

The School of Business, Arts and Sciences at DelVal

From Classroom to Community - Exploring Ideas, Building Knowledge through Practice, Empowering Futures

Now in its second year, the School of Business Arts and Sciences at Delaware Valley University continues to foster an academic environment that encourages intellectual curiosity, civic engagement, global awareness, and action. Our faculty, staff, and students are committed to excellence and to valuing the world of ideas and differences. As the Dean of Business, Arts and Sciences, I am thrilled to share with you a snapshot of BAS - from the classroom to the community.

~ Tanya Casas, Ph.D, Dean of BAS

BAS Faculty Highlights

BAS Faculty are active scholars, researchers and life-long learners who share their knowledge within and beyond the classroom.

In October 2024, several BAS and AES (School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences) faculty jointly presented their research as part of the virtual poster sessions for the Association for Psychological Science Global Psychological Science Summit



Dr. Melissa Langston (chemistry), Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen (psychology) and Dr. Rebecca Splan (equine science and management) presented

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Usability of college student persistence: A closer look at the impact of mentoring in STEM undergraduate students. Additionally, Dr. Rebecca Splan, Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen, and Dr. Cory Kieschnick (equine science and management) presented *Equine encounters: Exploring the dual benefits of short-term horse-human interactions.*



On November 8, 2024, Dr. Sheena Sood, assistant professor of sociology, was invited by The Blue Pandas House to give a talk and a workshop, “Yoga as Culture Yoga as Power.”

The Blue Pandas House is a student community within the School of International Service at American University focused on peace, human rights, and cultural relations. Dr. Sood’s talk focused on yoga’s relationship to coloniality, racial and casteist supremacies, and structural oppression, how these show up today, and what we can do about it now.

In January, 2025, Dr. Matthew Mutchler, associate professor and chair of psychology, was invited to present an *Ethics Refresher* at the Aldie Counseling Center, Doylestown, PA.



Dr. Audrey Ervin, a professor of counseling psychology, was an invited panelist in February, 2025 for the Society for Epidemiologic Research Symposium where she and her colleagues discussed *Impostor Syndrome: Navigating Professional Challenges*.

In March of 2025, Dr. Karen Schramm presented *Terror Firma?: Landscapes of Anthropogenic Eco-Trauma* for the “Ecocritical Perspectives in/on Literature and Film” session at the Northeast Modern Language Association Convention held in Philadelphia.

Artificial Intelligence is transforming libraries and archives. Associate Professor and Cataloging Librarian, Marian Schad, is investigating an exciting new AI scanning tool from JSTOR that will significantly accelerate the scale and speed of processing workflows for archivists. Before anything can be added to our digital archives, there are hours of metadata creation spent processing archival materials. We have boxes of papers, correspondence, records, and photographs in our backlog that can be scanned and summarized with this powerful tool!

In Press - *CONGRATULATIONS!*

An article by Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen (psychology) and Dr. Alicia Shenko (animal biotechnology and

conservation), “Fostering relationships with faculty, peers, and parents to support undergraduate honors students’ mental health” is currently In Press for *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council Forum*, 25(2).

A project seventy years in the making!

Dr. Jason Downs (associate professor of biology) had his manuscript, *New description and diagnosis of Eusthenodon wangsjoii (Tetrapodomorpha, Tristichopteridae) from the Upper Devonian Britta Dal Formation of East Greenland*, recently accepted at Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Earth and Environmental Science. This work provides the first full description of *Eusthenodon wangsjoii*, a large-bodied (~2 meter long) species of aquatic predator from the Late Devonian Period (382 to 359 million years ago) of Greenland. These fossils, stored in the collections of the Natural History Museum of Denmark (Copenhagen), were collected between the years 1929 and 1949 and first reported (and the species named) by Swedish paleontologist Erik Jarvik in 1952. This species was only the third to be described in the group Tristichopteridae and the narrow comparative context of the time meant that only a brief anatomical description was deemed necessary. In the subsequent seven decades, many discoveries have expanded understanding of the tristichopterids; today, there are nineteen known species in the group. But *E. wangsjoii* has remained mysterious because no one has ever returned to those original Greenland fossils to develop a complete, and comparative, anatomical description of this species. Dr. Downs’ sabbatical leave granted him the opportunity to study those fossils in both Denmark and Sweden (where several specimens are out on loan to the Swedish Museum of Natural History) and to write a new, modern, comparative description of *E. wangsjoii*. He also performed a new systematic analysis of the group (to assess relationships among tristichopterid species) and provide the first photographic figures of the Greenland specimens that are unobscured by interpretative illustrations. With this manuscript, new and needed clarity is gained for this important species and for the group to which belongs.

