

DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY



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Call “The Office”

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



▲ NRCS/BCCD Award L-R: Dr. Broc Sandelin, dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences; Chris Becker, Director of Agricultural Operations; Ryan Herstein '19, Agricultural Conservation Technician with BCCD; Rosalynd Orr '03, Supervisory District Conservationist with NRCS; Jim Cooper, VP for Finance and Administration; Carly Sedlow, Ag Technician with BCCD; Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski, President

“At press time, we received notice that DelVal has been awarded a \$2.025 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Budget to support the construction of our new Poultry Science Center.”

Dear DelVal Community,

I am pleased to share that at press time, we received notice that DelVal has been awarded a \$2.025 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Budget to support the construction of our new Poultry Science Center. This significant funding, and the cornerstone gift previously provided by Mountaire Farms, accelerate our vision to build a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to advancing poultry research, education and innovation.

This is the second significant facility-related government grant we received this fall. In September we learned that we had been approved for funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Bucks County Conservation District (BCCD) for the implementation of best management practice improvements for our livestock facility on campus. Total funding provided for this project is just over \$750,000. The plans include a new cattle building, pasture renovations, new fencing, wetlands protection and improved manure management.

These grants are an important part of our comprehensive fundraising goal to bring the latest innovations and best practices to our teaching and learning facilities. Over the past year, we have been able to upgrade several classrooms and expand the media and communication computer lab. We also remodeled the first floor of the library, thanks to generous funding from The Daniel Tanner Foundation.

I now ask each of you to consider donating to DelVal between now and December 31 as we wrap up fundraising for calendar 2024. For those who have already given we thank you. Please remember that we value every gift no matter the size, and I want to personally thank you for supporting the valuable E360 learning experience for our DelVal students.

Best Regards,

Benjamin E. Rusiloski, Ph.D.
President

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▲ Celebrating 100 Years and the Renovation of Joseph Krauskopf Memorial Library

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Unique Places Our Alumni Call “THE OFFICE”

Seaboard Foods
U.S. National Guard
Iovance Biotherapeutics
Carello di Cannoli
Campbell’s Soup

Rooted in our founding principle of experiential learning from our beginnings as a farm school, we've expanded over the years to encompass business, the humanities and beyond. Our hands-on approach ensures that our alumni graduate with the knowledge and practical experience necessary to make an impact in a wide range of industries.

From farms and barns to banks, hospitals, and beyond, our alumni's offices are as varied as their careers. Whether working in labs, leading in business, or innovating in traditional office spaces, our graduates bring DelVal expertise into many work environments.

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE SOME OF THE REMARKABLE AND UNIQUE PLACES OUR RECENT ALUMNI CALL “THE OFFICE”...

Brooke Kitting '18, VMD

Director of Sow Health,
Seaboard Foods

Dr. Kitting, DelVal Class of 2018, holds the title of Director of Sow Health for Seaboard Foods, overseeing the health and welfare of more than 280,000 sows across four states—Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, and Colorado.

Office Space:

While her work takes her across vast territories, Dr. Kitting's "office" is primarily on site at sow farms scattered throughout the four states she oversees. From barns to pastures, her days are spent in and out of facilities, ensuring the health and well-being of thousands of animals. Her home base is Seaboard Foods' headquarters in Guymon, Oklahoma, but her office is anywhere her expertise is needed.



Role and Responsibilities:

Dr. Kitting's responsibilities are wide-ranging. She provides direct veterinary care to the animals, develops health systems and strategies, and works with different areas of the business to ensure optimal animal welfare. Whether performing veterinary services, conducting employee training, or consulting on technical matters, her work ensures the overall health of the sows under her care. She spends much of her time traveling many miles between farms, providing support and expertise where it's needed most.

Connection to DelVal:

Dr. Kitting graduated from DelVal with a degree in Animal Science on the pre-professional track, aspiring to become a veterinarian. During her time at DelVal, she was deeply involved in campus life and held various leadership positions including the women's soccer team and clubs like Block and Bridle, Collegiate FFA, and Pre-Vet Club. She was even inducted into the Delta Tau Alpha and Alpha Lambda Delta honor societies. She spent every summer during college working at a different internship, exploring various industries and gaining real-world experiences that helped carve

out her career path. After DelVal, she pursued her ultimate dream, earning her Veterinariae Medicinae Doctoris (VMD) from the University of Pennsylvania in 2022, specializing in food animal medicine with a focus on swine production. In 2024, she earned an MS in Animal Health & Industry from Texas Tech University where her research specialized in swine production welfare.

The Rewarding Aspect:

In addition to her veterinary work, Dr. Kitting was recently named to The Meat Institute's Emerging Leaders Class of 2025, a distinction that highlights her as one of the industry's rising stars. "I have the capability to make a difference in the lives of the people and the pigs that I work with every single day. I work diligently to maintain the integrity of our health initiatives and welfare standards across the organization. Our animals, our people, and this business motivate me to always be the best I can be. I am so passionate about this industry, and I am proud to represent the Seaboard Foods' brand" she says.

“THE OFFICE”

TJ Smith '22

13 F, Forward
Observer – Sergeant,
Pa. National Guard

Smith joined the National Guard in 2019 while they were a student at DelVal. “I wanted to do something more than ‘just college,’” they said. “I wanted to be able to contribute to the United States and make my mark on the world outside of college.” Smith earned their bachelor of science degree in Secondary Education with a specialization in Agriculture in 2022. One day, Smith plans to use their degree to become a teacher, but for now, they are applying their skills and experience gained at DelVal to serve their country overseas.

Office Space:

Since January of 2024, Smith has been stationed at a U.S. Army post near the eastern shoreline of Africa. As a sergeant, they lead a squad of four to five soldiers. While the exact location of their deployment remains classified, Smith described it as a coastal environment with beautiful weather, rich agriculture, and wildlife that can sometimes pose danger. Due to these risks, nightly curfews are in place to ensure the safety of personnel. Having never been overseas before, Smith is embracing the opportunity and finding enlightenment in this unique experience.



Roles and Responsibilities:

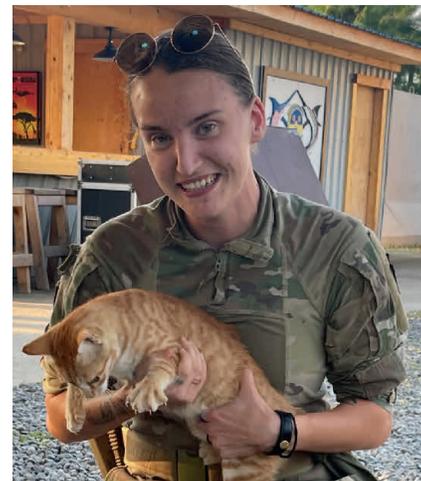
No two days are the same for Smith. They may be out on patrol, conducting training exercises, performing surveillance and reconnaissance, or assisting in humanitarian efforts. Sometimes, Smith supports the Joint Operational Command Center (JOC), where higher-ranking officers, such as majors and generals, plan missions and track area movements. In a combat situation, Smith and other forward observers would operate between enemy lines to assess threats and enemy positions. Their task would then be to relay this information and coordinate artillery, mortar, or air strikes to stop enemy advancements to protect our troops.

Connection to DelVal:

Smith credits their time as a student-athlete at DelVal, particularly in field hockey and lacrosse, for giving them the confidence and leadership skills needed in their current role. “I remember when I first got to DelVal as a freshman, I was terrified of everyone,” they recalled. “But by the time I left DelVal, I could hold regular conversation and feel comfortable with who I was as a person. I had the confidence to lead others and step up when needed. A lot of that came from being a team captain, and I’m grateful to Coach Carol DiGirolamo for giving me the time and space to grow as a leader.”

The Rewarding Aspect:

“I think the most rewarding experience so far was visiting local schools,” said Smith. “Seeing the kids get excited just to see us and play soccer with us made my heart smile. Giving back to a community that has so little but asks for so much less was incredibly humbling. I was also able to use my degree and my knowledge of agriculture to go out with our public affairs crew and work with some of the local farmers and discuss different farming techniques, especially for those working in some of the more sandy areas.”





Areej Alfeen '24

Aseptic Manufacturing Technician,
Iovance Biotherapeutics

Alfeen graduated from DelVal with a B.S. in Biology, specializing in the pre-professional track with a minor in counseling psychology. Today, she plays a crucial role at Iovance, contributing to the autologous cell therapy manufacturing program. She is proud to work for a company that aims to pioneer a transformational approach to treating cancer by harnessing the ability of the human immune system to recognize and attack diverse cancer cells in each patient. Iovance strives to be the global leader in innovating, developing and delivering tumor infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy for people with cancer.

