

HORIZONS: A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF

SUMMER 2023

DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY



**Experience Elevates
Alumni Success**

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Launched**

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All Things Equine

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“Our student success outcomes rate for the Class of 2022 was just confirmed at 94.4%.... It takes a village to support this kind of success.”



Dear DelVal Community,

In this issue of *Horizons* we celebrate the success of our graduates. We know that our small classes, engaged faculty, staff and coaches, and our hands-on learning from year one, truly differentiate a DelVal education from other institutions.

Our student success outcomes rate for the Class of 2022 was just confirmed at 94.4%! This means that 94.4% of our graduates were employed, continuing their education, or involved with volunteer service or military service within a year of graduating. The survey for the Class of 2022 included students who graduated in August 2021, December 2021, and May 2022. Statistics are derived from a total knowledge base of 76.57% of the total undergraduate class.

It is the individual student stories behind the statistics that bring this number to life. It is our Class of 2022 science graduates who are now working at Charles River Laboratories, Archion Life Sciences, Colorcon Inc., Eurofins and MB Research Laboratories. It is an education/agriculture graduate who is teaching environmental science to 9th graders at Abraham Lincoln High School. It is a conservation and wildlife management graduate who is now a biological science technician for the US Department of Agriculture, and another who is a Chesapeake Bay technician for the Cumberland County Conservation District. It is a business administration graduate who is an accountant at Withum, Smith and Brown, and another who is an audit specialist at KPMG. It is all of the 25-plus graduates from the past two years who are now in veterinary school, plus Nina Dellarte '21, who is featured on our cover.

For our current students we continue to bring new hands-on learning opportunities to campus. Read about the innovative Freight Farm on page 31, the new cannabis studies certificate on page 8, and the first students who are learning through paid internships this summer with Terrain/URBN (page 29).

Our congratulations go to our current students and to our graduates for their hard work in achieving their individual goals. Our thanks go to the entire DelVal community: to our faculty, staff and coaches who mentor and support our students every single day; to our alumni who provide internships, employment and career connections; and to our generous donors who make a DelVal education possible for so many students. It takes a village to support this kind of success. As one of our core values states, it takes one learning community, with one purpose.

Best regards,

Benjamin E. Rusiloski, Ph.D.
President

In This Issue

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ON OUR COVER: *Nina Dellarte '21, B.S. Animal Science (Pre-Veterinary) with minor in Equine Science, attending University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, president of the class of 2025. Photographed with Caruso, on South Campus.*

Experience Elevates Success

Recent DelVal Alumni Continue Long Tradition of Success after Graduation



▲ *Nina Dellarte '21, B.S. Animal Science (Pre-Veterinary) with minor in Equine Science, attending University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, president of the class of 2025. Photographed with Caruso, on South Campus.*

Since the founding of the National Farm School more than 125 years ago, the mission of our institution has been to prepare students for success with curriculum that is both scientific and practical. This early focus on learning by doing, or what is now called “experiential learning,” has supported students on many career paths throughout our history.

CLASS OF 2022 CAREER SUCCESS RATE: 94.4%

The career success rate for the Class of 2022 is 94.4%. This statistic means that 94.4% of students were either employed, in graduate or professional school, in military service, or volunteering full time

within one year of graduation from DelVal. The career success rate is based on survey responses from students who graduated in August and December 2021 and May 2022, and includes 268 of 350 graduates, or a 76.6% knowledge rate.

“From DelVal’s founding we have been committed to science with practice and supporting students in achieving their post graduate goals. The 2022 outcomes rate indicates our commitment to helping students find their first destination after graduating from DelVal whether that be employment, military service or graduate school,” said Andrew Moyer Ed.D. ’22, dean of Student Success and Engagement. “One of the best parts of my job is meeting new students and then seeing them walk across the stage at commencement knowing they have achieved their academic and personal goals.”

SUCCESS IN VETERINARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

DelVal students have an excellent success rate for acceptance to veterinary programs. Over the past ten years countless alumni have attended veterinary schools across the country and around the world. “The feedback we receive anecdotally is that our students are well prepared because they have worked directly with animals for four years. It has been especially noted that they have hands-on skills handling livestock” shared Linda Detwiler ’80, D.V.M., member, Board of Trustees.

Whether our students major in equine, small animal science, animal science or biology, DelVal pre-veterinary students have significant

experience due to the Experience360 program. This sets our students apart from many other applicants who typically have just two years of working with animals during their college experience. Seven of the top 25 veterinary schools in the U.S., per *U.S. News & World Report* 2023 rankings, are included in DelVal student acceptances for 2022 and 2023 graduates.

In Fall of 2022, 15 DelVal students started to veterinary school. This includes **Nina Dellarte '21**, featured on the cover of this *Horizons* issue, who graduated with a B.S. in Animal Science (Pre-Veterinary) and a minor in Equine Science and was accepted to the schools of veterinary medicine at both Tufts University and the University of Pennsylvania. She enrolled at Penn Veterinary in fall 2022 and is president of the Class of 2025. (See related article on DelVal's equine program, page 15).

Madison Lofgren '22 will join Nina Dellarte at UPenn. "The experiences that I gained at DelVal allowed my application to veterinary school to stand out from others," shared Lofgren. "I was grateful to be accepted to seven veterinary schools, however I accepted my seat at the University of Pennsylvania School of

Veterinary Medicine Class of 2026. I am certain that I would not be where I am today without the relationships that I built with the amazing staff, faculty, students and horses at DelVal."

Alana Miller '22 is at University of Missouri College of veterinary science along with six fellow alumni of DelVal!

At least ten members of the class of 2023 are heading to veterinary school this fall. **Alexa Knellinger '23, B.S. Small Animal Science** will join Dellarte and Lofgren at UPenn. **Julia Lorenz '23, B.S. Animal Science**, and Young Alumni Trustee (see page 16), will attend University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine. **Anthony Rago '23, B.S. Small Animal Science**, and **Evie Sullivan '23, B.S. Animal Science**, will both attend University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. **Erin Drake '23, B.S. Animal Science**, is headed to University of Missouri. **Taylor Leauby '23, B.S. Animal Science**, will attend Auburn University, and **Crystal Stowers '23** and **Alyssa Waters '23**, both B.S. Animal Science, will attend Ross School of Veterinary Medicine (see complete list of schools on this page).



Fall 2022 Veterinary Schools Attended

College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University (1)

College of Veterinary Medicine at Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee (1)

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (1)

Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine (1)

Ross School of Veterinary Medicine in the West Indies (1)

School of Veterinary Medicine at St. George's University in Grenada (2)

University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine (7)

University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (1)

Fall 2023 Veterinary Schools Attended

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine (1)

College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Florida (1)

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (1)

Ross School of Veterinary Medicine in the West Indies (2)

School of Veterinary Medicine at St. George's University in Grenada (1)

University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine (1)

University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (1)

University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (2)

Feedback From Employers on Impact of DelVal Interns

“Collaboration and communication are vital to our lab environment, and it is very evident that she fosters these qualities and utilizes them in order to get the job done.”

“His creativity really stood out to us, the games, crafts and science experiences that he help implement into the lesson were very helpful.”

