Dear Colleagues,

We are off to a successful and productive Fall 2021 semester! It is so exciting to be back on campus where we are able to finally see students, faculty and staff return after an arduous period of time due to the pandemic. Everyone has been resilient! Kudos to all of our wonderful employees at Delaware State University for working so tirelessly to make this fall a reality for everyone to return safely.

As we prepare to wrap up the semester, please stay safe over the holidays and enjoy the winter break. Thank you once again for everything you have done to make us remain one of the top HBCUs in the nation!

Sincerely,

Marquita Thomas Brown
Founder & Editor in Chief

Faculty and Staff,

I want to thank all of you for a successful start to the new academic year. The pandemic has caused historic challenges, and we are not finished with it yet, but Delaware State University has proven to be more than equal to the challenge.

We have accomplished several big things over the last few months to include but not limited to the acquisition of Wesley College, course delivery in a variety of modalities, and a record amount of extramural funding. I firmly believe that is because we have faculty and staff who truly care about our students and the mission of this University.

As we finish the fall semester and transition into spring, I want to encourage you all to remain mission-focused. Enjoy the rest of the semester.

Dr. Saundra F. DeLauder
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

FROM THE PROVOST & CAO

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Colleagues,

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Sincerely,

Marquita Thomas Brown
Founder & Editor in Chief
Dr. Cherese Winstead-Casson began serving as the Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture, Science and Technology on July 1, 2021.

2020-2021 NEW EMPLOYEES

Public & Allied Health Sciences

Aviation

Agricultural Affairs

OB

CRS

CHBS

Agricultural Affairs

English Language Institute

Public & Allied Health Sciences

College of GSB

CHBS

CHBS

Academic Affairs

English

Public & Allied Health Sciences

College of GSB

CHBS

CHBS

Academic Affairs

Public & Allied Health Sciences

Department of Business Administration

Sociology

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Nursing Education

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Governor announces Early Childhood Innovation Center at University

In a newly announced partnership with the First State, Delaware State University will receive $30.6 million over the next five years to establish an Early Childhood Innovation Center (ECIC) as part of Gov. John Carney’s initiative to use $30 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support Delaware’s child care industry and child care professionals.

In partnership with the state Department of Education and Department of Health and Social Services, the University will use the $30.6 million — one-third of which will come from the ARPA — and the rest from other state funds — to support the construction and launch of the Early Childhood Innovation Center, invest in Delaware’s child care workforce, and expand access to affordable child care for Delaware families in need.

Under the terms of the partnership, the University will develop statewide infrastructure for a unique pathway for Delawareans seeking careers in the child care industry. The funding will also expand scholarship opportunities to support working professionals who are seeking additional education.

Read the full story

STUDENT SUCCESS, LIBRARY WELCOME BACK STUDENTS

The Office of Student Success and the William C. Jason Library sponsored a “Welcome Back Students” activity Thursday, September 16, to introduce student resources to freshmen, sophomores, Wesley legacy students and transfer students who were unable to visit during the COVID-19 pandemic from Fall 2020 through Spring 2021. Additionally, the activity served to reintroduce student resources to juniors, seniors, faculty and staff.

Students received educational and informational material about services offered by the William C. Jason Library, the Office of Student Success, Integrated Academic Support Services, the Office of Undergraduate Research, Experimental Learning and Honors, and the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. Students were welcomed by staff members at the main entrance and directed inside to learn about services and meet the advisors, directors, and staff members, and for lunch.

The event allowed over 125 students, faculty, and staff to be reintroduced to multiple access points of OSS services and library resources. Library faculty and staff created a QR code for new library users to scan and register using mobile devices, and they received and processed over 50 new registrations during the event, providing an additional opportunity to evaluate services via survey.

Music and entertainment were provided by DJ Bilmar and students had the chance to earn door prizes. Food and beverages were provided by the HBCU-UP program and Chesapeake Uddles, Inc.

DEAN’S COUNCIL HOSTS COLLEGE MIXER

The Dean’s Council hosted a College Mixer at Killens Pond, which served as a relaxed atmosphere for University faculty and staff to socialize as well as get acquainted with the newest additions to the Del State family — the faculty and higher education professionals from Wesley College.