New Courses

The counseling psychology program is pleased to announce two new courses in their curriculum. Dr. Audrey Ervin,

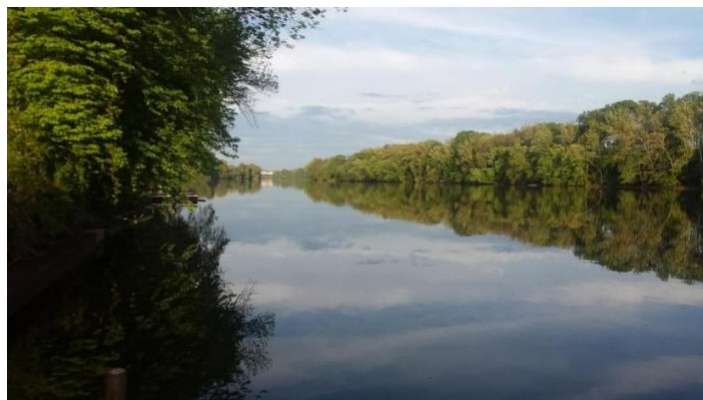
professor of counseling psychology, developed *Intro to Mindfulness Meditation*. This popular course, which has been offered previously as a “special topics” course, provides an initial exploration of mindfulness that will help students learn strategies to skillfully work with thoughts, emotions, and sensations while developing their capacity to enhance mind-body awareness of present-moment experience.

Dr. Matthew Mutchler, associate professor and chair of psychology co-developed an interdisciplinary core capstone course with Dr. Jackie Ricotta, professor and chair of plant science - *Intersections of Nature and Mental Health*. This course emphasizes the connections between nature and mental health in modern society and provides students the opportunity to immerse themselves in natural environments to directly experience the healing power of nature including to such places as the Peace Valley Nature Center in Doylestown, the Shofuso Japanese Cultural Center in Philadelphia, and the Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow in New Hope. In conjunction with this course, Dr. Mutchler has been pursuing a credential in Ecotherapy - a method of psychotherapy that uses nature as a co-therapist and moves treatment into the outdoors.

Mentoring Student Research and Projects

In addition to the research and scholarship our faculty conduct within their

disciplines, they also collaborate with DelVal students on research projects and as part of the student research program. Throughout the summer and fall of 2024, Dr. Emily Basile, assistant professor of biology, worked with seven student research assistants receiving E360 credit to conduct research on the Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring project for the Valley Forge Watershed Association.



Dr. Basile also served as a faculty mentor to Richard Bagala as part of the Student Research Program. During the Fall Student Research Symposium, Mr. Bagala presented his research titled “The Effect of Brumation on stress in *Trachemys scripta elegans*, Measured by Blood Cortisol Concentrations.”

Another biology major who also worked with Dr. Basile, Vincent Maldonado, presented his student research at the Pennsylvania Academy of Science 2025 Meeting in Harrisburg held April 11-13. The title of his Oral Presentation was “Meiofauna community composition and vertical zonation in intertidal mudflats, Chincoteague Bay, Virginia.”

In Spring 2025, Dr. Basile continued to work with several students who presented their research at the Spring Research Symposium on April 24th. Richard Bagala presented further investigations on his research “The Effect of Brumation on stress in *Trachemys scripta elegans*, Measured by Blood Cortisol Concentrations.” Jessie Edwards’ presentation was titled “Metabarcoding aquatic invertebrates for ecosystem assessment: comparing eDNA and direct sampling methods,” and Caleigh Brumbaugh discussed “Restoration of Delaware Valley University Pond to Observe the process of Re-Establishment in an Ecosystem and the Effects.”

Dr. Megan Whalen, chair and assistant professor of the criminal justice department, is serving as a faculty mentor to senior psychology majors, Katelyn Schwartz and Jacquelyn Derricks. These students presented their research titled, “‘How does one forgive themselves for being such a monster’: A Psychological Examination of Criminal Justice Narratives”, during the Student Research Symposium on April 24th, 2025.

In June, Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen, professor of psychology, co-chair of the student research program, and director of the honors program, will travel with two student researchers, Juliana Winget and Brandon Perot, to the Annual Conference of the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood in Charleston South Carolina where they will present their collaborative research in the Poster Session. Juliana Winget’s research is titled *Protective parenting among emerging adults in an undergraduate honors program* and Brandon Perot’s research is titled *Stress in emerging adults: A strengths-based approach*. Best of luck to all!

