

DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY

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“Terrain will provide paid internship and employment opportunities for our students, as well as, a retail outlet for DelVal produce and products.”

Dear DelVal Community,

In the fall issue of *Horizons*, I spoke about the importance of traditions at DelVal. Despite the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to celebrate many DelVal traditions in person this year for the first time since 2020.

Our athletic teams enjoyed a robust season of competition. DelVal was well represented at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg in January. We hosted student scholarship recipients and donors at the Scholarship Reception in March. We had a record-setting attendance of over 250 newly accepted students and their families at our Green and Gold Day.

Many members of our campus community participated in our Day of Scholarship and Founders’ Day ceremony last month. Founders’ Day is especially important as we recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements by DelVal students, faculty and staff. The campus and outside community attended in big numbers for A-Day. As you will read in this issue, this 70-year tradition was a huge success with large crowds and a well-executed event. Congratulations to our students for doing a superb job of executing this event.

What do we look forward to next year? We will welcome the largest incoming freshmen class in recent years. The new graduate programs in Speech-Language Pathology and Physician Assistant Studies will welcome their inaugural classes.

And, through an important new strategic alliance, we will welcome Terrain at Delaware Valley University, a garden, lifestyle, restaurant and event venue, in summer 2023, to the old Market location on campus. Terrain will provide paid internship and employment opportunities for our students through our E360 program, as well as, a retail outlet for DelVal produce and products such as honey and hot sauce. Read more on page 30.

These are exciting times at DelVal and we thank you for all you do to support our community.

Best regards,

Benjamin E. Rusiloski, Ph.D.
President



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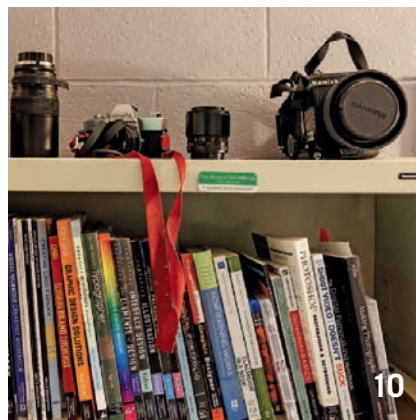
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Not Just Any Day, A-Day

By Nicole McMahon

For Delaware Valley University (DelVal) and the surrounding community, A-Day is not just any day, it's an event that's cherished by many, and fun for all. Previously known as "Agriculture Day," the first A-Day was held May 21, 1949 as a field day sponsored by the Dairy Society of what was then, the National Agricultural College. In its first few years, A-Day was a single day when students of the college worked together to showcase various agricultural displays and exhibits. The original A-Day was designed to attract local farmers and to provide a place of exhibit and interest for local students in agriculture as well as members of 4-H and other clubs.

Exhibits during the original A-Day included everything from Orchids and Their Propagation, Bee Keeping to Model Landscape, Floral Arrangements and more. There were showing contests for dairy cows, beef cattle, poultry, and horses. For entertainment, there were several contests including log-sawing, greased pig contests, and cow milking. An article published in *The Gleaner* in 1949, gives glimpses of what it was like to be at the very first A-Day.

"My parents would bring me out for A-Day when I was little, so I have wonderful memories. They had it in a barn. One of the things I remember was where they had eggs in various stages of the embryo to the chicken, which I thought was fascinating."

-Joan Paaske, great-granddaughter of DelVal Founder, Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf



“I first learned about DelVal at A-Day. I thought, ‘Wow.’ I was writing my dissertation at the time and I remember thinking wouldn’t it be great to work at DelVal? As soon as there was an opening I applied.”

-Dr. Tanya Casas,
Dean of the School of
Business and Humanities



▲ 1989



▲ 1996

The article highlights fun anecdotes from the day including how during the greased pig contest, one pig got through the fence and headed to Lake Archer, with students behind him in full pursuit. Other fun narratives from the day include a tie breaker for the faculty milking contest between two professors at 4:15 am. Community members who attended the first A-Day were not disappointed and an estimated 1,000 people were in attendance.

Over 70 years later, the tradition continues at a much larger scale with tens of thousands of visitors in attendance. The event is still entirely student-run as students plan, organize and implement A-Day each spring with little assistance from faculty and staff, giving them valuable real-world experience in preparation for successful futures. As

A-Day has evolved throughout the years, the event has transformed from Agriculture Day to Activities Day and A-Day is not just one day, as its name implies, but an entire weekend.

Where A-Day used to focus mainly on agriculture, the yearly tradition now focuses on exhibits and displays that showcase Delaware Valley University’s large array of experiential learning opportunities including Business and Humanities, Life and Physical Sciences, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, and more. Additionally, since 2004, A-Day has been part of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs and members of the local community are invited to enter their food items, artwork, and handicrafts for judging in the fair.



▲ 1950



▲ 2002



▲ 2001



▲ 1996

▲ 1990

A-Day 2022 Back and Better Together

By Nicole McMahon

For students at DeVal, A-Day is one of the biggest weekends of the year. “Words can’t describe how good it feels to play such an important role in organizing A-Day, knowing that everyone from around the community looks forward to it each year,” says President of the A-Day Executive Committee, Tiffany Lenhart ’22.

Whether students are on the A-Day Executive Committee, or competing in one of many contests, their hard work and dedication creates an exciting, educational, and fun event that engages fellow students, faculty, staff, and the local community. “Seeing so many new faces A-Day weekend and hearing how much A-Day means to them, is something that is unforgettable and makes me feel like I am leaving an impact on the community,” Lenhart ’22 reflects.