“He was effective at beginning a pivotal research study and he brought a different perspective during meetings that was welcomed and encouraged...able to effectively think critically and implement his thoughts.”

“She took it upon herself to make new interactive/creative games for children to play in-between exhibits. She has been a great asset when it comes to helping new interns/volunteers. Carries herself professionally while keeping a strong relationship with peers.”

“He assisted in putting together and booking an \$800,000 job for top customer!”

“It has been nice having a young eager employee in the office pushing the productivity of the other estimators.”

“Her bright smile, positive attitude and willingness to help reinforced the positive climate we strive to have in our clinic.”

EXPERIENCE360 ELEVATES SUCCESS

The philosophy of science with practice evolved over the years but has consistently focused on providing hands-on education in small classes, engaged faculty, and the latest tools and technology to prepare students for success in their chosen field. Today, our students live this through the Experience 360 Program.

The Experience 360 program brings enhanced structure to experiential learning at DelVal and provides the opportunity for students to reflect on their experience in real time, opportunities for leadership and community engagement, and employer feedback from internships.

“With the exception of the two pandemic years, we have seen a steady increase in our students’ career success rate since the launch of the E360 program in 2012,” said Dr. Gloria Oikelome, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. “We are very proud of the 94.4% success rate the class of 2022 has achieved.”

POST-GRADUATION SUCCESS ACROSS MAJORS

Our graduates are experiencing success across the schools and majors at DelVal. Following are just a few examples of what our alumni are pursuing early in their post-graduate experience.

Camryn Quaste '22, B.S. Conservation and Wildlife Management, recently accepted a scientist position at global pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. Quaste thanks the DelVal faculty, especially Dr. Alicia Shenko, assistant professor of animal biotechnology and conservation, for preparing Quaste for the professional world. “I feel like I got my dream job at 23,” shared Quaste, reflecting on her path to this position.

Antonio Johnson '22 B.S. Business Administration, '23 MMOL, is following his love of athletics as a communications staff assistant for Michigan State Athletics. “The MMOL program prepared me for my next steps as a professional,” Johnson shared.

The employers that alumni shared in the Class of 2022 career survey include a broad range of positions in diverse businesses and organizations. From the responses received, it appears that many are employed in their field of interest. The positions listed include:

- ▶ **Ninth grade environmental science teacher**
- ▶ **Wildlife specialist for conservation group (multiple)**
- ▶ **Necropsy technician at major laboratory**
- ▶ **Patient services at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia**
- ▶ **Lab technician at Doylestown Health**
- ▶ **Audit associate at major accounting firm**
- ▶ **Small animal technician for biotechnology company**
- ▶ **Producer for media and communication firm**
- ▶ **Biological science technician for USDA**
- ▶ **Veterinary assistant (multiple)**
- ▶ **Sales and account specialist**
- ▶ **Public policy intern**
- ▶ **In Vivo scientist for pharmaceutical company**
- ▶ **Strategic quality and process development food scientist**
- ▶ **Hospital technician**
- ▶ **Biological science technician**
- ▶ **Staff accountant**



CENTER FOR STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Student Professional Development (CSPD) is an important initiative supporting student success. This summer the first floor of Segal Hall, where CSPD is located, has been updated to better serve our students' needs. A wall was removed to create a large student lounge space. During the day, the lounge will be used by the Center for Student Professional Development (CSPD) and the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) to support the needs of all students. This includes connecting with students about DelVal's signature Experience360 program. During the evening, the student lounge and two meeting rooms will be available for student use for group projects and group study. "Connecting our students to potential employers and organizations in their field of interest is a priority for CSPD," shared Dr. Moyer. "Students receive valuable feedback on their personal and professional development from supervisors as part of their E360 internships and career exploration experiences. Upon graduation students find themselves prepared for their first career, with some students working full time for their E360 employers' post-graduation."

EARLY SUCCESS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023

Members of the Class of 2023 are starting to share their first paths post-graduation. While the official career outcomes survey for this class will not be completed until May 2024, we are proud to share information on a few of our most recent graduates.

In addition to the 10 students attending veterinary school this fall, we have heard from a few other Class of 2023 alumni.

Dylan Apgar '23, B.S. Turf Management
Assistant superintendent at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, PA.

Jacob Berzowski '23, B.S. Zoo Science
Education Coordinator, Assistant Reptile Manager and Giraffe Keeper at Lake Tobias Wildlife Park

Samantha Demoy '23, Zoo Science
Enrolled in A.A. in Veterinary Technology at University of New Hampshire

Emily Fisher '23, B.S. Conservation and Wildlife Management
Zookeeper at Erie Zoo

Ryan Foley '23, B.S. Turf Management
Assistant superintendent at Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield, PA.

Jessica Lish '23, B.S. Zoo Science
Wild Animal Keeper for the Bronx Zoo Wild Encounters Program

Casey Rotenberger '23, B.S. Environmental Science
Parker ranger for Montgomery County Parks, Trails & Historic Sites



SHARE YOUR SUCCESS

We want to hear from you! Whether you graduated in 2022, 2023 or 10 years ago, let us know what you are doing! We will include your update in the next issue of *Horizons!*

Visit delval.edu/classnotes to share your story.

Dr. Carla Garzon leads DeVal's Cannabis Program

The cannabis program is led by Dr. Carla Garzon, K.H. Littlefield Endowed Professor of Plant Science, and is focused on diverse aspects of controlled environment and field hemp production and processing, as well as manufacturing hemp derived products.

With the completion of the extensive greenhouse renovations, the new classroom, laboratory with cutting-edge equipment in Feldstein Hall, and Dr. Carla Garzon, K.H. Littlefield Endowed Professor of Plant Science, in place, the University launched the new cannabis specialization program in fall 2022.

“There are a number of cannabis programs in the market at this time,” said Dr. Garzon. “Our program is one of the few for-credit programs with experiential learning opportunities in the market and our focus is on the science of growing hemp and cannabis, emerging technologies, and the many varied uses for the products derived from these plants.”

In addition to medicinal applications, hemp fiber can be used for the development of textiles, building materials for construction, for paper, and for polymers for biodegradable plastics. Also, hemp seed and hemp seed oil can be used as food, animal feed, and for production of cosmetics and biofuel. Europe and Canada have developed these products for decades but the United States only recently re-focused on the hemp plant.

Although hemp is a crop at least eight thousand years old, the first recorded use of hemp in the U.S. was in 1632 in Virginia. The colonies were required to grow hemp from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Hemp

was used for ropes, paper, textiles and lamp fuel. It eventually lost favor as cotton and other new products were introduced in the 1800s, but it was grown continuously until after World War II. In fact, the government released a “Hemp for Victory” campaign during the war that encouraged farmers to grow hemp for uniforms, ropes and other needs. However, taxation challenges and strict regulation of cultivation tax stamps resulted in a drastic drop of production soon after the war, and the last commercial fields in the 20th century were planted in Wisconsin in 1957. Following the lead of European countries and Canada, the US Congress authorized the production of hemp and all its derived products with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill), and removed hemp from the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) schedule of Controlled Substances.

