

HORIZONS: A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF

SUMMER 2025

DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY

Driving Discovery
and Innovation

page 4

Place Studies: Japan

page 11

Equestrian Teams
Shine at Nationals

page 18



“It is not surprising that the career outcomes rate, the percentage of graduates surveyed who are working, continuing their education or in service to our country, is 94.4% for DelVal 2024 graduates. Experience elevates success.”



Dear DelVal Community,

When I speak with people about DelVal’s signature program, Experience360, I like to say that it is “more than an internship program.” This is not to underplay the value of internships because internships are essential for students to obtain real-world experience in their field. Many universities have internship programs, but only DelVal provides the comprehensive learning, personal development and career preparation program that we deliver through Experience360.

It is not surprising that the career outcomes rate, the percentage of graduates surveyed who are working, continuing their education or in service to our country, is 94.4% for DelVal 2024 graduates. Experience elevates success.

Experience360 provides opportunities for internships, career exploration, hands-on learning in classrooms, laboratories and beyond, leadership, community service, 10-day study abroad programs, and student research projects.

This issue of Horizons features recent student research projects conducted under the supervision and mentoring of our dedicated faculty. I had the opportunity to see several of these students present their research during Day of Scholarship in April and I know you will find the stories engaging.

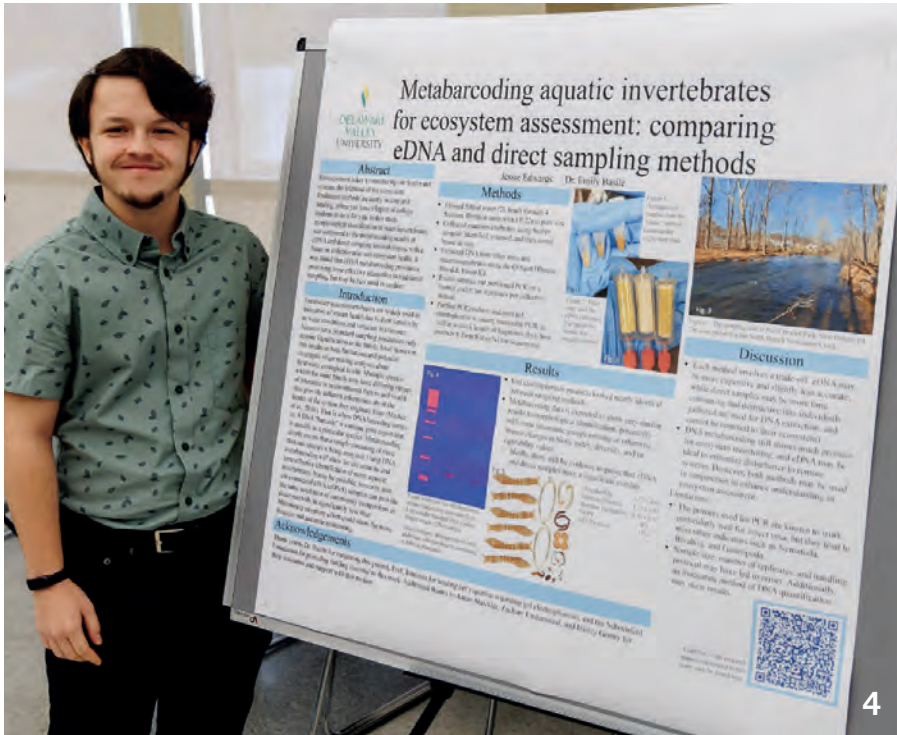
In order to continue and enhance opportunities in our Experience360 program, teaching and learning, campus facilities and student scholarships, we are now officially in the silent phase of our comprehensive campaign: **Elevate the Experience: The Campaign for DelVal**. You will read about both donors and students who benefit from your generosity in this issue. There are many ways to support DelVal: funding internships and scholarships, gifts in kind, planned giving and a number of strategic initiatives that you will hear more about in the near future. Every gift is important, and I encourage you to give to DelVal.

Best Regards,

Benjamin E. Rusiloski, Ph.D.
President

In This Issue

4 Driving Discovery and Innovation



▲ Jessie Edwards '25, conservation and wildlife management

- 11 Place Studies: Japan
- 12 Experience360
- 14 Experience Elevates Success
- 18 Athletics
- 22 Events On Campus
- 24 A-Day
- 27 Commencement
- 28 Elevate the Experience
- 32 Alumni Profile: Ron Morosky '67



- 33 Class Notes
- 35 In Memoriam

Editors

Kathy James
Kelly Hydock

Contributing Writers

Leyla Danis '21, M.A. '23
Chris Elliott '12, MBA '15
Dr. Brian Lutz
Kathy James
Kelly Hydock

Design

Kelly Hydock

Photography

Marion Callahan
Leyla Danis '21, M.A. '23
Kelly Hydock
John Kish

Contact Us:

Delaware Valley University
Office of Marketing and Communications
700 East Butler Avenue
Doylestown, Pa 18901
Ph: 215.489.2457
horizons@delval.edu

Upload class notes at
delval.edu/classnotes

Postmaster address changes to:
Delaware Valley University
Development and Alumni Affairs
700 East Butler Avenue
Doylestown, Pa. 18901
development@delval.edu

Horizons is published for Delaware Valley University alumni, friends, parents, students, faculty and staff by the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Copyright ©2025
Delaware Valley University.
Periodicals postage paid at Southeastern, Pa and at additional mailing offices.

DRIVING DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION



▲ Jessie Edwards '25

Delaware Valley University's students are researching questions within their disciplines. Fueled by grant funding that empowers exploration in fields like animal science, chemistry, counseling psychology, wildlife management, and more, these students demonstrate the transformative power of experiential learning and its profound impact on student development and student contributions to science. These research projects are a clear example of DelVal's commitment to hands-on learning and science with practice and one of the ways students earn valuable credits towards their E360 graduation requirements.

"For the last 15 years, DelVal students have benefited from different grants that empower them to further explore the areas of study that they are most passionate about, and the result has been incredible research projects that have advanced many industries and helped launch careers," said Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen, director of the Honors Program and an advisor for student research. "Every year, we are captivated by the results and conclusions our students reach and the remarkable ways they grow through their projects."

These interdisciplinary grant opportunities are open to all DelVal students, with some choosing to collaborate on their research. Some support ongoing faculty research projects. Each project is guided by a dedicated faculty advisor who provides mentorship and support throughout the research process.



Jessie Edwards '25

Conservation and Wildlife Management

Metabarcoding Aquatic Invertebrates for Ecosystem Assessment: Comparing eDNA and Direct Sampling Methods

Did you know that the health of our local streams and creeks can be revealed by the tiny bugs that live there? Conservation and Wildlife Management senior Jessie Edwards dived into this fascinating world with a cutting-edge research project. Jessie compared two methods to assess the health of the ecosystem at North Branch Park in Bucks County, Pa., by studying aquatic invertebrates – those small, often unseen creatures at the base of the food web. Jessie worked with Dr. Emily Basile, assistant professor of Biology, on his project.

The traditional approach involved physically collecting these bugs from the water. Jessie braved the cold creek to gather samples, identify the critters, and count them – a method that has been used for years to gauge water quality based on the types and

numbers of bugs present. Certain bugs are more sensitive to pollution, so their presence (or absence) tells a story about the stream's health.

But Jessie also explored a newer, less invasive technique: eDNA, or environmental DNA. Imagine the tiny bits of DNA that all living things leave behind – like our hair or skin cells. Jessie collected water samples and filtered them to capture this DNA "footprint" of the aquatic life. By analyzing this eDNA, Jessie sought to identify the same bug species without having to collect and process them directly.

Using sophisticated molecular techniques in DelVal's labs, Jessie extracted and amplified this DNA and prepared it to be sent off for sequencing. The results revealed which invertebrate species were

present in the water, based on their unique DNA barcodes.

The exciting part? Jessie compared the results from the traditional bug collection with the eDNA analysis. This research could show whether eDNA is a reliable and efficient way to monitor the health of our aquatic ecosystems. It might even be able to detect smaller or harder-to-find species that traditional methods miss.

Ultimately, Jessie's work had real-world implications. By refining how we assess water quality, we can better protect this vital resource for our communities and future generations. It's a testament to the innovative research happening right here at DelVal, where students like Jessie use science to make a tangible difference in the world around us.

After graduation, Jessie is working at the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as a clerical assistant in the Tioga State Forest district office.





Brandon Perot '25

Counseling Psychology

Undergraduate Students' Experience of Stress

What's the biggest worry on a college student's mind? For Brandon Perot, a Counseling Psychology major, finding the answer to that question became the focus of a fascinating research project. Brandon's work, conducted with guidance from Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen, shed light on primary sources of stress for DelVal undergraduates, offering valuable insights for the university and beyond.

Brandon's research delved into four key areas of stress: the future, finances, academics, and competing demands (like jobs, athletics, clubs and other responsibilities). To gather data, Brandon set up shop at the Levin Dining Hall on campus, inviting students to participate in a survey in exchange for a Wawa gift card – a strategy that proved highly successful! The survey, carefully crafted with a mix of direct and strategically phrased questions, used a Likert scale (1-5) to gauge students' stress levels in each category.