Office Space:

Alfeen's daily workspace is a sterile laboratory environment. Dressed in scrubs cleanroom attire and personal protective equipment (PPE), she navigates the highly controlled setting. Her office is located at Iovance's Philadelphia Navy Yard facility, a large building on the corner of Roosevelt Boulevard and Normandy Place, home to many labs and offices.

Role and Responsibilities:

Alfeen is responsible for various tasks such as cleaning, sanitization, preparation, and fulfilling products for commercial and clinical use. She works in 10-12-hour shifts, three or four days per week. The work day typically begins at 7 a.m., kicking off with a team huddle to discuss and prioritize the day's assignments, and then it's off to work. No two days are the same for Alfeen! Tasks like sterilizing, processing and sending samples to the next lab can take many hours as it requires the keenest attention to detail. Since Alfeen is working with living human cells, she cannot use an autoclave for sterilization because doing so would kill the cells.

Connection to DelVal:

Coming into college, Alfeen had dreams of being an optometrist. Her goal was to take the pre-professional biology track at DelVal and then head to medical school. As different obstacles derailed that path, Alfeen faced a daunting roadblock and had to pivot. She excelled in the classroom and served the campus community as President of Student Government Association (SGA), and leaned on her academic advisor at DelVal, Dr. Charles Heise. Dr. Heise learned that Alfeen had worked at a pharmacy and helped her explore options for biologists within the pharmaceutical industry. Alfeen quickly regained her focus and motivation and explored multiple options before accepting the position at Iovance.

The Rewarding Aspect:

"I really do love my job and I'm so excited to grow as the company grows," said Alfeen. "I already feel motivated to learn as much as I can and take on as many new roles as possible. I don't have any concrete plans for the future but I know that I will go where life guides me and work as hard as I can along the way."

“THE OFFICE”

Nick D’Anna ’12

Owner, Carrello Di Cannoli
and The Cannoli Shop



D’Anna earned his bachelor’s degree in Business from DelVal in 2012. He had a successful career in medical sales before he and his wife Teresa embarked on a family dream to open a small business rooted in their Italian heritage. He found the perfect location for his Cannoli shop near his hometown in New Jersey, but then the COVID pandemic hit and he had to make the difficult decision to not move forward with the lease.

He was deflated for a moment, before his wife Teresa presented a new idea – the mobile cannoli cart. The entrepreneurial couple ran with the idea, getting a custom cannoli cart crafted in Italy and inventing the cannoli caddies to make them mobile. Now, four years later, The Cannoli Guy has millions of views on Instagram and they are booked with weddings and events through 2026. Just this fall they opened their first storefront called The Cannoli Shop located at 376 Hollywood Ave in Fairfield, New Jersey – the first cannoli shop in the state.

Office Space:

D’Anna’s “office” includes a fleet of mobile cannoli carts available for weddings and corporate events across the tri-state area. With a team of 10 “cannoli guys” serving at various events, D’Anna is still hands-on, working alongside his team. “I never wanted to be one of those business owners who sits back and forgets what it’s like to be on the front lines,” D’Anna says. “I love being part of the events.” Now that the brick-and-mortar shop is open, D’Anna divides his time between managing daily operations at the store and overseeing his event bookings.

Roles and Responsibilities:

As small business owners the D’Anna family does it all – from social media and marketing to accounting, scheduling, procurement, booking, sales and everything in between. They are also raising two kids who love being at the store and watching mom and dad work. D’Anna takes pride in the quality of the ingredients they use so securing the right ingredients to make the perfect cannoli’s is an ever-evolving task. “I have always had this vision and plan for this business, but to be honest I never could have predicted the way that this has gone and the success that we have had so early. I give all the credit to the people around me that helped us get to this point and I’m excited to see where it goes next,” said D’Anna.

Connection to DelVal:

“DelVal and the business courses I took there still stick in my mind as I run this business and I truly believe DelVal gave me a foundation for all of this,” D’Anna said. D’Anna reflects on the courses he took as a business major, including economics and finance and more notably, small business entrepreneurship. He also remembers the value of fresh and local ingredients that the small agricultural school instilled in him. “Looking back now, I probably wish I paid more attention in many of those classes because now I’m using a lot of those skills my professors were teaching each and every day,” D’Anna concluded.

The Rewarding Aspect:

For D’Anna, running this business is about family legacy. His father, who immigrated to the United States from Sicily in 1952, always dreamed of opening an Italian market or shop. “I’m grateful to continue that dream through our family business,” says D’Anna. Sharing the journey with his wife and children brings him tremendous pride, and he hopes one day to pass down a thriving business to his kids, just as his father passed down his dream.

FOLLOW NICK D’ANNA ON INSTAGRAM:

@carellocannoli
@thecannolishopnj

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

carellocannoli.com
thecannolishopnj.com

Anastasia Bonifate '23

Test Kitchen Technician, Campbell's

Anastasia graduated from DelVal with a bachelor's degree in Food Science and a minor in Agribusiness Management. With a vast network of DelVal alumni at Campbell's, she connected with graduates who helped her discover an opportunity with the company. “I wasn't sure what I would do with my food science degree and I didn't know a position like this existed,” she explained. “An alumnus reached out to my advisor and mentioned the opening, and now I love my job. It's a great mix of food science and marketing, and it allows me to be creative.”

Office Space:

Anastasia works at Campbell's global headquarters in Camden, New Jersey, just off the Delaware River. She's onsite three days a week, spending the other two in her home office. The headquarters houses many offices, test kitchens and a pilot plant – a mini-production facility used for trial runs. Anastasia spends most of her time in the test kitchens, which resemble a high school home economics classroom, each with a range of appliances from high-end models to low-budget options. Testing products on this variety of equipment ensures that each recipe can be prepared on the appliances consumers are likely to use at home. Campbell's encourages employees to “dress for their day,” creating a relaxed and collaborative work environment where even the CEO typically wears jeans.

Roles and Responsibilities

A test kitchen technician at Campbell's plays a critical role in product development and quality assurance. They support chefs, food scientists, and product developers by preparing and testing recipes, assessing flavors, textures and presentation, and ensuring the consistency of recipes across different batches. The role often involves precise measurements, detailed documentation, and adjustments to recipes to meet both taste and production standards. They may also collaborate on brainstorming sessions, contribute to sensory evaluations, and assist in preparing presentations for internal reviews. The position requires culinary skills, attention to detail, and knowledge of food safety protocols, all of which contribute to creating consistent, high-quality products for Campbell's consumers. No two days are the same and the work is very collaborative.

Connection to DelVal:

“My time at DelVal prepared me well for working in a team setting,” Anastasia said. “Being involved in clubs, holding different roles, and taking a variety of classes really helped build my confidence. I didn't expect to work so collaboratively in my job, but we often team up with marketing, supply chain and community impact groups and I feel very comfortable in those settings because of my experience at DelVal.” With many DelVal alumni at Campbell's, especially in research and development, Anastasia appreciates having colleagues she can relate to and seek guidance from.



The Rewarding Aspect:

“Food was always a big part of my life growing up, and being able to contribute to the industry by teaching others and sharing knowledge is incredibly rewarding,” Anastasia said. “I often help people learn how to cook something new, and seeing them realize how easy it can be and how great it can taste is so fulfilling.” Once a week, Campbell's hosts a kids' cooking session where students from local schools in Camden visit to cook and learn alongside Anastasia and her colleagues, fostering new skills and inspiring confidence in the next generation.

SEVERAL DELVAL ALUMNI CALL CAMPBELL'S “THE OFFICE”

- Brian Coccetti '22**
Associate Scientist – Meals & Sauces
- Jennifer Dimmick '11**
Scientist, R&D Product Data Management
- Cathy Fyock '02**
Principal Scientist – Meals & Beverage Technical Solutions Hub
- Samantha (Miller) Marino '19**
Regulatory Scientist – Snacks
- Melanie Mayhew '18**
Scientist 2 – Distinctive Brands
- Lisa Tretter '08**
Senior Manager – Value Engineering
- Kurt Yasenachak '14**
Scientist 1 – North American Food Service/ Chairperson of Campbell's Pride Employee Resource Group

**Note: this is a partial list.*

Cannabis Program Launches Careers in Many Industries

DelVal's Class of 2024 included the first students who graduated with the Cannabis Studies Certificate or Cannabis Horticulture Specialization. Under the guidance of Dr. Carla Garzon, K.H. Littlefield Endowed Professor of Plant Science, these graduates found success in the expanding hemp and cannabis industries and other plant-related businesses.