*Congratulations to all of our
student researchers!*

Dr. David Timony, professor and chair of the education department, partnered with the A-Day committee to support several school groups visiting on the first Friday of A-Day. Education Majors and minors volunteered to take these groups around. Some of the school costs were supported by a grant from the NAAE #TeachAg campaign which is a campaign developed to increase the awareness and interest in Agricultural

Education in the United States. Dr. Timony is on the task force for this campaign in PA and NJ.

Student Internships and Achievements

To help celebrate the Winter holidays as part of the Festival of Trees at the Pearl S. Buck House, Dr. Craig Stutman and his students in the History, Policy, and Society program decorated a room with archival documents of Pearl S. Buck receiving an Honorary Degree in 1965 from what was "Delaware Valley College (*photo*)."



Jennifer Giberson, a History, Policy and Society student at Delaware Valley University completed a 10-week internship at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia in the Summer of 2024 that provided her with valuable hands-on experience in the field of public history. During her time at the museum, Jennifer worked closely with the Collections and Exhibitions departments. In Collections, she contributed to the museum's transition to a new collections management database by preparing 3,044 archaeology records. Additionally, she helped to preserve the museum's collection by removing tape and surface cleaning nearly 200 archaeological items.

In her role with Exhibitions, Jennifer transcribed documents and conducted research on key figures mentioned in the texts. Her work will be instrumental in creating an online interactive exhibit that will highlight these papers and their significance.

"My internship at the Museum of the American Revolution was an incredible experience," said Jennifer. "I learned so much about the museum's operations and the importance of preserving

cultural heritage. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such talented professionals."



Gregory Gipe, a History, Policy and Society student at Delaware Valley University, recently completed a successful summer internship at the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. During their time at the organization, Gregory focused primarily on government relations and lobbying efforts, but also contributed to social media and magazine publications. On the government relations side, Gregory lobbied legislators at both the state and federal levels, attended meetings with regulatory agencies like the EPA and DEP, and participated in committee meetings. Additionally, Gregory wrote policy briefs on legislation that is important to the agriculture industry.

“I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to intern at the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau,” said

Gregory Gipe “This experience has provided me with invaluable insights into the world of government relations and advocacy. I was able to apply my academic knowledge to real-world challenges and gain a deeper understanding of the issues facing the agriculture industry.”



Picture: Gregory Gipe (right) on Capitol Hill with Congressman John Joyce (PA-13) and Representative Madeleine Dean (PA-4).



Congratulations to our Media & Communication faculty, Doug McCambridge and Marion Callahan, and students who are part of *The Full360*, our student-run media

The Full360

IF YOU HAVE NOT CHECKED OUT OUR AWARD-WINNING FULL360 STUDENT MEDIA SITE, YOU SHOULD!

[HTTPS://FULL360DELVAL.BLOG/BLOG/](https://full360delval.blog/blog/)

organization! The Full360 earned statewide recognition by securing the Division II Sweepstakes award from the Pennsylvania News Media at the 2025 Keystone Student Media Awards. This annual contest honors outstanding journalism in college media across the state.

Our students also took home three first-place prizes for news stories, photos and videos, and two broadcasts earned second-place awards.

The awards were announced on March 2, 2025, and the winners were honored at the Student Keystone Media Awards Event on April 3 at WITF's Public Media Center in Harrisburg.

Individual winners from DelVal:

General News, First Place - "Delaware Valley University 'shelter-in-place' Alert Stems from an Orbeez Gun. Effects of Incident Still Linger", by Zaida Martin '25 and Christian Yamulla '26

Photo Story, First Place - "Students Capture Voices", Views on Election Day by Logan Boushell '25

Video Story, First Place - "United In Flowers", by Taji Hubbard '25

Best Feature (Broadcast), Second Place - "Hemp House from Kansas State Stops at DelVal to Showcase Hemp's Construction Benefits", by Logan Boushell '25, Aubrey Ennis '26 and Gabriela Rodriguez '25

Best Sports Coverage (Broadcast), Second Place - "From Alumna to Coach", by Logan Boushell '25 and Aubrey Ennis '26

