

# DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY

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“DelVal was born the National Farm School and the importance of educating people in plant science, animal science, and, more recently, sustainable agriculture, will always be an integral part of DelVal’s identity.”

**Dear DelVal Community,**

I am both honored and humbled to have been selected to serve as the 14th president of Delaware Valley University. When I started as assistant professor 27 years ago, I could not have imagined that I would be serving the institution I love in this important role.

I am an Aggie through and through. I carry a card with our six core values in my pocket whenever I am on campus as they guide me daily:

**Live each day with integrity.**

**Respect all people.**

**Pursue excellence.**

**Value the world of ideas and differences.**

**Act as one learning community with one purpose.**

**Teach, learn and serve with passion and commitment.**

I have been thinking lately about a seventh core value: the importance of traditions. Traditions mean something to our community and this fall it meant a lot to me to gather with alumni and friends at Homecoming. This spring we look forward to celebrating Founders’ Day, A-Day and Commencement 2022 together as our Aggie traditions continue.

Another tradition that we respect is our foundation in agriculture. DelVal was born the National Farm School and the importance of educating people in plant science, animal science, and, more recently, sustainable agriculture, will always be an integral part of DelVal’s identity. You will see in the article “Investing in Agriculture” (page 5) that we have much to look forward to. We invest in our roots as this industry continues to grow and evolve in a modern world.

Our commitment to degrees in business and humanities and life and physical sciences are equally strong as we continue to focus on programs with student interest and employer demand. Look for an update on these programs in an upcoming issue of Horizons magazine.

Enjoy this issue and I look forward to seeing many of you on campus this spring!

**Best regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin E. Rusiloski". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski**  
President



# In This Issue

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# Delaware Valley University Names Fourteenth President

Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski has been named DelVal's fourteenth president.

The Delaware Valley University Board of Trustees announced that it has selected veteran educator and administrator Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski as the University's fourteenth president. Dr. Rusiloski has served DelVal for more than 25 years and led the launch of the University's nationally-recognized experiential learning program, Experience360. He has served most recently as DelVal's interim president.

"Throughout the search process, Dr. Rusiloski's work in experiential learning really stood out to us," said Majid Alsayegh, chair of the University's Board. "As Delaware Valley University celebrates 125 years of providing students with both knowledge and relevant real-world experience, we wanted a leader who could continue to build on that legacy. He's truly passionate about DelVal's mission of 'science with practice' and committed to preparing students for success after graduation."

Dr. Rusiloski brings a wealth of higher education leadership experience to the position.

Before becoming interim president in June 2021, Dr. Rusiloski served as vice president for academic affairs (VPAA) and dean of the faculty. Before that, he served as dean of the School of Life and Physical Sciences. In that role, Dr. Rusiloski was responsible for overseeing all academic-related matters, including program development, evaluation,

faculty development, and strategic planning for the School of Life and Physical Sciences.

Dr. Rusiloski joined DelVal's faculty in 1994 as an assistant professor of chemistry. Since then, he has served as a professor, chaired two academic departments, served as dean of the School of Life and Physical Sciences, served as VPAA and dean of the faculty, and served as interim president.

"As we celebrate Delaware Valley University's 125th anniversary, I'm honored to be selected to build on the work of the presidents who have come before me," said Dr. Rusiloski. "DelVal is a school that I'm proud to serve. This institution has excellent faculty and staff who are personally invested in the success of each student. DelVal's academic programs give students the skills and experience they need to be successful. Through our award-winning experiential learning program, our students are gaining relevant, real-world experience before graduation. I look forward to continuing to enhance experiential learning opportunities as president."

The search committee, chaired by Kate Littlefield, a DelVal trustee, included representatives from the Board of Trustees, some of whom are also alumni; the faculty; the president's cabinet; and the staff. The committee partnered with Storbeck Search, a top search firm. The team gathered feedback from extended



stakeholders during the summer, and selected Dr. Rusiloski from a large pool of applicants.

"The search committee interviewed many candidates to find the individual best suited to lead the institution at this particular time," said Littlefield. "Dr. Rusiloski's vast knowledge of and commitment to DelVal, his positive interpersonal skills, and the respect he holds among all constituencies, position him well for success."

Learn more at [delval.edu/news](https://delval.edu/news).

**"Dr. Rusiloski's vast knowledge of and commitment to DelVal, his positive interpersonal skills, and the respect he holds among all constituencies, position him well for success."**

*-Kate Littlefield,  
Chair, Presidential  
Search Committee*





## Investing in the Future of Agriculture

By Kathy James Howell

In some ways, Delaware Valley University looks very different from the institution that Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf started 125 years ago. DelVal started with 122 acres purchased in 1896 and today has over 1,000 acres. Tractors and plows are now powered by engines, not horses. There are now more than 25 majors offered with additional science and agriculture majors and the expansion into business and humanities. And, there are female students, faculty and administrators on campus.

The expansion of DelVal's academic offerings supports a broader view of the world: one that understands the need for business acumen, policy discussion, historical context, and the education of people who can communicate facts, stories and ideas across all media platforms.

Despite these many changes, the institution's commitment to agriculture has never wavered. In fact, DelVal is in the midst of planning and executing major investments in the field. As we near the two-year mark of the global pandemic, the importance of food availability, supply chain management, and the implications of

One Health – the interconnectedness of the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment – have never been more in the forefront.

### Recent investments in agriculture:

- ▶ \$2 million+ invested in state-of-the-art greenhouses and plant laboratory
- ▶ K.H. Littlefield Endowed Professorship in Plant Science
- ▶ New undergraduate program in Nutrition Science (B.S.)
- ▶ New graduate program in Agribusiness Management (M.S.)
- ▶ Five new summer research grants for undergraduate agriculture students
- ▶ Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) chapter started on campus
- ▶ Articulation agreements with 100+ high schools for Curriculum in Agriculture Science Curriculum (CASE)
- ▶ Articulation agreements with 600+ high schools for Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow (DLT)

# Investing in the Future of Agriculture



“DelVal certainly brings a part of the solution to those workforce needs. Our students are not only motivated, but they can also bring fresh eyes to issues in agriculture.”

- Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski, President

## Corporate Partners Event

DelVal is actively looking to expand corporate partnerships for research, internships, employment opportunities for graduates, and investments in facilities. The “Forward Facing on Agriculture” event was held on campus on Oct. 28 with over 50 people in attendance. The event featured Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding. Redding addressed the attendees and participated in a panel discussion that included Joseph “Chip” Krauskopf, vice-chair of the University’s Board of trustees, retired tech executive, and the great-grandson of DelVal’s founder Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf; Dr. PK Yegneswaran, vice president of Global Animal Health Manufacturing Science and Technology within the Merck Manufacturing Division; Kurt Schrock, vice president of human resources for Mountaire Farms; Hector Pacheco, executive director of Global Predevelopment at URBN

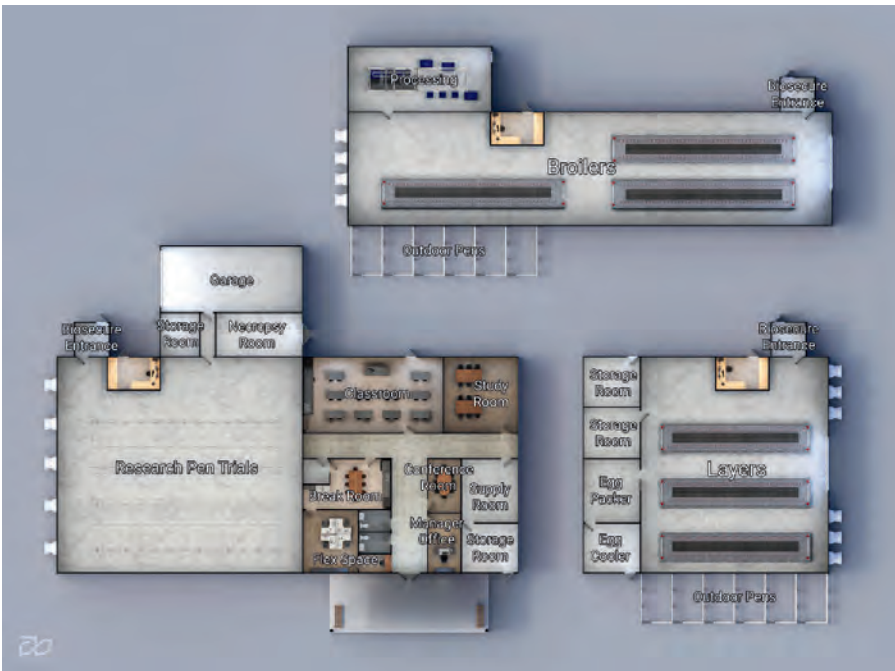
(Urban Outfitters, Anthropologie Group, Free People & Nuuly); and DelVal Dean of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Dr. Broc Sandelin.

The panel discussed issues such as technology in agriculture, diversity and inclusion in agriculture, environmental protection, the rapid growth of the poultry industry, and opportunities for education in the cannabis industry. An issue that came up repeatedly was the need for the next generation of qualified employees who have the knowledge and experience to lead in agriculture.