YES, THE PROGRAM IS LEGAL

DeVal uses industrial hemp *exclusively* in all hands-on activities of our educational and research programs. Although both belong to the species *Cannabis sativa* L., hemp is not marijuana (like dogs and wolves belong to the same species, but dogs are not wolves). Hemp is a multipurpose crop defined by the U.S. Congress as cannabis varieties that have



no intoxicating effects, since they only contain residual amounts (0.3% or less in dry weight) of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main cannabis chemical with psychoactive effects on humans.

HANDS-ON RESEARCH AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Students in the cannabis program learn about the optimum hemp and cannabis conditions under field conditions and indoor environments. Additionally, they learn about different aspects of the industry, including regulatory aspects and compliance, business enterprises, supply chain, economics, marketing, medicinal uses and risks, environmental considerations and sustainability, and



- ◀ *An aerial view of the DelVal hemp maze.*
- ▼ *Students Katie Stewart '24, Vincent Petulla '26 and Jacob Sanchez '26 are interns receiving training on basic microbiology techniques.*

Photos by Dr. Carla Garzon, K. H. Littlefield Endowed Professorship of Plant Science

implications in veterinary science. Students also learn about the legal issues around hemp and cannabis in Pennsylvania and across the United States. Guest speakers join classes to bring current trends and thinking into the conversation, and share with our students information about internships and job opportunities.

In addition to the two courses focused on these crops, students take courses on hydroponics, greenhouse management, agribusiness and marketing of agricultural products, as well as a medicinal plants practicum, where they learn skills in production of vegetables, ornamentals and herbs, as well as processing, manufacturing and uses of diverse medicinal plants.

“This industry is going to continue to grow and it will grow quickly,” added Dr. Garzon. “DelVal students who take these courses will be well prepared in horticultural science, in addition to the business, marketing, legal and economic aspects of the cannabis industry.”



Cannabis Specialization or Certificate Program

In response to the increasing demand for employees with specialized training in cannabis production and agribusiness, the Department of Plant Science, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Science offers a horticulture major with a specialization in Cannabis for students desiring a four-year degree, or a stand-alone 17-credit one-year certificate in Cannabis.

DelVal’s program, unlike most other cannabis programs available today, takes an educational approach that includes a strong, science-based, theoretical foundation complemented by experiential learning and training opportunities. Students work with cutting-edge technologies that include several hands-on laboratory exercises throughout the curriculum.

To learn more, visit delval.edu/cannabis

Listen to Dr. Carla Garzon's podcast interview with KYW regarding the DelVal cannabis program.

Find the link at delval.edu/cannabis

“Studying many different ecosystems and species in person was quite the experience. Our alarm clocks were Howler Monkeys.”
 -Mia Pertschi '23, conservation and wildlife management



▲ Lysette Eloi '23 at the Randers Regnskov (rainforest) in Denmark



Students Travel Abroad During Spring Break

10 DAYS IN DENMARK

DelVal students were excited to have the opportunity to travel again over spring break this year. Lysette Eloi '23, Heaven Sulflow '25, Caitlin Rivera '25, and Benjamin Ghilon '25 stayed with host families during their 10-day stay in Denmark. The students were accompanied by Dr. Craig Stutman, associate professor of history and public policy. The trip was part of a business department exchange program in which Tradium College students visit DelVal every fall and our students travel to Randers in the spring.

Students woke up bright and early every day as they followed a relaxing itinerary. They visited the Aros Art Museum, where they saw the entire city of Aarhus around and under them, the Opera Board Game Café in Randers, local cafés with unique cuisine, and much more. Eloi has bonded with her host family so closely that she is still in communication with the family through social media and has plans of meeting up with them again in the future.

“I was able to make a connection with my host family and learn about how they live and what their country

means to them, and I would have never been able to experience that unless I had taken part in this,” said Eloi. “This is an experience I will never forget.”

Rivera noticed the differences in culture including how Danish stress the importance of “Hygge” (pronounced “hoo-gah”), a word to describe all things cozy. The word does not directly translate in English but evokes feelings of comfort.

“It was interesting because they like to keep a clean and minimalistic aesthetic,” said Sulflow. “It differs from America’s maximalistic aesthetic,” added Rivera.

A MAGICAL ENGLAND (AND SCOTLAND!) TOUR

Students in the place studies course “Magical England” taught by Dr. Brian Lutz, professor of English and department chair, visited Scotland and England over spring break. Students arrived with Dr. Lutz a few days before the official break began and spent nearly two weeks touring the countries. Students started the day together and followed an agenda but also enjoyed free time to explore on their own.

In preparation for the trip, students read novels such as *Neverwhere*, *The Golden Compass*, *Rivers of London*, *The Hobbit*, and *The Buried Giant*. These novels featured different locations in the countries, including Edinburgh, Stratford, Oxford, Glastonbury and London. For example, when students visited Oxford, they examined how it would inspire something like the award-winning fantasy trilogy, *His Dark Materials*.



◀ Windsor Castle, a royal residence in Berkshire, England

▲ Zaida Martin '25 at Rosslyn Chapel in Edinburgh, Scotland

PLACE STUDIES

▼ (L-R) Benjamin Ghilon '25, Caitlin Rivera '25, Lysette Eloi '23, and Dr. Craig Stutman, associate professor of history and public policy, in Copenhagen, Denmark



▼ DelVal students, staff and faculty visit Bateaux London for dinner



Smith Easton '25, a zoo science major, was especially interested in the interactive insectariums in the Natural History Museum, as he looks to enter the field of insect research post-graduation. The Natural History Museum sparked Easton's interest in entomology even further.

"It was a surreal experience," said Easton. "The Natural History Museum looked like a cathedral. The countries had a lot to offer."

Abigail McCoy '25, a zoo science major, explained, "Everyone [there] was extremely proud of their country, and they were very interested in what DelVal students were doing in England, which I thought was really cool. The history in each place and knowing the background was nice because it had a fantastical element to it."

STUDENTS STUDY TROPICAL ECOLOGY IN COSTA RICA

Ten students visited Costa Rica through the tropical ecology course with Dr. Gregory George and his wife, Laura. They spent a week at the Camaquari Conservation Initiative, where they experienced exotic conservation in action.

"Studying many different ecosystems and species in person was quite the experience. Our alarm clocks were Howler Monkeys," said **Mia Pertschi '23**, a conservation and wildlife management major. "We got to see a newly found frog species (leptodactylus) that has yet to be officially identified and named!"

Where will place studies take DelVal students in Spring 2024? Stay tuned!



▲ **Mia Pertschi '23** sightseeing at the Camaquari Conservation Initiative in Pococi, Costa Rica

Farewell to Dr. Jack Schmidt

Under Dr. Schmidt's leadership, the music program has not only become a pillar of the DelVal community but of the broader local area since he re-oriented the Symphonic and Jazz Bands to become community bands, providing our student musicians with a broader intergenerational music education experience. While Dr. Schmidt was an avid champion of the arts in his 25 years at DelVal, he also advocated for a high-quality liberal arts education in general and provided our students with opportunities to enrich their education. As director of the honors program, he championed interdisciplinary courses and he integrated short-term study abroad opportunities. Dr. Schmidt also served as chair of the liberal arts department and chair of the English department. Dr. Schmidt leaves a legacy of important programs and initiatives that will persist.