It’s no secret that community members look forward to A-Day each year, but this year, especially, people were very excited. A-Day 2022 was

back for the first time in three years due to the pandemic, and for many students this was their first A-Day ever. Students who take part in the planning and organizing of A-Day benefit in more ways than one. “By being part of the A-Day Executive Committee, it has not only helped me to make networking connections, but also taught me how to effectively manage a group of people to create a successful end product, in this case, A-Day,” Lenhart ’22 emphasizes.

Exemplifying experiential learning and real-world experience, A-Day is beneficial for students, and fun for all.





Photos from left: A-Day Executive Committee; Molly O'Sullivan '22, a dairy science major; Abe Yoder '22 (left) and Christine Lambert '22 (right) are named A-Day Royalty; a happy A-Day customer.



DeVal Storytellers

How do you define storytelling? The dictionary defines storytellers as “relaters of anecdotes, reciters of tales (as in a children’s library), and writers of stories.” According to students at DeVal and faculty of the English department, the definition of storyteller is more complex.

By Leyla Danis



▲ *Hannah Seltzer '22, media and communication major*

delval.edu/storytellers

▼ Katie Carnevale, media and communication instructor



Storytelling is a concept all of us embrace daily, sometimes subconsciously. Storytelling at DelVal gives students the unique opportunity to engage with creatives who share the same passion. Today, storytelling lives in various mediums from blogging to book writing, poetry, illustration, film, videos, social media, drama, photography, and the web. DelVal gives students a wide array of opportunities to express their stories across these various mediums.

Dr. Brian Lutz, associate professor of English and department chair, defines storytelling as “the vehicle by which we decipher the ultimately untranslatable world,” and a “storyteller” as one who “makes simple the infinite and the arcane.” Dr. Lutz teaches courses on poetry, contemporary literature, science fiction and fantasy literatures, as well as many of the department’s writing workshop courses.

He describes “stories” as maps and compasses that help us navigate dark waters. “Stories are as essential to humanity as oxygen, pizza, and smartphones,” said Lutz. “Ultimately, we learn stories because stories are how we learn.”

▼ Brooke Farber '22, media and communication major



From a similar student perspective, Zaida Martin '25, a literary studies major, defines it as a form of expression. “I believe in any capacity, it is the ability to convey emotions and passions in a way other than talking,” said Martin '25. “I think it is theatrical, musical, and poetic all in one, and what is amazing about it to me is the idea that it does not have to be true or of any ‘importance,’ it simply has to be.”

The Gleaner, a literary publication that has been around for over a century dating back to 1912, is one such opportunity for DelVal storytellers to express their creativity. Throughout its lifetime, the publication has transformed from serving as DelVal’s campus newsletter to its current iteration as the institution’s undergraduate, theme-based literary journal. In addition to its annual print edition, *The Gleaner* also operates as a website and across three social media platforms. *The Gleaner*’s staff is comprised of several DelVal faculty, staff and undergraduates. As *The Gleaner* features written work and photography, the publication combines the work of students from majors like writing and literary studies and media and communication.

STORYTELLERS



Dr. Wilbert Turner, associate professor of English, is *The Gleaner*’s publication advisor. He specializes in African American literature, adaptation studies, film studies and narrative theory, and is an award-winning playwright. While talking about a particular student who was able to take an unfortunate experience and view it as a systemic issue, Dr. Turner says, “I want students to break away from the tendency to rely on regurgitation, and be able to apply what they learn and always see themselves in the context of the world, and not only see themselves as a separate entity.”

“Ultimately, we learn stories because stories are how we learn.”

-Dr. Brian Lutz, associate professor of English and department chair

“If someone asks, ‘why?’ rather than just doing what they’re told after taking a class with me, I can’t ask for more than that, honestly”

-Dr. Jessica McCall, associate professor of English

Dr. Jessica McCall, associate professor of English, has taught Women’s Literature, Fanfiction Writing Workshop, Shakespeare, Young Adult Literature, Graphic Novels, Introduction to Literature and more. One of her favorite things to teach is honors courses ranging from Studio Ghibli to dystopian stories and co-teaching with her colleagues in the science departments.

“It has been obvious over the past few years, that students have been increasingly controlled in the high school environment and so few of them still have their imagination when they get to DelVal, and many of them think their imagination isn’t something ‘real,’” said McCall. “But, I also think we have a lot of young people that want to reject this narrative and live their lives by their own rules.”

With an understanding that her students are finding themselves through public speaking, written work, visual media, educating, and more, Professor McCall strives to inspire curiosity and hope in the students who take her classes.

“If someone asks, ‘why?’ rather than just doing what they’re told after taking a class with me, I can’t ask for more than that, honestly,” said McCall.

Stepping out of the norm to convey an important message is a common theme amongst students of the literary and media and communication majors. Students gain the most experience in their field when they are encouraged and inspired to venture into areas that are unfamiliar. In fact, Brooke Farber ’22, a media and communication major and business administration minor, encourages students to step outside of their comfort zone.