“DelVal certainly brings a part of the solution to those workforce needs,” said DelVal President Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski. “Our students are not only motivated, but they can also bring fresh eyes to issues in agriculture.”

It was clear that the field of agriculture, like other industries, is constantly changing. New technologies quickly move from laboratories to the fields and processing facilities, as farm to table, and field to fork, continue to gain popularity. All of these shifts have implications for success in the agriculture industry underscoring the need for collaboration between academia and industry.





## Poultry Science Center and Dairy Processing Center

DelVal is looking for foundational partners at this time for a Poultry Science Center on main campus. The Poultry Science Center is a proposed \$10 million, three-building facility with capacity for broilers, layers, a classroom, and Research Pen Trials.

Initial discussions are also underway for a Dairy Processing Center to provide practical coursework for both dairy science and food science students.

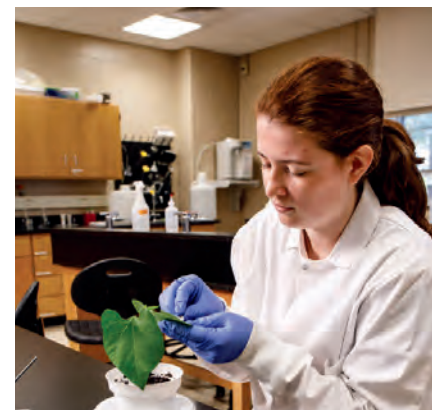
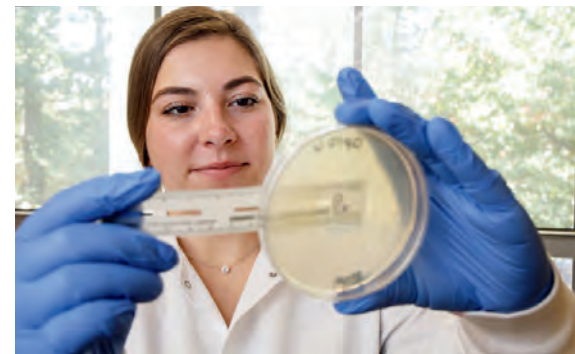
## Grant Initiatives

The University has recently been awarded grants related to agriculture. DelVal faculty and staff are proactively applying for and securing grants to expand opportunities in agriculture at the University. Some recent examples of grants include:

- Dr. Melissa Wright, academic director of the DelVal M.S. in agribusiness and an assistant professor of agribusiness, and Dr. Sarah Dohle, professor of plant science, have been awarded a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture grant. The funding will support a year-long plant breeding project. Funding will support an undergraduate and a graduate student research internship.
- In collaboration with the Northeast Organic Farming Association and other organic certifiers and educators, DelVal has been awarded a USDA grant that will help the University develop courses in organic inspection for livestock, crops and processing. Dr. Jackie Ricotta, chair of the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, will oversee the development of the courses.

## Looking Forward

As DelVal celebrates 125 years, the University celebrates its proud past in agriculture and its promising future as a leader in agriculture. DelVal is a leader in providing hands-on, experiential education in agriculture where students receive personal attention from faculty. This type of education that focuses on “science with practice” through DelVal’s experiential learning program, Experience360, prepares graduates for success as they start their careers or apply to graduate schools. As the University expands opportunities in agriculture, students will gain even more opportunities to apply what they’re learning through real-world experiences.



## Music: A Part of Campus Life Since Day One



**“Our performances are for the public, and we design them with them in mind. In many cases, we attract as many people from the Doylestown community as from the DelVal community.”**

*-Dr. Jack Schmidt,  
professor of music and  
chair of the Department of  
Liberal Arts*

How did a university that is focused on majors like business, animal science, and conservation and wildlife management develop such a strong extracurricular focus on music and performing arts? You might say it’s in the school’s DNA. Or at least that of its founder, Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf.

Dr. Krauskopf was a huge supporter of music and deeply touched by it. When he first came to the U.S. from Prussia, his protege was Mary Bridges Canedy Slade, a well-known hymn composer. Later, one of the many books he wrote was a hymnal or service book in collaboration with Russell King Miller, organist at Keneseth Israel, where he was a rabbi. King Miller was the most respected composition instructor in Philadelphia at the time, known for guiding American composer Vincent Persichetti’s studies. No wonder what began as a small farming school showed such an interest in music from its founding in 1896.

“I think Dr. Krauskopf felt strongly that music brought people closer to the presence of God,” said Dr. Jack Schmidt, professor of music and chair of the Department of Liberal Arts.

While the school never offered music degrees, music was a key part of campus life from the earliest days of the institution, then named the National Farm School. Evidence in early photos ranges from a 1917 shot of a school amateur jazz band, The Harmonious Hayseeders, to yearbook portraits of larger bands and dance ensembles.

But by the time Dr. Schmidt, a teacher, researcher, conductor and administrator with a Ph.D. in Music from Northwestern University, joined DelVal in 1997, enthusiasm had ebbed.

“I think there were four people in the band,” he remembers. “I thought, what in the world am I going to do with a band that has four people in it?”

Eventually, an idea began to form. Why not invite musicians from the community to sit in? The notion would prove to be the key to the vitality of DelVal’s musical groups.

Today, DelVal’s Symphonic and Jazz Bands are made up of students, alumni, faculty, staff, and interested Bucks County musicians. The Chorale includes a few community members, too. Performances commonly draw audiences of 375 to 400, and specials like holiday concerts often require added performances.

“This concept really jump-started the growth of our music programs,” said Dr. Schmidt. “Our performances are for the public, and we design them with them in mind. In many cases, we attract as many people from the Doylestown community as from the DelVal community.”



The approach not only enhances the quality of DelVal music, but also promotes interaction between DelVal and the community. Students enjoy getting to know people outside the campus and interacting with professionals who are in the midst of their careers. Some contacts have even played a role in helping students find their career paths.

The biggest boost for DelVal music came in 2013 with the dedication of the University's \$15 million Life Sciences Building. Its sleek 450-seat auditorium replaced the school's previous performance space, a very basic all-purpose room. Dr. Schmidt worked closely with the architects to ensure the new venue had the sightlines, acoustics and other features needed to make it a superb space for music.

The quality of the auditorium has attracted many outside performers and made it a central point for the Bucks County cultural scene. Many groups actually call the space home. One of them, the much-honored Lenape Chamber Ensemble, has been based at DelVal since shortly after its founding. Both Bucks County's Center for the Performing Arts and its Gilbert & Sullivan Society present their summer seasons here.

For a university without a music major, DelVal's musical life is a rich one.



“Our ensembles attract students who major in other areas but have always performed music, love to do so, and want to make music part of their college careers,” said Dr. Schmidt. “It’s an enhancement to their college experience.”

Dr. Schmidt is constantly astonished by the quality of musicians who arrive at DelVal.

“These days there are so many outstanding players graduating from high school who don’t want to be professional musicians,” said Dr. Schmidt. “But that doesn’t mean they don’t enjoy playing music. Right now, I have students in my Symphonic Band who were All Regional performers at their high schools. In Pennsylvania, that’s a very big deal. Others come from elite performing arts high schools. We have high-caliber musicians studying landscape design, animal science or wildlife conservation who want to keep performing.”

In fact, this is even why some students choose DelVal. For example, there aren’t many equine programs in the country, and fewer yet that offer a thriving music program like DelVal’s.

But what makes DelVal music such a community draw?

“If we didn’t perform well, people wouldn’t take time out of their weekends to come and hear us,” said Dr. Schmidt. “We draw such big crowds because we play really good music at a quality level.”

Clearly, Dr. Krauskopf would be proud.



## Campus Namesakes

As Delaware Valley University celebrates 125 years of experiential learning, consider taking a walk on campus to visit some of these historically significant locations. Learn about people behind some of the named spaces on campus!



### ▲ Ida M. Block Chapel

The Ida M. Block Chapel is one of the oldest buildings on DelVal's campus. The Chapel was gifted to DelVal in 1899 by Block's family. DelVal founder Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf provided regular non-denominational services for students of all faiths at the Ida M. Block Chapel during his time as president.

Dr. Krauskopf was good friends with Block. She was a well-known leader in Jewish community organizations, charities and the local community. Open and accepting of different faiths, Block insisted on a strict rule of non-sectarianism in her philanthropy. Because of this, a non-denominational chapel was dedicated in her name on campus. Block dedicated her life to service.

**Learn about the Chapel Challenge Fund on page 35.**



### ▲ Lake Archer

Lake Archer, a favorite place for students and alumni on campus, was originally constructed in 1908 in memory of Archer Rosenthal. It was reconstructed in 1961 with support from the classes of 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rosenthal donated funds for its construction in memory of their son, Archer Rosenthal, a National Farm School student.

True to DelVal's belief in real-world, hands-on experience, a faculty member Dr. Julian Prundeanu worked with students to redesign Lake Archer in 1961. Prundeanu and his students decided to drain the old lake. The new version was designed to serve as a rainwater basin, a source for fire protection and, as an "outdoor laboratory" for students. It is still used today by students and faculty as a living laboratory. The reconstructed Lake Archer covers an acre.