As we say farewell to Dr. Jack Schmidt, we express appreciation for the work he has done to enhance the music department at DelVal.



Delaware Valley University Welcomes New Assistant Professor and Director of Music

Dr. Ryals is a trauma-informed music educator focused on creating a positive and welcoming music-learning atmosphere at DelVal with a holistic approach to self-expression.

Dr. Lauren Ryals earned her bachelor's degree in music at the University of Colorado. She taught high school music for several years and earned her master's degree in music education at the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. Dr. Ryals continued her education at Temple University in Philadelphia, where she earned her doctoral degree in music education.

Excited to invite and include more of the campus community in music-making, Dr. Ryals hopes to bring different musical avenues to the DelVal student experience, encouraging students to continue their musical passions in their transition from high school to college and beyond.

Dr. Ryals brings a unique teaching style to DelVal by looking at trauma-informed education through a music teacher's lens. She explains that when she was a high school teacher, she found strategies that worked for her students which felt unique to the rest of her colleagues. Her first research study on meditative breathing in music rehearsals emphasized the importance of mindfulness.

"Trauma-informed education, in a general sense, is understanding that everybody's lived experiences are different and vast," explained Dr. Ryals. "When people come into the music world, they're going to be creating and expressing themselves in different ways. When people work on a piece of music, I understand that it might pull out emotions or memories



or other things that have gone on in someone's past lived experiences or currently."

Dr. Ryals aims to be stigma-free and supportive of all people by using inclusive language and making sure that everyone feels welcomed and connected. "When the students are walking through their journey of music-making, it's important that they're not alone," said Dr. Ryals.

The Business and Humanities Colloquium Series in Spring 2023 "Violence in America," featured Dr. Ryals speaking about trauma-informed education practices as a response to gun violence. Her session engaged the audience in a community-building activity.

Dr. Ryals describes the DelVal community as very genuine, open and welcoming. She shared that Dr. Schmidt, her predecessor, is supporting her as she becomes familiar with the position.

DelVal Students Compete at The National Agri-Marketing Association Conference

The National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) is the nation's largest association for professionals in marketing and agribusiness. The DelVal student chapter belongs to the national chapter, as well as the regional, Chesapeake Chapter.

DelVal's chapter of NAMA attended the National Agri-Marketing Association Conference, which took place in St. Louis, Missouri from April 26 to 28. At the conference, DelVal students gained valuable professional skills by competing in a marketing competition, for which they had spent two semesters preparing.

As a member of DelVal's chapter of NAMA, students spend their first fall semester developing an executive summary, which entails choosing a product, creating a mission statement, gathering testimonials, and much more, to culminate in a business plan. Students chose a fortified fruit puff as their product, and focused on making sure that food is tasty, healthy and superfood enriched. Givebacks were central to the plan, which means sourcing all of the fruit locally, as well as accepting lower grade items and paying slightly higher prices to develop loyalty from suppliers, with the end goal of supporting local and serving producers.

In their spring semester, students practiced their speaking and presenting skills. The two-part model is advantageous for students who are interested in sales, and who can join the project in the spring semester only.

"Producer benefit is a big focus of the competition," said Dr. Meliss Wright, assistant professor & chair of agribusiness and academic director of the Master of Science in Agribusiness Management program. "Creating new markets and distribution

channels in the supply chain is a major focus as to support agricultural production in the U.S."

At the NAMA competition, it's all about the marketing plan. The biggest takeaway for DelVal students this year is the value of tying in a strong promotion plan that coincided with the theme of the product.

The competition is heavily focused on effectively communicating the product, rather than the details of the product itself. The competition assumes that research and development are complete, as the competition is focused on student marketing and presenting skills. During the competition, students receive helpful constructive feedback from industry professionals.

The student presenters were **John Stierly '23**, DelVal's NAMA chapter president, **Olivia Epp '23**, treasurer, **Rachel Sroka '24**, newly elected president, **Victoria Diandrea '26**, newly elected secretary, **Jackson Price '26**, newly elected treasurer, and **Hope Stanton '26**, newly elected vice president and media manager. In addition to the students who participated, other contributors were co-advisors Amanda Rees and Susan Testani, professors of agribusiness, **Jacob Kinzer '23**, **Brianna Grim '23**, and **Ashleigh Moss '23**.

"Every student involved did amazing," said Dr. Wright. "I was blown away at the level of professionalism at this conference."



▲ (L-R) Dr. Meliss Wright, assistant professor and chair of agribusiness and academic director of the Master of Science in Agribusiness Management program, Olivia Epp '23, Hope Stanton '26, Victoria Diandrea '26, Rachel Sroka '24, Jackson Price '26, John Stierly '23

DelVal's Equine Program Breeds Success

It is 7 a.m. on a Saturday morning and several students have been working in the stables for a while. They have fed the horses and are now cleaning stalls. This same scene replays every morning at the Equine Center, 365 days a year, regardless of weather. Students are in the barn by 6 a.m. in the summer to stay ahead of the heat.

“Our programs place major emphasis on the safety and welfare of our horses...”

-Dr. Cory Kieschnick '07,
Ed.D. '22

Each year, incoming freshmen majoring in equine science or equine management attend a mandatory equine orientation before classes officially start. This highly focused week is designed to introduce the students to the horses, facilities, faculty, and most importantly – to each other. This week is the beginning of building a close cohort of students who will spend the majority of their time together over the next four years.

“Our students tell me that they feel like this is home for them, that this is where they should be,” shared Dr. Cory Kieschnick '07, Ed.D. '22, chair of the Department of Equine Science and Management and director of Equestrian Teams for the University. “There is a lot of bonding that takes place during orientation week and you see the value of this as they work closely together over the next four years.”

The value of these relationships and of DelVal's equine programs are evident in the numbers. Total students enrolled in one of the equine programs as a major or minor total more than 100. Incoming freshmen classes typically average 25 to 35 students. Four- and six-year graduation rates for students in these majors, as well as first- to second-year retention rates, regularly exceed the overall average for DelVal by meaningful percentages in recent years.

WHY ARE DELVAL'S EQUINE PROGRAMS SO SUCCESSFUL?

“Our programs place major emphasis on the safety and welfare of our horses,” said Dr. Kieschnick. “The concept of a ‘social license to operate’ has become a focus in our industry. This is not new for DelVal, in fact, it is incorporated in everything we do.”

In addition, the strong work ethic that our students bring every day, along with daily opportunities for hands-on learning, really set DelVal graduates apart in the field. Employers are looking for specific hands-on skills and the equine faculty integrate these skills with the curriculum. DelVal students don't just learn about equine nutrition from a book; they are weighing and body condition scoring horses. And they study the impact of utilizing feeding technologies like slow feeder haynets, which help to regulate hay intake.