Click here to view photos

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Fees, Kiesel, Rana, Scott receive 2020-21 Faculty Excellence Awards

Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching

Dr. Joseph Fees

Assistant Professor of Spanish

Dr. Fees has served in an instrumental role in reimagining the Department of Languages and Literatures’ language programs and curriculum. He has designed online Spanish courses and created a community page with numerous resources for Spanish instructors. In addition to improving the content and assessments of many upper-division Spanish classes, he has also established a new Medical Spanish course. Dr. Fees has been actively involved in department and University services, including leading the department’s Strategic Plan Committee. He was the lead course designer and moderator for the HHH Online Course Conversion Class and undertook the role of DEGET Online Coordinator for CHESS.

Faculty Excellence Award for Service

Dr. Eleanor M. Kiesel

Associate Professor of Social Work

Dr. Kiesel came to the University in 2015 after practicing law with the Community Legal Aid Society for 17 years. With her ever-active goals of service, she provides legal representation for those in poverty and serves as a volunteer attorney for children in foster care. In higher education, she has been involved with Middle States and served on the University Strategic Planning Committee. In the Department of Social Work, she is developing a Domestic Violence Specialization certificate program, as well as a minor and associate-degree program in Social Work. In the last year, she has been engaged in anti-racism work, including her involvement in the development of an African-Centered Healing Program and participation in an African-American Task Force and the Legacy Heritage African American Commission.

Faculty Excellence Award for Advising

Dr. Multki Rana

Professor of Psychology and Bioengineering

With an open-door policy and a guiding motto of “students come first,” Dr. Rana has mentored and advised over 124 middle school, 50 high school, 200 plus undergraduate and 31 graduate students since the fall of 2015. He has also mentored and advised seven junior faculty members and three post-doctoral research associates. Three of these students he advised became co-investigators of three patents. He is the founding faculty advisor of the student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. His work with students led NASA to present Dr. Rana with the 2019 Faculty Mentor of the Year Award.

Faculty Excellence Award for Research and Creative Activity

Dr. Derrick Scott

Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

Dr. Scott has published six papers in peer-reviewed journals, given 18 presentations and applied for 13 grants. Of these grants, nine were funded — just over $5.7 million as a principal investigator; just over $1 million as a co-investigator; as well as a $1.6 million collaborative grant, in which he managed the $443,264 sub-award to Del State. The awards totaled just over $14 million. Dr. Scott leverages his strength in research by his instrumental role in the creation of the Bioinformatics Program and the Biopharmaceuticals and Manufacturing Technology concentration in partnership with industry grant libertarian.

COB DEAN SHARES INITIATIVES IN ARTICLE

The Harvard Business Publishing Education featured Dr. Michael Casson, Dean of the College of Business, in an article entitled “What Career-Focused Curriculum Looks Like.” In the article’s section on “Bringing Career Curriculum into the 21st Century,” Dr. Casson shares some of the initiatives taking place within the College of Business to propel its students forward. Read the article

DR. WHITTLE FACILITATES INSIDE-OUT INITIATIVE

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice is collaborating with personnel at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center to pilot a Fall 2021 Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program course. Facilitated by Dr. Tanya Whittle, 11 college students — incarcerated and non-incarcerated — transcribed the prison walls and learn together via Blackboard Collaborate. The goal is to expand higher-education opportunities to incarcerated Delawareans and experiential-learning opportunities to University students, and the pilot course is Introduction to Criminal Justice.

DR. IROIOWEN ELECTED TO LEAD DOVER LIONS CLUB

Dr. Eoua Iriowen, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, was elected to be the president of the Dover Lions Club. On campus, Dr. Iriowen serves as the faculty advisor for the DSU Campus Lions Club, the University’s Beta Eta Chapter, and the Interact Club at the Early College High School.

DR. WILSON ELECTED TO SMYRNA SCHOOL BOARD SEAT

Dr. Charlie Wilson, Associate Dean for Academics in the College of Agriculture, Science and Technology, won a May election to become a member of the Smyrna Board of Education for a five-year term.

DR. PATTERSON CONTRIBUTES OP-EDS, INTERVIEW

Dr. Donna Patterson, Chair of the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy and Director of Africana Studies, has contributed the following op-eds this year: "Recruiting Translators in the Chad: Lessons for Refugees," "Senegalese Vaccine Access and COVID-19: CDC Declares Racism a Public Health Threat," "Researchers Welcome Bioweapon Fears," "She Contributed Comments to the International Edition of Voice of America," an FDA approval and has been included among the Wilson Center’s 2021-2022 Class of Fellows.
$1.9M grant applies behavioral health resources to Sussex County

Delaware State University recently joined a consortium with two other HBCUs in a research enterprise supported by a three-year, $2.47 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Consortium for Laser-based Analysis of Nuclear and Environmental Materials (LANEM) brings together researchers and students from Delaware State, Alabama State University, and Florida A&M University, as well as two national laboratories. The primary goal of the LANEM Consortium is to train STEM students in the science and technology of detection and identification of materials that are of interest to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Department of Energy. Dr. Hacene Boukari, Professor of the science and technology of detection and identification of materials that are of high-demand areas with high-need populations. Dr. Amy Habeger, Associate Professor of Sociology, is the Principal Investigator of the grant.