### ▲ Dr. Joshua Feldstein Campus Court

Dr. Joshua Feldstein '42-'52 was a Delaware Valley University alumnus who went on to become the school's president and one of the most beloved figures in its history. In 1975, he was named president of DelVal, a position he held for 12 years. He also served as interim president twice. The Dr. Joshua Feldstein Campus Court, located outside of the Student Center, is named in his honor. DelVal also named the Horticulture Science Center in honor of Dr. Feldstein.



### ▲ Henry Schmieder Arboretum

The concept of a campus-wide arboretum dates back to the founding of Delaware Valley University as the National Farm School in 1896. The school's founder, Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf, included an arboretum in the original plans for the school. However, it was not until 1966 that the Arboretum, under the stewardship of horticulturist David Benner, was recognized and named the Henry Schmieder Arboretum of Delaware Valley University.

Henry Schmieder was a faculty member from 1921 to 1964. He was a gifted teacher who taught a variety of subjects in liberal arts, science and agriculture. He was described by Dr. Feldstein as "a man with an intensely inquiring mind; a man who never ceased to be a student of the life he found everywhere about him."



### ▲ The Gemmill Animal Science Complex

In 1980, the Kenneth W. and Helen H. Gemmill Center for Animal Husbandry was constructed. The facility was designed and developed by the faculty members of what was then called the Animal Husbandry Department. Dr. Feldstein presented the plan to the Gemmill family. The Gemmills were impressed by the hard work of the faculty and the property where the facility was planned to be built was well-known to Helen H. Gemmill, who studied the County's history. This prompted the Gemmills to contribute a large amount of funding for the project.



### ▲ Mandell Science Building

The Samuel P. Mandell Science Building was built largely through the generosity of Samuel P. Mandell who served on the Board of Trustees from 1962 until his death in 1978. The Samuel P. Mandell Foundation continues to support renovations on the building. The Mandell Science Building was designed to provide lecture rooms and laboratories for the biology, chemistry, and food industry departments.



### ▲ Joseph Krauskopf Memorial Library

The Joseph Krauskopf Memorial Library was built in 1924. Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf asked for the library to be built in his will. Two large wings and a lower level were added in 1969. The Samuel Cooke Memorial Wing is to the left; the Harry Shapiro Memorial Wing is to the right.

The library has been a place for students to find books, study and meet for academic assignments since its creation. The Memorial Room, which was the original study area students used before the library's expansion, contains a replica of Dr. Krauskopf's office. Dr. Krauskopf's ashes are located in the Memorial Room. The room contains archives, photos, and historical documents dating back to 1896, including some of Dr. Krauskopf's belongings.



### ▲ Original Gate Entrance

The entrance gate onlooking East Butler Avenue and leading to what is now the Life Sciences Building was originally built in 1929. A new system of roads encircling the campus was constructed as well. I.H. Silverman donated the necessary funds for the construction of a brick and stone colonial gateway in memory of his wife Ida. His son, Edwin H. Silverman, was an architect who designed the gateway which formed the main entrance to DelVal from Route 202 until 1990.



### ▲ Arthur Poley Greenhouses

Arthur Poley '54 and Dr. Joshua Feldstein '42-'52 worked together to create the Arthur Poley Greenhouses in the '90s. Arthur Poley was a horticulture student of Dr. Feldstein's in the '50s. Poley graduated with a bachelor's degree in horticulture in 1954. With his wife, he established a business that has developed into one of the largest landscaping operations in Montgomery County. Poley was dedicated to DelVal's mission and advocated that majors in agriculture be continued to preserve the uniqueness of the institution. He became president of the Alumni Association in 1964, and served on the Board from 1974 until his death in 1997.

The original donor who was going to make a major financial contribution to the new greenhouses did not follow through in 1996.

In Dr. Feldstein's book, "Evolution of a Unique Institution," he wrote, "As Arthur and I drove home from the disappointing meeting, he told me, 'Josh, I will make the major contribution to this project, and I want it constructed while you are interim president - so let's do it.'"

The new greenhouses were 50 percent larger than the previous ones and offered updated technology. In 1996, Poley became seriously ill and contributed the necessary funds shortly before his death. Today, students gain hands-on experience using the greenhouse complex for courses like plant breeding, plant propagation, hydroponics, and more.





### ▲ James Work Gymnasium, James Work Memorial Stadium, James Work Hall

Two DelVal Presidents, Dr. James Work (1913) and Dr. Joshua Feldstein '42-'52 worked together to get a new gymnasium added to campus. They wanted to tackle the problem of an overcrowded gymnasium. The Rudley-Neumann Gymnasium could not accommodate all of the Athletics programs. After price negotiations with the General State Authority and assistance from several departments, the new James Work Gymnasium was built in 1971. Dr. Work passed away in 1977. In 1978, Dr. Feldstein dedicated the gymnasium in Dr. Work's memory and presented a key to the gymnasium to Dr. Work's wife.

After Dr. Work passed away, a memorial service was held in James Work Gymnasium with almost 1,000 people in attendance.

"I spoke briefly, and it was one of the most emotional days of my life," wrote Dr. Feldstein, in his book, "Evolution of a Unique Institution."

After discussions with Mrs. Work and the deans, it was decided that the James Work Memorial Stadium

would be built. Dr. Work was a scholar, athlete and coach of the National Farm School teams for many years. He loved competitive sports, with football being his favorite. The James Work Memorial Stadium was funded by gifts from Board members and alumni.

The James Work Hall groundbreaking ceremony was held on Homecoming Day in 1963, and the residence hall was built in 1964.



### ▲ Frank Wolfgang Baseball Field

In 1974, Frank Wolfgang, a well-known name in DelVal Athletics, became the head baseball coach. Because of Wolfgang's dedication and long-standing service to the University, the field was dedicated in his name in April of 2006.



### ▲ Sydney Markovitz Breeding Center

The Sydney Markovitz Breeding Center was built in the early '80s. Markovitz was a distinguished member of the Board of Trustees, who loved horses and often rode his own horse in the parks of Philadelphia. After Markovitz passed away, Dr. Feldstein met with Markovitz's widow, Ethel Markovitz, and mentioned DelVal's eagerness to introduce an equine science program. To launch the program, the school needed to build a facility for breeding and teaching purposes. Ethel provided the funds for the facility in memory of her husband. She has since passed away. The Sydney J. Markovitz Breeding Center is now used by equine students for experiential learning. Today, DelVal students gain real-world experience breeding horses for the standardbred racing industry in the facility.

### Tell Us Who You Want to See Featured Next

The Campus Namesakes Tour will be an ongoing series in Horizons to help alumni and friends learn about the people who have helped move DelVal forward. Do you have a location you would like to see featured next? Are you curious about the person a location was named for? **Send us your suggestions at [horizons@delval.edu](mailto:horizons@delval.edu).**

# The Story of Hun Hunahpu, The Mayan Maize God

By Bridget Cornog '24

As I was walking on campus, I came across a statue that looked familiar to me. I realized that it was a statue of one of the Mayan Gods that I had been learning about since I was a child. I felt I needed to share his story with you if we were to have a statue of him on campus. Today, I am honored to share the story of Hun Hunahpu, The Maize God.



The story of the Mayan people dates back thousands of years when there was only water and sky. The gods who lived in the sky and sea wanted someone to praise them. They tried several animals, but unfortunately, none of them worked, and they settled on trying to figure out how to make the best human. Our story takes a turn when we meet the two brothers named One and Seven Hunahpu. The brothers were very talented at playing a ball game. Unfortunately, the court where they played their ball game was right above where the gods of Xibalba (underworld) lived. The gods didn't like how much noise the boys made and invited them to play the ball game down in Xibalba.

When the boys got there, it was a trick, and they died. Luckily, One Hunahpu had twins named Hunahpu and Xbalanque. The two boys were also very gifted at the ballgame. They played on the same court, and the gods of Xibalba were annoyed to hear all the noise again. They asked for them to come to play at their court. But this time, the boys

were far too bright and outwitted the gods. They had several different creatures help them. Knowing their father's story, they sent a mosquito to Xibalba before they got there. The mosquito told them all the tricks that the gods had set up for them to fail. When they got there, they already knew all the tests and tricks that they had to pass. Eventually, the two boys were able to kill the two highest gods who had killed their father. Because of this, they could bring back their father; he emerged through a crack in the ground and became the Maize God. The gods of the heavens were very grateful to the young boys, and they were able to have status as gods and ended up being the Sun and Moon. The rest of the Gods then talked to One Hunahpu about creating the best human. To help them decide, they sent out four animals to find the best material.

This was a fox, parrot, coyote, and crow. When the animals came back, they brought a pile of white corn. The gods mashed up the corn and ended up creating the first humans.

The Mayan people pray to One Hunahpu for a good crop but also a good life. Because to the Mayan people, corn isn't just a crop. It is who they are. One Hunahpu represents the birth and death and rebirth of a human. The corn (although a vital crop) is symbolic of his real purpose and story.