The results, drawn from a robust sample of 212 students, revealed a surprising trend. While academic pressures are often assumed to be the primary stressor, Brandon's research showed that stress about the future topped the list, affecting nearly 52% of students. Financial concerns were a close second, impacting 50% of the surveyed students. Stress related to competing demands came in at 39.2%, while academic stress was the lowest, at 33%.

These findings have significant real-world applications. By identifying the dominant sources of stress, we can better allocate resources and develop programs to support students' well-being. As Brandon pointed out, the ever-changing world can create uncertainty about the future, and the financial burden of higher education is a reality for many students. Addressing these concerns is crucial to setting students up for success both during and after their time at DelVal.

Brandon's research project demonstrates the power of student inquiry and its potential to inform positive change. By meticulously gathering and analyzing data, Brandon has provided valuable insights that can help DelVal create solutions for additional support and stress reduction strategies.

This project also showcased the research skills Brandon developed at DelVal, including the use of statistical tests like ANOVA and the ethical considerations involved in research with human participants, such as obtaining informed consent. These skills will undoubtedly serve him well as he pursues a career in research after graduation.



▲ Brandon Perot '25

Caroline Barberra '25

Chemistry

Bermuda Time Series Data Analysis

Imagine conducting cutting-edge research in the stunning setting of Bermuda! That's exactly what Chemistry major Caroline Barberra '25 had the opportunity to do, working alongside Dr. Melissa Langston, professor of Chemistry, on a project titled "Bermuda Time Series Data Analysis." This experience allowed Caroline to delve into the world of oceanography, analyzing real-world data to uncover important trends about our oceans.

Caroline's project utilized publicly accessible oceanographic data from the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Science (BIOS) website. Inspired by DelVal's Marine Chemistry class, Caroline was keen to explore the dynamics of ocean salinity (salt content), temperature, and density. Instead of collecting her own data on this project, she was able to access existing datasets collected over several years by researchers at BIOS. During a trip to Bermuda with Dr. Langston's Marine Chemistry class (though Caroline wasn't enrolled in the class itself, she joined specifically for her research), she had the chance to tour research vessels and speak with scientists at BIOS, gaining valuable insight into how this kind of data is collected.

Back in the lab, Caroline dove into the numbers using Excel. Her analysis focused on creating depth profiles – essentially tracking how salinity, temperature, and density change as you go deeper into the ocean. While general trends (like temperature and salinity being highest at the surface and decreasing with depth, as density increases with depth) were expected,

Caroline made a surprising discovery when comparing data across different years (2007, 2016, 2019 and 2022).

She expected that August, typically the warmest month with the highest evaporation, would consistently show the highest salinity levels. However, her analysis revealed that August 2007 had the lowest salinity compared to the same location in other years, even those in earlier months like March, April and May. From this, Caroline independently concluded a trend of increasing salinity over time, a phenomenon supported by existing scientific literature.

Caroline's research highlights the power of data analysis in understanding the impacts of our changing climate on the oceans. The increasing salinity she observed

is a significant indicator of these changes. Furthermore, Caroline is currently writing a manuscript about her project, emphasizing that valuable research and meaningful conclusions can be drawn even with publicly available resources, thus democratizing scientific inquiry. Her work exemplifies DelVal's hands-on approach to learning, allowing students to contribute to real scientific understanding and potentially inspire future research and solutions related to climate change. Caroline's experience in Bermuda and her data analysis skills gained at DelVal are undoubtedly preparing her for her aspirations of pursuing graduate studies in oceanography or chemical oceanography.



▲ L-R: Jonathan Coffman '25, Dr. Melissa Langston, Alex Wargo '26, Dr. Emily Basile, Bobbie Maylone '24, Jackie Dudley '25, Deirdre Rambo '25, Victoria Lichtenwalner '27, Zachary Kovaleski '27, Caroline Barberra '25 in Bermuda



Jacquelyn Derricks '25 and Katelyn Schwartz '25

Counseling Psychology

How Does One Forgive Themselves for Being a Monster?: A Psychological Examination of Criminal Justice Narratives

What happens when personal trauma intersects with the criminal justice system? Counseling Psychology majors Katelyn Schwartz and Jacquelyn Derricks, both graduating in 2025, delved into this complex question with their impactful research project, "How does one forgive themselves for being such a monster?: A Psychological Examination of Criminal Justice Narratives." This powerful title, a direct quote from one of their study participants, encapsulates the profound emotional struggles they are exploring.

Working with faculty advisor Dr. Megan Demarest, professor in the Department of Criminal Justice, Katelyn and Jacquelyn analyzed narratives from incarcerated individuals, building upon Dr. Demarest's previous dissertation. Their research aims to add a crucial psychological lens to the experiences of these individuals, specifically examining how factors like age, gender and race influence their trauma responses and feelings of shame and guilt.

One of the most striking preliminary findings highlighted a significant gender difference in how individuals processed their actions. The majority of the women in the study expressed deep-seated shame, often internalizing their offenses and viewing themselves in intensely

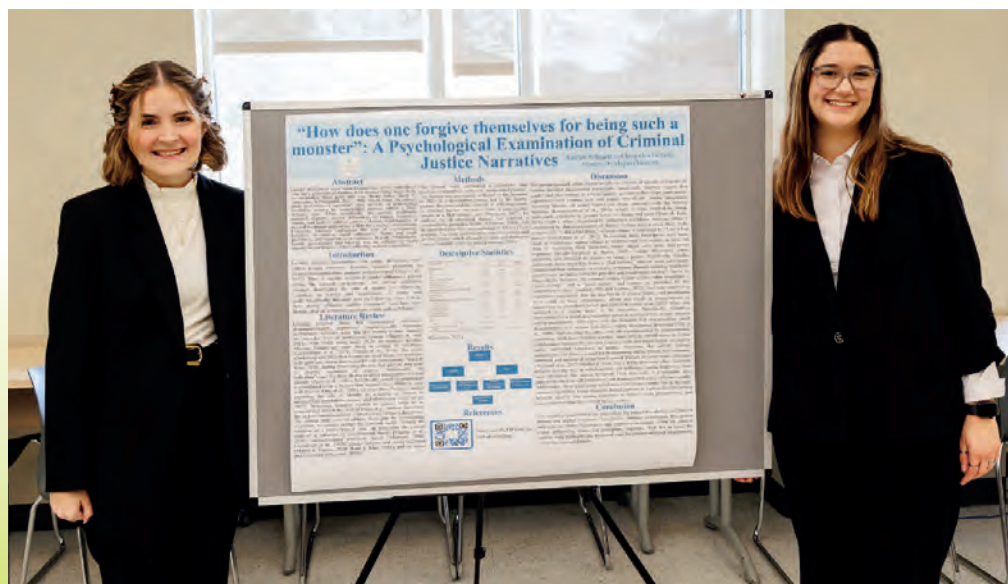
negative terms – as the quote in their title poignantly illustrates. In contrast, the men were more inclined to express guilt related to their actions ("I did a bad thing") but were more likely to separate that from their core identity, often framing their behavior as a means of survival or taking responsibility with a forward-looking perspective of making amends.

The researchers also uncovered distinct patterns in the types of trauma experienced. The women in the study more frequently reported histories of sexual abuse, while the men were more likely to have experienced community violence, parental drug and/or alcohol addiction, and assuming caretaking roles early in life, often leading to criminal activity as a coping mechanism. Interestingly, the women were also more forthcoming in identifying their experiences as trauma and more prone to self-blame.

The significance of this qualitative research lies in its ability to provide rich, personal stories behind the

statistics. As Katelyn and Jacquelyn emphasized, there's often a disconnect between psychological and criminal justice research. Their work bridges this gap, highlighting the crucial need for interdisciplinary collaboration to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the incarcerated population. By giving voice to a hard-to-reach population, their findings can inform more trauma-informed and gender-responsive approaches within the criminal justice system.

Looking ahead, Katelyn and Jacquelyn are preparing to present their findings, likely focusing on one or two key emerging themes due to time constraints. Their dedication to this research is evident in their future aspirations: Katelyn plans to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology with a focus on forensic psychology, while Jacquelyn aims to launch a private practice and potentially teach psychology. Their work exemplifies the impactful research being conducted by DeVal students, shedding light on critical social issues with empathy and academic rigor.



► L-R: Katelyn Schwartz '25 and Jacquelyn Derricks '25

Nicholas Lienhard '25 and Elizabeth Bywaters '26

Zoo Science and Animal Science

Effects of Wildlife Assisted Therapy: Analysis of Human and Animal Welfare

Exploring the potential benefits of human-animal interaction is a compelling area of study, and Nicholas Lienhard '25 and Elizabeth Bywaters '26, both passionate about animal welfare and its connection to human well-being, embarked on a research project: "Effects of Wildlife Assisted Therapy: Analysis of Human and Animal Welfare." Their investigation focused on the use of raptor bird species as emotional support animals for veterans at Possum Wood Acres Rehabilitation in North Carolina. They worked with Dr. Gary Fortier, professor in the Department of Animal Biotechnology and Conservation.

The core concept held significant promise: could interaction with these majestic birds offer therapeutic benefits to veterans, and how would these sessions impact the welfare of the animals involved? However, as Nicholas and Elizabeth soon discovered, the path of research is not always smooth. The distance to the rehabilitation facility presented a significant hurdle, preventing them from conducting in-person observations and data collection. Instead, they relied heavily on remote communication and the cooperation of individuals at the facility.