$1M grant funds Certificate Program in Bio-imaging and Bio-Photonics

A $1 million grant from the National Science Foundation will enable the University to build on its existing facilities and imaging technology as well as the expertise of faculty researchers in biology and physics to offer a series of hands-on, project-based courses in bio-imaging, bio-photonics and image analysis. Dr. Harbindar Singh Dhillion, Professor of Biological Sciences, is the Principal Investigator of the grant; Dr. Hacene Boukari, Professor of Physics and Engineering, is the co-PI.

NSF AWARDS UNIVERSITY 3 NEW GRANTS

The National Science Foundation announced that it is awarding more than $1.1 million in grant funding in support of three new projects at the University. The grants included:

- A $799,056 grant for a Partnership for Research and Education in Soft Matter Research and Technology and Quantum Confinement Materials Design Partnership for Research and Education (SMART QD PREP). The SMART QD PREP is a collaboration between two historically black institutions — Delaware State University and CdTe University — as well as a strategic partnership with the University of Delaware's Materials Research and Engineering Center and a network of partners committed to strengthening novel materials research and education. Dr. Chime Westwood is the project’s Principal Investigator.

- A three-year, $672,000 grant to support a University research project entitled ''Scaling Social Capital and Health Across Space.'’ It is the largest grant ever awarded to Delaware State in support of research by social scientists. Dr. Raymond Tatu, Chair of the Department of Sociology, is the Principal Investigator, and Dr. Anwar Ouassini, Associate Professor of Sociology, is the co-PI. This project will investigate the effects of collective action and collective efficacy on health literacy through surveys, statistical analysis and interviews. It will encompass local and remote groups, including those native to three areas and those who have relocated into the region.

- A $399,994 grant in support of an initiative to establish new Undergraduate Neuroscience Education to Engage Diverse Students in STEM and Prepare Them for Graduate School and STEM Careers. Dr. Julian Woolfson, a Senior Care Scientist in the University’s Delaware Institute for Science and Technology, is the Principal Investigator. Co-PIs are Dr. Christine Clavert, Dr. Naimah Lawal, Dr. Sabrina McGary and Dr. Muriel Tandini. The project aims to strengthen the University’s ability to recruit, retain and graduate underrepresented students in STEM by adding a neuroscience minor to the existing degree programs and two new undergraduate neuroscience courses.

From left: Dr. Raymond Tatu, Dr. Laurin Parker and Dr. Anwar Ouassini

SOCIOLOGY RESEARCHERS PARTNER WITH DNREC

The state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has engaged a trio of Delaware State University sociology professors and their research skills to help the agency improve its public engagement effectiveness. DNREC awarded the University a $249,773 grant earlier this year to conduct the research, which will focus on traditionally underrepresented communities. Dr. Raymond Tatu, Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, is the Principal Investigator of the grant. Dr. Anwar Ouassini and Dr. Laurin Parker, both Associate Professors of Sociology, are the co-PIs.

RESEARCH-RELATED NEWS

$672,000 GRANT WILL SUPPORT MANTLE MINERAL RESEARCH

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Dr. Gabriel Gwanmesia a three-year, $672,000 HBCU Excellence in Research grant in support of mantle mineral research. Dr. Gwanmesia, a Professor of Physics and Engineering, will use the grant to support his research project titled "Effect of Hydration on the Thermo-electric Properties of Mantle Minerals and the Geophysical Implications." The grant is funded jointly by two NSF initiatives — the Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Excellence in Research (HBCU-EXR) and Earth Sciences (EAR) programs.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GRANT SUPPORTS NEW PHOTOCHEMICAL-PHOTOPHYSICAL LAB

Dr. Aristides Marciano, Professor of Physics, has been awarded a $344,607 Department of Defense research grant that will support the establishment of a state-of-the-art Photochemical and Photophysics Laboratory at Delaware State University. Dr. Marciano is the grant’s primary investigator and recipient. The lab’s primary purpose is to conduct research and train new generations of scientists in the detection and generation of singlet oxygen — an electronically excited level of the molecule of oxygen.