Study Abroad and in the Field



Spring Break Study Abroad

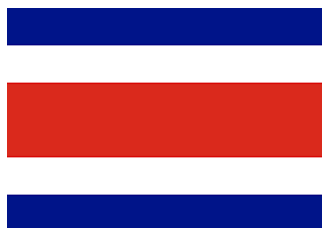


Over spring break, Dr. Brian Lutz and Dr. Michael Stamps of the English Department took a group of nearly 30 students to Japan for the Place Studies course. Students explored Japan from Nikko to Hiroshima. In Tokyo they bathed under neon lights of

Shinjuku and Shibuya. They followed in the poet Basho's journey into the sacred shrines in mountains of Nikko—a name that means “bright beams of sunshine.” They witnessed the majesty of Mt. Fuji and the peaked, snow-covered, A-frames of Shirakawa go. In Nara they met and pet deer under the glaze of the Great Buddha Daibutsu housed in the world's largest wooden building. In the old capital of Kyoto, they walked the roads and bridges Nobel laureate Kawabata wrote about—met monkeys in the bamboo grove and visited Uji where the world's first novel was written. At Hiroshima they experienced the somber reality of the atomic bomb and rode some of the world's fastest trains. In short, they lived their own stories and relived the stories they studied while having the time of their lives and eating fresh sushi, mochi, and melon bread!



COSTA RICA



Dr. Greg George once again successfully led a group of students to Costa Rica. Here they learned about neotropical animals, plants, and ecosystems as they trekked through rain, cloud upper montane oak and elfin forests, and paramo areas.



HPS students enjoying the afternoon after a visit Wawel Castle in Krakow on the 2024 Poland trip

As part of an agreement between the History, Policy, and Society program at DelVal and the Faculty of International Studies at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, a group of students will travel to Poland in May, 2025. These students are either enrolled in LA 4115 “Critical Issues in European History: Genocide in the 20th century” or CJ-2124 “Criminology” and/or in the Honors program. They will explore Warsaw and Krakow visiting various historic sites,



including the Polish Jewish History Museum, the Schindler

Factory, and the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. Students will also attend lectures at Jagiellonian University

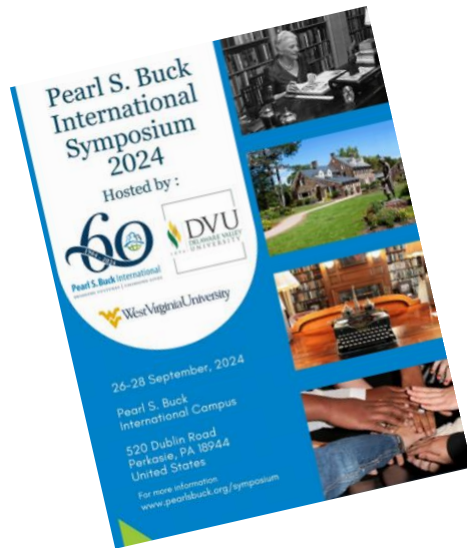
and meet with students in the American Studies program. The two faculty members leading the trip - Drs. Jay Su and Allison Buskirk-Cohen - will share their expertise with JU American Studies students as guest lecturers.

Noteworthy Field Trip

During the Fall 2024 semester, students enrolled in the criminal justice department’s *Social Movements, Protest, & Conflict* course traveled to Philadelphia with Dr. Sheena Sood and participated in an educational guided tour to learn about the MOVE organization and to visit historic sites that were the centers of social movements.

Community Engagement and Events

Our BAS faculty and staff partner with the broader community on many different types of initiatives, including events and performances, in service to their academic fields and to the local community. They provide opportunities for our students, area professionals, and engaged citizens to interact, learn and share knowledge and experiences.



DelVal's History, Policy, and Society program served as one of the sponsors and host for a keynote for the Pearl S. Buck International Symposium "Pearl S. Buck: Bridging He Legacy Into the Next 60 Years" in September 2024. Scholars of Pearl S. Buck from across the country and world attended the Symposium.



DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY
Watson Executive-in-Residence Program

On October 2, 2024, the Business and Information Management department welcomed Det Ansinn as the Watson Executive in Resident. Mr. Ansinn is a multifaceted

entrepreneur, serving as President and Founder of BrickSimple LLC, a leading software development firm, and CEO of Neuralert Technologies. He is also a founding member of the American Society for AI, contributing to the



development and ethical use of artificial intelligence. Mr. Ansinn presented "Tech Entrepreneurship: My Journey from Coder to Business Leader" which was an overview of the choices and experiences

he had in his life that brought him into the world of technology and then to becoming a top executive. After his presentation, Mr. Ansinn met with students to discuss their career goals and plans for achieving them.