Their initial methodology involved collecting physiological data related to stress levels in the birds, alongside behavioral observations captured on video and surveys administered to the veterans before and after therapy sessions. The surveys aimed to gauge immediate emotional responses (happiness, depression, anxiety) and a longer-term outlook. While they were

able to gather some data – surveys from four veteran sessions and behavioral video footage – the limited sample size and logistical constraints made drawing definitive conclusions challenging.

Despite these obstacles, the preliminary human survey data suggested the possibility of potential benefits. Participants generally reported an increase in positive emotions and a decrease in negative emotions (with the exception of stress in one individual, attributed to the novelty of the experience). However, with only four participants, the researchers acknowledged the difficulty in generalizing these findings.

Analyzing the birds' behavior proved equally complex. Both positive (like body fluffing and preening) and potentially negative (like vocalization) behaviors increased post-therapy session, indicating heightened activity but not a clear indication of benefit or detriment to the animals. The conflicting nature of behavior made it difficult to definitively link these changes to the therapy sessions alone.

Nicholas and Elizabeth's experience underscores a crucial aspect of research: the influence of external factors and the reality that desired data and conclusive results are not always attainable within the given constraints. Their project, while facing significant logistical challenges, still provided valuable insights into the complexities of conducting research in real-world



▲ Elizabeth Bywaters '26



▲ Nicholas Lienhard '25

settings and the importance of adaptability in the research process.

Looking ahead, Nicholas will pursue a Ph.D. in Cognitive Science, focusing on primate behavior, and Elizabeth is applying to veterinary school. The research experience, despite its hurdles, provided them with invaluable lessons in research design, data collection challenges, and the importance of perseverance – skills that will undoubtedly serve them well in their future academic and professional endeavors. While the effects of wildlife-assisted therapy with raptors remains an open question requiring further investigation with more robust data collection, Nicholas and Elizabeth's initiative highlights the innovative spirit of DelVal students and their willingness to tackle complex and potentially impactful research areas, even when faced with unexpected challenges.

Kylee Hetrick '23

Biology

Exploring Timothy Hay to Increase Litter and Nesting Quality in Swiss Webster Mice

Sometimes, even the smallest details can make a big difference in the lab. Just ask Kylee Hetrick, a 2023 Biology graduate with a minor in Small Animal Science. For her senior research project, Kylee explored a seemingly simple question with significant implications for animal welfare and research outcomes: could adding Timothy hay to the bedding of Swiss Webster mice improve their litter and nesting quality?

Kylee worked with Julia Krout '04, assistant professor in the Department of Animal Biotechnology & Conservation, for guidance on her project. Swiss Webster mice, a common breed in laboratory settings (and the primary one at DelVal), are known for their breeding capabilities. Kylee's project focused on whether providing these mice with Timothy hay – a specific type of sterilized hay, different from typical farm hay – would enhance the environment for mothers and their young. To investigate this, Kylee set up breeding pairs of mice in different cage environments: some in standard static cages and others in individually ventilated cages (offering a more controlled atmosphere).

The real experiment came with the bedding. Some cages served as the control, with only standard bedding. Others received varying amounts of Timothy hay – from a quarter cup to a full cup – mixed in with the

standard hay. Kylee then meticulously tracked several factors: the number of litters produced, the size of each litter (number of pups), the overall health of the mice, and crucially, the quality of the nests the mother mice built.

To assess nest quality, Kylee used a scoring system based on how well the nests were constructed and how much of a dome shape the mothers were able to create – important for keeping newborns warm since they are born without fur. She also monitored the mother's food consumption as an indicator of their well-being and tracked the growth of the pups over time.

Another student, Karsyn Stetser '25, conducted some additional research in spring 2025 and professor Krout shared that the results were encouraging. "With all the data presented and the background knowledge gathered, this research project did show that Timothy hay does help nesting scores and litter quality in cohorts with different nesting materials. Further experimentation will be needed to further determine the full beneficial effects of Timothy hay has on nesting scores and litter quality in Swiss Webster Mice as well."

Kylee's dedicated work didn't go unnoticed. She won the BioServe Enhancement or Improvement of Animal Welfare Award, a testament

to the thoughtful design and potential impact of her study. She also presented her findings to a committee of the New Jersey branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS).

The real-world application of Kylee's research lies in its potential to improve breeding outcomes and overall animal welfare in research facilities. By demonstrating the benefits of Timothy hay for nesting, breeding facilities could potentially increase litter sizes and ensure a healthier start for young mice. This, in turn, could lead to more efficient and reliable research.

Currently working as a Study Technician at LabCorp, Kylee credits her research experience at DelVal with providing her with a comprehensive understanding of the research process, from forming a hypothesis to analyzing data. While her current role is a steppingstone towards her goal of working in a pharmaceutical or physical science research lab, the skills and insights she gained from her project on those tiny, hay-loving mice are undoubtedly valuable assets in her scientific journey.

► L-R: Kylee Hetrick '23 and Julia Krout '04, Assistant Professor, Animal Biotechnology and Conservation Department





◀ *TeamLab Borderless, Tokyo: Stephanie Ferrara '26 and Taylor Haines '28*

Find Space in Japan by Dr. Brian Lutz, Chair, Department of English, Associate Professor

I used to think that the native, more than the tourist, understood place best, experienced it more fully and vitally. And certainly, there is some adamant truth to this. But, tourists possess a particular, greedy vision that familiarity resists. They may not understand a place better, but they understand it differently and sometimes more attentively.

Over spring break, Dr. Michael Stamps and I took a crowd of thoughtful and curious students to Japan for the Place Studies trip. Our obvious outsider position meant we did not, for the most part, experience Japan like the Japanese, but instead peeked at it from somewhere between there and here. We had, before leaving, read the stories, watched the movies, written essays, and—in short—considered Japan. Once there, students crept down each alley in the overtly safe cities looking for some fresh something. They peered up at statues and down at manhole covers. Admired cedar, stone and rivulet. One student came up to me towards the beginning of the trip and said, “We’ve been in Tokyo for like three days, and I don’t think I have heard anyone beep their horn.” I don’t know how that particular silence

resonates with locals. “The toilet seats are heated and clean,” another student announced, “in the train station.” Could someone from Japan have the same awe in her voice?

When I think about it, what I want the students to learn on the Place Studies trips is not really about place at all. Well, not, anyhow, how we might normally think about place. I want them to understand the traditions and history of the writers who helped craft the culture and landscapes, but more than this, I want them to learn about the spaces in between places. The change from the comfort of the familiar to the thrill of the different.

One of the great joys of travel is that change—change in attitude, change in state of mind, change of location, change in awareness. This crew of adventurous Place Studies students got it. And they taught it to me. They understood that change in place is greater than a simple shift in geography. Each new shrine, sculpted garden, black castle, bright skyscraper, grim memorial, beautiful museum, and delicious menu was an optical realignment, not in what we see but in how. We can take from our journeys this simple axiom: ours

is not the only way—not the only way to worship, not the only way to travel, not the only way to greet, eat, or use the bathroom. Making space for possibilities might then be the purest joy of visiting new worlds and the primary aim of Place Studies.



▲ *Shinkyo Bridge, Nikko: April Zarutskie '27 and Paige Gatz '27*

▼ *Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto: Bryan Winstead '26, Abigail McCoy '25, Christian Fetzer '26, Paige Gatz '27, Alexie McNally '27 Stephanie Ferrara '26, Amanda Korn '27 and Robert Jones '26*



▶ *Ootaki Hotel (Ryokan) Yugawara-machi: Andrew Szalus '26*





▲ Sierra Ripka '25, animal science (pre-professional)

The Full-Circle Experience:

Sierra Ripka '25 Journeys from High School Student to DelVal's Breeding Center to UPenn Veterinary School

Sierra Ripka visited DelVal when she was a sophomore in high school. She already knew what she wanted to pursue – a career in veterinary studies – so she signed up for a pre-vet symposium on campus and immediately fell in love with the University. That symposium helped her carve out a path that could lead her to her ultimate goal of becoming a vet with the proper dedication and hard work.

Fast forward two years and Sierra was a first-year student at DelVal enrolled in animal science with a pre-professional focus. She earned a job as a student worker at the Sydney J. Markovitz Equine Breeding Center.

"I started working at the breeding center down on campus and I think having the job there for these four years is the reason that I'm now succeeding in equine veterinary studies. I have loved working with the horses and especially with Jenna Reigle '14 as a manager."

Her role evolved each year as she learned more. During freshman year she was a farmworker, cleaning stalls and learning the ropes.

Sophomore year, she got more hands-on with the foals and the stallions, and by junior year, she was administering medications and putting her education into practice. By her senior year, Sierra was in the advanced reproduction class and was responsible for the foaling out process from stallion collections to breeding mares and delivering foals. It was not uncommon for Sierra to set up a cot at the breeding center while waiting for a mare's water to break so she could quickly spring into action and deliver the foal.

One of her favorite memories happened during foaling season. "It was the middle of the day and the horses were out in the field when one of the mare's water broke," Sierra recalled. I ran out and brought the mare into the stall and called Jenna, who was just off campus, five minutes away, so I started the process. I checked the position of the foal and proceeded to help pull the foal out! It was really rewarding. It was the first time I was put in that position where it was on me."

