Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the first Academic Affairs Newsletter! The newsletter will be published once a month during the academic year. It will serve as a platform to recognize contributions and achievements of faculty and staff from the Division of Academic Affairs. As your division or college members reach academic milestones, publications, presentations, grant awards, or add contributions to the academic field, we want to hear from you! Please provide the published-ready narrative for the accomplishment/achievement, along with a photo if you like, and we will add it to the next edition! We hope the newsletter will provide insightful information about the great things your colleagues are doing so you can encourage them and salute their success.

Submissions must be received no later than the 15th of each month at acadaffairs@desu.edu.

Sincerely,

Marquita Thomas Brown
Founder & Editor in Chief

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GREETINGS FROM THE PROVOST

Faculty and Staff,

I want to thank all of you for an excellent transition for Fall 2020 instruction. You worked very hard throughout the summer and took on additional responsibilities adjusting to this “new normal,” but it is paying off. I have not received any complaints from parents or students regarding the transition. This is thanks to your leadership and the continued work of the faculty in development and implementation of a robust academic transition plan.

I am very excited to see that a sizable proportion of our faculty engaged over the summer to increase their skill set for remote and online course delivery.

Given the ongoing Pandemic, it is not clear what our position will be with the state for FY22 and I must remind all of you that we are essentially a revenue-generating institution. We must continue to optimize our talent base, going after every opportunity, and remain mission-focused.

Thank you for the diligent work to keep our students engaged during this time. Enjoy the rest of the semester.

Dr. Saundra F. DeLauder
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

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BE RECOGNIZED!

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Founder & Editor in Chief
University receives $7.5M grant for Quantum Sensing Center

The U.S. Department of Defense has awarded Delaware State University a five-year, $7.5 million research grant to create, on campus, a DoD Center of Excellence in Advanced Quantum Sensing. The Principal Investigator & Director of the Center is Dr. Gour Pati. The co-PI and Associate Director is Dr. Renu Tripathi. Additional investigators contributing to the grant’s success are: Dr. Deborah Santamore (co-PI), Dr. Jun Ren (co-PI), and Dr. Matthew Bobrowsky (Senior Key Personnel).

DSU researchers will collaborate with Northwestern University as well as DoD Labs, including both the Army Research Lab and the Naval Research Lab. Quantum sensing technology allows new methods of increasing sensitivity and precision in physical measurements. The Center will conduct research and provide opportunities for education and training in the field of quantum sensing, preparing a diverse body of students for the workforce upon graduation.

$1.46M NIH GRANT TO FUND PARENT UNIVERSITY

The National Institutes of Health has awarded Delaware State University a four-year, $1.46 million grant that will fund an innovative Parent University Program to increase the persistence success of new freshmen enrolled in the biomedical-related degree programs. The program will engage parents through strategically executed broadcasts and messaging to enable them to encourage their enrolled sons and daughters toward academic success more effectively.

The grant’s co-Principal Investigators are Dr. L. Germaine Cheatham-Hemphill, Dr. Xuanren Wang-Goodman, and Dr. Melissa Harrington.

NIH AWARDS $1.15M GRANT TO UNIVERSITY FOR COVID-19 RESEARCH

Delaware State University has been awarded a 2-year, $1.15 million exploratory grant by the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of General Health and Medical Sciences in order to research the social and behavioral effects in minority communities as it relates to COVID-19 infections. Dr. Dorothy Dillard, Dr. Xuanren Goodman and Dr. Melissa Harrington are co-Principal Investigators for the grant while Dr. Nicole Bell Rogers also serves a vital role in the research team. Our DSU researchers will be coordinating with community partners Sussex County Health Coalition and the Wilmington Community Advisory Council in recruiting participants from underserved communities, acting as liaisons to the communities and scheduling the data input visits with the voluntary participants.

UNIVERSITY TO ESTABLISH NIH-FUNDED BIOINFORMATICS & CHEMISTRY SUMMER PROGRAM

The National Institutes of Health has awarded Delaware State University a five-year, $1.3 million grant that will fund the establishment of a summer program for middle school students — “Bioinformatics and Chemistry Academy for Research Scholars (B2-CARS): A Partnership to Address Human Health through Wastewater Remediation.” The grant is a Science Education Partnership Award from the NIH’s National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The Principal Investigators are Dr. Derrick Scott and Dr. LaTia Scott. Dr. Kimberly Milligan and Dr. Anthea Aikens are co-Principal Investigators.

Share your accomplishments with us!

Send information on your recent presentations, awards, grants, acknowledgments and other accomplishments to acadaffairs@desu.edu.
College of Business awarded several grants

$900K GRANT FOR BLACK MALE INITIATIVE | The Executive Leadership Council (ELC) has awarded the College of Business a four-year, $900,000 grant to develop and execute a Black Male Initiative to engage, connect and lead young African American men to academic and professional success.

$70K GRANT TO LAUNCH “THE GARAGE” | A $70,000 Rural Business Development Grant (RBDO) funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Rural Development has been awarded to the Delaware Center for Enterprise Development in support of an innovation and maker space called “The Garage.”