▲ Vincent Petulla '24 (first from left), Jacob Sanchez-Quiles '24 (3rd from left) and Aaron Foster '24 (4th from left) in the greenhouse complex.

Vincent Petulla '24 applied to DelVal because he heard about the new program and wanted to earn a degree in Horticulture with the cannabis specialization. "During my time with Dr. Garzon we worked on various projects and researched many areas in regards to hemp. A lot of my personal research was on pathogen detection, disease resistance and cannabis growth habits. We were extensively trained on how to operate, maintain and set up the greenhouse facilities to optimize the growth of our plants," shared Petulla. "Along with the growing experience, it gave me a good foundation on sanitary standards and bio-control practices. During my senior year at DelVal I spent less time in the grow room and more time getting experience in the laboratory. I was trained in and performed various microbiology techniques for plant

and pathogen identification. Some of the basic techniques we covered were CTAB-based DNA extraction, polymerase chain reaction, and gel electrophoresis procedures. All of these skills help build a foundation for me to continue further research in the future."

Petulla interned at Bluestem Botanicals where he worked under co-founder Linda Shanahan. "I truly believe my experience with Linda elevated the entire program for me," said Petulla. "As a person who is passionate about horticulture and has a desire to be a business owner, my internship gave me valuable insight into both worlds. It also helped expand my mind in horticulture beyond just the world of cannabis. As an herbalist and nurse, she has a unique skill set and perspective on health and wellness."

Petulla currently works as the post-harvest lead at Hamilton Farms, a New Jersey cannabis cultivation facility. He helps manage and lead the production team to fulfill orders for dispensaries throughout the state and helps out in the cultivation section of the facility.

"Choosing to work with Dr. Garzon during my time at DelVal was the best decision I could have made for my career. I made my biggest leaps in learning while researching and she was a great role model and amazing professor with an abundance of knowledge."

Jacob Sanchez-Quiles '24 graduated with a B.S. in Horticulture with the Cannabis Horticulture Specialization. Upon graduation he was hired for the retail segment of the market as a cultivation technician at Brute Roots, a cannabis dispensary in New Jersey. "He took responsibility for managing hemp plants in the research greenhouse and indoors," shared Dr. Garzon. "Jacob also standardized the bonsai growing protocol that was later validated by another intern, and that protocol is now being taught to all Cannabis I students."

Katherine Steward '24, another horticulture-cannabis specialization graduate, is pursuing her love of plants in the field of floriculture. Floriculture involves efficient cultivation methods for showy, colorful flowers and foliage for human enjoyment. This is a successful and growing industry around the world.

▼ *Justin Kaufman '24*



Aaron Foster '24, who earned a B.S. in Horticulture and Cannabis Studies Certificate, accepted a position at Peace Tree Farm in Kintnersville, Pa. He interned at Peace Tree Farm and another organic agriculture business, Pocono Organics, prior to graduation.

“I loved working with hemp in the lab to produce a wide range of value-added products, like soap made from hemp seed oil, syrup made from the infused flowers, and paper,” said Foster. “The experience showed me the importance of being creative with the products you choose to sell and that experimentation will be key to finding your niche in the industry.”

At Peace Tree Farm he is a grower working with a variety of organic herbs, vegetables, houseplants and ornamentals. “Currently we don't grow any cannabis-related products. I'm very happy working in my current role in organic agriculture because it aligns with my values more than conventional growing methods,” said Foster. “I have no plans at this time to switch over to the cannabis industry.”

Justin Kaufman '24 is a biological laboratory technician with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research

Service, working in the plant genetics research unit. He was hired immediately after graduating magna cum laude from DelVal with a B.S. in Crop Science.

With the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Kaufman maintains a diverse collection of seeds, including 600 different varieties of hemp. His role involves categorizing the seeds and conducting research that supports plant breeders globally. The work includes phenotyping, genotyping, and observing plants, both in the field and under a microscope, to analyze DNA. A key application of this research is pre-breeding, providing farmers – whether cultivating hemp for medicinal marijuana, industrial fiber or seed – with critical insights into which varieties best meet their needs.

While he did not complete the specialization or certificate, Kaufman took cannabis courses and completed research under Dr. Garzon's supervision. “My DelVal experience was a once-in-a-lifetime moment for me,” said Kaufman. “My experience really helped me evolve as a person, a researcher and a scientist.”

DELVAL HOSTS K-STATE HEMP CASITA

The K-State Hemp Casita, built by Kansas State students, was on a road trip across the states organized by Right Coast Hemp, LLC. DelVal hosted the mobile casita on campus on September 4th through the 6th to provide the campus and local community with an experiential learning opportunity in hempcrete and hemp processes. The casita is made of multiple different types of hemp construction materials. Using the casita as a demonstration in hempitecture, our cannabis students spoke to visitors about the industrial potential of building materials made of hemp. Students also used the opportunity to talk about the cannabis studies academic and research programs at Delaware Valley University. During its three-day display on campus, the casita had visitors from Doylestown, the Bucks County Planning Commission, as well as numerous students, staff and faculty from DelVal.





▲ Delaware Valley University's first cohort of Physician Assistant graduates

DelVal Celebrates its First Cohorts of Physician Assistant and Speech-Language Pathology Programs

Delaware Valley University proudly celebrated its first cohort of Speech-Language Pathologist graduate students to complete the curriculum during the program's inaugural graduation ceremony on Sunday, August 11. Launched in 2022 and delivered entirely online, the program allows students from across the country to earn their master of science degree and launch or advance their careers in the field. The cohort included 19 students from 15 different states with various educational backgrounds, experiences and career paths. As the program is completely online, so was the graduation ceremony. Dr. Dargin, founding director of

the Speech-Language Pathology program, presided over the ceremony and every faculty member from the program participated and shared words of congratulation. Attendees and speakers also included University President Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gloria Oikelome, and Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies Dr. Joseph Paris. Additionally, the 19 graduates each had the opportunity to share their reflections and experiences in the program.

"Our graduates are trailblazers and set the standard for all who will follow in their footsteps. They enter their chosen profession equipped with

the expertise to change lives and open new avenues of expression for those they serve," said Dr. Paris. "DelVal couldn't be prouder of all they have accomplished."

Another first, the Physician Assistant commencement ceremony, took place on October 10 in the Life Sciences Building auditorium on campus. The cohort included 18 students who crossed the stage to receive their diplomas and long white coats, symbolizing a transition from student to clinician. Heartfelt comments were given by Program Director, Shannon Diallo, Ed.D. MMS, PA-C, Dr. Rusiloski, Dr. Oikelome, and Dr. Paris. PAs (physician associates/physician assistants) are licensed clinicians who practice medicine in every specialty and setting. Trusted, rigorously educated and trained healthcare professionals, PAs are dedicated to expanding access to care and transforming health and wellness through patient-centered, team-based medical practice.



◀ Delaware Valley University's Virtual Speech-Language Pathology Graduation

Leaders of Delta Alpha Pi Advocate for Students with Disabilities at DelVal

On April 25, 2024, Delaware Valley University proudly inducted its first class of students into the newly established chapter of Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society. Thirty-three high-achieving students from diverse majors and class years made up the inaugural class, including current junior Faith Hewes '26.

Delta Alpha Pi recognizes and celebrates the academic achievements of students with disabilities at higher education institutions. Hewes, an animal science major, was recently elected by her peers to serve as Vice President of DelVal's chapter.

"I don't suffer from a disability that is really apparent, so a lot of people look at me and wouldn't know," Hewes shared. "It's nice to have a community that supports even the smallest, invisible disabilities. I also love having the family culture that supports each other."

Hewes learned the Honors Society was coming to DelVal thanks to an email from Assistant Director of Accessibility Services, Sarah Masucci, congratulating her and other students

who met the academic criteria. To qualify, undergraduate students must complete a minimum of 24 credits and maintain a GPA of 3.1 or higher, along with presenting documentation of a disability.

Masucci played a pivotal role in getting Delta Alpha Pi to DelVal.

"We realized that we had an impressive number of students with disabilities who do really well academically, and we just felt like we could really lift up this community and recognize them for their hard work and accomplishments," she explained.

The inaugural class was inducted in front of friends and family at the Joseph Krauskopf Memorial Library.