Sierra was able to stay calm in the moment and perform a safe delivery by herself thanks to her training and education. For her efforts, she was rewarded with the honor of naming the foal. She appropriately chose the name "Sierra Nevada" which, aside from the obvious, met the requirements of the DelVal breeding center's 2025 naming convention – mountain ranges.

Her work at DelVal's breeding center fulfilled her E360 requirements, but she didn't stop there. She also spent a summer at Doylestown's small animal veterinary clinic and spent another summer at Furlong's vet hospital in New Jersey, where she worked hands-on with the reproduction vet there.

Sierra credits Jenna, along with professor Bob Brown '79 and his animal husbandry class, for giving her the hands-on practice and knowledge that prepared her and put her on the path to her dream career.

Sierra will begin her studies at University of Pennsylvania veterinary school this fall where she plans on enrolling in the program's equine-specific path.

Sparkling Innovation in the World of AI: Spark Bowl Student Experience and Win

Students like Katia Holmes '27 form connections with small businesses by being part of a student business consultant team in preparation for the competition.

Spark Bowl is more than a competition; it's a chance for our students to gain real-world experience. Katia, a business administration student, played a key role in the student consultant team that contributed to the success of the winning team in 2024. She worked with the company Horus Health, an AI auditing and billing system that focuses primarily on healthcare. The company expedites the job of an auditor in efforts to streamline billing and compliance services.

Spark Bowl is a "Shark Tank"-like competition, hosted by Startup Bucks, the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce and DelVal. The competition awards thousands of dollars in prizes to area small businesses. After selecting finalists who will pitch their ideas to a panel of judges, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Center organizes teams of DelVal business students to work as consultants for the businesses and help them prepare their pitches.

During DelVal's entrepreneurship and practice course, Katia's student team spent time reviewing Horus Health's presentation and their business plan. This involved identifying any gaps in their business model and providing feedback on areas that needed improvement in their presentation. The students in the course also watch and analyze "Shark Tank", a reality business television series, in the weeks leading up to the competition. It shows entrepreneurs making business presentations to a panel of five angel investors, called "Sharks" on the program, who decide whether to invest in their companies. According to Katia, this experience helped students grasp the differences between effective and ineffective pitches, as well as the criteria judges consider.

"Spark Bowl provides students with an opportunity to work hands-on with a real entrepreneur or a real business, give advice, and see how things work in the real world with starting a business and running a business," said Katia.

The day before the competition, students gather with their team for a dress rehearsal and pitch practice. Each group presents a five-minute pitch, followed by ten minutes for the judges to ask questions. The judges, a carefully chosen panel of business professionals, evaluate the pitches. After all presentations, they discuss and select three winning teams. Both the businesses and their student teams receive monetary prizes for their efforts.

"I see myself either working for a company in the business industry or being an entrepreneur at some point," said Katia. "Professor Christine Seel is great, and she's connected me with many new opportunities. I've connected with all the faculty of the business department, and they've all just been great resources."

This year's Spark Bowl Competition will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in DelVal's Life Sciences Building Auditorium, following a contestant reception and vendor fair at 5 p.m. in the Joseph F. Umosella '63 Atrium. Spark Bowl offers substantial prizes to competition winners thanks to funding from community sponsors. Learn more about the competition and sponsorship at delval.edu/spark.

▼ (L-R) Akhil Peddikuppa, Ishan Mahajan, Dat Tran of Horus Health with Katia Holmes '27, and Kory Corkins '25



Experience Elevates Success

DelVal students thrive through hands-on learning, supportive faculty, and real-world experiences, empowering them with confidence, skills and connections that elevate their success.

► Pennsylvania Farm Show

Ag Ambassadors Victoria Lichtenwalner '27, Rachel Sroka '25, Maisie Neuber '26 and Sydney Utt '26 represented DelVal at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. This event showcased Pennsylvania's top agricultural products and allowed attendees to network with producers and supporters. Erin Shuey '26, a Secondary Education major, received a scholarship from the Foundation Scholarship Board during the event. DelVal students and staff also engaged with key figures, including Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture and former DelVal dean Russell Redding, U.S. Congressman GT Thompson, and Pennsylvania Senator Maria Collett.



◀ Philadelphia Flower Show

Students worked diligently on DelVal's exhibit for the Philadelphia Flower Show, which was held March 1-9. This year's theme was "Gardens of Tomorrow." DelVal's exhibit, called "Into the Clouds," blended the therapeutic gardens of tomorrow with technology - and the idea of how AI can provide a full sensory experience.



▲ DVU Green & Gold Spectacular Dairy Sale

Delaware Valley University's Dairy Society held its 24th annual DVU Green & Gold Spectacular Dairy Sale on March 22, achieving over \$210,000 in sales from 96 lots, breaking the previous record from 2007. This student-run event took place at DelVal's equestrian center. The sale was led by chair members Raegan Braund '25, Kallie Wolfe '25, and Nellie Hankinson '27, who managed everything from cattle consignment to event setup and operations on the day.



▲ Student Keystone Media Awards

DelVal's student-run Full360 media team earned "The Sweepstakes Award" from the Pennsylvania News Media at the annual Student Keystone Media Awards. Additionally, three individual media pieces including news stories, photos and videos earned first-place prizes, and two broadcasts earned second place. Winners include: Zaida Martin '25, Christian Yamulla '26, Logan Boushell '25, Taji Hubbard '25 (above), Aubrey Ennis '26, and Gabriela Rodriguez '25.

▶ North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge

Four students took part in the 2025 North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge in Gainesville, FL. This year's competition, the 22nd edition, gathered around 260 participants from U.S. and Canadian colleges, hosted by the University of Florida. The Dairy Challenge is a unique, three-day educational event aimed at preparing students for careers in the dairy sector. Teams presented a 20-minute overview of their analysis and recommendations to judges and farm families. Rankings were based on how closely their evaluations aligned with the judges' assessments. DelVal's team consisted of Isabella Anderson '27, Michael Powell '27, Megan Roberts '27, and Maia Sudler '27, coached by Ms. Joanne Powell '89 and Dr. Ivelisse Robles.





▲ Dr. Gloria Oikelome Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presents Smith Easton '25 with the Presidential Scholar Award for achieving the highest GPA of the Class of 2025 during the Founders' Ceremony. The Founders' Ceremony is an annual event that recognizes the academic achievements of our students and the leadership of faculty, staff and administration who make DelVal such a vibrant institution.



▲ Marion Callahan, Assistant Professor of Media and Communication, won the Student Government Faculty Service Award. The Student Government Association honors an outstanding faculty member each year for their dedicated service to the student body. L-R: Douglas McCambridge, Associate Professor of Media and Communication, Marion Callahan and Dr. Brian Lutz, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of English.



Day of Scholarship & Founders' Day

On April 24, 2025, Delaware Valley University proudly celebrated its Day of Scholarship and Founders' Day, commemorating a decade of academic excellence and innovation—along with the 10-year anniversary of its transition from a college to a university. The Day of Scholarship featured dynamic presentations, panel discussions, and a student research symposium, followed by the Founders' Ceremony awarding students, faculty and staff for achievements and contributions.



▲ Dr. Douglas Linde '91, Professor of Turf Management, presents "Strategies to Engage Students Post Pandemic" to faculty and staff.



◀ DelVal Leaders Appointed to Key State Agricultural Roles

Dr. Broc Sandelin (R), Dean of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, was recently appointed as a State Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence. Chris Becker (L), DelVal's Director of Agricultural Operations, was recently appointed to the Pennsylvania Farm Link Board of Directors.

▼ DVU Faculty Named Hemp Expert at Penn State Center for Plant Excellence

Dr. Carla D. Garzon, a plant science professor at Delaware Valley University and holder of the prestigious K.H. Littlefield Endowed Professorship of Plant Science—the university's first endowed faculty position—has been appointed as the hemp expert at The Penn State Center for Plant Excellence.



◀ Soil Judging Team Wins Plant Mars Challenge Award

Delaware Valley University's Soil Judging Team earned a Best in Show Award in NASA's Plant Mars Challenge through a hands-on experiment exploring how to grow vegetables in Martian soil. As part of their experiential Soil Judging course, students designed and conducted an eight-week study using radishes and various soil amendments to address Martian soil's compaction and nutrient limitations. Their data-driven findings not only impressed judges but will also contribute to NASA's long-term mission of sustainable food production on Mars.



“DelVal was the only institution in the country to qualify three equestrian teams for the 2025 National Championships and we’ve really been celebrating since April. This is a huge accomplishment, and I am so proud of our student athletes and our coaching staff for all of their hard work and dedication this season.”

