 million Department of Defense grant for the establishment of a Quantum Sensing Center on campus. U.S. Sen. Tom Carper and U.S. Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester also took part in the visit to talk about the research grant that was a part of the Department of Defense’s $50 million investment in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions to conduct boundary-pushing research. Also a part of the Quantum Sensing Center team are Dr. Deborah Santamore (Co-PI), Dr. Jun Ren (Co-PI) and Dr. Matthew Bobrowski (Senior Key Personnel).

UNIVERSITY JOINS TMCF IN GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH PROJECT

Delaware State University has been enlisted to become part of a research project that seeks to better understand why some young urban males carry guns. The University will receive $166,290 over two years as part of the study, part of a $1 million grant awarded to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) by the National Collaborative for Gun Violence Research. Former DSU President Dr. Harry L. Williams, TMCF President and CEO, is the Principal Investigator, and Dr. Dorothy Dillard, Director of DSU’s Center for Neighborhood Revitalization and Research, is the Co-PI. The funding to Del State will cover Dr. Dillard’s role as the lead researcher on the qualitative component of the study, as well as support graduate students who will conduct interviews.

UNIVERSITY, NEW CASTLE COUNTY PARTNER FOR COVID-19 LAB

Delaware’s northernmost county has joined with Delaware State University to use $5 million in CARES Act funding to establish a COVID-19 testing lab facility at the University’s Kirkwood Highway site. The establishment of the planned lab will provide less expensive, higher capacity testing capabilities in New Castle County. The new lab will also create 6-10 biosciences jobs now and in the future. Dr. Derrick Scott, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and the Director of Bioinformatics, has been enlisted in the project to provide guidance in the lab layout and for the acquisition of the required certification — a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment — from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.