"It was amazing," said Hewes. "The library is beautiful, and having my family there – especially my two grandfathers – made it so special. They loved being part of the ceremony. To be one of the first inducted was one of the coolest things ever."

"For me, it's about working, learning and growing together. I really look forward to hosting events on campus and encouraging people to join our community."

-Faith Hewes '26

Looking ahead, Hewes is optimistic about the future of Delta Alpha Pi at DelVal.

"I really hope to continue growing the organization," she said. "Since we're new, we're still small, but we're growing! I want to start hosting events – I don't want this to just be about adding something to a resume. For me, it's about working, learning, and growing together. I really look forward to hosting events on campus and encouraging people to join our community."

Hewes concluded with advice for other students with disabilities at DelVal or those considering applying: "Work hard to be the best version of yourself. It can be tough, especially if your disability is hidden – whether it's PTSD, anxiety, depression or something else. People may not see that you are struggling, but you can persevere by working hard and being your best self. That's all anyone can ask of you."



▲ L-R: Sarah Masucci, Assistant Director of Accessibility Services and Faith Hewes '26, animal science

Advocating for Agriculture: Greg Gipe's '25 Internship Experience

Greg Gipe '25, a history, policy and society major specializing in policy with a minor in agribusiness at Delaware Valley University, took a major step toward his future career this summer by completing his E360 internship with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.



▲ L-R: Chris Hoffman, President, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau; Greg Gipe '25; Congressman John Joyce, M.D.



▲ Congresswoman Madeleine Dean, J.D.; Greg Gipe '25

“The Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization that lobbies on behalf of farmers,” Gipe explains. “Farmers spend most of their time in the field, so they don’t have time to go to Capitol Hill and advocate for themselves. That’s where the Farm Bureau steps in. It’s member-led, but staffed to ensure farmers’ voices are heard.”

With nearly 26,000 members, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) represents a diverse range of agricultural operations—from small family farms to craft breweries, distilleries, wineries, and even agritourism ventures like farm-to-table restaurants.

As a government and communications intern, Gipe’s primary role was to support the communications team by conducting research and providing detailed analysis on agricultural issues in Pennsylvania. Yet, his eagerness to explore all facets of the organization opened even more doors. One memorable experience was accompanying PFB’s Federal Affairs Specialist, Bailey Fisher, to Washington, D.C., where they met with all 17 of Pennsylvania’s congressional representatives and state senators.

“We discussed the pressing issues in Pennsylvania agriculture and the top priorities the Farm Bureau is advocating for,” Gipe recalls. “It led to great dialogue and Bailey was able to answer any questions they had on

the topics.”

Gipe’s journey to the PFB internship began long before this summer. During what would have been his sophomore year at DelVal, Gipe took a hiatus from school to serve as a Pennsylvania FFA State Officer. That role not only strengthened his leadership skills but also helped him build the connections that led to his internship.

While Gipe initially saw his future in agricultural lobbying, the experience has expanded his ambitions. “Before this, I was set on becoming a lobbyist for agriculture, and that’s still a possibility. But now, after this internship, I want to go to law school first. I think specializing in agricultural law, maybe practicing corporate law for a while, will give me a broader perspective and an edge as a lobbyist.”

Looking back, Gipe credits his DelVal education for preparing him to succeed in such a dynamic environment. “In one of my classes we frequently wrote policy briefs, something I had never done before. It was such a useful skill – when I started at the internship I was able to jump right in and write briefs without needing extra training. That was huge.”

Whether he ends up practicing law or influencing agricultural policy, Gipe is confident that his time at DelVal and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has set him on the right path.



◀ Ty Gossel '25, turf management

Ty Gossel '25: Tackling Turf Management with the Baltimore Ravens

It's week four of the NFL season, and all eyes are on Sunday Night Football as the Baltimore Ravens host the Buffalo Bills at M&T Bank Stadium. For Delaware Valley University student Ty Gossel, a Turf Management major, this is more than an NFL game—it's the middle of a long workday, the culmination of one long work week—and the beginning of another.

Gossel, the lone intern working with the Ravens' grounds crew, helps maintain the natural Bermuda grass field at the stadium throughout the 2024-25 season.

On this particular Sunday, with a prime-time game on the schedule, the workday is a little longer than most.

"I came in around 1:30 Sunday afternoon and didn't leave until 5:30 Monday morning," Gossel recalls.

The Ravens' grounds crew is responsible for setting up everything on the field for game day—from the net behind the goalposts that catches kicks to the benches, trashcans, coolers and everything else you see on the sidelines. In the afternoon, Gossel

and crew assisted the cheerleaders with their pre-game practices before getting a brief break to watch the game on TV. When the game starts, some members of the crew will walk to the mouth of the tunnel to take in the sights and sounds of the stadium.

Once the final whistle blows, the real work begins. The crew removes chunks of damaged grass, mows the field, fills divots, and plants new grass seed to ensure the turf is pristine for the next event.

During the week, the crew arrives around 6:30 a.m. and departs at 3 p.m. The focus is all about field maintenance. From Monday to Wednesday, the grounds crew alternates between grow lights and grow blankets on different halves of the field while fertilizing, watering, and mowing the rest. Thursdays and Fridays are dedicated to field painting, with precise measurements for yard lines and stencils for logos and numbers. By Saturday, final touches ensure the field is game-day ready.

Gossel's internship is the latest step in his turf management journey that has taken him from DelVal's turf program to prestigious golf courses and professional baseball fields. "Dr. Linde (professor of Turf Management) does a great job getting us familiar with different types of grasses. I had never worked with Bermuda grass before, but thanks to my experience at DelVal, I had a good idea of what to expect," Gossel shares. "I also understand why the crew uses certain techniques and I can anticipate when we need to do something, like aerating and top-dressing, because of what I've learned in class and in the field."

Gossel is eager to apply this hands-on experience when he returns to campus in the spring. "When I come back and have to take case studies and turf tests in the spring, I'll have a solid understanding—none of it will feel new."

With experience on golf courses, baseball fields, and now an NFL field, Gossel is excited for the next step and confident in his ability to take care of whatever turf he lands on.

influencer *noun, in·flu·enc·er* one who exerts influence: a person who inspires or guides the actions of others

In our last issue you met some of our faculty influencers, whose knowledge and sincere enthusiasm for their disciplines enhance each student's educational journey.

HERE ARE A FEW MORE OF OUR MANY INFLUENCERS...



▲ Dr. Emily Basile Assistant Professor of Biology

Dr. Emily Basile teaches biology at DelVal and shares her specialization in the aquatic environment and marine ecosystems with her students through valuable field research opportunities. Her current research interests include long-term water quality monitoring of important freshwater systems and the presence and distribution of microplastics in Atlantic marine ecosystems. Her students have the opportunity to earn E360 research credits by working with her on a project for the Valley Forge Watershed Association.

▶ Dr. Megan T. Demarest Chair of Criminal Justice and Assistant Professor

Dr. Megan T. Demarest teaches Criminal Justice and is chair of the Criminal Justice Department at DelVal. She has worked previously at an alternative to incarceration program for youths for court-mandated rulings, and as a researcher and project coordinator evaluating prison programming. She serves as a member of the Bucks County Reentry Coalition. Her teaching interests and research areas focus on corrections and reentry experiences. She provides experiential learning opportunities to her students by incorporating guest speakers, case studies, research, field trips and service opportunities.



**Interested in learning more about our influencers?
Visit delval.edu/influencers**



▲ **Laura Herbst**
Chair of Agribusiness
and Food Science
Technology

Laura Herbst is passionate about food, nutrition and cooking. With degrees in chemical engineering and food science, she teaches the science (and enjoyment) of food to DelVal students. Herbst skillfully mentors our students in food science career opportunities based on her own experiences in the industry. These well-paid career options range from food quality assurance and control, to food technologist, research chef, produce developer and flavorist, among others. She utilizes DelVal-produced foods when possible in the lab portions of the curriculum.

▼ **Dr. Doug Linde '91**
Professor of Turf
Management and
Head Golf Coach

Dr. Doug Linde is our resident expert on agronomy and turf grass. You will find Linde and his students on campus assessing turf, calibrating equipment, designing golf courses on paper, or on field trips evaluating grass and turf in different environments. Dr. Linde specializes in preparing students for successful careers in the turf industry. Outside of class, he coaches the Golf Team, advises the Turf Club, and supervises the turf research facility and putting green on campus.