-Dr. Cory Kieschnick,
Director of Equestrian Sports
and Chair of Equine Science
and Management

All Three DelVal Equestrian Teams Shine On The Biggest Stage

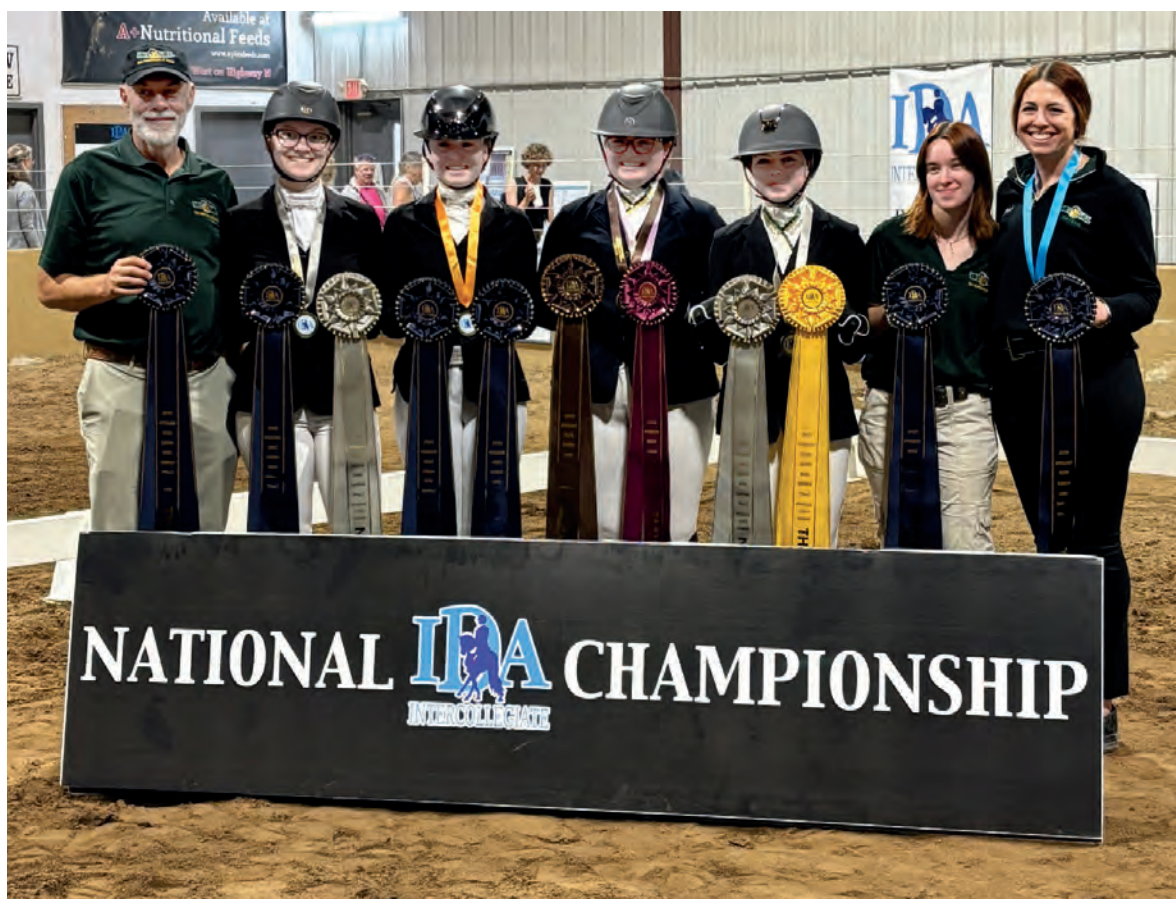
For the first time ever, all three Delaware Valley University equestrian teams qualified for their respective national championship competitions. Representing the University were the Dressage, Hunt Seat, and Western teams, which included 18 individual student-athletes who qualified for the competition with outstanding performances throughout the season.

“DelVal was the only institution in the country to qualify three equestrian teams for the 2025 National Championships and we’ve really been celebrating since April,” said Dr. Cory Kieschnick, director of Equestrian Sports and chair of Equine Science and Management. “We hosted a three-team party at the on-campus Equestrian Center with cake, music, temporary tattoos

and face paint, and pictures with Caesar. Now, after competing at IDA and IHSA Nationals, we have three nationally ranked teams. This is a huge accomplishment, and I am so proud of our student athletes and our coaching staff for all of their hard work and dedication this season.”

The Dressage team competed at the IDA national championships and

► Dressage team and individual riders with coaches Angelo Telatin and Taylor Adams '10, MBA '19.





- ◀ “Horns up” with Western riders and coach Andrew Wolf.
- ▼ Hunt Seat team riders with coaches Emily Miller '07, M.S. '15 and Ciara Tjong '13 and Director of Equestrian Sports and Chair of Equine Science and Management, Dr. Cory Kieschnick.

finished 12th overall. **Paige Gatz '28** started the competition strong with a 3rd place showing in individual low training.

The Western and Hunt Seat teams competed at the 2025 IHSA national championships in Tyron, NC. Each team finished seventh overall.

In the Western ring, **Alice Kaufman '25** highlighted the IHSA event with a championship performance in team Level 1 Horsemanship. On the Hunt Seat side, **Grace Allen '26** followed with a reserve champion showing in team intermediate equitation on the flat.

Brooke Wolfinger '25 and **Evan Holt '25** qualified for nationals as high point riders, a top-honor for students competing at the event. Brooke earned 11th place in the Back on Track High Point rider class, and also placed fourth in individual NRHA/AQHA reining, sixth in team open horsemanship, and seventh in NRHA team reining. Holt finished in 13th in the Cacchione Cup High Point rider class, just out of the ribbons, but earned two 8ths in the Team Open Flat and Fences classes.



Other notable finishes:

Alicia Smoot '28 – Fifth place, Team Level II Horsemanship

Maggie Mitchell '28 – Seventh place, Team Limit Equitation on the Flat

Kara Bishop '27 – Tenth place, Team Beginner Horsemanship

Madison Heitman '28 – Sixth place, Team Introductory Equitation on the Flat

Elsa Heacock '28 – Fourth place, Team Novice Equitation on the Flat

The success at nationals capped a historic season for DelVal equine, with all three teams representing the University on the biggest stage.



▲ Men's outdoor track and field celebrates its ECAC Championship finish



▲ Angelina Bresnen '26 rounds the bases after a home run during a home game



▲ Ashley Birmingham '25 on the attack for DelVal women's lacrosse



▲ Kyra McKeegan '25 gets a shot on goal for DelVal women's lacrosse

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 on social media!

Around DeVal Athletics This Spring

Aggies continued to shine on the field and around the track. Most recently, the men's outdoor track and field team captured first place at the ECAC Championships, defeating nine other teams and earning 154 team points. **Brandon Perot '25** led the way with a first-place showing in the men's hammer throw, a runner-up finish in shot put, and a third-place showing in discus throw. **Billy Mayer '26** took first overall in the men's javelin and **Caleb Messenger '25** won first overall in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

DeVal softball set a program record for wins in a season as they finished with a 21-16 overall mark. Three Aggies were named to all-conference teams including **Madison Donnelly '26** and **Angelina Bresnen '26**, who were second team honorees, and fellow **Amelia Funston '26**, who earned an honorable mention.

For women's lacrosse, **Ashley Birmingham '25** and **Kyra McKeegan '25** capped historic careers. Kyra graduates as the program's all-time points leader with 211 after leading the team with 69 this season. She also holds the program's all-time assist mark with 117. Ashley was named an all-conference honoree this season after setting a single-season record with 58 goals. She graduates as the program's all-time goals leader with 156 for her career.

ATHLETICS



◀ **Zoelin Pair '25** throws down a dunk during a home win over Misericordia

From Worst to First: Men's Basketball's Unforgettable Season

The 2024-25 preseason polls predicted a last-place finish for DeVal's men's basketball. Overcoming the sting of a challenging prior season and the loss of key scorers, Coach Muhamadou Kaba instilled a culture of toughness, competitiveness, and consistency, embodied by their motto: "Own It." This principle of accountability, championed by **Jordan Gombs '25**, **Jake McGinty '25**, **Zoelin Pair '25**, and **Antonio Redding '26**, fostered a unified team where individual roles were embraced.

Defying expectations, the Aggies quadrupled their conference wins to finish 8-6, securing the second seed in the MAC Freedom. Their remarkable transformation

culminated in a thrilling playoff run. After a semifinal victory, they faced top-seeded Stevens in a nail-biting championship game. Trailing by one with seconds remaining, a crucial offensive rebound by Jake set the stage for Antonio, the league MVP, who sank the game-winning shot as time expired.

After nine years, DeVal was once again conference champion. This improbable journey, fueled by a unified vision and unwavering self-belief, etched an inspiring chapter in the program's history, proving that when a team truly owns it, anything is possible.



▲ **Men's Basketball celebrates at Stevens with the MAC Championship Banner:** (L-R) Muhamadou Kaba, Rick Barry, Kevin Murray, Chris Cole, JT Wright '28, Miles Demby '28, Jordan Gombs '25, Jake McGinty '25, MarQuel Fitzgerald '28, Zoelin Pair '25, Jeremiah Alexander '26, Kamal Johnson '27, Jahan Owusu '28, Justin Ramsey-Blythe '25, Caleb Johnson '26, Antonio Redding '26, Reggie Washington '26, Ryan Everett '28, Mike Herrin '26, Jordan Strickland '26

► University Concert Series

Dr. Lauren Ryals, Assistant Professor and Director of Music, led our Chorus, Jazz Band and Symphonic Band for two Spring Concert Series held in DelVal's Life Sciences Building Auditorium.



◀ Blood Drive

The Office of Student Involvement and Student Government Association partner with the American Red Cross each academic semester to host a blood drive on campus. This year, DelVal's spring drive, held on March 26, was included as a location for the 6ABC Philly Blood Drive. DelVal's location collected 93 pints of blood, exceeding our goal by 25 pints.

► Relay for Life

On Saturday, May 3, the Students from the Colleges Against Cancer Club at DelVal raised \$7,196.50 during Relay for Life, a community-based walkathon held on campus.