The DelVal equine program was selected by the University of Pennsylvania for the first undergraduate student internship program at their New Bolton veterinary facility in Chester, PA. “New Bolton contacted us directly,” shared Dr. Kieschnick. “They offered us this exclusive internship because they love our graduates. They know that the level of hands-on experience we provide is excellent preparation for clinical settings.” **Juliette Hopkins B.S. Equine Science '22, M.A. Management and Organizational Leadership '23** interned at New Bolton, earning E360 credit. Juliette was subsequently offered a full-time position as a Sports Medicine Imaging Technician for Ultrasound and Cardiology.

When you add the close-knit community on DelVal's campus, the communication and critical thinking skills that students learn, and the fact that the equine facilities are right on main campus, it is not surprising that enrollments are continuing to grow in this program. In fact, there is a 38% increase in the number of incoming students for the equine programs this fall.

ALL THINGS EQUINE

Equine students may take a course in foaling in the spring. Each student is assigned a pregnant mare that they follow through the entire process, including assisting at the birth. As each due date approaches, the students in the class sleep in the lab



◀ Senior Ride 2023

in the Breeding Center so that they are ready to assist. This year, DelVal had live foal cams installed through a partnership with the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association (PHRA). The public had access to a live-stream view of expectant mares as they prepare to give birth to their foals and the actual births of several foals.

This was a banner year for three equine student athletes who earned individual national championships in three different disciplines:

Meghan Verill '24 - individual Upper Training Division in Dressage at the Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) National Championships, **Pauline Jodry '25** - hunt seat team, Individual Intermediate Equitation on the Flat at the IHSA National Championship, and **Hanna Wright Riley '24** - Western team, NRHA/AQHA Individual Reining Class.

THE LAST RIDE

An honored tradition at DelVal is the senior class taking a last ride from the stables to the quad just before commencement. This celebration is bittersweet, as the cohort of students who have been together four years prepare to say goodbye and move on to their next adventure. Family and friends attend and many life-long friendships are launched.

EQUINE ALUMNI SUCCESS

Alumni of DelVal's equine programs have had considerable success both in the field, and in some cases, in alternate career paths. Our equine

students have had significant success in veterinary school including **Nina Dellarte '21**, **Madison Lofgren '22**, and many others over just the past two years (see cover story page 4). Others, like **Terence Prunty '14**, are following their passion as horse trainers. Prunty works for Artemis Farms in Greenwich, Connecticut and Wellington, Florida. Many work in the industry as managers, riders or breeders, or work for companies that support the equine industry.

Another alumna, **Chelsea Regel '10**, is a C.P.A. with Pritchard, Bieler, Gruver and Willison, P.C. in Philadelphia. **Dr. Caroline Fenkel '12** M.S.W L.C.S.W., is chief clinical officer and co-founder of Charlie Health, a mental health provider for young people in crisis.

Troy Hendricks '96 grew up on his family's farm in Phoenixville, PA., and he knew from an early age that he wanted to spend his life working with horses. A degree from DelVal provided structure and a scientific foundation, providing the opportunity for Troy to pursue his dream career.

After graduation Troy spent several years working with elite trainers in the field so that he could learn as much as possible from the ground up. He and his wife, Annette, started their business caring for horses, and now run a 56-acre farm in Glenmoore, Chester County, which they named Kimber-View, which

features 25 stalls and 11 full-time staff who ride and train the elite, award-winning horses in their care.

"The fact that I have a degree in animal and equine studies makes a difference in this business," shared Troy. "It is a stamp of approval and has been an important part of the success of our business. My experience at DelVal provided structure, and really gave me a leg up when we started our business."



▲ "Neufchatel," the final foal of this season! The filly is by a young and desirable stallion named "Cattlewash," out of mare Bid Writer.

New Scholarship Established in Honor of Dr. April Vari

Dr. April Vari, vice president for Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence, retired on June 30, 2023, after ten years with the University. Staff and faculty attended a reception in the Shapiro Wing of the Library on June 14th to honor and congratulate her.

Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski, president, announced the establishment of the Dr. April Vari Student Leadership Scholarship Fund in his remarks at the reception. The scholarship has been established to recognize Dr. Vari's passion for nurturing student leaders and to honor her as she prepares to retire from Delaware Valley University. Dr. Vari has worked tirelessly as an advocate for all DelVal students and overseen the University's diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging initiatives and strategies. She has collaborated with colleagues across campus to enhance the student experience at DelVal and provide leadership opportunities for students.

The scholarship will be awarded to rising sophomore, junior, or senior student(s) who have demonstrated leadership qualities by participating as a peer mentor by serving as a member of student government, leader of a club, or captain of a team; or by holding any type of leadership role within a community organization. First preference will be given to DelVal student(s) who have participated in the career-focused mentoring program, LeaderShape.

"We can think of no better way to honor Dr. Vari and her decade of service to DelVal than by cultivating future leaders in her honor," said Dr. Rusiloski. **Donations to the scholarship can be made at delval.edu/give.**



DelVal Board of Trustees has Announced Two New Members

Julia Lorenz '23 will serve as a Young Alumni Trustee and Kellie McGowan, Partner, Obermayer Maxwell Rebmann & Hippel LLP, is a Trustee.



▲ Kellie McGowan

Kellie McGowan is a lifelong resident of Bucks County. She earned a B.A. in political science and environmental studies from Muhlenberg College and a J.D. from Temple University. Now a partner at Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP in the Business & Finance Department Doylestown office, Kellie co-chairs the Land Use and Zoning team. Kellie's law practice focuses on a broad range of real estate, zoning and land use matters. She is currently a member of the Council of the Real Property Probate and Trust Law section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Kellie is the mother of two children and an active member of the community. She serves as a commissioner-appointed director on the Board of Directors of the Bucks County Conservation District. She also serves as the board secretary of Lenape Valley Foundation, and is a member of the Park and Recreation Board of Doylestown Township, where she resides.

"As a lifelong resident of Doylestown, I believe that the University is an important part of our community. I

hope to work to further strengthen its relationships in the community in a way that positively impacts our students' educational experience," said McGowan.

Each year, the University's Board of Trustees selects a member of the most recent graduating senior class to help engage young alumni and provide new ideas. **Julia Lorenz '23** earned her bachelor's degree in animal science. She served as the A-Day committee president, vice-president of Block & Bridle, a Dairy Science Center student worker, resident assistant, ag ambassador, and laboratory assistant. She is known by her peers and professors for her commitment to academic success and enthusiasm for learning, and has recently committed to the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine to pursue her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

"I am honored to serve as a voice for current students and recent alumni as the newest Young Alumni Trustee. DelVal has provided me with countless opportunities, fond memories and lifelong friends," said Lorenz.



▲ Julia Lorenz '23

A-DAY of GIVING

A-Day of Giving Reaches New High

Delaware Valley University raised more than \$147,000 in support for DelVal students during the first annual A-Day of Giving.

The money raised during the 24-hour fundraiser, held from 10 a.m. Thursday, April 20 to 10 a.m. Friday, April 21, supported all academic and athletic areas for DelVal students.

Donations from faculty, staff, alumni, parents, friends, fans, and students totaled \$147,407; more than 4-times last year's day of giving and the most revenue ever generated by a single-day fundraiser in the University's history. And more than 470 donors made a gift during this year's event, also a new record.