▲ **Douglas
McCambridge**
Associate Professor
of Media &
Communication

Douglas McCambridge is a graphic designer and educator. He brings expertise in print and digital design, editorial layout and package design to his students in a field that is changing constantly due to technological innovations. His students graduate not only with a degree, but also a body of work that they will take into the job market as they pursue their first destination after they graduate. McCambridge is impressed with the variety of career paths his students can pursue due to the value of the design and communication skills they acquire at DelVal.



**Interested in learning
more about our influencers?
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Passing of the Torch

The Delaware Valley University Athletics Department recently witnessed a changing of the guard in two of its athletic programs, bidding farewell to two alumni who made immeasurable contributions to the institution for decades.

Photography by Jordan Gombs '25

“I am incredibly honored to follow in Coach Greco's footsteps and continue the tradition of excellence that he established. My goal is to build on that foundation and help these student-athletes achieve success both on and off the field.”

*- Head Football Coach,
Mike Isgro '10*

With these departures comes excitement for the future, as a new generation of alumni, having been recruited, coached and mentored by their predecessors, steps in to lead the programs forward.

In January, Duke Greco '03 resigned as head football coach to accept the same role at Division II West Chester University, marking a pivotal moment in his career. Following a national search, Mike Isgro '10, one of Greco's former players and a member of the coaching staff, was selected as his successor. Isgro played under Greco from 2006 to 2009, when Greco was the Aggies' offensive coordinator. In 2014, when Greco was promoted to head coach, Isgro joined his staff, serving as special teams coordinator, recruiting coordinator, and running backs coach.

A 2010 graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Isgro was the starting quarterback for four years and a two-year team captain. In 2008, he was named the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Offensive Player of the Year and earned all-region honors. Isgro graduated as the program's all-time leader in career completion percentage (55.9%) and ranks second in several categories, including completions (610), passing yards (7,336), passing touchdowns (61) and total offense (8,621 yards). In 2021, Isgro was enshrined in the DelVal Athletics Hall of Fame.

As Isgro steps into his new role, he reflects on the journey that led him back to DelVal. “This program has always been special to me,” Isgro said. “I am incredibly honored to follow in Coach Greco's footsteps and continue the tradition of

▶ *Mike Isgro '10, Head Football Coach*





DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

excellence that he established. My goal is to build on that foundation and help these student-athletes achieve success both on and off the field.”

Greco resigned as the football program’s all-time winningest head coach with 91 wins and a .858 winning percentage over nine seasons. He led the team to six NCAA playoff appearances, three trips to the NCAA quarterfinals, six consecutive MAC championships (2017-2023), two Centennial-MAC Bowl Series titles, and earned four MAC Coach of the Year honors.

“Saying goodbye to DelVal is not an easy thing to do for me or my family, but I am excited for the next opportunity and this next stage of life,” said Greco. “I am overcome with gratitude for DelVal and that gratitude extends from the players, the coaches, the alumni, the friends of the program and the staff all the way up to the administration. DelVal is a place that I’ve called home since I started here as a freshman over 20 years ago, and I’m thankful for everything the University has afforded me and for all the support everyone has shown the program.”

Seven months later, before the beginning of the fall semester, head women’s basketball coach Laura Hogan ’90 announced her retirement after an illustrious 28-year career at the helm.

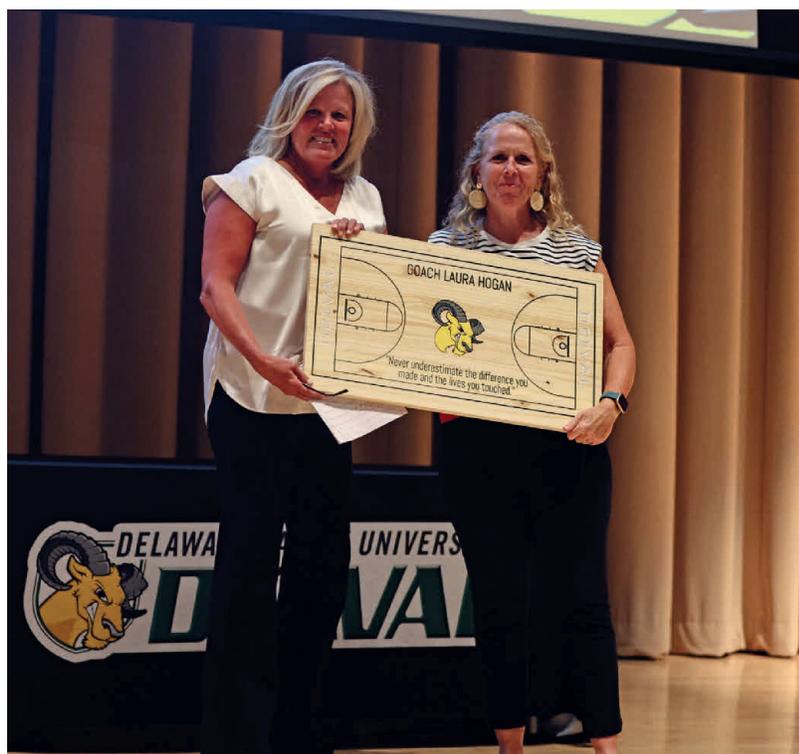
“It’s not easy to leave,” said Hogan. “The DelVal students I’ve met are all very special and great people. This place has been my home for four years as a player and 28 as an employee, so more than half of my life I’ve been a part of DelVal, and for all of that, I feel really blessed. From

my very first graduating class to my most recent class, I can truly say I loved the first one as much as the last one, and every person I’ve met and coached in between.”

Hogan coached over 40 players to all-conference accolades including six Rookies of the Year and four conference MVPs. She retires as the program’s all-time leader in wins with 321 victories to her name. Under her leadership, the Aggies earned 11 MAC Freedom playoff berths, six Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) playoff appearances, and an ECAC South Region Championship. As a student-athlete, Hogan was a dominant force, graduating as the program’s all-time leader in scoring, steals, assists, and three-pointers made.

“This place has been my home for four years as a player and 28 as an employee, so more than half of my life I’ve been a part of DelVal, and for all of that I feel really blessed.”

-Former Head Women’s
Basketball Coach
Laura Hogan ’90



▲ Former Head Women’s Basketball Coach Laura Hogan ’90 and Carol DiGirolamo, Associate Athletic Director

ATHLETICS



► *Head Women's Basketball Coach Lauren (Snyder) Stackhouse '02*

“I am thrilled to embark on this new journey at a place that has always felt like home.”

- Head Women's Basketball Coach Lauren (Snyder) Stackhouse '02

Hogan's contributions to the University were recognized with inductions into both the DelVal Athletics and MAC Hall of Fame.

The search for her replacement brought another familiar face back to Doylestown as **Lauren (Snyder) Stackhouse '02** was named the program's eighth head coach in early September.

Stackhouse played under Hogan for four seasons and put together a Hall of Fame career, inducted in 2014. As a 5-foot-6 guard, Stackhouse defied expectations and graduated as the program's all-time leader in rebounds with 951. She scored 1,185 points in her career and was named a first-team all-conference honoree twice and earned Academic All-America honors her senior year.

Stackhouse earned a bachelor's degree in Sports Management and Business Administration from DelVal in 2002 and later completed a master's degree in elementary

education at West Chester University.

“I am thrilled to embark on this new journey at a place that has always felt like home,” said Stackhouse. “I know I have big shoes to fill with Coach Hogan's retirement, but I'm excited to continue her legacy while bringing my own passion for the game to DelVal.”

Executive Director of Athletics Dave Duda expressed his confidence in both Isgro and Stackhouse as they take on their new roles. “Mike and Lauren are exceptional leaders who have deep ties to DelVal, not just as former athletes, but as individuals who embody the values and spirit of this University. Their predecessors, Duke and Laura, left legacies that will be remembered for years to come, and I have no doubt that Mike and Lauren will carry that torch with the same level of passion, integrity and commitment.”

Follow your favorite Aggies teams by visiting athletics.delval.edu for up-to-date schedules, photo galleries, stories, and links to live stats and live videos for each game. You can also stay informed by following [@dвуaggies](https://twitter.com/dvuaggies) on social media!



▲ *The men's and women's cross country teams each finished third overall at the ECAC Division III Mid-Atlantic Championships hosted by McDaniel University*

Aggies Hall of Fame

On Friday, September 13, Delaware Valley University's Athletics Department proudly celebrated the induction of five exceptional alumni into its Hall of Fame. The 2024 class included **Kevin Harrigan '07** (football), **Tom Masterson '12** (track and field), **Travis Pitts '12** (track and field), **Jeremy Beckett '13** (men's basketball) and **Jackie Wear '14** (softball).