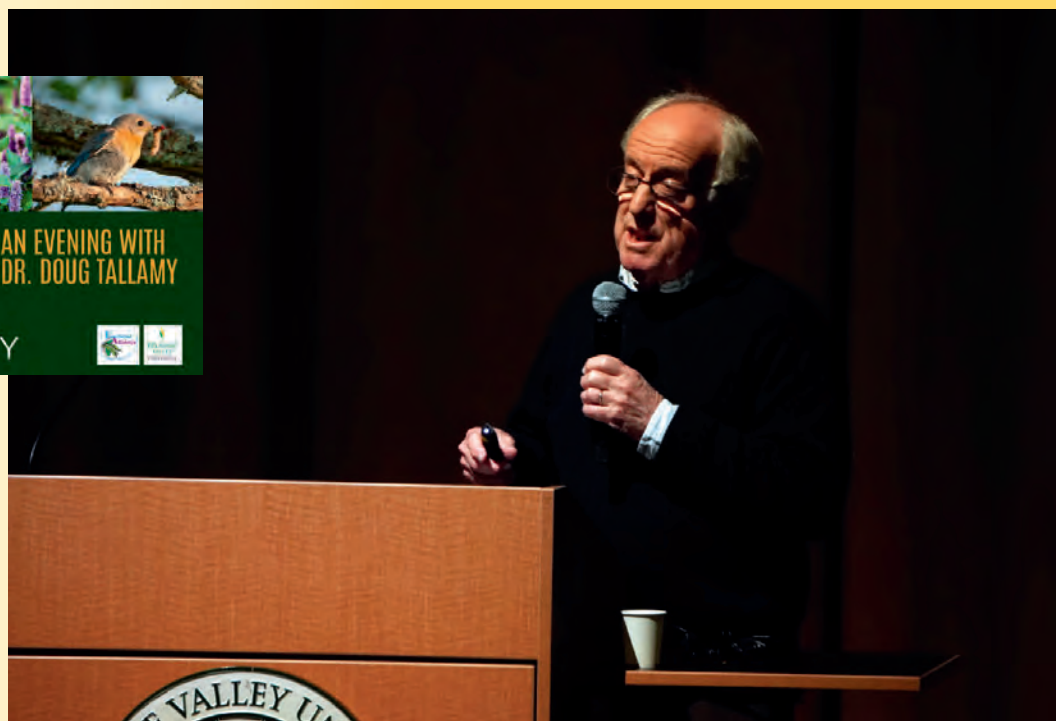
◀ Watson Executive in Residence

Bernard Tynes, Executive Vice President & Chief Consumer Banking Officer with Penn Community Bank, presented “From Suits to Sneakers: How Leadership is Evolving for a New Era” as part of our Watson Executive-in-Residence Program on May 1. L-R: Bernard Tynes, Dr. Tanya Casas, Dean of Business, Arts and Sciences, Katia Holmes '27, Business Administration, Watson Scholarship recipient.



▶ Dr. Doug Tallamy visits

The Bucks County Foodshed Alliance, One Health and the Arboretum at DelVal co-sponsored Dr. Doug Tallamy for a presentation of “Nature’s Best Hope”. He discussed simple steps that each of us can and must take to reverse declining biodiversity, pollinators and seed dispersers. Dr. Tallamy is a renowned entomologist, New York Times bestselling author, and professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware.



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS
A-DAY
2025
DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY

Delaware Valley University celebrated its 75th annual A-Day from April 25–27. The event showcased student-led exhibits, farm animals, live entertainment and family-friendly activities in a lively tradition that highlights agricultural and campus life.





ON CAMPUS

A-DAY *of* GIVING

April 24, 2025

We did it— thanks to you!

Delaware Valley University's A-Day of Giving on April 24, 2025 was a remarkable success thanks to your support. Our community raised more than \$210,000 from 492 donors. These funds will significantly benefit students in areas such as academics, scholarships, athletics and more.

We sincerely thank our alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends for your generous contributions. Your support drives our students' dreams and enhances their learning opportunities, equipping them for success.

A special thank you to our corporate sponsor, Faulkner Honda, for supporting both A-Day of Giving and the weekend festivities.

Your involvement is key to shaping our students' futures.





terrain

AT

DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY

AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

deeply rooted in nature.

GARDEN + HOME STORE

Plants + Nursery | Seasonal Home Decor
Outdoor Living | Design Services

EVENTS

Indoor + outdoor garden weddings and
celebrations for up to 162 guests

CAFE

Indoor + Outdoor Dining | Field to Fork Cuisine *including*
DelVal-grown produce | Bar + Barista Counter

SHOPTERRAIN.COM

2100 Lower State Road, Doylestown, PA 18901

Commencement 2025

Delaware Valley University celebrated its 2025 Commencement on Sunday, May 18, under clear blue skies and brisk winds. Four student speakers addressed the crowd, sharing reflections and hopes. Family and friends filled the stadium, cheering graduates as they crossed the stage, marking a joyful conclusion to their academic journey. Notably, the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program held its ceremony on Saturday, May 17, honoring its graduates' achievements.



▲ Student speaker Marissa Webb



▲ Student speaker Xiomara Sotomayor



▲ Student speaker Toluwanimi Adeaga



▲ First cohort of Master's in Speech-Language Pathology graduates



▲ Student speaker Gregory Gipe



We are pleased to announce the launch of the silent phase of **Elevate the Experience: The Campaign for DelVal**—a comprehensive fundraising initiative that will transform the student experience through enhanced academic programs and experiential learning opportunities, modernized campus facilities, and expanded student financial support. During this early phase, we are engaging key supporters to help lay a strong foundation for the public campaign ahead.

At a small school like DelVal, you can be sure that every dollar raised has a direct impact on the lives and future of our students. If you are interested in being a part of the campaign, please contact the Development and Alumni Affairs office at development@delval.edu or 215-489-2397.

Joe Fiochetta

Vice President, Development and Alumni Affairs



Scholarship Reception

Annual reception was held on March 27, 2025 at Terrain Gardens at DelVal.





▲ L-R: Dr. Benjamin E. Rusiloski, Nick Arcaroli '24, MBA '25, Kyleigh O'Hara '25, Greg Gipe '25

Nick Arcaroli '24, MBA '25

B.S. Business Administration with Specialization in Sports Management, minor in Media & Communication

Nick Arcaroli had the privilege of being a member of the football team during his four years at DelVal. After graduating last December, he stayed with the team, serving as the quarterbacks coach. He loves mentoring younger student athletes and wants to give back to the program and school that gave him so many opportunities.

"Being part of that team taught me valuable lessons in leadership, perseverance, and teamwork that I will carry with me throughout my career and life," shared Nick.

Nick is grateful for the scholarship support that not only helped ease the financial challenges of pursuing a college degree but also instilled in him the motivation and drive to reach his goals. He is currently studying to become a financial advisor and completed his MBA at DelVal in May. He is just starting his career at Karr Barth Associates in Greater Philadelphia.

"Thank you for believing in us, investing in our futures, and allowing us to pursue our goals with fewer obstacles," said Nick. "I am truly grateful for the role you have played in my journey, and I hope to one day pay it forward by helping others the way you have helped me."

Kyleigh O'Hara '25

B.S. Conservation and Wildlife Management with a minor in Animal Science

As a student with a disability, Kyleigh knows the additional challenges faced by some college students. She has been a recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship, which is awarded to students with disabilities.

"While I don't see my disability as something that ever truly limits me, awards like these are important because they recognize the extra set of struggles and setbacks that can come with being a disabled student in college," shared Kyleigh.

Kyleigh was inducted in the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society for first-year academic success, and was inducted last year into Delta Alpha Pi, a disability honor society of which she was a founding member. This year she co-founded the DelVal chapter of the national DREAM organization (disability, rights, education, activism, and mentoring). DREAM creates "a space for students with disabilities and their allies to come together with empathy and kindness, and to support positive accessibility changes on campus," said Kyleigh. She also worked in the library and was a peer tutor and resident assistant, in addition to participating in additional clubs on campus.

She plans to become an epidemiologist and will join the first class of students in the new master's in Public Health that starts this fall.

Greg Gipe '25

B.A. History, Policy and Society with Specialization in Agriculture Policy

Greg grew up in Fairfield, a small town in south-central Pa., near Gettysburg. Attending college was only possible for Greg due to the scholarships he received at DelVal. He shared that this support lifted the financial stress for him and his family and allowed him to focus on his studies and giving back as an engaged member of the DelVal community.

During his time at DelVal Greg was on the Men's Golf Team, worked in the athletic department doing gameday operations for multiple sports, was a member of the campus choir, served as vice president of the Farm Bureau Club, and vice president of the Student Athletic Advisory Council.

"To all of our donors, we want you to know that your gifts are more than just financial contributions; they are transformative investments in the futures of students, in the potential of individuals, and in the power of education to shape our world," shared Greg.

Julia Balzer '25

B.S. Animal Science

Julia developed an early connection to nature growing up in the Pinelands of New Jersey. Her passion for animals continued to grow and DelVal was a logical choice for her to pursue the Pre-Veterinary track. Her dream is to become a veterinarian.

Julia also has a passion for community and was pleased to find many opportunities for involvement in her extracurricular activities, including leadership positions in both the Equine Club and Pre-Veterinary Club. She also represented commuter students on the Student Government Board.