She began her journey at DelVal in the School of Life and Physical Sciences, but always had a peaking interest in storytelling through the media. This interest sparked Farber’s motivation to change her major to media and communication. “With DelVal’s program, I was able to get an understanding of both the digital and written components that come with the media industry,” said Farber ’22. “I really enjoyed learning about what actually happens behind the



▲ Dr. Brian Lutz, associate professor of English and Department Chair



▲ Dr. Jessica McCall, associate professor of English



▲ Dr. Wilbert Turner, associate professor of English



▲ Miller Huertgen '22, media and communication major

scenes of the posts, videos and the written articles we see.”

Farber '22 created a short film about DelVal's English department, which landed on DelVal's website. She embarked on the project because she had the vision of telling the stories of others and wanted the technical experience of media planning and editing. “After graduation, I would like to eventually get into pre-production and/or management for film and TV,” said Farber '22. “I enjoy working with people so, I want to work with either casting, location scouting or producing.”

Katie Carnevale, a media and communication instructor at DelVal, teaches many courses including Intro to Communication, Writing for Public Relations and Advertising, and News Reporting and Writing. She has been instrumental in updating and developing new courses including Social Media Content, Sports Media, and Digital Media and Podcasting. She also serves as the faculty advisor to the Full360Blog and Alpha Zeta Mu, DelVal's chapter of the Lambda Pi Eta National Communications Honor Society.

“My students connect most with class material and concepts when they are able to see the real-world application of what they are learning, and they also have an expectation that technology will play a key role in their education,” said Carnevale. “They want to have the difficult conversations about what is going on

in the world, they want their voices to be heard, and they want to be contributors to society.”

Carnevale and her Elements of Blogging class have recently launched the blog “Full360,” which gives an inside look at Experience360, DelVal's award-winning experiential learning program, and set students up for a successful transition into the working world. Douglas McCambridge, assistant professor of media and communication, works alongside Carnevale in teaching the course, which is designed to help students create a website portfolio that showcases the work they've done during their time at DelVal.

McCambridge has worked as a professional graphic designer/photo editor for over 20 years and has experience in both print and digital design. As Professor McCambridge teaches the visual courses of Graphic Design, Photography, Video Production, and Publication Design, Carnevale specializes in the written aspects of media.

“It is during the senior seminar course that students really start to think about what they want for their future,” said Carnevale. “It is so exciting when a student has an ‘aha’ moment and you see them really connect to an aspect of media or communications and they begin to think about how they can make a career out of it.”

Explore *The Gleaner*, Be Inspired!

110 YEARS OF STORYTELLING

The Gleaner is DelVal's undergraduate theme-based literary journal. The publication provides a multitude of opportunities for DelVal storytellers to share their unique experiences and express their creativity.

Featuring students' written work, photography, and more, *The Gleaner* is printed annually and is also available to view online.

Be inspired and discover the creativity of DelVal's storytellers.

Visit delvalgleaner.com
Follow @delvalgleaner
on Instagram



What's your story? How do you convey it? At DelVal, students take curiosity to the next level by telling their stories in numerous ways on campus. Visit delval.edu/storytellers to stay updated with the authentic work of DelVal's storytellers!

Ashlynn Masters '22 Explores Her Passion for Microbiology and Biotechnology Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Ashlynn Masters '22 is a biology major with a specialization in microbiology and biotechnology. She became interested in DelVal because of its location, the variety of unique majors, and the close-knit sense of community.

Masters entered DelVal as a zoology major with aspirations to become an exotic veterinarian. However, after gaining valuable field experience at DelVal, she discovered more of an interest in molecular biology and lab-based research work.

During her time at DelVal, Masters completed two research projects, gained more experience in the microbiology lab, experienced additional leadership opportunities through her lab assistant position, and built relationships with new professors in other areas of study.

"I work closely with many of my professors daily as I work to assist them in preparation of the biology labs that they teach. Through these experiences, I have been able to build such strong relationships with my professors and will continue to keep in touch even after graduation," Masters says.

After her first research project, Masters attended the Northeastern Plants, Pests, and Soils Conference with her advisor where she participated in the poster competition

and ended up winning second place, the only undergraduate student to win an award!

After graduation, Masters hopes to find an entry-level research position at a local pharmaceutical company to test the waters before she decides to fully commit to the field. "My current end goal is to work in vaccine or pharmaceutical development and research," Masters explains. "If I continue, I would like to attend graduate school, eventually earning my Ph.D. in virology, immunology, or something similar," she notes.

Masters is most passionate about vaccines and public health. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has stirred her thoughts about public health which has made her even more passionate about learning the field.

"One thing I observed this past year was the uproar regarding the

COVID-19 vaccines, and the vaccine-hesitancy movement. This really struck something in me, as a person who is educated on the science and meaning behind these miraculous developments," she reflects.

"100 years ago, the globe would have been ecstatic to receive a vaccination to some of the most morbid diseases, however, in today's world, I believe we have lost sight of the true purpose behind these developments," Masters adds.

"The recent movements against vaccination and the pharmaceutical industry have really set us back scientifically, and researchers must now 'earn back' the trust of the world. I am passionate about educating society on the great benefits of vaccination, and shedding light on the mortality that disease caused before vaccines and modern medicine were an option," she concludes.

Masters' hands-on experience, including her two student research projects, has allowed her to gain independent experience on specific topics that spark her curiosity. And, her work with mentors outside of the classroom is sure to benefit her future endeavors.