"I am thrilled with the results and how our donors helped make this event a success," said DelVal President, Dr. Benjamin Rusiloski. "While we're always grateful for the financial support our donors

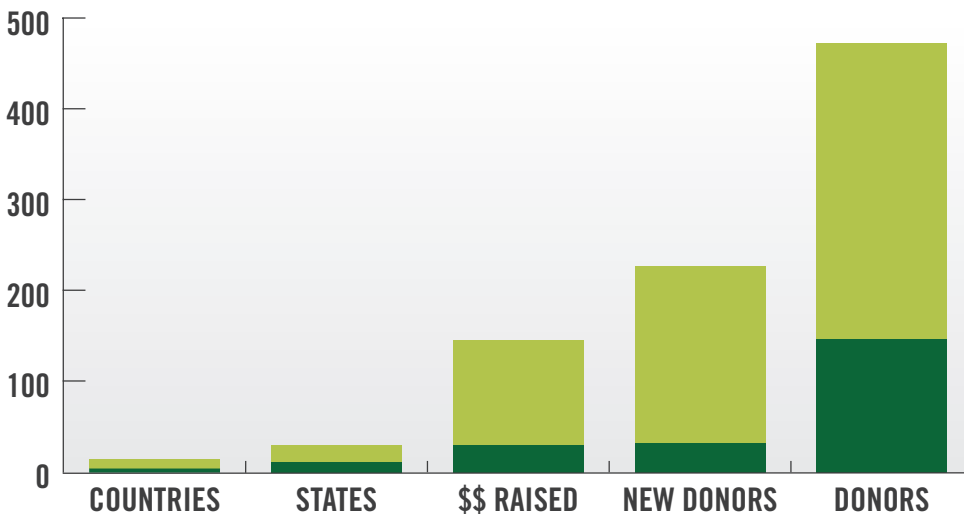
so generously provide, the purpose of this event was to generate participation and inspire alumni and supporters to come together in supporting our students."

"And our donors did not disappoint," Rusiloski added. "The outpouring of support during this year's event was especially inspirational. Each gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in the lives of students every day, when and where it is needed most. We can't thank our donors enough."

Throughout the 24-hour fundraiser various challenges and matches were announced with donors having an opportunity to unlock additional money for the academic or athletic programs of their choosing.

"The generosity of our donors and their willingness to support our students is truly remarkable," said Joe Fiochetta, vice president for Development and Alumni Affairs. "Every dollar raised helps make a DelVal education affordable. Our students are better positioned to succeed today because of the tremendous impact our donors make in their lives."

In total, nearly half of all donations were from new donors, and donors from 30 states and 9 countries helped make A-Day of Giving a success.



	2022	2023
COUNTRIES	1	9
STATES	18	30
\$\$ RAISED	30	147
NEW DONOR	32	217
DONORS	147	473

Students are Honored Speakers at Commencement Ceremony

Excited graduates, staff, faculty, families and guests gathered on Robert A. Lipinski Field at James Work Memorial Stadium for the DelVal Commencement Ceremony on May 13, 2023.



One of the largest crowds in many years saw approximately 350 undergraduate and 150 graduate students receive their degrees. Dr. Gloria Oikelome, provost and vice president for academic affairs, selected four students to speak this

year. “Our singular focus is providing an environment for our students to learn, grow and succeed. It is the student voices that we most want to hear on this day of celebration,” said Dr. Oikelome.





▲ Speaker *Rebekah Alstede '23*, agribusiness, and sustainable agriculture systems dual major graduate



▲ *Anthony Rago '23*, small animal science graduate



▲ *Kayla Leary '23*, media and communications graduate



▲ Academic deans processing in for the ceremony



▲ (L-R) *Philip Luccarelli '83*, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, *Julia Lorenz '23*, Young Alumni Trustee, *Benjamin Rusiloski, Ph.D.*, President



▲ *Jocelyn Balan Lopez '20, M.A. '23*, master's of counseling psychology graduate



Mooving Forward

Thanks for a fantastic A-Day 2023! This year's event was a tremendous success with more than 10,000 attendees including students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends from the community. From milkshakes to pony rides, pig races, plant sales, experiential learning exhibits and more, A-Day 2023 did not disappoint. See you next year!





Spark Bowl Awards \$21,000 to Three Small Businesses



Spark Bowl, a “Shark Tank”-like competition hosted on campus, brought small businesses, faculty and business leaders together to pitch their ideas to a panel of judges on November 17, 2022. The competition awarded a total of \$21,000 in prize money to three small businesses.

The five competing businesses were Saint Rocco’s Treats, Safety Blue Alert, Empath Ed, Liquid Limbs, and Bake Ability Bakery. Liquid Limbs placed first after presenting their first product, The Navigator, a patent-pending waterproof mobility aid designed specifically to help people

with transtibial amputation navigate the shower independently.

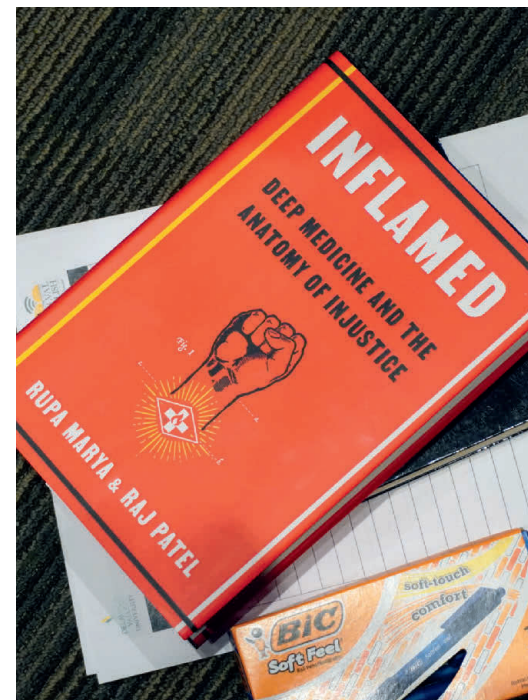
As part of DelVal’s experiential learning program, DelVal undergraduate students served as business consultants for the finalist teams by helping the businesses prepare their presentations, and were awarded prize money for their efforts as well. Spark Bowl 2022 was hosted by the University and the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce and is possible because of sponsorships from Bucks County businesses and individuals.

Bestselling Author, Raj Patel, Ph.D. Speaks on Global Health as Part of One Health Initiative

DelVal welcomed award-winning author, filmmaker and academic Raj Patel, Ph.D. as a speaker for the University’s Spring 2023 One Health Seminar Series. The seminar, “Food System Meet Health System,” took place on March 29 in the Life Sciences Building auditorium on DelVal’s campus. Patel discussed his latest book, co-authored with Rupa Marya, *Inflamed: Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice*.

This book, which was discussed at the One Health Seminar, reveals the links between health and

structural injustices and offers a new deep medicine that can heal human bodies and the world. Patel’s presentation at DelVal was funded by the Connections Planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which was awarded to the English department at the University in the spring of 2022. As part of the NEH grant, DelVal recently launched a new minor in One Health Communications, which is designed for science majors to improve their communication of scientific concepts to general audiences.