On May 1st, our Spring 2025 Watson Executive in Residence, Bernard Tynes, one of the youngest executives in financial services in Greater Philadelphia, will be presenting “From Suits to Sneakers: How Leadership is Evolving for a New Era.” Mr. Tynes is the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Consumer Banking Officer of Penn Community Bank, he oversees the Retail Branch Network, Small Business Banking, Marketing and Communications, and the Penn Community Bank Foundation, ensuring a seamless and strategic approach to

banking that fosters both customer and local economic advancement.



The Biology and Chemistry departments organized a “Scientific Job in Industry” presentation by Dr. David Olsen, a 30+ year veteran of drug discovery in the pharmaceutical industry who is active in recruiting, interviewing and hiring scientific talent and is committed to coaching and mentoring the next generation of scientists seeking to advance their careers. The talk, held on October 30th in the Cooke Wing of the library, was well attended and students posed excellent questions for

the speaker who urged students applying to his large pharma company to personally reach out to him.



On November 4, 2025, The Criminal Justice Department co-sponsored an event titled, “AI: Addressing Its National Security Implications”, provided by the Naval War College Foundation. During the event, our honored guests from the Naval War College, Captain George E. Lang, Dr. Chris C. Demchak, and Dr. Sam J. Tangredi, engaged with students and the campus community to discuss the impact of AI on national security.

"AI: ADDRESSING ITS NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS"

THANK YOU TO SPONSORS OF THIS EVENT:

Toddler's Village BUCKS COUNTY
HERALD

DELAWARE VALLEY
UNIVERSITY
Criminal Justice

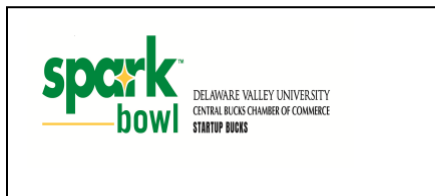
WE WELCOME AND HONOR OUR
GUEST SPEAKERS FROM THE

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



The History, Policy, and Society program organized a Public History Workshop on November 8, 2024 featuring a presentation by Scott Bomboy "Creating Digital Tours for Heritage Tourism." A seasoned historian, journalist, and digital executive, Scott Bomboy is a leading figure in the field. As the chair of the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society and the editor-in-chief of the National Constitution Center, he brought a wealth of experience and expertise to the workshop. This workshop attracted public historians from area historical societies and museums.

On November 20, 2024, we held our 5th annual Spark Bowl - DelVal's pitch competition. DelVal's Business and Information Management program partners with the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce and a local non-profit organization, Startup Bucks, to host this event. While student businesses are invited and encouraged to apply to compete, our students do not have to have started a business or non-profit organization to benefit from this hands-on experience. Students enrolled in the fall Entrepreneurship in Practice (BA-



4565) course taught by Dr. Jeff Wehrung, are divided into five teams that are assigned to the five final contestants. The teams work with Dr. Wehrung along with volunteer

"business advisors" coordinated by Professor Stephan Bilan to help the five competing businesses perfect their pitch and compete for thousands of dollars. Best of all, student teams are awarded a total of \$6000 for working with the top three winners!

Featured in the picture are the members of Horus Health, a start-up business and winner of the 2024 Spark Bowl, and our students, Kory Corkins and Katia Holmes, their student team. Not featured in this picture was their business advisor, Jim Brennan.



Mr. Sam Howell, Philly native and the principal of W.B. Saul high school, visited DelVal on March 3 to talk to all of our secondary education students about mission driven teaching and leadership and the importance of addressing the most important aspects of our students' lives at school. This event was arranged by Dr. LaSalle, professor of education.



The 2025 Bucks Mont National History Day Regional Contest organized by the Mercer Museum and Bucks County Historical Society was held at DelVal On March 22 in collaboration with the History, Policy, and Society Program. Dr. Shih-chieh Su, chair of Liberal Arts and HPS student, Jennifer Giberson, volunteered to ensure the event that attracted over 350 area middle and high school students, was a success.



The History, Policy, and Society program received a visiting faculty member in January 2025, Dr. Rafał Kuś, Assistant Professor of International and Political Studies at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora of Jagiellonian University. Dr. Kuś came to DelVal as part of a Cooperative Agreement between DelVal and Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. While on campus, in addition to conducting research on American public media (he even met with our local WHYY celebrity, Terry Gross!), Dr. Kuś served as a guest lecturer in a Media & Communication course and a Liberal Arts Critical Issues in World History

course on Genocides in the 20th century. On January 29th, Dr. Kuś presented a public lecture in the Krauskopf library on “Anticipating the Polish Political Landscape in the Times of the Trump Administration.”