## About the Author

*Bridget Cornog '24 is a small animal science major and psychology minor at Delaware Valley University. Weyano'one ("we are here" in original Mayan language)!*



▲ On Oct. 27, the Corn God statue was rededicated and placed on display in the lobby of the Life Sciences Building on campus. The statue was restored by adjunct faculty member Colleen O'Donnell with financial support from The Friends of the Library, Class of 2020 and members of the Berkowitz and Levy families.





## Investing in Learning By Doing

### Dr. Dorothy Prisco Starts a Scholarship for Student Research

**Dr. Dorothy Prisco**, a former Delaware Valley University vice president for academic affairs (VPAA), has started a new, annual scholarship for DelVal students who are doing student research through the University’s experiential learning program. She feels strongly about the impact of experiential learning because of her experiences as an undergraduate.

“When I was in college, you were to get a job and work in your area of interest as a student,” said Dr. Prisco. “My undergraduate experience at Bard College was the genesis of my interest in learning by doing as the most effective way to retain knowledge.”

As a student, she interned with a New York City advertising agency and a magazine. Those internships gave her experiences she never expected to have.

After graduating from Bard College, she earned her M.A. from New Jersey City University, an M.S. from the University of Alabama, and a doctorate from Rutgers University.

Before becoming a higher education administrator, she worked as a magazine editor and taught middle and high school. Prior to DelVal, she worked for Saint Elizabeth University, Gwynedd Mercy University, Wesley College and Centenary University. From 2006 to 2011, she served as DelVal’s VPAA.

“When I came to DelVal, I found the perfect environment to focus on experiential learning,” said Dr. Prisco.

As an administrator, she worked closely with DelVal Professor of Biology Dr. Cynthia Keler ’84 to start the Student Research program.

“As VPAA, Dorothy was instrumental in supporting the development and implementation of student research at DVU,” said Dr. Keler. “I could not have gotten the Student Research course up and running without her.”

Student Research is one of the activities students can participate in through the University’s required experiential learning program, Experience360. Students explore a topic of their choosing for a semester with a faculty mentor. They then present their work to the campus community.

Dr. Prisco believes the program helps students in a variety of majors to practice communication skills.

“Students in the Student Research course are required to communicate verbally and to write professionally,” said Dr. Prisco. “Those skills are essential in any field.”

She also feels that the program helps students gain the confidence to take on challenges.

“Student Research allows students to test their abilities to write and share the knowledge they’ve received and the confidence to speak to an audience and field questions,” said Dr. Prisco. “We’re called upon as we go out into the work world to do things and meet challenges that we may be fearful of and may not feel

ready for. Even though something may seem like too much at first, they learn they can do it. That is a great asset to have in the real world.”

In 2020, the Student Research program celebrated its tenth year. Dr. Prisco has been impressed with students’ work and how successful the program continues to be.

“I wanted to do something special after learning about the anniversary of Student Research,” said Dr. Prisco. “This evolved into this scholarship that I am so happy to support over the next five years to focus on and reward students who are interested in Student Research.”

As DelVal celebrates 125 years, Dr. Prisco looks forward to seeing how the University will continue to build on its history in experiential learning. She hopes to see DelVal develop more programs like Student Research.

“There is nothing more gratifying than to support programs around student growth, student development and student success,” said Dr. Prisco. “DelVal is there to educate students for the world they will face after college. I think the Student Research program does that well. I would encourage anyone who is committed to that type of process to support DelVal in any way they can.”

Dr. Prisco lives in New Jersey where she serves as president of the Long Valley Woman’s Club. She previously served on the Friends of the Library Board at her town library.

▼ Credit: Delaware Valley University archives. Tom Watson '57 as a DelVal baseball player.



▲ Courtesy: Judee Wales Watson. Tom Watson '57 with his wife, Judee Wales (Watson).

## Taking Experiences and Skills from the Baseball Field to the Boardroom

A new gift from Thomas W. Watson '57 and his wife, Judee Wales (Watson), will help Delaware Valley University students gain valuable life skills through Athletics.

After contributing substantially to academics at Delaware Valley University for many years Tom Watson '57 and his wife, actor Judee Wales (Watson), have made a new gift to support DelVal Athletics. The gift will fund renovations to the men's, women's and visitor locker rooms and provide upgrades for the baseball facilities.

"I want to continue to see Delaware Valley University thrive and I want to help students gain values that they can take with them throughout their lives," said Tom.

The Dr. Thomas W. Watson '57 and Judee Wales Watson Locker Rooms are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022. The baseball facilities upgrades are still in the planning process.

As a DelVal student, Tom played baseball all four years. He believes that athletic teams teach students more than just a sport.

"I have been in athletics all my life," said Tom. "Being an athlete makes you more competitive and you carry that with you on and off the field. You learn the importance of teamwork and comradery."

His experiences as an athlete helped prepare him for the business world.

"I took a lot from the game and it made me a better person and a better executive," said Tom.

Tom, who earned his bachelor's degree from DelVal and his MBA from Hofstra University, has

worked in global business. He received an honorary doctorate from DelVal in 2007 when he served as Commencement speaker. In 2005, he retired from his career as a Co-Founder and Vice-Chairman of the Omnicom Group, one of the world's largest marketing and advertising companies. Today, the Omnicom Group serves over 5,000 clients in more than 100 countries. His clients at the Omnicom Group included some of the world's best-known companies including Pepsi, Apple, FedEx and McDonald's to name just a few.

While he's had a successful business career, Tom's proudest accomplishment in life is convincing his wife to marry him.

"It wouldn't be possible without her support," said Tom.

They met in 1977 when Judee was taking a VIP group of Tom's business partners to an event at a stadium.

"He was in charge of the group and he switched the tickets so I'd be sitting next to him," recalls Judee. "He's the love of my life."

In addition to the support of the people in his life, one of the other keys to Tom's success has been his belief in investing in people. Tom has a long history of helping people reach their potential. He founded Omnicom University, an intensive management training program for senior executives at Omnicom.



He also founded the Watson Executive-in-Residence (WEIR) program at DelVal, which brings real-world business executives to campus to share candid career advice with students. DelVal students have opportunities to ask questions, network, and interact with executives one-on-one during the visits. The program also awards a scholarship in honor of each executive.

“I wanted to create a situation where DelVal students could hear from some of the best and brightest people in business,” said Tom. “I wanted them to see that anything is doable.”

Through the program, Tom spends time on campus talking with students. He said he’s been impressed with the preparedness and quality of DelVal students.

For Mel Welsh ’15, a business administration alumna, and for many students, the WEIR Program has been truly life-changing.

“The WEIR Program afforded me the opportunity that launched my career,” said Welsh. “It was at a Watson Executive-In-Residence event that Tom Watson introduced me to a Comcast senior vice president. Immediately following my graduation, that senior vice president offered me a full-time position on her team at Comcast Headquarters. I have worked for Comcast NBCUniversal for over six years doing everything from content production to product development. I could not be more grateful to the Watsons and the WEIR Program for the profound impact they have had on my career and my life.”

The Watsons keep in touch with the Watson Scholars after they graduate.

“You hear about this one getting married and that one getting a promotion,” said Judee. “It’s great to see them succeed.”

The WEIR Program is still bringing executives to campus today.

Bill Viel, co-chair of DelVal’s Department of Business and Information Management, first met Tom through the WEIR Program. He said Tom asks questions, makes suggestions and connects with students at the events. Viel said he’s even seen Tom spend time helping students with their resumes.

“Tom has a wonderful habit of checking in from time to time with Professor Stelmach and myself to see how our scholarship winners are faring and how the new students are doing,” said Viel. “We are more than grateful for the scholarships Tom has presented to our students, but it is the continued personal contact with, and concern for the people of DelVal and the business department in particular, that we cherish the most.”

The new gift from the Watsons will further enhance opportunities for DelVal students to grow.

“The generosity and support of the Watsons of our new locker room facilities is truly a game-changer in many different ways for current and future Delaware Valley University student athletes,” said Athletic Director Dave Duda. “The new upgrades will make us more competitive within our conference from a facilities standpoint, while providing new areas for individual teams to meet and conduct film study preparation to enhance performance. This will be a much-needed boost for the many teams, coaches, and student athletes that will benefit from this initiative, along with the effect it will have on all future recruiting efforts for our teams. I feel fortunate to have gotten to know such special people in Tom and Judee throughout this process, and truly appreciate their continued support of our University.”

► *Credit: Delaware Valley University. Tom Watson ’57 speaking at a Watson Executive-In-Residence (WEIR) event on campus.*

The support will also help the University as a whole.

“Along with our colleagues in Athletics, my entire Enrollment team is thrilled to be able to showcase our new locker room facilities for our prospective DelVal families,” said DelVal Vice President for Enrollment Management Kathy Payne. “This generous gift from the Watson family will provide an enhanced student experience and will truly be a difference-maker for our current and prospective student athletes.”

In addition to their philanthropy, the Watsons are pursuing a variety of interests. Tom and Judee have also worked together at her alma mater, Emerson College, to continue her actors’ scholarship and to create an Artist-In-Residence (JWW-AIR) Program, modeled after the WEIR Program. They also are looking forward to dedicating The Judee Theater for the performing arts actors at Emerson College in Spring of 2022. They co-own a TV and film development company, Two Bare Arms Productions, LLC. Their company’s mission is to “reveal the vulnerable in the human experience through passion, empathy and storytelling.” Tom has five children and grandchildren with their mother, Geri, and with Judee is very proud of all of them and their successes.