▼ Joan Stryjewski and Antonio Johnson '21, M.A '23

2023 Scholarship Reception Brings Students and Donors Together on Campus

Attended by 175 people, this March 2023 event celebrated scholarship donors' generosity and the opportunities they provide for student recipients.



▲ Anna Shafer '25, Kiley Higginson '25, Alumni Council member Laura Viel, Ed.D. '18, and business and information management faculty member, Bill Viel



▲ Xiomara Sotomayor '25, Jaden Motter '23, and Rebekah Alstede '23 were the student speakers at the event

PA Acting Attorney General Speaks at DeVal

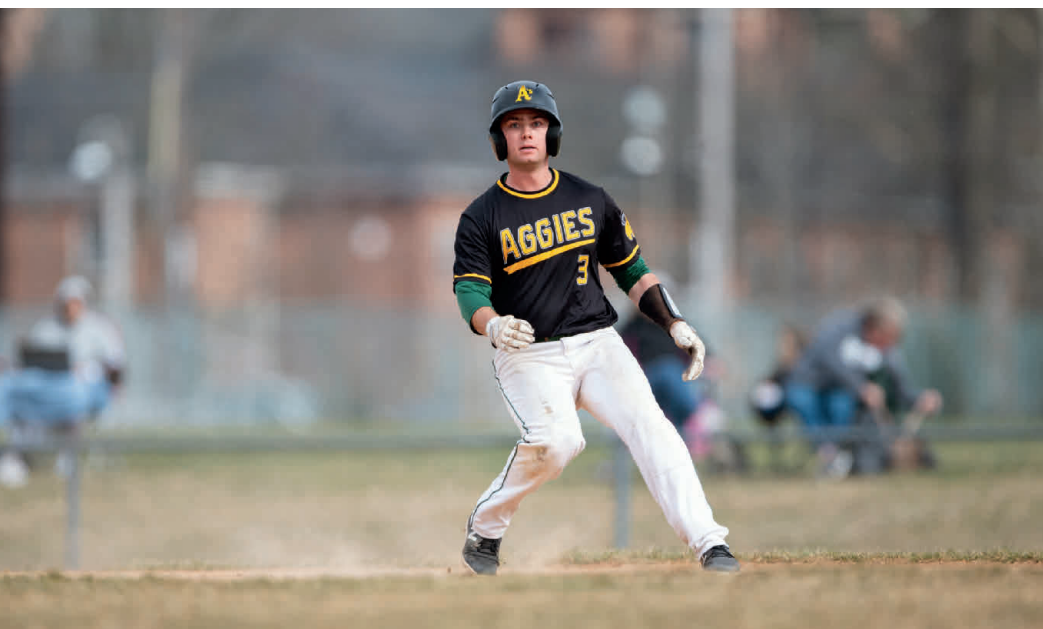
Pennsylvania's Acting Attorney General, Michelle Henry, led a discussion on violence and addiction on Monday, April 17, 2023. The presentation, "The Violent Toll of Addiction, Why the Community Should Care & How We Can Be Part of the Solution" shared a frank conversation about the realities of emerging drug trends and the role addiction plays in violent crimes across the state. The lecture was part of a larger colloquium hosted by DeVal's School of Business and Humanities, "Question It! Change It! Violence in America".

For more information on DeVal's Business and Humanities Colloquium Series visit delval.edu/colloquiumseries



Aggies Shine in the Spring and Wolfgang Makes MAC Hall of Fame

By Chris Elliott '12, MBA '15, Director of Sports Information



▲ Jonathan Drews '25

Championships in Lexington, Kentucky. **Kylie Schoelen '23** and **Victoria Coale '25** also had strong showings for the hunt seat team on the biggest stage thanks to consistent rides throughout the season and standout performances at the regional championships.

On the diamonds, DelVal baseball improved by five wins in league play (9-14) and finished one spot out of the playoffs, in sixth, just two games behind Wilkes. Three players were named to the All-MAC Freedom team, including junior designated hitter **Jonathan Drews '25** who also earned a spot on the D3baseball.com All-Region third team. **Garrett Zimmerman '23** was a second team catcher and **Colin Foley '26** was an honorable mention reliever.

Softball had two players named to the All-MAC Freedom teams with **Madison Donnelly '26** as a second team first baseman, and **Carly Mahal '23** as an honorable mention second baseman.

For lacrosse, the women's team saw **Ashley Birmingham '24** earn second team honors as a midfielder while the men's program placed two on the second team. **Sean Mylod '23** was recognized as a defender and **Daniel Aulisi '26** as a midfielder.

In the world of athletics, Delaware Valley University saw individual and team success during the spring of 2023. In the equestrian ring, **Meghan Verill '24** and **Pauline Jodry '25** were each crowned National Champions in their respective disciplines. Verill earned her top honor in the Upper Training Level at the Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA) National Championships in Lexington, Virginia, while Jodry took top honors in individual intermediate equitation at the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) National





▲ *Madison Donnelly '26*

At the links, the DelVal men's golf team finished fourth of nine teams at the MAC Freedom Championship two-day tournament, one spot better than their finish a year ago. **Ethan Saxe '24** led the way with a tied-10th finish to earn second team all-conference honors. Saxe shot 11-over the first day and 5-over the second day.

The outdoor track and field programs were led by the success of the men's 4x400-meter relay team that earned a runner-up finish at the MAC Championship meet and earned

second team all-conference accolades. The team, made up of **Logan Cooper '23**, **Moses Madison '25**, **Matt O'Dunlami '25**, and **Caleb Messenger '26**, ran their best time ever with a 3:21.05 to beat last year's time by over four seconds. On the women's side, **Alyssa Blackmon '24** led the way with a personal-best mark in the women's 3,000 meter steeplechase and a top-5 showing to help the team to four points. Blackmon clocked in at 12 minutes, 6.33 seconds to earn fifth of 15 competitors.



◀ *Daniel Aulisi '26*



Off the field, DelVal Athletics received great news on Monday, May 22 when the MAC office announced that former Delaware Valley University director of athletics Frank Wolfgang was enshrined to the league's Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2023. Wolfgang became the eighth Aggie to be enshrined, joining **Mark Ambrose '91, Ted Cottrell '69, Alisa Kintner '02, Adam Knoblauch '06, Ned Linta, Bill Manlove, and Laura Hogan '90.**

Wolfgang, a 2013 DelVal Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, was a member of the conference for 50 years, including his 45 years at DelVal, where he served as head baseball

coach for 22 years (1974-75 and 1979-99) and athletic director for 26 years (1987-2013). He also spent 10 years at the helm of the Aggie men's basketball program. Prior to coming to DelVal, Wolfgang was a student-athlete in the MAC as a member of the Gettysburg baseball team.

Also in 2013, Wolfgang was awarded the Lou Sorrentino Award on behalf of the conference. The award is presented to a MAC athletics administrator who has had a sustained and influential role in conference and national affairs and embodies the NCAA Division III philosophy.