Dr. Aristides Marciano

DEL STATE AND UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PARTNER FOR SUMMER PROGRAM

Undergraduate science students will have a new summer neuroscience research program possibility as the result of a partnership between the University and the University of California Irvine Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory. Dr. Jared Goodman, Assistant Professor of Psychology, will serve as the Delaware State faculty partner for the program and will be a part of the committee reviewing student applications and making selections. He will also travel to UC Irvine in the summer of 2022 to help conduct the Summer Institute in Neuroscience. Sponsored by the UC-HBCI Initiative Summer Research and Graduate Admissions Pathways Grant, the program will fund the participation of 30 undergraduate HBCU students interested in neuroscience.

Dr. Jared Goodman

Dr. Tripathi honored with $100,000 Quantum Award

Dr. Renu Tripathi, Professor of Physics and Engineering, has been named the inaugural recipient of the IBM-SPE HBCU Faculty Accelerator Award in Quantum Optics and Photonics. The announcement was made in August during the opening plenary event at SPIE Optics + Photonics. The $100,000 annual award, presented jointly by the IBM-HBCU Quantum Center and SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, supports and promotes research and education in quantum optics and photonics within IBM-HBCU Quantum Center member institutions, currently 23 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), including Delaware State University. The IBM-SPE agreement stipulates a joint annual award through 2025, with each organization providing $50,000 per year for a shared total of $150,000 over five years.

Dr. Tripathi
University, Charles Schwab create Financial Literacy Institute

Delaware State University announced the launch of a new Financial Literacy Institute (FLI) with support from Schwab Advisor Services in partnership with the Charles Schwab Foundation. The company has pledged a four-year grant to facilitate the creation of the new program, as well as the expansion of the Financial Planning curriculum and the renovation of the Financial Network Trading Room operated by the College of Business.

The partnership will support the College of Business in expanding its Financial Management programming for Business majors. The tools and resources provided by the new Financial Literacy Institute will allow students to learn more about wealth management, build relationships with industry leaders, explore careers in the Registered Investment Advisor profession, and help foster community outreach. The University is currently in the process of converting its minor in Financial Planning into a full-fledged Financial Planning and Wealth Management degree concentration, “but we’ve not been able to offer the program at full potential yet,” said Dr. Nandita Das, Professor of Finance, who will play a key leadership role in FLI’s organization and development. “The infusion of Schwab’s expertise and support allows us to complete that project to the benefit of our students.”

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS TRAINS ENTREPRENEURS IN UGANDA

The College of Business’ Global Entrepreneurship Education Initiative has launched a new initiative to train entrepreneurs in the Central African country of Uganda. Supported by a $44,308 grant from the U.S. State Department, the initiative is a part of the mission of the Global Entrepreneurship Education Initiative to provide entrepreneurship education in emerging and developing countries to contribute to the emergence of local entrepreneurs. Through the Garage (the COB’s innovation and maker space) and the Delaware Center for Enterprise Development (DCED), the COB will offer a curriculum tailored to current and prospective entrepreneurs in Uganda in partnership with Feminature Uganda, a women-led and youth empowerment organization in Arua, Uganda. The University team will also work closely with the U.S. Embassy in Kampala, Uganda.

The COB Global Entrepreneurship Education Initiative was created by Dr. Constant D. Beugre, Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship, and includes Ms. Lillie Crawford, Director of the DCED, and Ms. Troy Farmer, Director of the Garage.

BETA ETA DONATES $10K IN SUPPORT OF AVIATION PROGRAM

An elite fraternity’s financial support of the University’s Aviation Program has led to the naming of one of its training planes after two of the organization’s esteemed members. Beta Eta, a boulé (chapter) of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, has made a $10,000 donation to the University Foundation to be earmarked for use by the Aviation Program. In appreciation for the donation, Aviation has named one of its Vulcanair single-engine planes — from the new fleet of 11 aircraft acquired through state funding in 2019 — after two Beta Eta members, the late Dr. Conelius Elbert Gaither and later retired Lt. Col. Collace Greene, also deceased. Dr. Conelius Gaither was a Tuskegee Airman who later became a Wilmington dentist. Mr. Collace Green was a Tuskegee Airman and U.S. Air Force aviator who later became the first African American to fly for a Fortune 500 company when he began flying for General Electric.

FROM LEFT: Lillie Crawford; Dwight Deloatch, graduate assistant; Dr. Constant Beugre; and Troy Farmer.

Dr. Nandita Das

From left: Lillie Crawford; Dwight Deloatch, graduate assistant; Dr. Constant Beugre; and Troy Farmer.

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