As a first-generation college student, Julia depended on the generosity of donors to make her dream of attending college a reality. "Your support, without a doubt, has impacted my journey, as well as the journeys of my fellow peers in this room. I promise to honor your investment in my future, and hope to give back to the community, paying it forward, as you have done for me."

Julia is attending veterinary school in the fall, and one step closer to realizing her dream.



▲ Julia Balzer '25

Bill and Catherine Achor

A Personal Connection to Giving

Bill Achor is President and CEO of York Ag Products, Inc. in York, Pa. He has been a strong supporter of DelVal through York Ag Products, Inc. for several years. In fall 2021, his company funded the **York Ag Products, Inc. Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Endowed Scholarship** at DelVal. The scholarship provides financial support for future generations of agricultural science professionals by supporting students who share a passion and commitment to addressing the agricultural and environmental concerns of our time.

"I knew of DelVal for several years, as many of my colleagues in this industry went to DelVal. I was intrigued by DelVal's origin as the National Farm School and by its founder, Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf. I found myself drawn to your mission, heartbeat, the novel approach of hands-on learning, and Krauskopf's vision," shared Bill. "I appreciate that DelVal teaches how to think, not what to think." It was this passion for DelVal that led Bill and

his wife, Catherine, to consider a personal gift to the institution. It led him to ask what they could do for DelVal that will really make a difference.

Bill knows how challenging it can be to get through college. He went to Virginia Tech and said he "...barely graduated but loved ag." He understands how important financial, academic, tutoring and emotional support is for students to be able to complete their degrees.

Ann Mossing, Director of Major Gifts, shared details of a new initiative, known as the "Green and Gold Pledge," that aims to enhance student retention and completion by creating a holistic, supportive framework for students' academic, social, and financial success. This initiative is built on proven best practices, focusing on student



"I know that my donation to DelVal will make a major impact, more than it might at a larger school. This is where we want to make an investment."

expectations, proactive guidance, and resources to support persistence and degree completion.

Bill said this is exactly what they were looking to support. "DelVal is kind of an underdog because it is a small school with a small endowment. Helping students complete college is very meaningful to me personally, and I know that my donation to DelVal will make a major impact, more than it might at a larger school. This is where we want to make an investment."

Bill and Catherine's generous pledge to the Green and Gold initiative will provide critical "seed" funding and allow DelVal to officially launch it when students return this fall.



Stan James and Jenny Ornsteen James

Sharing a Passion for Horses

Stan James and Jenny Ornsteen James share a passion for horses. In fact, they met 42 years ago at a race track in Florida, where they both worked in the race industry. They have been together ever since. They moved to Langhorne several years ago and started researching the area. Stan was looking for schools with equine science programs and found Delaware Valley University.

"I was really intrigued by the DelVal story. I loved the practical, hands-on approach to farming education that DelVal offers and the fact that, for a small school, you have a significant

and successful equine program," Stan shared. They contacted DelVal and have made many visits to campus.

Stan and Jenny had set up a Donor-Advised Fund several years ago and it was time to start distributing donations to nonprofit entities. They immediately knew that they wanted to do something with DelVal in recognition of their careers in the horse industry. They knew that their donation would make a very real and immediate impact on students' lives.

In 2020, they created—and continue to support—the **Stan James and Jenny Ornsteen James Equine Internships**



Stan James and Jenny Ornsteen James continued

Fund to promote the ethical treatment of animals in animal husbandry. Students can apply for the annual internship and work with the Equine Center faculty and staff to create a hands-on project that focuses on equine welfare. They present their work at the end of the semester.

When asked why they selected DelVal to support, Stan shared, "Horsemanship used to be very practical and many people had to learn it because it was the only form of transportation. Now it is more of

an art form, and we were impressed that DelVal is teaching horse education, the science of horses, along with providing opportunities for teams and competitions." They were excited this spring to learn that DelVal was the only school to qualify in all three equine competitions at nationals.

"We want to be very smart about our investments. We want to support institutions where our donation will make a significant difference," said Stan. "We know that helping support

and sustain a small school like DelVal is important and a very worthy cause."

Stan and Jenny enjoy reading the letters they receive from the students who are selected for the internship. "We love hearing about the student projects, and like to spend time in the stables, meeting the students and faculty, and seeing the horses. I just love the smell.... it is so familiar to us," added Jenny. "Once horses are a part of your life, you just feel it."

Brad Hershey '85

The Power of Scholarships and Gifts in Kind

Brad Hershey grew up on his family's dairy farm in Chester County, Pa., and always knew he would be in the farm business. His grandfather, Charles B. (Bud) Hooper, signed an agreement in 1941 to sell International Harvester equipment in Intercourse, Pa. He liked the location because the company wanted to be in a position to capture business when Amish farmers switched from horses to tractors. This year will be Brad's 40th year working at the family business and he manages the Mifflintown, Pa., Hooper store.

Brad's connections to DelVal run deep. He is a 1985 graduate and was a member of the wrestling team. He remembers his teammates and Coach Marshall with fondness. Brad's father, Arthur D. Hershey, served on DelVal's Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2022.

Brad graduated with a degree in business administration because there was no agribusiness major at that time. Brad and his wife Sandra enjoyed raising their family in Central Pennsylvania and their youngest, Sarah '26, will be a second-year student at DelVal in the fall.

Through Brad's efforts, Hooper established a scholarship in 2016 that goes to an exemplary agriculture student who participates on the A-Day Fair Committee. There is stiff competition for the scholarship, as there are a number of highly successful ag students for Dean Broc Sandelin to consider. This year, the scholarship went to Bruck Ohler '27.

In addition to student financial support, Brad has facilitated an important 'gift in kind' that provides critical hands-on learning for DelVal students. Hooper loans a Case IH tractor to DelVal, updating with a new model each year, allowing students to work with the latest equipment in the industry.

What inspired Brad to take this next step? "I got the idea from Russell Reading (PA Secretary of Agriculture and former DelVal dean) a few years ago," shared Brad. "The students get to work with the latest equipment and are familiar with our products before they start working in this industry. It is really a win-win for DelVal students and for Hooper."

We will see Brad and Sandra again at A-Day next April and their daughter's graduation next May. To Brad's delight, Sarah is majoring in agribusiness.



▲ L -R: Sandra and Brad Hershey '85, Arthur D. Hershey, Sarah Hershey '26

Honoring Veterans: Ron Morosky '67

A Journey from Vietnam to Public Service



Delaware Valley University takes time to reflect on the incredible contributions and stories of sacrifice, courage and dedication that veterans bring to our communities. One such story belongs to Ron Morosky, a DelVal alumnus whose service spans from Quantico to Vietnam to the Secret Service. Through his journey, we see the spirit of resilience, hard work and commitment that DelVal continues to support in its veteran students today.

EARLY DAYS AND THE PATH TO DELVAL

Ron grew up in Horsham, Pa., near Willow Grove Air Force Base. Fascinated by the sounds of aircraft overhead, he found inspiration close to home, with his older brother Joe—a senior at Delaware Valley University (then known as Delaware Valley College). After graduating from Hatboro-Horsham High School, Ron's academic path was uncertain. With guidance from DelVal's Dean Meyer and determination, he raised

his grades through night courses and gained admission to DelVal.

Initially interested in studying poultry science due to his childhood experience raising pheasants, Ron's path shifted under the mentorship of Dr. Feldstein, who recognized his work ethic and passion. Despite financial hardships that required Ron to work night shifts, Dr. Feldstein helped him secure a campus job, balancing his life and studies. Ron graduated in 1967, just before a life-changing moment: his draft notice.

FROM DELVAL TO VIETNAM

Drafted into service during the Vietnam War, Ron initially sought to join the Air Force but ultimately found his calling as a pilot with the Marine Corps. After rigorous training in Pensacola, Fl., where he trained on WWII-era aircraft, Ron became a helicopter pilot. Stationed first in North Carolina and later in Vietnam, he flew the CH-46 helicopter and was assigned to Helicopter Marine Medium Squadron. Facing intense combat situations, including a mission where his helicopter was struck by enemy fire, he carried the scars and memories of a war that claimed the lives of several of his comrades. Ron's experiences on these missions—particularly his close calls and encounters with danger—left a lasting impact on him.

A LIFE OF SERVICE BEYOND THE MILITARY

Upon returning home on Christmas Eve in 1970, Ron continued to serve, joining the Secret Service in 1973. As a Secret Service agent, he protected presidents, including Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and his friend Ronald Reagan, who once invited Ron in for coffee during a frigid campaign stop

in New Hampshire. His time with the Secret Service eventually led him to the U.S. Customs Service, where he combined his skills as a pilot with his passion for public service. Flying missions for Customs in South Florida, Ron faced conditions he often described as even more challenging than Vietnam.

SUPPORTING VETERANS AT DELVAL TODAY

Ron's journey reflects the values of perseverance and dedication that Delaware Valley University proudly supports in its veteran students. Today, DelVal offers an array of resources for veterans, from counseling and academic assistance to veteran-specific scholarships and career support. The University fosters a supportive environment for veterans transitioning from military to civilian life, recognizing the unique strengths they bring to the classroom and beyond.

When we honor veterans, we are reminded of stories like Ron's, where the journey from service to civilian life can take unexpected turns. DelVal remains committed to providing a foundation for veterans as they embark on new paths, honoring their past sacrifices and supporting their future successes.