The Counseling Psychology program was busy this year hosting three events:

On March 19 the program hosted the Counseling Psych Speaker Series. This was a public screening of the documentary, *The Journey Home*, and a panel discussion afterwards featuring Veterans from Vietnam to the present discussing PTSD and the challenges of returning from service after traumatic experiences.

The Department also hosted two other events. On April 8^t, a discussion panel titled *Bridging the Gap: Navigating Addiction in Mental Health* was held and featured Psychology faculty and students along with members of AA who are in long term recovery. The focus of the panel was on integrating addiction recovery and mental illness treatment in congruent ways to improve client outcomes.

A daylong conference on Autism and Adults, *Bridging the Gap: Supporting Autistic Adults*, was co-hosted by the Psych department along with local professionals from Autism Spectrum Diagnostics and Consulting on April 11. Topics included masking in autism, college & employment accommodations, interplay between autism & mental health, and others.

Music and Arts



We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding success of the DelVal Music Program led by Dr. Lauren Ryals during the 2024-25 academic year! Across three ensembles—University Chorus, Jazz Band, and Symphonic Band—our talented students and community musicians delivered 14 dynamic and engaging concert performances. This year also marked continued growth in community engagement through the second successful season of our Community Conductor Program, where we welcomed three dynamic guest

conductors from the greater Doylestown area, each bringing unique and extensive musical experience. Additionally, our DelVal Artist-in-Residence initiative continued to thrive, offering meaningful opportunities and support for diverse rising conductors in the professional field of music directing. Student-led ensembles, including the Pep Band and Chamber Strings Ensemble, continued to grow and establish their presence on campus, creating additional avenues for musical involvement. We also partnered with a student intern to launch a digital search engine to organize our extensive DelVal Music library—a nearly 100-year collection of sheet music previously stored in various cabinets and boxes across campus. This major project wraps up this spring and marks a significant step forward in preserving and accessing our musical archives.

Welcome to New Faculty and Staff

Dr. Salvatore D'Angelo

The Department of Criminal Justice welcomed Salvatore D'Angelo, Ph.D. as an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice in the Fall of 2024. Dr. D'Angelo attended

Susquehanna University for his undergraduate education, where he obtained his bachelor of arts degrees in Sociology and History. He obtained his Masters of Science degree in Criminology from the University of Pennsylvania and his Ph.D. in Criminology at the University of Delaware. Since joining DelVal, Dr. D'Angelo has taught several courses for the department, including Race, Class, Gender, & Crime, Mental Health in the Criminal Justice Profession, as well as Introduction to Criminal Justice.

Dr. Paul Herbert

Dr. Paul Herbert grew up in the Arlington, TX area. After completing his undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University, Dr. Herbert continued studies in Anatomy and Healthcare Education at the University of Rochester in upstate NY. Dr. Herbert additionally taught gross anatomy to Chiropractic students during this time. Upon completion, he relocated to Delaware Valley University to join the Biology department in 2025. His research interests involve using digital technologies, including virtual and augmented realities, for healthcare and STEM education. Dr. Herbert is an avid reader, golfer, and hiker. His next endeavor is to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa.

Ms. Denise White

We are very happy that Denise White joined us in January 2025 to support the departments of biology, chemistry, criminal justice, mathematics and physics, liberal arts, and the music program as the administrative coordinator. While she has never worked in higher education until now, she brings with her a wealth of experience and skills and has a long history working as an administrative assistant, including as an executive assistant and 16T Patriot Missile Crew Member for the US Army. Prior to joining DelVal, Denise worked as the administrative assistant for Ravenhill Psychological Services/Mathom House. She has hit the ground running and it is clear that Denise has taken to higher education!

Awards and Honors

Congratulations to Walter Zdunowski, an adjunct instructor in the Department of Criminal

Justice, who was honored by Delaware Valley University Athletics during their sixth annual Faculty Appreciation Event in April 2025.



Marian Schad, cataloging librarian and associate professor, was awarded two grants in 2024, a Historical and Archival Grant for \$5,000 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and a National Film Preservation Foundation Grant for \$8,710. The funding from both grants was used to restore and digitize audio-visual materials in the archives.