Chancellor Linder '19 Finds His Passion for History and Education at DeVal

Chancellor Linder '19, a history, policy and society alumni, completed an internship at Eden Cemetery in Collingdale, Pennsylvania. Linder was responsible for locating the graves and tombstones of veterans from the Civil War, WWI, and WWII eras. The location was in the process of building a virtual cemetery and needed assistance correctly translating the information onto the website. Through this experience, Linder learned how to navigate his way through a cemetery and read a cemetery's map.

"I also came across some important people who had an impactful role in the Philadelphia area that were buried in this cemetery," says Linder. "I enjoyed my time here because it made me think about history in a way I never did before."

It has always been Linder's goal to become an educator. He is currently a substitute teacher at MaST Community Charter School, a Math, Science, and Technology Community Charter School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he hopes to transition to a full-time history teacher position.

Linder recalls his Differentiated Instruction course at DeVal, where he was tasked with creating lesson plans for students from the Central Bucks School District Intermediate Unit in the Aaron building every Thursday. This gave him the

opportunity to experience creating his own lesson plan well before instructing a classroom.

"This only reinforced my desire to become an educator even more because it was a very pleasant learning experience for myself and everyone involved," explained Linder. "The faculty takes the time to understand each student's unique situation, while still motivating and holding their students accountable to stay on top of their work."

Linder is also appreciative of the family-like environment at DeVal, and its location was key. "Being from Philadelphia, although DeVal is not that far from my home, it still gave me enough sense of independence with the option to make a quick trip home for any reason," says Linder. During his time at DeVal, Linder was a student-athlete, a member of the Black Student Union, and a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

"Remember you are making an investment in yourself, and you should try your absolute best to get the most out of it, whether it be academically, mentally, physically, financially or spiritually," Linder advises. "A college campus has endless resources available in order to put you in a better position, but what's important is how you use that to your advantage."



"I enjoyed my time here because it made me think about history in a way I never did before."

-Chancellor Linder '19

DelVal wins “Best Commercial Vendor Display” at the Pennsylvania Farm Show

▼ Tiffany Lenhart '22, an agribusiness major

Several DelVal student Agriculture Ambassadors were responsible for the set-up of DelVal’s vendor at the 106th Pennsylvania Farm Show. Students and faculty represented the University by speaking to potential students, partners and supporters about the school’s unique opportunities. The show took place from January 8th to January 15th at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center in Harrisburg, PA. The show’s theme this year was, “Harvest More.” DelVal took home the “Best Commercial Vendor Display” award on January 11.



▶ Tiffany Lenhart '22, an agribusiness major, Hayden Guldin '22, a crop science major, and Broc Sandelin, Dean of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences meet with Russell Redding, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture.





▲ DelVal's vendor exhibit included a photo backdrop assembled by Olivia Wyckoff '22.

▲ Cameron Calabro '24, an agribusiness major

▶ Rebekah Alstede '23, an agribusiness and sustainable agriculture major, and Olivia Wyckoff '22, a horticulture and agribusiness major, share the excitement for DelVal's win.



New Faces and Facility Upgrades Help Propel Aggies Through 2022 and Beyond

The Delaware Valley University athletic programs enjoyed a successful return to play in the 2021-22 academic year with many new faces in leadership and improvements to facilities across campus that brought restored energy, and a renewed passion to foster growth and development for current and future Aggies.

By Chris Elliott, Director of Sports Information



▲ Men's Basketball Head Coach Muhamadou Kaba

Nine different programs began a new dawn with first-year head coaches now at the helm, and three programs have coaches in just their second year. Transitioning away from pandemic restrictions, year two for second-year coaches is the first full season with their teams.

Men's basketball, baseball, men's and women's cross country and track and field, men's wrestling, cheerleading, women's lacrosse, women's soccer, softball, and women's volleyball were directly impacted by the changes and the department was encouraged by the additions.

Muhamadou Kaba (men's basketball), Kyle Lindsay (baseball), Tim Wilson (men's and women's cross country and track and field), Andrew Taylor (men's wrestling), Leigh Jaynes (women's wrestling), Shannon DeFazio '13 (cheerleading), Lisa Clark (women's lacrosse), Ben Wilson (women's soccer), Jamie Stefani '19 (softball), and Rachel Menin (volleyball) make up the cast of new head coaches tabbed to help DelVal Athletics, and its student-athletes, maintain a competitive spirit on the field while demonstrating character and success.

In addition to the many new faces, various places around campus that Aggies call home have a newly invigorated look as well. The Athletic Department took existing space in



▲ Football Head Coach Tim Wilson, Logan Cooper '22, Assistant Coach Bryce Millar, Ethan Berberabe '22

James Work Gymnasium and created a brand new recruiting room as a place for coaches, student-athletes, recruits and their parents to come together, watch film, share ideas and discuss future plans. A photo collage mural that scales an entire wall displays the rich history of DelVal Athletics throughout the years, dating back to its first competition over 100 years ago.

James Work Gymnasium, the home of the Aggies' men's and women's basketball teams, women's volleyball, and men's and women's wrestling teams underwent major renovations this year and now has a brand new floor complete with a modern look. The floor features a two-tone wood stain, with the inside of each three-point arc slightly darker than the rest, and the DelVal ram logo is splayed largely across center court. The outer perimeter is painted with a thick green line while the lanes to

each basket have a light wood stain with the Middle Atlantic Conference logo in green and gold printed in the center. University logos displaying the school's name and mascot are printed on the court while each baseline features a large "DELVAL" logo display.