## Watson Executive-in-Residence Program Welcomes Phillies Executive to Campus

On Nov. 11, the Watson Executive-in-Residence Program (WEIR) welcomed Kathy Killian, vice president, administration for the Philadelphia Phillies, to campus. Killian met with students to share advice from her career in the business side of professional baseball.

To date, the WEIR program has awarded more than 25 scholarships to students in honor of visiting executives. The program has brought executives from a variety of industries and fields to campus to meet students.



**“The Watson Executive-in-Residence Program gives our students a chance to hear valuable insight from real-world business executives.”**

*- Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski,  
President*

## New Members of Delaware Valley University’s Board of Trustees

Four alumni joined Delaware Valley University’s Board in Spring 2021. Meet the new members:



### Phil Luccarelli '83

Phil Luccarelli is currently chief operating officer at Bright Power and previously held management positions at Willdan Energy Solutions, Altice USA, Cablevision, HomeServe USA, ADT, New Jersey Schools Development Authority, The Brickman Group, GPU Energy, and Jersey Central Power & Light. Luccarelli has a wealth of experience in management, strategic and organizational planning, process re-engineering, and change leadership. He has also served on DelVal’s Alumni Council. Luccarelli is a graduate of DelVal’s ornamental horticulture program (B.S.) and Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Marketing MBA program.



### Jeff Marshall '00

Jeff Marshall is currently chief diversity officer, head of diversity, equity & belonging at Universal McCann (UM) Worldwide, a global media and advertising agency. He previously served as vice president and group partner on Coca-Cola at UM Worldwide. Prior to that, Marshall provided advertising expertise for a host of brands, ranging from Anheuser-Busch to Las Vegas Hilton Hotel/Casino to Blue Cross Blue Shield of America. Marshall’s community involvement includes serving on the Marketing Council of the African-American Museum of Philadelphia. He has taught media and communications courses at Temple University as an adjunct professor. He is also a dynamic motivational speaker whose speeches resonate with both students and professionals. Marshall served as DelVal’s Watson Executive-In-Residence during the Spring 2015 semester. Marshall is a graduate of DelVal’s business administration



program (B.S.) and Temple University's Beasley School of Law (J.D.).



### Hakim Richard Savoy

Hakim Richard Savoy is currently vice president of global manufacturing, global supply chain at Kimberly-Clark Corp, where he leads the enterprise-wide manufacturing function for the \$19B consumer products goods corporation. Previously, he served Kimberly-Clark as the senior director of manufacturing excellence and as the senior director of manufacturing and logistics. Before joining Kimberly-Clark, he was director of integrated supply chain at Kraft Foods' \$2.5B NA Foodservice business, and he started his career at the H.J. Heinz Company. Savoy has a passion for increasing organizational capacity through employee development. He has built highly effective, diverse and inclusive teams, which routinely deliver positive results. Savoy's community involvement includes being a member of the United Way's African American Partnership and The National Urban League – Philadelphia, and serving as the

executive sponsor of Kimberly-Clark's African Ancestry Employee Resource Group. He is also a member of the advisory boards for the Chicago High School of Agricultural Science, the National Black MBA Association, and the National FFA (Lifetime Alumni member). He was awarded the 2004 Global Diversity Leadership Award. He also served as chairman of the Annual Whitney M. Young Service Award Dinner supporting South Side of Chicago Boy Scouts of America. Savoy is a graduate of DelVal's food science and management program (B.S.) and Eastern University's Operations Management MBA program. He completed a certification in Executive Leadership from Cornell University.



### Chloe Sees '20, Young Alumni Trustee

Chloe Sees was recently elected by the Board to serve as the University's first-ever Young Alumni Trustee, following an intensive search process that started with a campus-wide call for nominations and culminated in candidates meeting with the Board's Committee on Trusteeship. She is currently an agriculture teacher at

Warrior Run High School in central Pennsylvania, and also serves as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Young Ag Professionals. Sees graduated summa cum laude from DelVal in December 2020 with a degree in secondary education and a specialization in agriculture. As a student, Sees was very involved in campus life. She was president of Inter-Club Council and Delta Tau Alpha. Sees also held leadership positions in Student Government Board, Kappa Delta Pi, Collegiate Farm Bureau and Ducks Unlimited. She enriched campus life by helping to plan events such as Homecoming and Women's Summit. She also excelled academically, graduating a semester early and earning multiple academic awards and honors, including an Education Departmental Achievement Award.

**“I look forward to getting to know more members of the DelVal community and, to serving a school that means a great deal to me.”**

*-Chloe Sees '20,  
Young Alumni Trustee*

## The Importance of ‘Giving While You’re Living’

How lessons from Dr. Joshua Feldstein ’42-’52 inspired a couple to put their idea for helping DelVal students into action.

**Ron Alexander ’84** and his wife, Mary Jo (Schuhwerk) Alexander, had been thinking about additional ways to give back to Delaware Valley University for years. During the pandemic, when many people were reflecting on their lives and the impact they wanted to have, they started talking about those ideas out loud.

Together, they decided to create and endow a scholarship to be awarded to two DelVal students annually who are pursuing careers in environmental sustainability.

Ron and Mary Jo currently run R. Alexander Associates, Inc., an environmental consulting company, specializing in composting and organics recycling. They have been consistent donors since 1985 and Ron received the DelVal Special Award for Dedicated Service (for his efforts in the Alumni Association). Before endowing the scholarship,



▲ Credit: *Cornucopia*, 1984 yearbook. Ron Alexander ’84 (first row, far left) with the Horticulture Society during his time as a student on campus.

they made gifts to support areas of DelVal, such as the DelVal Fund, The Feldstein Family Scholarship, student scholarships, the Life Sciences Building Fund, and the Emergency Financial Aid Fund.

“We put our kids through college and we understand how important education is,” said Ron. “The more we talked about starting a scholarship, the more excited we became about it. We both received financial aid in college and we’re grateful. It’s a way to pay that back.”

They also want students to be able to pursue careers that help with environmental issues without taking on too much debt.

“We have an environmentally-based company and our area of expertise is organics recycling; both helping to create these recycled products and developing markets for them,” said Ron. “We want to be a part of encouraging other people who are passionate about protecting the environment. The environment and agriculture have a huge overlap.”

They first met as students at DelVal through campus life. Mary Jo attended DelVal for a year in 1981 and then transferred to another school to complete her horticulture degree. Ron completed his B.S. in horticulture at DelVal.

The school means a lot to them, especially because of the relationships they formed as students. Dr. Joshua Feldstein ’42, ’52, who passed away in 2018, was president during their time on campus. Dr. Feldstein was particularly influential on Ron’s life,

as were several other DelVal alumni and professors.

“DelVal was like my family,” said Ron. “The interesting thing about DelVal is the sense of togetherness. You could actually talk to your professor and build a relationship. I knew Josh Feldstein personally and he even went to our wedding. That’s not normally the case for students and there’s such a beauty in that. DelVal offers a unique experience.”

One of the lessons they learned from Dr. Feldstein was about the importance of giving back while you’re living.

“I remember having a conversation years ago with Josh Feldstein about ‘giving before you go,’” said Ron. “The earlier you give, the more people you’re going to help, especially if you’re endowing a scholarship.”

They want to encourage anyone who is thinking about donating or starting a scholarship to put that idea into action now.

“Mary Jo and I were talking about this idea and we thought, ‘What are we waiting for?’” said Ron. “Why don’t we start this scholarship now, so that we can be there to see some of the benefits for students?”

Ron remembers Dr. Feldstein talking with students about leadership.

“I know that my time at DelVal helped me to develop leadership skills, as well as for confidence entering the ‘real’ world,” said Ron. “I’m hoping that more students come out of DelVal with that confidence to take on issues that affect this country





▲ *Courtesy: Ron Alexander '84. Ron Alexander and his wife, Mary Jo (Schuhwerk) Alexander, have endowed a scholarship to help students pursue careers in environmental sustainability.*

and the world. That confidence that comes from having good mentors was a great gift that I received from DelVal.”

They want to encourage students to become leaders, who will give back now and in the future. For that reason, the scholarship includes a stipulation about not just going to school, but providing service either to the community or DelVal.

“Giving back to the school and the community is something that we are both passionate about,” said Ron. “I realize that DelVal contributed to my success, and I wanted to give back to the school that helped me get my start.”

“I realize that DelVal contributed to my success, and I wanted to give back to the school that helped me get my start.”

-Ron Alexander '84

## How to Start a DelVal Scholarship

Contact Ann M. Mousing at 215.489.4830 or [ann.mousing@delval.edu](mailto:ann.mousing@delval.edu) to learn more about starting a scholarship.

Scholarships can be created in memory of a loved one, to honor a favorite professor or, to support students in a specific academic program. Contact Ann today to find out how to support what matters most to you!