These remarkable athletes set numerous school records, led their teams as captains, and have continued to contribute to their communities since graduating. Their impressive accomplishments include multiple All-America, All-Region, and All-Conference honors, inspiring future generations of Aggies.

During the ceremony, Executive Director of Athletics Dave Duda and the DelVal community also celebrated the retirement of head women's basketball coach Laura Hogan '90. The crowd of student-athletes, alumni and staff stood in applause in honor of her 32 incredible seasons of leadership and success, including 28 years as head coach and four years as a standout student athlete.



▲ L-R: *Jeremy Beckett '13, Kevin Harrigan '07, Jackie Wear '14, Tom Masterson '12, Travis Pitts '12*



▲ *Senior Jessica Williamson '25 (#33) registered 10 goals and 24 points this year to surpass DelVal Hall of Famer Elisa Dauber '09 for second all-time in career goals (54) and points (135)*



▲ *Goalies Shaelynn Castanaga-Acerra '27 (#31) and Alyssa Rudd '25 (#99) lead the DelVal Field Hockey team through the handshake line after a win over King's*



▲ *Senior Danny Henson '25 races through the defense during a home contest against Neumann*



▲ *Sophomore Monique Smith '27 goes up for a kill in front of the home crowd during a match against Centenary*

ON CAMPUS

► Constitution Day/ National Voter's Registration Day

Constitution Day, also recognized as National Voter's Registration Day, was September 17. Representatives from the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, were on campus by the dining hall to provide students with key voting information and the opportunity to register to vote.



◀ IGNITE

On September 25, students and employers gathered at Terrain Gardens on campus for a night of casual networking. The event was comprised of informal roundtable chats where students received real-world career advice and learned about career paths from DelVal alumni and other professionals. These professionals spoke with students from a variety of majors, programs, and class years in a casual, fun, food-filled, and low-pressure environment.

► Harvest Festival

On October 3, DelVal's chapter of MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences) hosted its third annual Harvest Festival on the quad to celebrate the fall season. The festival included music, games, club displays, food and hayrides to the pumpkin patch on South Campus.



▲ Women's Panel speakers, L-R: Dr. Melissa Langston, professor of chemistry, Jennifer Messner, coordinator of student development, Evelia Hunter, assistant dean, student development & inclusion

◀ Women's Week

DelVal's chapter of The American Association of University Women (AAUW) organized Women's Week (October 7-11). The week included voter education and preparation for the upcoming election by the League of Women Voters; The Women's Panel, a discussion-based educational session with female staff members; and the Women's Scavenger Hunt, which focused on campus locations that highlight women's history.

terrain

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1896 Society Gala

President Rusiloski welcomed leadership donors and volunteer leaders to the 1896 Society Gala on Thursday, October 19. Nearly 200 guests enjoyed food, ambiance and mingling at Terrain Gardens at DelVal.



▲ L-R: Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski with Dr. James Diamond '61, winner of The Philanthropist of the Year Award, and Dr. Kevin Keim '68, winner of The Patricia C. Hilton '76 Volunteer Service Award



▼ *Student speaker Stephanie Ferrara '26 shared her DelVal experience with donors*



▲ *L-R: Tim Hoyle, Tim Gillespie, Kimberly Southmayd, and Seth Horwitz, representing event sponsor The Haverford Trust Company, with Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski (C)*



▲ *L-R: Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski with graduate students Keith Pretlow (Ed.D., Educational Leadership), Jassika Riad (M.S., Physician Assistant Studies), and Alana Hall (M.S., Physician Assistant Studies) and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gloria Oikelome*

1896 Society Enters New Era

The 1896 Society is comprised of top donors to the University and represents the strongest commitment to supporting Delaware Valley University's mission of educating students with the science and practice essential for success in their chosen field. As the University prepares for a comprehensive fundraising campaign, the 1896 Society threshold will be increased to \$1,896, effective July 1, 2025.

"The membership threshold has remained the same for over 20 years, making this update essential to aligning with the University's goal of providing funds focused on delivering the best education possible for our students," said President Rusiloski. "Donor contributions support scholarships, faculty-led research, student life, community service, emergency funds and more."

1896 Society members will continue to receive exclusive benefits, such as special event invitations and updates on the impact of their gifts. The goal is to enhance donor recognition across all levels of giving. "We want every donor to feel appreciated and connected to DelVal's mission, regardless of their contribution size," said Joe Fiochetta, Vice President, Development and Alumni Affairs. The restructure is intended to strengthen the community's collective impact.

This update reflects the University's commitment to fostering a culture of generosity that fuels innovation, access and excellence. DelVal looks forward to sharing this new phase of the 1896 Society with our supporters and sharing the ongoing impact of your giving.

More details will be shared with 1896 Society members before the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2025).



Homecoming 2024: The Magic of DelVal

Students, alumni, parents, staff, faculty and friends of DelVal came together October 18 and 19 for a memorable and fun-filled weekend.

The weekend commenced with campus tours conducted by our Rambassadors, followed by the dedication of the newly remodeled first floor of the Joseph Krauskopf Memorial Library, as well as alumni gatherings at Terrain Gardens and on campus. The Class of 1974 enjoyed their 50th reunion and the weekend concluded with a sold-out tailgate

event at the Homecoming football game. The Aggies triumphed over Fairleigh Dickinson University - Florham with a final score of 33-8 on Saturday afternoon. Defensive player **Jacquez Mabin '25**, set a new program record by recording five sacks, previously held by Art Sanders in 1999.



▲ Homecoming Royalty, Jennifer Healey '25 and Emma Gargiulo '25





▲ Nabsir "Flash" Morgan '25, Interdisciplinary Studies



▲ Alumni Award Recipients L-R: Alana Goldstein '00, Eric Goldstein '01, Julia Krout '04, Ron Alexander '84, Denean Lear, MBA '23, Christopher Wolfel, Ed.D. '18, Liza Bauer Goetz '97, Frank McDonough '70, Rick Osman '74, Chuck Wira '62



▲ Class of 1974





▲ L-R: Dr. Gloria Oikelome, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski, President of Delaware Valley University, Tatyana Podstrelova, President of The Daniel Tanner Foundation, Joseph Fiochetta, Vice President, Development and Alumni Affairs, Peter Kupersmith, Library Director



▲ The Shapiro Wing, a group study space with large tables and whiteboards for group work
▶ Tatyana Podstrelova, President of the Daniel Tanner Foundation

Celebrating 100 years of the Joseph Krauskopf Memorial Library

Members of the DelVal community, the Krauskopf family and The Daniel Tanner Foundation came together to celebrate the remodel of the first floor of the library on the occasion of the library's 100th anniversary.

A spectacular fall day was the setting for the recognition of the remodel and the 100th anniversary of the building of the library. The standing room only gathering included comments from President Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski and Tatyana Podstrelova, President of The Daniel Tanner Foundation. Provost Dr. Gloria Oikelome spoke of the

importance of the library as a warm gathering place where students feel comfortable to relax and conduct their studies. Many commented how effectively the remodeled space maintained its historic feel amidst new finishes, furniture, and study areas designed for the way our students learn in the 21st century.



Watson Executive-in-Residence

On October 2, Delaware Valley University's Watson Executive-In-Residence Program hosted Det Ansinn, a prominent entrepreneur from Doylestown, who shared how his early interest in computers led to a successful tech career

Ansinn, President and Founder of BrickSimple LLC, leads a top software development firm recognized for innovations in mobile, web and emerging technologies. As CEO of Neuralert Technologies, he advances neurophysiological monitoring solutions to transform patient care.

Addressing an audience of DelVal students, faculty and staff, Ansinn shared the story of his early fascination with technology, starting with his family's Tektronix 4051 computer, which fueled his coding interest and led him to consulting for businesses by age 12. He reflected on his formative experiences working at the Doylestown Airport and balancing jobs to support his education at Drexel University. The tech boom during the "dot com" era provided him with opportunities, eventually leading him to establish BrickSimple. Later, he joined Rogue Fitness as Chief Technology Officer and most recently became CEO at Neuralert,

where he oversees the development of a wearable stroke detection device.

A founding member of the American Society for Artificial Intelligence (AI), Ansinn also discussed ethical AI advancements, leadership and company culture. He answered many questions from the audience, and his insights encouraged students to pursue ambitious goals.