Another major change announced this year was the locker room renovations that are slated to unveil prior to the start of the 2022-23 academic year. The renovations were made possible thanks to a generous gift from Dr. Thomas Watson, class of 1957, and his wife, Judee Wales Watson. (See article on pages 16-17 in Fall 2021 issue of *Horizons*.) Watson was a student-athlete during his days at DelVal as a member of the baseball team.



DID YOU KNOW?

DelVal was the winningest football team in the state of Pennsylvania in 2021

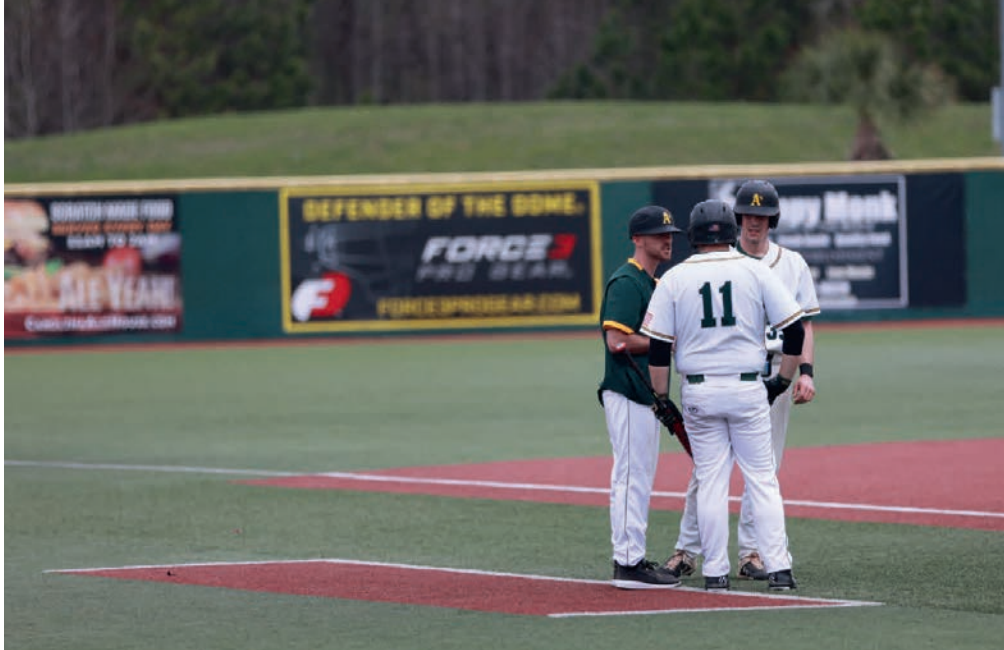


ATHLETICS

The Dr. Thomas and Judee Wales Watson Locker Rooms will feature modern wood lockers and benches, athletic flooring with inscribed logos, improved bathroom areas, new wall and ceiling finishes, suspended LED lighting fixtures, improved perimeter heating, and technology upgrades for teams to watch videos and prepare for upcoming contests.

Watson also earmarked a portion of his funds to make improvements at Frank Wolfgang Field, home of the DelVal Aggies baseball team. Renovations to the field and surrounding areas were completed in preparation for the team's 2022 season and included new home bullpens, a new rain tarp, and many improvements to the grading and sloping of the field to help drain water and improve playability.

DelVal Athletics saw great success in 2021-22 with its fourth-straight Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Football Championship and conference postseason appearances by both men's and women's basketball. In track and field, a number of school records were broken. The men's 4x200 relay team won third place at the conference championships while the men's 4x400 team took home second. Individually, Justin Kaufman earned all-MAC accolades with a third place showing



▲ Baseball Head Coach Kyle Lindsay with Brandon Hoagland

in the men's 400-meter run where he set a new program record with a time of 50.93 seconds.

Men's and women's wrestling continued to build under second-year head coaches and each team qualified an individual for the National Championship tournament. Bridgette Schoultz '23 finished fifth in her region to earn a spot at nationals and Youssef Ait Boulahri '22 took home second place at the Southeast Regionals to punch his first ticket to nationals.

In just the fall and winter alone, DelVal student-athletes accounted for 31 all-conference accolades, 10 all-region players, four All-Americans, 60 academic honor roll

members, three academic all-MAC honorees, and two academic all-area performers.

The Aggies will be hot on the recruiting trail all summer, and coaches will be eagerly searching for prospective student-athletes to continue to grow DelVal Athletics and carry on the core values of Delaware Valley University.

For the latest news on Athletics, please visit delval.edu/athletics.



▲ Women's Lacrosse Head Coach Lisa Clark

The Evolution of Our Mascot Caesar the Ram

Caesar has certainly come a long way!



▲ 1960



▲ 1978



▲ 1988



▲ 1998



▲ 2013



◀ 2022

Commencement Speaker, Philip Martelli, Sr. Encourages Students to Live Their Dreams

On May 14, 2022, commencement speaker and celebrated basketball coach, Philip Martelli, Sr., encouraged graduates to be grateful for the people who have uplifted their education and made sacrifices to ensure their success at DelVal.

“I ask the graduates to stand and to utilize the most powerful tool that any of us possess, the ability to thank those who have accompanied you along the way, to thank those who have sacrificed so much that today you will walk across the stage as a graduate,” said Martelli upon delivering his speech.

As a celebrated basketball coach and community leader, Martelli made a suggestion to graduates that relates back to his many years of coaching.