125  
YEARS

DELAWARE  
VALLEY  
UNIVERSITY



**“My handling skills have also improved immensely because of the different kinds of horses I get to work with every day.”**

*-Jordyn McDonald '22, '23 (M.A.)*

## Jordyn McDonald '22, '23 (M.A.) Finds Her Passion in Equine Management

Jordyn McDonald '22, '23 (M.A.) is an equine science major with a specialization in equine breeding. McDonald has an associate degree in equine management. She is also working towards her master's degree in management and organizational leadership.

McDonald has done two internships while at DelVal. She has been working at the on-campus Equine Breeding Center for the past two years and has also recently done an internship with Ledyard Farms in King Ferry, New York.

Working at DelVal, McDonald has learned how to administer IV and IM injections on broodmares, yearlings, stallions and foals. She has also learned several first aid and bandaging techniques.

“My handling skills have also improved immensely because of the different kinds of horses I get to work with every day,” said McDonald. “I can't think of one school day where I haven't had the opportunity to get my hands on a horse and learn a new skill. I have learned so much more than I even thought possible before coming to the University.”

Ledyard Farms is a world-champion horse breeding facility that produces some of the finest, top-performing Morgan horses. During her internship with Ledyard Farms, McDonald practiced skills grooming, caring for, and training horses.

“My internships made me realize that I'm exactly where I need to be,” said McDonald. “I really never will work a day in my life because every 6 a.m. wake-up call to get to work and start working the horses has never felt like work to me, it feels like a privilege.”

McDonald would like to work in a job that involves stallion management after DelVal.

“I never had the opportunity to work with stallions prior to coming to college, but in the past two years of working at the breeding center, this has become one of my biggest strengths,” said McDonald. “I am now able to handle stallions for collections and have learned what goes into a collection and how to prepare for and execute one.”

After graduation, McDonald plans to stay in Doylestown and complete her master's in management and organizational leadership at DelVal. While completing her master's degree, she hopes to find a full-time job at a breeding barn. Her main goal is to hold a managerial position at a breeding facility.

“There are so many cool and exciting things to learn and do in the equine industry but in my opinion, your skills mean nothing if you don't have the horses' health and happiness at the forefront of your mind every time,” said McDonald. “The horses we work with give their all to us, and it is only right if we give them our all in return.”



# Giannina Lebo '22 Gains Real-World Experience in the Counseling Psychology Field

Giannina Lebo '22, a counseling psychology major, has found mentors, gained confidence, and learned valuable skills through the University's Experience360 Program.

Lebo interned at Harry S. Truman High School, in Bristol, Pennsylvania, in the guidance office, where she was a guidance counselor assistant. Lebo was responsible for scheduling meetings with students, making students' schedules, talking to students herself, and filing student information.

"I found a mentor," said Lebo, of the internship experience. "I still speak to the guidance counselor I worked with and she is always open to writing me letters of recommendation and if I need help with anything she will help."

Lebo is certified in child sexual abuse prevention by the Stewards of Children: Darkness to Light Program. She is passionate about helping people in any way she can.

"I want to be a counselor to help people," said Lebo.

Lebo is thankful for DelVal's hands-on experience in the counseling psychology labs. Conducting mock counseling sessions in the labs gave her valuable experience in the field before her internship. During her E360 activity, Lebo learned that



▲ Giannina Lebo '22 (right) receives an alumni scholarship and shakes hands with Melissa Roseman '08, '10 (MBA), a former Alumni Association president.

"there is a lot more behind the scenes work to being a guidance counselor than what meets the eye."

"Everyone faces challenges that no one knows about, which is why it's important to always approach people with kindness because you only have an outside view of what people are going through," explained Lebo.

In addition to her internship, Lebo also attended the Pennsylvania Counseling Association Conference, where she attended talks about different areas of study within the counseling field.

While studying at DelVal, Lebo gained more confidence in herself. One of her goals includes developing the confidence and social skills to feel comfortable talking with anyone she meets. The friendly DelVal community is helping her to practice those skills.

DelVal's small class sizes, counseling psychology labs, beautiful campus, and close-knit community are what attracted Lebo to DelVal. She especially enjoys the faculty relationships.

"I think the most essential thing about my education at DelVal is having professors that help you succeed and do everything in their power to get you to be the best you can be," said Lebo. "They are easily accessible and very understanding on top of wanting you to succeed."

Lebo hopes to attend graduate school and start working in her field immediately after earning her bachelor's degree.

**"Everyone faces challenges that no one knows about, which is why it's important to always approach people with kindness..."**

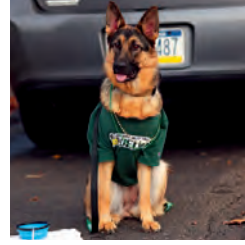
-Giannina Lebo '22

# Homecoming 2021

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Homecoming Weekend in October. It was great to see so many alumni and friends on campus! Congratulations to our football team on the win! Go Aggies!









# Delaware Valley University Hosts a Red-Carpet Premiere and Student Viewing Party for “The College Tour”



On Aug. 27, Delaware Valley University held a red-carpet premiere and student viewing party for its episode of “The College Tour,” a new national television series featuring colleges and universities around the world. The event included a red carpet, searchlights, food trucks, popcorn, music, and the students who appear in the show. Students gathered around a big screen on the quad to watch the episode. Alex Boylan, the host of the series, gave an introduction and shared his career journey with students.

“Time can’t be stopped, time can’t be bought, and time spent being unhappy or not following your passion and your purpose is time you will never get back,” Boylan told DelVal students at the event. “You all attend an amazing university that focuses on experiences, use those experiences. You have a faculty that celebrates and supports you. You have an amazing place

here to flourish. Whatever you do, wherever you end up in life, whether it’s halfway around the globe or right down the street, just do it with everything you’ve got, and set the world on fire. That will help you live an extraordinary life.”

The episode of “The College Tour” featuring DelVal includes interviews with 10 students about their DelVal experiences. The series is designed to allow viewers to virtually tour campuses from their homes. The

featured students posed on the red carpet and enjoyed the episode with Boylan and the DelVal community.

“What a fun night of being celebrated and supported,” said Christine Lambert ’22, a conservation and wildlife management major, from Macungie, Pennsylvania, who is featured in the episode. “Thank you, to everyone who has watched my segment on ‘The College Tour’ TV show.”



The DelVal episode of “The College Tour” can be streamed on IMDb TV, Amazon Prime, and other streaming services.

The full episode is also available at

[delval.edu/TheCollegeTour](https://delval.edu/TheCollegeTour)



# One Health Week

From Nov. 1 through Nov. 6, Delaware Valley University celebrated One Health Week.

One Health is a trans-disciplinary approach that encourages people and society to work across disciplines to promote the well-being of people and society, plants and the environment, and animals.

Together, the three major components make up the One Health triad, and the well-being of each is inextricably linked to the others in the triad.

The University's 2021 One Health Week included a variety of fun ways to get involved while learning more about One Health. Activities included a One Health Pledge (approximately 500 people signed the pledge to promote sustainability), a Public Service Announcement Video Competition, a Window Painting Competition, a Student Writing Competition, a guest speaker who discussed agricultural robotics and more! These activities gave students from all majors a chance to see how they can be a part of contributing to One Health efforts. From biology to media and communication to agriculture, all fields have a role to play in promoting the well-being of people and society, plants and the environment, and animals.

The week ended with a Mock Disease Outbreak with the USDA and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. This exercise allowed 57 students to participate in hands-on learning that will prepare them for the real world.

Dr. Linda Detwiler '80, a DelVal dairy science alumna and board member, who works for the USDA, volunteers to plan the event each

year. Dr. Detwiler is a veterinarian and leading animal disease specialist who has been a part of preventing and controlling outbreaks that have spread from animals to humans.

"I think the drills provide students with a chance to see how we would handle a disease outbreak in the real world," said Dr. Detwiler of the exercise. "The actions they practice are what we actually do."

"It is a perfect example of the types of educational experiences DelVal is known for," said DelVal President



Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski of the exercise. "The One Health program is preparing DelVal students from all majors to make a difference!"

**Learn more about One Health lectures and events at [delval.edu/onehealth](https://delval.edu/onehealth). DelVal's One Health seminars are open to the public at no cost.**

**"The One Health program is preparing DelVal students from all majors to make a difference!"**

*-Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski, President*

## Aggies in the National Spotlight

The Delaware Valley University fall athletics teams returned in full swing during the fall 2021 semester. The success of the teams and standout individuals had the campus buzzing and national outlets shining light onto the NCAA Division III scene in Doylestown.

*By Chris Elliott, Director of Sports Information*



D3Football.com ranked the Aggies at 10th in their top-25 poll during the fall semester while the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) placed the Aggies at 7th in the country early this fall.

The identity of the football team this year is its tenacious defense loaded with talented and experienced upperclassmen. Through the first four weeks, no team in the country was better on defense than DelVal. In October, the unit ranked number-one in total defense with 134.8 yards per game allowed, and opponents were averaging just 2.42 yards per play and eight points per game.

After its 26-2 week two win over non-conference foe Montclair State University, junior defensive end Michael Nobile was named to the D3Football.com Team of the Week. Two weeks later, junior safety Blaine Netterman earned the same honor after the team's 32-7 win at MAC rival Lycoming. The D3football.com Team of the Week is a national honor that recognizes the best performers in Division III at each position every week. Only 11 offensive and 11 defensive players are named each week.