The Watson Executive-in-Residence Program was founded by Thomas Watson '57, a DelVal alumnus with a passion for education and exposing students to the varied experiences and pathways of industry leaders.

Prior to the event, Hannah Dahl '25, a business major specializing in marketing, was recognized as this year's Scholarship recipient and had the honor of introducing Ansinn as this year's speaker.

▼ *Det Ansinn, President and Founder, BrickSimple LLC, CEO, Neuralert Technologies*



◀ *L-R: Det Ansinn, President and Founder, BrickSimple LLC, CEO, Neuralert Technologies, Dr. Tanya Casas, Dean, School of Business and Humanities, Hannah Dahl '25, Business Administration, Watson Scholarship Recipient*

Why We Made a Planned Gift to DelVal

A Personal Message from Steven Gala

In the years since I retired, I have reflected on the wonderful career I have enjoyed and the gratitude I have for everything my wife Brenda and I have been fortunate to experience while I was working around the world for Hoffmann-La Roche and Givaudan Flavors and Fragrances.

My career with both companies led to me earning high-level positions within the organizations' Asia-Pacific divisions and afforded us the opportunity to live in Hong Kong, Singapore and Switzerland.

Those wonderful decades of my professional life grew out of a unique experience I had while attending Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture. As a high school student at Neshaminy, I had some difficult life circumstances that could have led me on a very different journey if it were not for DelVal and those running the College, who were willing to give me a chance.

My father, the other hero of this story, brokered an agreement between DelVal and Neshaminy High School for me to attend DelVal in 1973, what would have been my senior year. If I achieved a B average or better that year, Neshaminy High School would consider those credits as sufficient to complete my senior year as a high school graduate. If I

did not achieve the goal, I would have to return to high school to complete my senior year.

I was happy to take the risk to go to DelVal and I believe that was the foundation for all the other "risks" I took during my career. Brenda and I agree that attending DelVal shaped my career opportunities, and I owe a debt of gratitude to this wonderful educational institution and all those responsible for making it possible.

We made the decision to set up a planned gift to DelVal. We will leave a significant portion of our estate to the University in support of the Living/Learning community for the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, as well as a portion for The DelVal Fund, in support of whatever the greatest needs the University has at the time. Additionally, we have set up a deferred endowed scholarship fund so that students facing difficult circumstances can attend this wonderful institution.

When we were back in the U.S. for a home-leave many years ago, I wanted my wife to see where I spent my first two years of college life. While we were walking around, a young man who was a student stopped to talk to us. He was enrolled in the School of Agriculture and Environmental



Sciences and was happy to have the opportunity to attend and said, "We aren't one of those rich colleges, so we are happy for all the help we get."

I never forgot that, and all these years later, we decided to make a commitment to Delaware Valley University because they took a risk on me that can never be fully repaid. We hope that what our estate eventually provides will benefit those aspiring to attend and provide for those who need some support while earning a hands-on education at a great university.

*Sincerely,
Steven Gala*



WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?

Planned gifts have the unparalleled potential to increase the University's ability to be a force for good in the world while affording exceptional financial and tax benefits to our donors. By naming DelVal in your will or trust or by making other kinds of planned gifts, you can make an impact that secures your personal legacy and enables you to support those areas of the University that are important to you.

**For more information, please contact
development@delval.edu**

An Artist and a DelVal Trustee

Jonathan Mandell continues a three generation legacy of significant support to DelVal and has shared his time and talents on the Board of Trustees since 2014. He also shares his incredible talent in mosaic work with the Philadelphia community and well beyond.

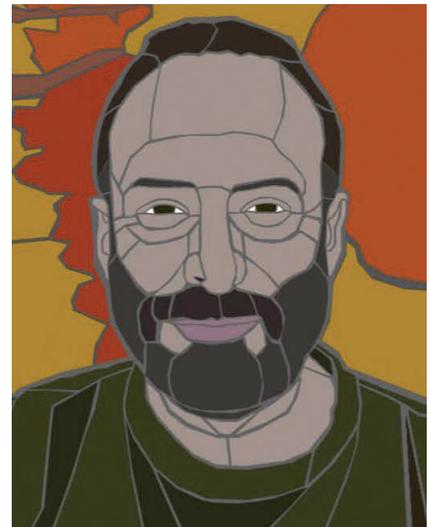
Jonathan Mandell’s grandfather, Samuel P. Mandell, was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture from 1962 until his death in 1978. Samuel Mandell provided the foundational gift to build Mandell Hall in 1966, and its modern classrooms and laboratories transformed the study of sciences on our campus. His son, Dr. Morton Mandell, served on the Board of Trustees from 1971 until 2013. Morton’s son, Jonathan, shares this commitment as a trustee. Jonathan brings an artist’s perspective and sensibility to this role and continues the Mandell family legacy of giving that is vital for DelVal.

Jonathan is also a well-known mosaic artist who earned his master’s degree in fine arts from the University of Pennsylvania. In a recent conversation he shared his initial inspiration for the unique mosaic work he is known for. “The whole idea of instructor Sal Sillman’s approach to drawing was making a line act. So you would work with line and create the illusion of depth or volume or motion or translucency ... And you learn you can make color act by what background you put it next to in relative amounts,” shared Mandell. “So I took those ideas and put them into the medium of mosaic and I’m shaping these tiles so that when you fit one next to the neighbor piece, the spaces between them – the grout lines – create drawing lines. For me, it’s a very fundamental thing. It’s about spatial composition, color composition, use of line perspective.”

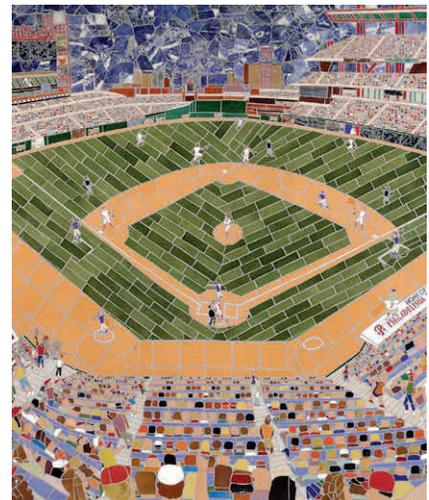
Mandell’s artwork can be seen all around the Philadelphia region and beyond. He was commissioned to create a permanent piece for the National Constitution Center when it opened in 2003. “I think of myself as a visual storyteller...the Center’s in-house historian Stephen Frank helped me shape the content. We really wanted it to be focused on the Constitution and the various rights, privileges, and responsibilities that it provides to the citizenry, without having any kind of political leaning one way or another,” said Mandell. “So we have images of individuals who in some way enhanced our constitutional rights.”

Mandell’s other notable work includes mosaics made for Philadelphia Family Court, SEPTA’s Cecil B. Moore Station, National Liberty Museum, Citizens Bank Park, DuPont Children’s Hospital, Bryn Mawr Hospital, to name a few.

Currently, a gallery of Mandell’s work is on display at the Silverman Gallery in Buckingham, Pa. Details at silvermangallerybuckscountypa.com



▲ Self Portrait



▲ Permanent installation at Citizen Bank Park

To learn more about Jonathan Mandell and to see his work, visit jonathanmandell.com.



▲ Permanent installation at the National Constitution Center

CLASS NOTES



Presidential Roadshow

Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski, President of Delaware Valley University, continues his Presidential Roadshow. On September 18 he traveled to Liberty, NY for an Aggie Alumni Mixer, hosted by **Jerry Skoda '63** and his spouse, Rosemary Skoda, at Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center, Sullivan County. Attendees were treated to locally sourced goodies while hearing an update from Dr. Ben.



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT HOSTING A ROADSHOW EVENT IN YOUR AREA? Please email development@delval.edu to get the conversation started.

Your Connection to DelVal is Lifelong

Visit delval.edu/classnotes to share your news

WORLD MASTERS TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Peter Kashulines '85 and Ray Funkhouser '72 competed at the World Masters Track and Field Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden in August. The two fellow Aggies found each other at the U.S. team reception and got a picture with the DelVal flag!



1970s

Jeff Fulcoly '74 recently retired after 50 years working in the nursery and landscaping industry.

▼ Since graduating from DelVal in 1976 with a degree in Animal Husbandry and Agronomy, **Jon Cassell '76** has served on multiple Christian mission trips in Africa. Along with spreading the word of the Lord, Cassel uses his experience and knowledge in agriculture to mentor members of the community to improve their land and resources. Recently, Cassel returned to DelVal to share his story and meet with President Rusiloski.