“My suggestion is that each of you in your own way take up coaching [...] Understand that no matter where life takes you, you will be on a team. Every team needs a coach and each of you, with your Delaware Valley University education as your foundation, is prepared to be the head coach,” Martelli expressed. “Coaching is dreaming. What are your dreams? With whom have you shared your dreams? [...] Keep dreaming.”



▲ Commencement speaker, Philip Martelli Sr. personalizes his speech to DelVal students.



▶ Pictured center, Justin Briggs '22 Young Alumni Trustee and member of the Black Student Union.



▶ (left to right) Commencement speaker, Philip Martelli Sr.; Director of Athletics, Dave Duda; President, Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski



▶ (left to right) Trustees Chloe Sees '20, Dr. Linda Detweiler '80, Joy Levy, Majid Alsayegh, Jonathan Mandell



1896 Society Dinner

Dr. Rusiloski welcomed leadership donors to the 1896 Society Dinner on Thursday, November 11, 2021. The event, “Celebrating 125 Years of Experiential Learning,” was attended by over 150 people.



▲ Janis Wozar '88 and George Wozar



▲ Justin Briggs '22, a media and communication major



▲ Dan Coley, William Kaminsky and Stan James



▲ Darian Poles '21, Tiffiany Lenbart '22, Jennifer Coleman '17 and Tyler Coleman '16



▲ Dr. Cynthia Keler '84 recipient of the Patricia Hilton Volunteer of the Year Award, Dr. Rusiloski, and Pat Hilton '76



▲ Lerae and Dr. Broc Sandelin, James Diamond '61



▲ Joseph (Chip) Krauskopf, great-grandson of founder Rabbi Dr. Joseph Krauskopf and Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, with Richard Allman, great-grandson of DelVal's third president, Herbert D. Allman, at the 1896 Society Dinner.

A Tradition of Leadership

Herbert Allman served as president of the National Farm School from 1925 to 1939. The Administration and Farm Mechanics Building, now known as the Herbert D. Allman Building, pictured below, was built in 1925.

This year's 1896 Society Dinner was held at the Joseph Ambler Inn (josephamblerinn.com), a historic property in Horsham that dates to the late 1700s, and is owned by Richard Allman and his wife, Janet Allman. The Inn is comprised of several historic properties that the Allmans have restored and was the perfect setting to celebrate 125 years of our institution.



Family Roots Inspire Trustee to Pay it Forward with Annual Scholarship

Board of Trustees member, **Hakim R. Savoy '90**, continues to honor his father and pay forward his passion for activism, agriculture and education through an annual scholarship at Delaware Valley University. Hakim's father, Richard Savoy, passed away in 2016. Hakim established the Richard Savoy Memorial Annual Scholarship for Agriculture and Science to carry on his father's mission of ensuring education for future generations.

"My father believed that science and agriculture should be an important part, among other aspects, of the capability in our communities. The scholarship established in his name allows us to help students who have a passion for agriculture and science. It allows them to exercise their passion and deliver on their potential and their promise so that they can pay it forward and one day start their own DelVal scholarship for future students," Hakim explains.

"If we continue to pay it forward, we'll all be better off, and we'll create a better world for more and more people," he adds. Hakim was raised in Philadelphia, and throughout his childhood he saw both his mother and father devote much of their time to education. "My father was a blue-collar worker at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and after his eight to ten-hour days, he focused on educating youth and establishing Rites to Passage classes, which is part of the African tradition and African-American culture," he notes.

Hakim's father was also an advocate for fighting food insecurity. "My father really saw the connection between agriculture and science by using the sciences to find better, more affordable sources of food and sustenance for our underserved communities," Hakim refers.

Hakim combined his father's passion for agriculture, science and education with his own desire to help relieve the financial burden placed on students today.

"I created this scholarship, yes to honor my father, but primarily, to help students be in the position to pay it forward. How can we do our part to help students who may have financial concerns around maintaining their status on campus, and who have talent and potential, and are interested in the sciences? This scholarship was born out of those collective points of light. And what better way to honor my father?" he asks.



With this scholarship, Hakim impacts a field that has deep roots within his family and helps provide access to education in agriculture and science. "When I think about my father and this scholarship, in the grand scheme of things, it may seem like a small contribution, but if everyone does what they can, collectively, we'll make a greater impact. I encourage people to consider what they can contribute, whether it's time, thought leadership, financial support, or all of the above."

"If we continue to pay it forward, we'll all be better off, and we'll create a better world for more and more people."

-Hakim R. Savoy '90



Giving Students the Gift of Opportunity for Future Career Success

Alumnus attributes his successful career to DelVal and establishes endowed scholarship with gratitude



Leonard Tritt '69 says he would not have been able to attend college without financial aid. The DelVal alumnus was an agronomy major whose

experiential education launched his successful 34-year career in soil science with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and eventually with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

From the outset, Leonard knew that paying for college was going to be a challenge. “My parents couldn’t afford to cover the costs of college, nor could I,” he explains. Thankfully, Leonard was awarded a \$500 scholarship after finishing high school and obtained a federal student loan. He also worked in DelVal’s Agronomy department through the Campus Employment Program, and received a state grant during his junior and senior year.

With sufficient support, Leonard was able to graduate from DelVal with minimal financial burden. “From my own experience, I’ve known that college is expensive, and the cost has only increased since I was in school,” he says. This is partly what motivated Leonard, and his wife, Connie, to fund an endowed scholarship for the University.