The perennial powerhouse on the gridiron did not miss a beat since its run to the NCAA quarterfinals in 2019. The Aggie football team had its best start since 2017 winning the first four games of the season in Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) play.

The hot start had the Green and Gold ranked inside the top-10 in a pair of national polls, and individual players were recognized for their stellar performances on multiple occasions.





In women's action, the Aggie soccer team turned heads in their non-conference play as it started the season with six wins and just one loss – one of the best starts in program history. Jess Williamson, a first-year landscape design major, proved she did not need a lot of time to adjust to college soccer as she propelled the team with a historic week.

In a stretch of three games, Williamson, a native of Lititz, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of Warwick High School, scored 11 goals and added two assists for 24 points as the team won all three games by a combined score of 20-0. In a game at Rosemont College, Williamson tied a program record with five goals in the game. Early in the season she led all players in the NCAA, across all divisions, in goals and points with 14 and 33, respectively. The torrid run led to Williamson earning conference player of the week honors and National Player of the Week honors from the United Soccer Coaches Association.

Williamson is the only soccer player in DelVal history to earn the National Player of the Week award.

The true test for the fall teams came in October as they entered conference play with goals of making the playoffs and qualifying for the NCAA tournaments. In October, the football team was preparing for the MAC Championship.

In October, the women's soccer team was preparing for conference games to start and for battles with perennial national powerhouses in Misericordia University, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Lycoming College.

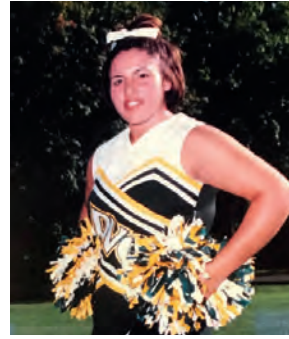
**This update was prepared in October 2021. For the latest news on Athletics, please visit [delval.edu/athletics](http://delval.edu/athletics).**



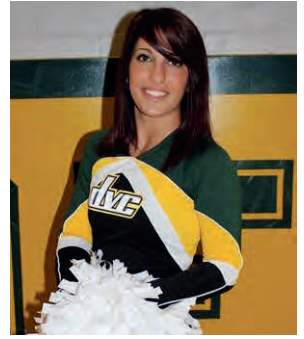
# Sisters, Cheerleaders, Alumni

Two sisters DelVal alumni and former cheerleaders are returning to campus as co-coaches for cheerleading.

▼ Nicole Cataldi '04



▼ Shannon DeFazio '14



▲ Courtesy: Shannon DeFazio '14. From Left: Shannon DeFazio '14 with her sister, Nicole Cataldi '04, at Shannon's Commencement.



▲ Courtesy: Shannon DeFazio '14. Nicole Cataldi '04 holding Shannon DeFazio '14 as a C.B. East cheerleader in high school.

Sisters **Nicole Cataldi '04** and **Shannon DeFazio '14** have an extremely close bond. They both attended Delaware Valley University where they were cheerleaders, they work together and, in August 2021 they returned to DelVal to coach cheerleading together.

They're coaching in addition to their full-time positions at Blue Rock Construction where Shannon is a project engineer and Nicole is a human resources manager.

"Being role models and coaches to younger DelVal athletes means a lot to us," said Shannon.

Shannon and Nicole are 10 years apart in age and Shannon has always looked up to Nicole. Both Shannon and Nicole love coaching cheer and have held multiple coaching positions.

"My sister is my biggest role model," said Shannon. "She was my coach and, it has always been a passion of mine to coach again. It is awesome to be back on campus. It feels like coming home."

Nicole, who majored in secondary education, said she transferred to DelVal from a bigger school for the small, personal community, and because DelVal had a better program for her major.

"Being at a larger university first, we would put a number on our tests, compared to DelVal where you had small classes, the same professors and built those relationships," said Nicole, who worked as a teacher before entering the business world. "I wouldn't have had a job teaching in Central Bucks or earned my

MBA without DelVal. It was such a well-rounded education that allowed me to go on multiple paths and be successful."

Shannon ended up following her older sister's example and coming to DelVal.

"I have DelVal to thank for my successes," said Shannon. "The relationships with professors and coaches have had a positive impact on my life."

Both Shannon and Nicole have been impressed by DelVal's current students.

"It was awesome to see their energy and how they pull together," said Nicole. "This group has a great attitude and spirit and it makes everything that much better."

They're thrilled to have an opportunity to impact the next generation of Aggies.

"It's cool to be back on campus together," said Shannon. "We get to help mold freshmen into seniors."

They are also excited to serve a school they both love.

"DelVal gave us so much and it's awesome that we get to be part of the community again and give back to the University," said Nicole.



# Your Connection to DeVal is Lifelong

Visit [delval.edu/classnotes](http://delval.edu/classnotes) to share your news

## 1960s

**Louis Coppens '65** and his wife, Kathy, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Oct. 23, 2021. He does not run much anymore, but in April 2020 he ran the third leg on the Philly Masters 4x400 relay.

## 1970s



**Ray Funkhouser '72** competed with his daughter and grandson in the Vincentown Triathlon. He won the co-ed relay division.

## 1980s



**Missy Klatt '84** got together at Lake Galena with members of the Classes of '84 and '82 in June 2021 when

**Edward (Ed) Stein '62** shared memories of visiting what was then the National Farm School (NFS). His mother's first cousin, Daniel Miller, was a NFS graduate and staff member. Stein remembers his mother's cousin frequently bringing apple butter from NFS that was made in the old horticulture building.

"I couldn't get enough of the stuff," said Miller. "During one of my campus visits, Dan took me to the hort building to stock up on apple butter. I was struck by the wonderful aroma of the cooking apple mash. Working the vat was a young man who beamed when he saw Dan, who introduced me to him as his best customer. I asked him why he wasn't home with all of the other students. The answer I got was that NFS was his home. The young man was Josh Feldstein."

When his family moved to Philadelphia, their campus visits became more frequent.

"Sweet corn and other vegetables and fruits became additions to my apple butter," said Stein. "So, too, were the other personal connections I made with members of the school family."

By the time he came to campus as a student in 1958, he knew many people at the school. Stein went on to have a teaching career. He enjoyed influencing students the way the leaders he met as a student influenced his life and career.

she was in town from Wisconsin. Those attending were Jim and Judy (Norton) Parsons, Jim and Mary Ellen (Tyson) Trainer, Michelle (Matula) and Doug Berezcki, Bev (Brandt) and Bill Hoffman, Wanda Perugini, Brenda Givler, Jane Smealie, Carolyn (Falkowski) German and Missy (Young) Klatt.

"We had a great time and hope to do it again in a couple of years when hopefully more of our friends from the early '80s can join us," said Klatt.



**John Spevak '84** was inducted into the Hazleton Area Sports Hall of Fame. He joins a distinguished group of athletes and civic leaders who have contributed much to the Greater Hazleton area.

## CLASS NOTES



**Kurt W. Alstede '85** was appointed by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy to serve a four-year term on the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture representing the fruit industry. He continues to actively manage the family's 800-acre fruit and vegetable farm in Chester, New Jersey. Alstede is also a director for Farm Credit East, ACA and has been a volunteer firefighter for 40 years. His oldest daughter Rebekah is a junior at Delaware Valley University majoring both in agribusiness and sustainable agriculture.



**Ed Hahola '89** retired on Oct. 31, 2019, after a 30-year career as a 9-1-1 public safety telecommunicator at Hunterdon County Communications in Flemington, New Jersey. During his career, he helped save the lives of two dogs that were choking via telephone instructions. He also helped many humans over the years.



**Jon Cassel '76** signed up with the Christian mission World Team to return to Africa, to help with agriculture-related projects. He also has been in touch with Trans World Radio, a Christian media organization, and will work with them in Benin to improve agricultural practices. Cassel is also participating in some tropical agriculture training at the ECHO Center in Fort Myers, Florida. He will leave for Africa in January 2022. In his work, he will be using "living fences" made of thick plants and will be using sustainable agriculture practices.



**Craig Leber '80** just celebrated 25 Years at his company, Leber and Associates, LLC. Leber is a board-certified behavior analyst specializing in the Autism Spectrum population.

**Annette Canalichio Worthington '91** and her husband, Stephen, took over the family's dairy farm this past spring. The Worthington farm, located in Doylestown just 10 minutes from DelVal, has been in the family since 1861. Their son, Aaron Worthington '21, graduated from DelVal's dairy science program and will be the seventh generation to work on the farm. Annette also took a new supervisory position in her off the farm work at a financial institution.

## 1990s



*Courtesy: Annette Canalichio Worthington. A family picture at Hunterdon County Fair. From left: Kait Taylor '21 (conservation and wildlife management), Aaron '21 (dairy science), Stephen, Annette '91 (large animal science) and Rebecca Worthington.*



**Ken Petersen '92** was recently named as the associate deputy administrator of the USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program in Washington, D.C. He has been with the USDA for the past 22 years primarily working in the areas of on-farm food safety and commodity grading.