Robert Schultz '78

has moved on to his next adventure after 37 years as grounds manager for Lower Merion School District, Ardmore, PA. A lifelong “green professional”, Schultz learned to propagate as a young child, built his first greenhouse before the age of 10, managed a state-of-the-art plant tissue culture laboratory in FL, was grounds managing director for a multi-faceted PA cemetery industry corporation, and served as executive for a landscape corporation serving the Delaware Valley, before finally stepping into his role with Lower Merion School District. An industry leader in “No Child Left Inside”, Schultz’s core values ground him with a firm commitment of having younger generations actively exposed and engaged in the world of horticulture, biodiversity and plant and environmental sciences. He is married to **Maret Careatti '80** and they have two children and four grandchildren.



1990s

▶ **Michele Roman '99** was recently hired to the sales team at McHutchinson Horticulture. Roman has worked in brokerage sales support and supplier relations for almost 25 years. She started her career in vendor programs before transitioning to customer service for the last decade. Prior to joining McHutchinson Horticulture, Roman gained professional experience working in numerous roles for The Henry F. Michell Company, Longwood Gardens and Jerry's For All Seasons. She earned her degree in ornamental horticulture from Delaware Valley College.



LOU HEGYES '70, ALUMNI ATHLETIC WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Congratulations to Lou Hegyes '70, who was inducted into the Woodbridge Twp., NJ Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame on October 13. Representing Delaware Valley University at the ceremony were President, Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski, and former Director of Athletics and Coach, Frank Wolfgang and his wife Joan. Hegyes is also a member of the DelVal and University of the Sciences Athletic Halls of Fame, as well as a member of the DelVal Board of Trustees.



2010s



▲ **Jason Lombardi '10, Ph.D.** was named the Statewide Large Carnivore Research Coordinator for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. He is also the program lead for mountain lion conservation.

▼ **Rebecca Cesa '10, Mel (Barrett) Ely '12, and Chris Jermyn '15** competed in the Olympic Relay Triathlon during the 20th annual Steelman Triathlon event at Lake Nockamixon. They entered as team "DelVal Crew" and came home with a first-place finish in their division with a time of 2 hours, 38 minutes and 13.47 seconds.

Matt Dewald '16 and Jamie Stefani '19 tied the knot on October 19, 2024 in Somerset Park, New Jersey. Jamie played softball at DelVal and wore number 10 while Matt played baseball and wore number 19, adding an extra special touch to their wedding date: 10/19.

▼ **Brooke Kitting '18 and Kelsey Bruno-Bayliff '13** and were selected to The Meat Institute's 2025 Emerging Leaders Program which promotes and develops future leaders in the meat and poultry industry. This unique program – sponsored by Cryovac Brand Food Packaging – provides the Emerging Leaders with complimentary access to networking events, exclusive leadership programming including an advocacy trip to Washington, DC, a personal industry mentor to guide them on their leadership journey, and access to Meat Institute board meetings for a better understanding of broad industry initiatives and priorities.

2020s



▲ **Lori Trzcinski '20** married Michael Keen on May 5, 2024 in New Hope, Pa.

▶ **Steven Vernitsky '23** was accepted to Drake University School of Law and recently relocated from Croydon, Pa. to Des Moines, Iowa to begin law school this fall. "I attribute my success in gaining admission to law school largely to the knowledge and skills I acquired as a Criminal Justice major at DelVal, as well as the ongoing support from the professors who taught me so much about the law. I am eager to start law school and make a meaningful impact in the world." Throughout college, Vernitsky



CLASS NOTES

served as a volunteer firefighter and plans to continue working in the fire services and EMS while in Iowa.

► **Leah Sitar '22, '23 MHA** completed the 4+1 program to earn her bachelor's degree in counseling psychology and her Masters in Healthcare Administration in just five years. She has been working as a patient service representative at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) out of its Newtown location since she graduated from DelVal. In her role, she takes on many responsibilities, including being the point person for providers, nurses and other patient service representatives. She also represents her office as its clinical champion. Leah strives to brighten the day of each and every one of her patients using creative tactics like the "Giggles of the Week," a feature she introduced to the CHOP Newtown office to bring some lighthearted jokes and laughs to the patients.



Delaware Valley Branch American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (DVB AALAS) recognized **Allison Gross '24** at the DVB AALAS Awards & Installation Dinner on September 25. Gross was awarded the Animal Specialties and Provisions, LLC (ASAP) Technical Services Award by Deb Benner, ASAP President and Bill Hassett, ASAP Vice President. The award is presented annually to a person who is primarily responsible for the day-to-day care and handling of laboratory animals and demonstrates a positive and proactive attitude towards animal health and welfare as well as, pursuing knowledge within the field.

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Emma Monismith '24 earned a graduate assistant position in the sports information department at Shippensburg University. She began the one-year program in August. Monismith graduated from DelVal with a degree in media and communication and completed her E360 requirements working in the Aggies' athletics communications department and as a media intern at the 2024 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

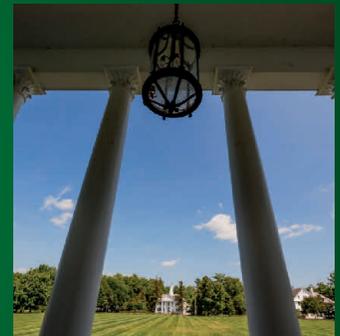
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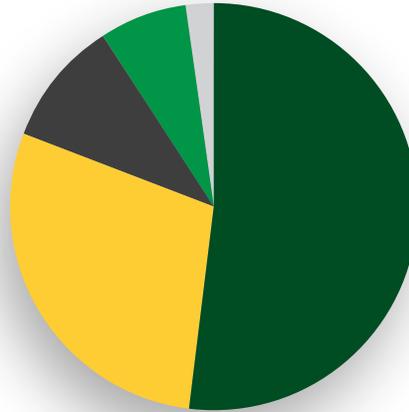
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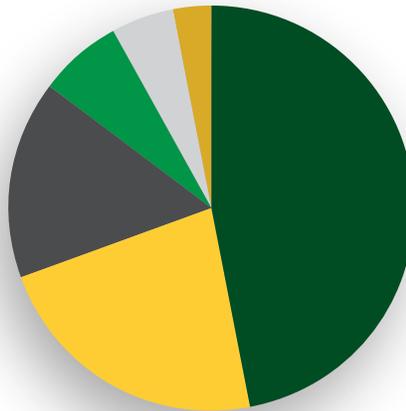
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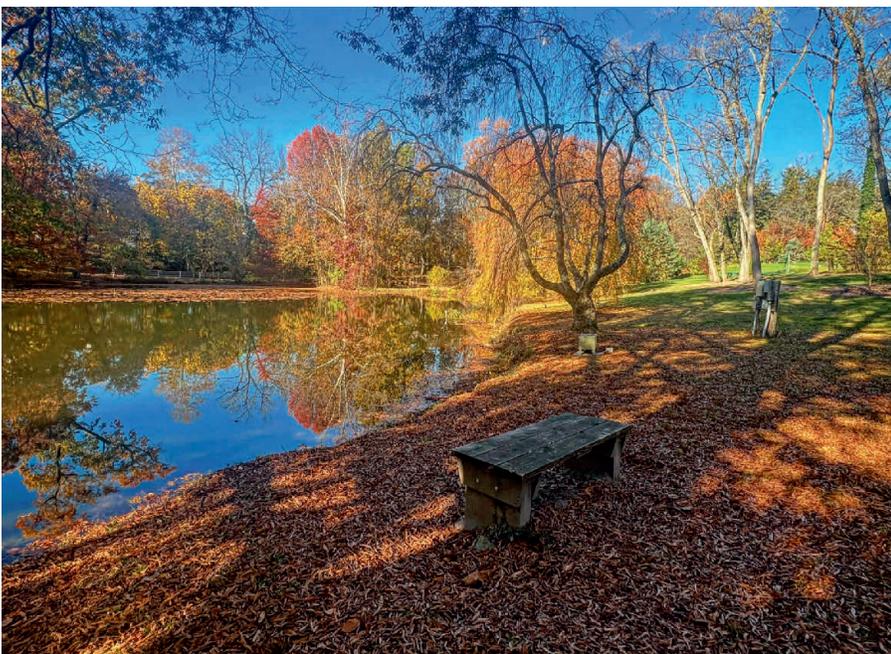
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