“I did it because it’s necessary. There’s a great need and it’s a good way to give. I couldn’t have had the career that I did without, first,

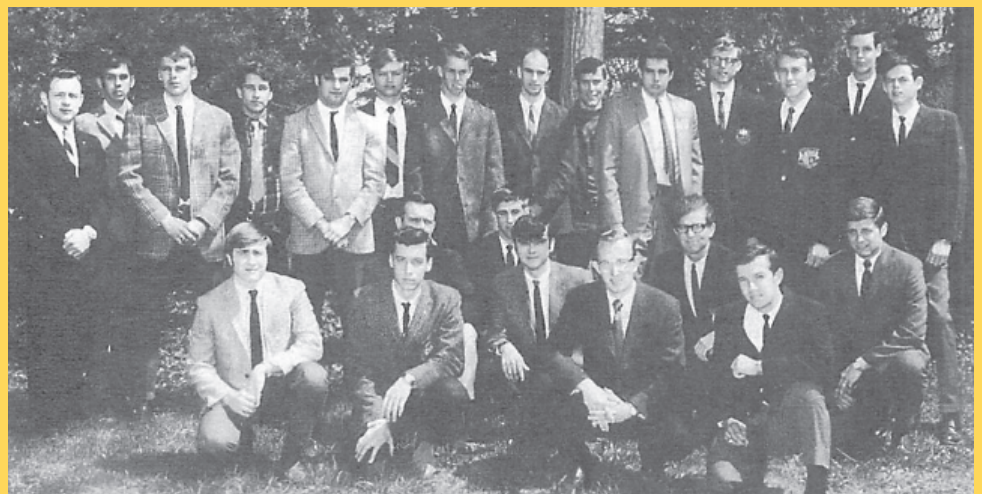
► *1969 Soil Conservation Society*

God’s leading, and second, without DelVal. Everything that made my career happen began at DelVal. I owe the University a debt. And I wanted to pay that debt by establishing a scholarship so that I could help other students experience the same success in life that I had,” Leonard reflects.

With the help of DelVal’s Interim Director of Major Gifts, Ann Mossing, Leonard and Connie’s endowed scholarship was established in December of 2021. “Ann worked very hard to get this scholarship ready. If anyone is so inclined to start a scholarship with DelVal, they can feel confident in working with Ann,” Leonard affirms.

Current student, Marabelle Burkert ’24, is the first recipient of \$1,000 from Leonard and Connie’s scholarship. Leonard is especially

excited that Marabelle is a horticulture and environmental science major with an interest in environmental soil work. “When I heard that, I said to myself, ‘Wow! How perfect is that?’ I ended up with a career in soil and that is what Marabelle’s aiming for. It’s almost full circle,” says Leonard.



Left to Right: G. Richards, S. Lyczak, R. Lindemann, D. Pysker, J. Kemmerer, B. Beers, B. Pounds, J. Sickora, W. Knerr, R. Hoffman, R. Cioli, W. Davis, J. Debiak, G. Unholtz Jr., R. Laurich, R. Lippincott, G. Myers, C. Reese, L. Erb, T. Scudder, L. Tritt, C. Pflitzenmayer, J. Kershner.

Scholarship Reception

On Thursday, March 31, Delaware Valley University held a scholarship reception in the Joseph F. Umosella '63 Atrium of the Life Sciences Building, where students, faculty, staff and scholarship donors mingled and enjoyed refreshments.

Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski, President of DelVal, welcomed the crowd with remarks of thanks and an overview of DelVal's history in making education affordable for students. DelVal began as The National Farm School with six students who did not have to pay for their education, but this was not sustainable for long. It was followed by a commitment to affordable tuition and scholarships for students where needed. "We continue this commitment today – in fact our strategic plan calls for continuing to make education affordable for students," said Dr. Rusiloski.

Marabelle Burkert '24, a dual major in horticulture and environmental science with a specialization in soils and land use, received a scholarship funded by Leonard '69 and Connie Tritt. (See article on previous page).

"To know that someone wants me to succeed and wants to contribute to my education is extremely encouraging," said Burkert. "Someone more experienced and wiser is gracious enough to offer a piece of their hard work to encourage yours. For me, that's huge, and it's something that I know will motivate me for years to come."



▲ Student scholarship recipients enjoy spending time with donors and friends.



▲ Dr. Bill Edmunds '68 (left) and Denise Edmunds (right) with student scholarship recipients.



▲ Marabelle Burkert '24, a dual major in horticulture and environmental science



▲ Wyatt Hoffman '22, a crop science major



▲ Epe Olliver (middle) and Bonnie Olliver (right) with a student scholarship recipient

Overcoming Adversity with Empathy and Understanding

Young alumnus recalls his experience as a Capitol police officer

Capitol police officer, **Chris George '19**, is familiar with sacrifice. In fact, he's made many. As Chris serves in the Capitol Police Force, he finds great reward in serving others and playing an important role in history.

Chris's aspirations to become a police officer began at an early age. He recalls when local police showed kindness to his mother and provided her support through an abusive relationship. "I wanted to help others in a similar way. It's rewarding to know that as a police officer, you can make a tough moment in someone's life easier for them by approaching the situation with empathy and understanding," Chris reflects.