A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Ron's life is a testament to the resilience and courage of those who have served. From DelVal to Vietnam and beyond, his story exemplifies a lifelong commitment to service and loyalty to his roots. We extend our gratitude to all who have served and continue to make a difference—at DelVal and around the world.

Your Connection to DelVal is Lifelong

Visit delval.edu/classnotes to share your news

1950s

Stanley Sessler '51 celebrated his 100th birthday with his family in March of 2024 before passing away on October 24, 2024. His son Greg said that Stanley continued to enjoy an active life every day up until his last days.



1970s

Steven Cornman '76, who graduated with a degree in dairy husbandry, was awarded the Obie Snider Award at the All-American Dairy Show this past September.



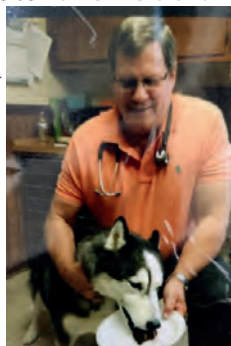
While waiting for a flight to Brussels, Belgium at the Kigali International Airport in Rwanda, Africa, **Christian Elliott '78** spotted a Delaware Valley University sweatshirt. That's when he met **Delice Twahirwa M.S. '24**, who is the manager of a large agricultural enterprise in eastern Rwanda. Chris (married to **Deloris Heisey Elliott '78**) is retired from dairy farming and pastoral ministry in Pennsylvania and

is teaching at a small Bible college in northwestern Rwanda.

Congratulations to **Daniel Nordland '79** on his

retirement from veterinary medicine practice after 28 years. Nordland owned a six-doctor small animal veterinary hospital in

Southern Pines, NC. Prior to that, he worked in a large swine production unit for nine years. Nordland credits DelVal for its instrumental role in preparing him for a very rewarding career.



1980s

Congratulations to **Barbara Petty '80**, who recently retired from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health (formerly Merial), where she worked as a Sr. Quality Assurance Auditor for 13 years and a Sr. Clinical Research Associate for another three years. She is now enjoying training her border collies for competitive sport events and teaching agility in Columbia, Mo.

Congratulations to **Howard Goldenberg '86** and his wife Riza on their retirement and best of luck as they relocate to Fort Lauderdale, Fl.

DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNOUNCED THE ELECTION OF NEIL CLOVER '89 AS ITS NEWEST MEMBER

Clover currently serves as Chief Technology Officer at SDI. Prior to this role, Clover was a partner executive at IBM Research, where he focused on Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, and the Internet of Things for the company's signature clients. His extensive career includes serving as Chief Technology Officer at Mathematica Policy Research and Arup, as well as Chief Technical Architect at Tyco International.

Clover earned a B.S. in Business Administration from DelVal and an MBA from La Salle University. He served as DelVal's Watson Executive in Residence in 2011 and was a member of the President's Advisory Council.



AGGIES AT THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF AG!

Did you know that four DelVal alumni are currently employed or associated with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, including three who serve on the board? **Rick Gardner '78** was recently appointed to the State's Board of Agriculture, joining **Kurt Alstede '85** and **David DeFrango II '95**. **Ed Wengryn '86** was appointed N.J. Secretary of Agriculture in March 2024.

1990s

Congratulations to **Ray Delaney '93** on his retirement from the City of Philadelphia – Department of Public Health, where he served as Chief of Vector Control.

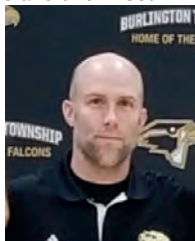
Since his retirement, Delaney was appointed the new community program specialist for the Pennsylvania Integrated Pest



Management program, which is a collaboration between Penn State and the Pa. Department of Agriculture.

2000s

Congratulations to **Jason Williams '01** who recently left his position as head girls' basketball coach at Burlington Township High School. His 165 wins are the most in school history and he was the only girls basketball coach to ever earn a BCSL Patriot Division Championship.



Robert Irving '01, President and CEO of Sentech, Inc., announced the acquisition



of a speed sensor manufacturer, Motion Sensors, which serves major space and aerospace companies like Blue Origin. Motion Sensor's sensor products were an integral part of the Blue Origin New Glenn Launch in January 2025. Irving has served as President and CEO since 2021.

Julia Krout '04, assistant professor of Animal Biotechnology and Conservation,

was awarded the 2024 Caroline Murray Training and Education Award from Metro NY AALAS at the Awards Dinner in February. The



award recognizes contributions to education and training, including: development of materials for instruction and the ability to engage and inspire independent and critical thinking among trainees; establishment of workshops, conferences, or networks of communication for education and training, such as lectures and seminars; achievement and leadership in an administration that facilitates education and training, activity in professional organizations that promote excellence; demonstrated outstanding performance, professionalism, dedication, enthusiasm, and vitality in learning and teaching.

Congratulations to **Brian Forsythe '07** and **Nicole Hood '14** on their marriage. The couple was married on December 7, 2024 in Hagerstown, Md.



2010s

Alicia Hoke '11 was promoted to State Rating Officer for Grade A Milk Plants with the Pa. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Food Safety after three years with the organization. Congratulations, Alicia!

On January 13, 2025, the White House announced that **Dylan Fedell '11** received the 2023 Presidential Award for Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). With up to 110 annual awardees, this award is the highest recognition for a K-12 STEM teacher nationwide! Dylan teaches science at Palisades High School.



Congratulations to **Kelly Griffin '14** who married Michael Babinchak on September 28, 2024 in Fryeburg, Me.

Mindy Schneider '15 was promoted to Client Representative in Commercial Lines at RCM&D, one of the top privately-held insurance brokerages in the nation. Mindy recently purchased a home in Baltimore, Md.

NEW MASTER'S IN PUBLIC HEALTH

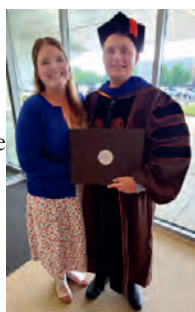
AT DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER IN HEALTHCARE

Visit delval.edu/MPH to learn more!



Brian Kron '17 completed his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Bowling Green State University, studying the connections between urbanization and amphibian diversity, after obtaining his master's in Biology from Saint Joseph's University. He recently moved to New England with his fiancée Gwynne and their dog Ginger, where Brian will begin a position as a postdoctoral researcher with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.



2020s

In March 2023, after getting married, **Josh Loew '20** and **Roula Loew '21** relocated across the country from New Jersey to Oregon. They had been working together for NJ Fish and Wildlife until Josh was offered the Wildlife Refuge Specialist at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. Josh has earned multiple promotions and is now the Refuge Manager.



In September of 2023, they welcomed their first child into the world. Their family is now happily living on a mountain in the high desert of southeastern Oregon, where they live a very remote life - 1.5 hours from the nearest grocery store and 3.5 hours from Walmart. They spend

their free time enjoying the outdoors - hiking to waterfalls, watching Sage grouse lek, observing bighorn sheep navigate steep cliffs, and waiting patiently for herds of pronghorn to cross the road.

Roula Loew is a volunteer for the Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, where she assists in a variety of wildlife surveys and wildlife photography.

Congratulations to **Andrew Landis '21** and **Sarah Fedder '21**, who got engaged on October 19, 2024. The couple both studied Conservation and Wildlife Management, where they met in class at DelVal and have been together ever since.



In Memoriam

Richard "Dick" H. Kustin '44
Stanley R. Sessler '51
Edward "Ed" J. Fleming, Jr. '53
Harry J. Conover '55
Thomas C. Dall '58
Stephen "Steve" M. Goldblatt '59
Thomas "Tom" H. Kruk '59
James "Jim" R. Hoover '61

William "Bill" A. Mayer '61
Dr. John L. Bulette '62
Donald A. Claycomb '62
Bruce E. Nickell '63
John F. Barnett, Sr. '64
Michael "Mike" G. Price '65
William "Bill" H. Cottrell '66
Thomas W. Grygo '66
Walter "Walt" G. Keppler, Jr. '66
Denis J. Palermo '67

George B. Steele '67
Carl Bahnck '68
Robert "Bob" F. Kerr '68
Richard F. Kellerman '69
Ronald S. Moyer '71
John d. Hurley, Sr. '72
James "Jim" L. Martin '73
Dr. Eugene "Gene" A. Fink, Jr. '74
Bruce N. Reinhardt '74
Dr. William "Bill" J. Lamont, Jr. '75

Joseph "Joe" R. Luybli '75
John "Dave" D. Stevens '76
William "Bill" E. Wilkes '76
Scott A. McFie '77
Jon E. Yerkes '77
Henry G. Krzewinski '79
Charles "Chuck" H. Steelman '80
Mark S. Dobies '81
Thomas "Tom" L. Murdough '81
Joseph A. Moore '82

Daniel "Dan" W. Planer '82
Michael "Mike" A. Rynkewitz '82
Carole L. Monkres '85
Craig E. Lambert '86
William E. Robbins, Jr. '87
David P. Welsh '87
Paul E. Thievon '88
William "Bill" G. Kendrick, Jr. '95
Gerald "Pat" P. Spearing '22, MBA '24



DELAWARE VALLEY
UNIVERSITY

700 E. Butler Ave.
Doylestown, PA 18901

Change Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
DOYLESTOWN PA
PERMIT 89



Save the Date

Homecoming
October 24-25

delval.edu/homecoming-2025