$300K CARES ACT GRANT | A $300,000 federal CARES Act Recovery Assistant Program grant funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration will allow the University Center for Economic Development and International Trade to help small businesses increase their e-commerce functionality.

MORE RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS

- A $599,905 U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant to tackle the widespread problem of strawberry plant gray mold fungus. Principal investigator: Dr. Kalpalatha Melmaiee; co-Principal Investigators, Dr. Rose Ogutu and Dr. Lekha Paudel at DSU, Dr. Kim Lewers of the USDA, Dr. Toktam Taghavi of Virginia State University, and Dr. Jayesh Samtani of Virginia Tech.

- A three-year, $529,968 Department of Defense grant for research entitled “Ultra-High Precision Sensing of Isotopic Signatures using Mid-Infrared (Dual) Frequency Comb Spectroscopy.” Principal Investigator: Dr. Mohammed Khan, working on the project with researchers from the U.S. Army Research Office/Laboratory.

- A two-year, $199,714 National Science Foundation grant to fund a project entitled “Catalyst Project: Enhancing Undergraduate Research, Innovation and Education in Engineering and Computer, as well as the Integration of Smart Sensors Design and Citizen Science.” Principal Investigator: Dr. Mohammed Khan; co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Marwan Rasamny. The project will also involve the DEL-AWARE Citizens Science Program.

- A three-year, $591,628 National Science Foundation grant to fund the CUREs Hemp Initiative Project (CHIP), an investigation of undergraduate research experiences and their benefits to students and their academic journeys. Principal Investigator: Dr. Kimberly Milligan; co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Sathyanarayana Elavarthi, Dr. Karl Milletti, Dr. John Rich and Dr. Kwame Matthews. Other key personnel are Dr. Alberta Aryee and Dr. LaTia Scott.

Congratulations

UNIVERSITY, DR. MUKTI RANA AWARDED A NEW PATENT

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has awarded the University and Dr. Mukti Rana, Professor of Physics and Engineering, a patent for the discovery of a new alloy material—consisting of Germanium, Silicon, Tin and their oxides. In addition to Rana serving as the Principal Investigator of the research that produced this latest patent, the co-Principal investigators are Larine Mbabit, a former undergraduate research assistant who graduated in May 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics, and Nibir Dhar of the U.S. Army’s Night Vision & Electronic Sensors Directorate.

DAWN 2020–21 LEADERSHIP & RISING STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS: DR. SAUNDRA DELAUDER AND MS. JARSO JALLAH SAYGBE

Click here to join the Nov. 12 Zoom meeting

- Meeting ID: 979 8289 2252
- Passcode: 114501
Grant funds Online Course Conversion Class for more than 120 faculty, staff

In Spring 2020, the HHMI Inclusive Excellence Grant created a 4-week summer Online Course Conversion online class to help faculty transition their courses into an online and virtual environment. Over the summer, more than 120 faculty and staff, in nine cohorts, signed up for the course. The class was moderated by DSU faculty members Dr. Joseph Fees, Dr. Tina Petrovic, Dr. Virginia Rolling, Dr. Kim Milligan and Dr. Delayne Johnson, who reported spirited discussion between faculty members as they rapidly adjust to new online teaching technologies and pedagogies in the face of COVID-19.

A proposal to share the outcomes and impact of this project titled “How To: Internal Faculty Courses, Training and Resources” has been accepted for presentation at the AAC&U Virtual Annual Conference in January 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS! NURSING AND SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMS ACHIEVE REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION

NURSING | The University’s Department of Nursing this year achieved a continuation of its accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) for eight years without conditions until 2027.

SOCIAL WORK | The Department of Social Work’s Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work programs have achieved reaffirmation of accreditation for eight years by the Commission on Accreditation (COA) at the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE).

DR. DONNA PATTERSON DISCUSSES RACE AND COVID CRISIS IN INTERVIEW, YOUTUBE FEATURE

On September 28, Dr. Donna Patterson, Chair of the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy, conducted an interview with Phoenix, Arizona’s KJZZ (NPR affiliate) on race, Covid-19, and health inequities for women and people of color.

Click here for the interview

Over the summer, she offered a free remote summit for online and blended learning entitled “Race and the COVID Crisis” on July 13 and 14.

Click here to access this “Conversation with Donna Patterson”

LIBRARY FACULTY PUBLISH JOURNAL ARTICLE

Ms. T. Jewell Beckett and Ms. Ondrea Murphy, library faculty at the William C. Jason Library, have published the article “Utilizing an Appreciative Inquiry and Context Personalization Design: A New Model for Library Student Workers” in the journal New Review of Academic Librarianship. The accepted author version was posted online October 18.

Click here to access the article

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ISSUE 1 IS A WRAP, FOLKS!

Your comments and feedback are welcome and encouraged at acadaffairs@desu.edu.

Marquita Thomas Brown,
Founder & Editor in Chief