After earning his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from DelVal, Chris entered the U.S. Capitol Police Academy. "At the Academy they apply classroom work with experiential learning, which I was very familiar with because of my education at DelVal," Chris explains. Chris describes police work as a "hands-on job," and he feels his education at DelVal prepared him for that role.

"DelVal gave me the experience to engage with a diverse group of individuals. It provided me with a sense of belonging that I carried into my workforce to foster a healthy work style with the members of my squad," he says. "DelVal also gave me the confidence to make my work my own," he adds.

On January 6, 2021, Chris was protecting the nation's democracy as the insurrection of the U.S. Capitol unfolded. "I will never forget that event and how that day made me feel and how the days after made me a stronger person. That's the positive I take away from it. There's a sense of overcoming challenges and fulfilling duty. The important part was that the democratic process continued. Congress was able to get their job done," he affirms.

Chris continues to fulfill his desire of helping others by continuing to serve our nation's democracy. In looking towards the future, Chris hopes to one day start his own business, so he can continue to help others in new ways.



“At the Academy they apply classroom work with experiential learning, which I was very familiar with because of my education at DelVal.”

-Chris George '19

Terrain at Delaware Valley University

Urban Outfitters, Inc. (URBN) and Delaware Valley University announce a unique partnership that will transform the previous Market at DelVal building off Lower State Road to Terrain at Delaware Valley University.



The new location will offer the University and Doylestown community Terrain's signature retail store, nursery, garden cafe and private event space. The partnership includes experiential learning opportunities for DelVal students through the university's award-winning Experience360 program. Students can pursue paid internships and additional employment opportunities at Terrain at Delaware Valley University and other URBN locations. These internships may include retail, food service events and other activities.

Stay tuned for more updates by visiting delval.edu/terrain-delval

And connect with us on Instagram! [@terrain_delval](https://www.instagram.com/terrain_delval)



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1960s

Corwin Knestrick '65 retired from Pilgrim's Pride as a poultry nutritionist after 43 years of service. The majority of that time he worked as a nutritionist for broilers and turkeys. He and his wife now reside in Williamsburg, Virginia.

1980s

Gerald (Jere) Witmer Jr., PhD '83 retired from the Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center in July 2020 after serving as Administrative Director for the past 14 years of a 35-year career. He is now employed part-time as Career and Technical Distinguished School Leader for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. In this role he provides leadership services to CTE centers in southeast Pennsylvania.

Jackee Smith Bender '84 retired after 32 years as an agriculture teacher. She taught in Pennsylvania and South Carolina. Some of the courses she taught over her career included Agricultural Science, Animal Science, Greenhouse Management, Horticulture, Forestry, Wildlife Management, Environmental Science

and Middle School Agriculture. "I have had a rewarding experience introducing Agriculture to K-12 students. I am still in contact with many of my former students."

2000s

Courtney (Russo) Torregrosa '07 has started a new position as Curator of Herps and Aquaria at Turtle Back Zoo.



Colby Norden '07 and Brittany (Walbert) Norden '07 married on May 7, 2021 in West Hartford, CT. They met at DeVal 15 years ago and have been together ever since.

2010s

Casey Frayko '12, biology major, and her wife, Elise, welcomed their daughter, Gwyneth Harper Frayko, into the world on February 21, 2021.

Misti Brummer '15, zoo science major, will marry Tyler Snow on October 15, 2022 in Gettysburg, PA.

Annmarie Ely '19 (MBA) has accepted a position as a senior strategist at Zer0 to Five, a marketing and communications firm that specializes in developing and executing marketing and communications strategies for B2B companies in technology and the life sciences.

In Memoriam

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Thank you to the more than 460 individuals and corporate partners who have contributed to the 125th Anniversary Scholarship Fund. We have raised more than \$226,000 as of May 1, 2022. We will continue this initiative through 2022 to help support our commitment to affordable education for our students. **To make a donation, please visit delval.edu/give.**

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The Joan Hock Legacy and Success Fund

For over 30 years, the lives of Delaware Valley University students have been touched by the efforts of Joan Hock, director of financial aid. Joan has worked tirelessly to ensure that students are connected to funding opportunities that help them complete their DelVal journey.

In honor of Joan's retirement from DelVal and her dedication to students, the University is proud to announce the establishment of the Joan Hock Legacy and Success Fund.

This fund will support DelVal students whose retention and continued enrollment is predicated on a small gap of need in their financing. This specific need represents many of the students whom Joan looked out for during her tenure.

To make a gift in honor of Joan, please go to delval.edu/joan or you can use the enclosed envelope to mail your check.

Thank you so much for honoring Joan and for your support!

delval.edu/give

Alumni Achievement Awards are back – Call for nominations!

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Alumni Council is pleased to announce that we will once again be hosting the Alumni Achievement Awards at DelVal's Homecoming on Oct. 22, 2022!

The Alumni Achievement Awards recognize outstanding alumni who have devoted time, energy, and resources to the betterment and traditional ideals of the University and to the alumni-at-large. They will have also participated actively in community and professional organizations and have made a significant contribution in a chosen field.

Awards are presented for excellence in Animal Science, Business Administration/Humanities, Plant Science, Science, Secondary Education, Graduate Studies, National Farm School (for graduates prior to 1950) and the Arthur Brown Distinguished Service Award.

Alumni, friends, faculty and staff are invited to submit nominees!

To learn more about the awards or nominate an alumnus/alumna please go to delval.edu/alumawards.

The deadline for nominations is July 15, 2022.



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