**Dr. Christa (Sandelier) Lopez '96**

was asked to serve on the National Academies of Sciences, Gulf Research Program's Enhancing (EnCoRe) Committee in 2021. The committee will guide the development and implementation of a long-term, multi-year, community engagement project with select communities across the Gulf states and Alaska to build and enhance health and community resilience at the local level.

**Matthew Schieferstein '99**, CHMM, became a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) in July 2021. The certification will enhance his business skills as he continues to serve as the environmental services manager/corporate safety manager for Island Pump & Tank Corp and Advanced Waste Water Treatment Corp.

**2000s**

**Geno Finan '00**

joined Ferrero USA as vice president of sales. Ferrero is a multi-national food and confections company headquartered in Parsippany, New Jersey. Finan has spent more than 20 years in the consumer products industry with a focus on food since graduating from DelVal.



**Renee Tucci '04**,

AIFD, PFCI, published her first floral design how-to book on Oct. 29. It is a comprehensive book including step-by-step photos and written directions for 42 projects. Focusing on floral design techniques and the principles and elements of design, it is a captivatingly colorful book with over 500 photos!



**2010s**

**Megan Stevenson '11**,

an animal science alumna, was promoted to chief education officer at Preferred Systems, Inc. (PSI) in Erie, Pennsylvania.



She has taken over the national real estate education program. With instructors and courses in 47 out of the 50 United States, she has excelled at navigating accreditation requirements, both for current and new licenses. Her diverse background and experience in post-secondary technical education, curriculum development, and leadership has made her an exceptional asset to the PSI team.



**Darla Romberger '12** was recently selected as one of 49 teachers from across the U.S. to participate in the NEA Foundation's 2022 Global Learning Fellowship. She will represent Pennsylvania teachers and the agricultural education profession and collaborate with educators from across the nation. The fellowship will conclude with a field experience in South Africa next summer! Romberger is currently in her ninth year as an agricultural science teacher and FFA advisor at Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

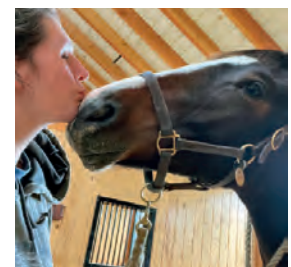
**Gabrielle Rybicki '16** recently started a new career as a forensic examiner for DNA in criminalistics at the Philadelphia Police Department.



**Caitlin Volpe '16** transitioned from working with the animal ambassadors to getting to work with and care for all of the safari animals at Six Flags Great Adventure.

**Jillian McNellis '19**

(Dec.) always had a passion for horses growing up with 4H and Pony Club. She



is applying her equine business management degree at her full-time job with Erdenheim Farm, a racehorse breeding facility that breeds high-quality thoroughbreds every year!

"I am so thrilled to have this opportunity and probably wouldn't have had so much confidence as a horsewoman and person if DelVal had not gotten me to where I am today," shared McNellis. "It is an incredible experience getting to learn about the breeding industry as well as getting to do what I love every day."

**Mary Gibson '19**

started her master's degree in biology at Central Michigan University.



## 2020s



**Kathryn Vasquez '20** was accepted into her top choice veterinary school at the University of Sydney. Due to COVID-19 border closures, she completed her first semester remotely and is now completing the hands-on component of year one at Lincoln Memorial University via an agreement with her school in Australia. COVID-19 permitting, she will be moving to Sydney, Australia in January 2022 for the start of her second year of veterinary school!



**Paige Olivera '20** got an internship at Miller Park Zoo working with animals such as red pandas, North American river otters, tigers and snow leopards!

## Weddings and Engagements

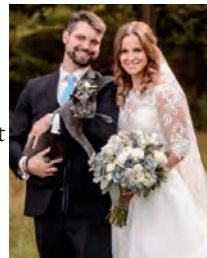


**Kurt W. Alstede '85** married Mary Elizabeth Thompson of Hinesburg, Vermont on July 16 at the First Congregational Church of Chester with their four children serving as the bridal party. They first met over 40 years ago when Alstede worked on her grandparents' farm in Chester, New Jersey. The couple and their children reside on their farm in Chester, New Jersey.

**Lauren Hale '12** married Gregory Nyce on Sept. 26, 2020, at Poppa Joe's Grove in Sellersville, Pennsylvania. Hale is currently employed as a veterinary technician and was previously a veterinary hospital manager for seven years.



**Cara Brelsford '14** married Stefan Kaminski on Oct. 4, 2020. The couple met at a pet store in 2014 and adopted their cat, Blue, in 2018.



**Lauren Wasser '14**, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, married Brad Nye, of Bernville, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 30.



**Rachel Flagg '15** and **Sarah Paradiso '15** got married on Oct. 24, 2020, in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. The couple met at DelVal during freshman year as students in the Department of Animal Biotechnology and Conservation. They currently live in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Flagg is a study supervisor at Charles River Labs and Paradiso is a veterinarian at Hamilton Animal Care in Allentown, Pennsylvania.



## Births and Adoptions

**Edward Hazelett, Jr. '05's** son was born on March 6 at Grandview Hospital in Sellersville, Pennsylvania.

**Jillian McNellis '19** (Dec.) and her boyfriend of four years had their first child on Sept. 15.

## In Memoriam

Priscilla Jackson, office coordinator/administrative assistant for the DelVal Center for Student Professional Development

Joanne V. Fulcoy, friend of DelVal and a family member of many DelVal alumni

Harold "Hal" A. Colladay '50

Jack S. Pernatin '50

William "Bill" H. Larder '51

Lionel "Lee" A. Berger '54

Henry H.G. Rose '57

Fred T. Wolford '57

Craig R. Crouse '58

Dominic M. Cermele '59

C. Milton "Milt" Holmberg '61

Joseph "Joe" R. Wolf '63

William "Bill" H. Fisher '64

Robert "Bob" A. Nash '65

Russell "Russ" C. Albright '67

Frank "Bob" R. Perry '70

William "Bill" H. Benson '73

James Stump '73

Carl J. Cantaluppi, Jr. '76

Herbert "Herb" G. Gebely '76

Werner W. Ruhfass '96

Michelle A. (Scott Bailey) Murphy '98

Joseph Golomboski, MBA '10

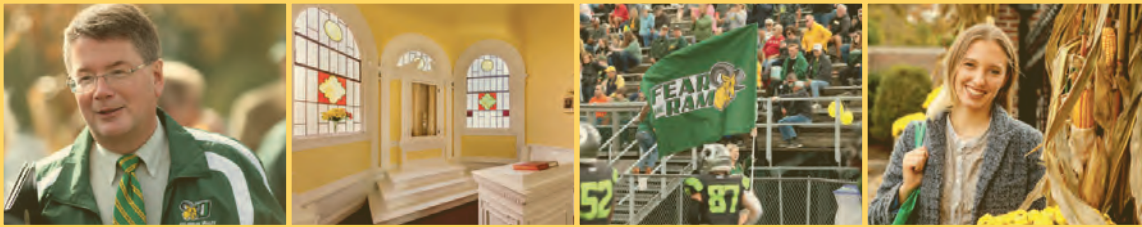


# December 2021 Month of Giving

Please consider a year-end gift to Delaware Valley University in December! This year, DelVal has much to celebrate and a lot to look forward to. The University community is excited to have Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski as president and under his leadership will be taking on a variety of projects to invest in students and the school we all love. This December, please consider the future that you want to see for DelVal and where you might like to invest. Every gift makes a difference for DelVal and in the lives of Aggies!

## What is important to you?

Decide how you want to support DelVal. It's up to you!



### Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski Presidential Scholarship Fund

We're honoring Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski, who was recently named the 14th president of DelVal, with a new endowed scholarship fund! During his 27 years at DelVal, Dr. Rusiloski has taught thousands of alumni. Help celebrate Dr. Rusiloski's impact on students and his new presidency by investing in future Aggies! Gifts to this fund will continue to support students in perpetuity.

### The Chapel Challenge

The Ida M. Block Chapel is a significant part of the University's rich history and a welcoming symbol of diversity and inclusion. The chapel is in need of several upgrades. As part of our 125th Anniversary celebration we are raising funds to restore the Chapel. A generous friend of DelVal has offered a challenge and will match donations, dollar for dollar, up to \$40,000.

### Athletics

Your generous support is essential in helping sustain the DelVal standard of excellence provided to all student-athletes. Your gift to the DelVal Athletics Enhancement Fund, or your favorite team, gives student-athletes the opportunity to reach their highest potential by preparing them for meaningful personal and professional lives and leadership roles.

### 125th Anniversary Scholarship Fund

DelVal was founded on the principle that no student would be turned away because of inability to pay for their education. Today, 99 percent of our students receive some level of financial aid. Please consider supporting students with a gift to the Anniversary Fund.

125  
YEARS

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UNIVERSITY

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## Celebrating 125 Years of Experiential Learning

Make sure to check out our documentary  
on DelVal's history, "The Vision Endures"

[delval.edu/docu125](https://delval.edu/docu125)

Share your memories and learn more at

[delval.edu/125](https://delval.edu/125)

December 2021  
Month of Giving  
(See inside back cover)

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