▼ *Ethan Saxe '24*





During his 22 years as the Aggies head baseball coach, Wolfgang recorded 249 victories and led his squad to the playoffs on four occasions. His last season as coach was, perhaps, the finest as the team set a school record with a 31-7 mark and went on to capture the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Southern Region Championship. The baseball field on campus was renamed Frank Wolfgang Field in 2006.

Wolfgang is still an active member of the campus community and attends as many home games as he can. He can often be found near his golf cart conversing with fans and parents, or catching up with Athletics staff members. Next time you see Frank on campus, be sure to congratulate him on his most recent achievement as a MAC Hall of Famer!



▲ The MAC office announced that former Delaware Valley University director of athletics Frank Wolfgang was enshrined to the league's Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2023

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For the latest news and sports schedules visit
athletics.delval.edu

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First Cohort of Terrain Interns is Hired

Experiential learning opportunities for DelVal students are a core part of the DelVal partnership with Terrain

As Terrain at Delaware Valley University opens its doors at the old Market location on campus, five DelVal students are starting paid summer internships at the new location and at URBN corporate headquarters at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia.

“These paid internships provide an excellent opportunity for our students to gain experience in a variety of career tracks working for a public traded \$4+ billion business,” said Dr. Andrew Moyer, dean of Student Success and Engagement.

Five DelVal students have been selected for internships in: marketing, design services, green goods buying, customer service and café/events. The

design services, customer service and café/events internships will take place at Terrain at DelVal. The new campus location features garden and lifestyle retail, a café and event space. Many weddings and other celebrations are already booked starting June 29. The marketing and green goods buying internships take place at the Navy Yard and may encompass any of the URBN business units, which include: Terrain, Anthropologie, Free People, FP Movement, BHLDN, Urban Outfitters and Nuuly.

In addition to the five paid internships, Terrain is hiring DelVal students this summer and during the academic year for employment at the new location on campus.



terrain

GARDEN | HOME | CAFE | EVENT

Our Interns

(pictured left to right)

Austin Williams '23

Marketing Internship,
based at the Navy Yard

Annie Clemmer '23

Design Services Internship,
based at Terrain at DelVal

Miranda Rouse '23

Green Goods Buying Internship,
based at the Navy Yard

Joseph Musa '23*

Customer Services Internship,
based at Terrain at DelVal

Jen Salvatore '23,*

Cafe/Events Internship,
based at Terrain at DelVal

**Currently enrolled in a DelVal 4+1
program pursuing their master's.*

ON CAMPUS

▼ On set with Chef Michael Solomonov and Kyra McKeegan '24



▲ Chef Anthony Bonnett and Asha Miller '26

DeVal Featured in The Chef's Kitchen: College Campus Cooking Series

Four students with a passion in the food industry joined renowned Chefs Michael Solomonov (zahavrestaurant.com), Lee Chizmar (boleterestaurant.com), Ryan Zellner (Executive Chef of St. Luke's Hospital), and Anthony Bonnett (moshulu.com) in four episodes of *The Chef's Kitchen: College Campus Cooking*, which aired on NBC10 and several other networks, reaching over 78 million households. The show provides tips and techniques from the country's most exclusive restaurants and features award-winning chefs, notable bakers, and the world's most-learned sommeliers.

Allen Volant '24, Asha Miller '26, Nicholas Choi '24, and Kyra McKeegan '24 showed up bright and early for a day's worth of filming in the food preparation area of the Mandell Science building on campus. Each episode of the college campus cooking series showcases one of the nation's top culinary talents sharing original, quick, and easy dishes with students. This hands-on learning and relationship-building with chefs was an unforgettable experience for our students who are food industry bound.

Visit delval.edu/feed-your-passion to learn more and watch the full episodes.

Freight Farm

DelVal has embraced new Freight Farm technology on campus thanks to the generous support of Terrain and Bob and Amy Tait, friends of the University.

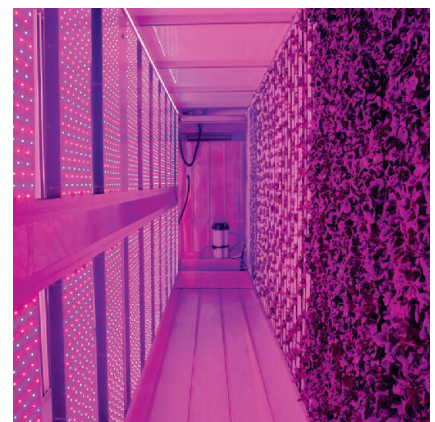
This new farming concept utilizes an enclosed freight container to grow vegetables vertically through hydroponics. The advantage is that the freight container will deliver the equivalent of four acres of tillable farmland in one container over the course of a year.

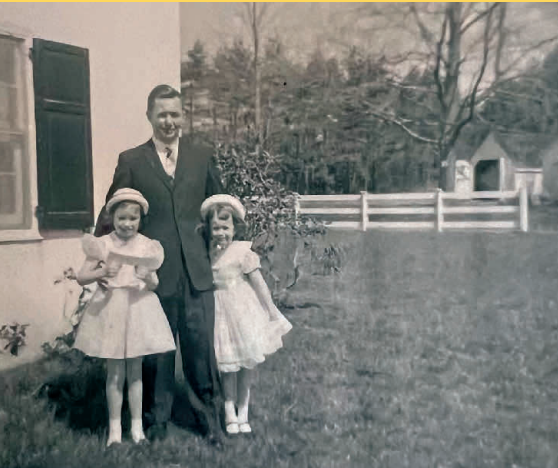
DelVal will initially grow greens that will be served at Terrain's Café and the event venue, Terrain Gardens, as well as, DelVal's dining hall on campus and both the student-run

farmers market at the Roth Center for Sustainable Agriculture and DelVal's new Farm Stand at Terrain.

"We are excited to have this new technology on campus for our students to learn about these alternative high tech farming practices," said Dr. Broc Sandelin, dean of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. "It is cutting edge and has major implications for substantially increasing food production in a small spaces, and for

bringing fresh foods to food deserts that have little or no access to these healthy and fresh food options."





“The campus was our playground and we spent our summers going to the orchard, visiting and playing at the farms.”

-Barbara (Larsson) Livrone

The Larsson Family has a special connection and an unwavering dedication to Delaware Valley University. Barbara (Larsson) Livrone is a former resident and current volunteer. **Oskar H. Larsson '52**, Barbara's late father, was a dairy science graduate of the National Agricultural College. He was the Registrar of Delaware Valley College from 1954 until his retirement in 1989. Barbara's family lived at the Margaret Mead House located at the corner of West Court St. and South West St. in Doylestown while their house on campus was under construction. Their house, now known as House 1 and home to the Office of Marketing and Communications, is located where New Britain Road meets Campus Loop Road on campus at Delaware Valley University.

Campus Loop Road is a Walk Down Memory Lane for the Larsson Family

The Larsson family moved into House 1 in 1960, and their neighbors in what is now House 2 were Dr. Joshua Feldstein and his family. Dr. Don Meyer, Dean of DelVal, lived in the Dean's House (now the President's House) at that time. Barbara's parents and brother lived in House 1 until 1983.

“My sister and I enjoyed growing up with Dr. Meyer's children, Elizabeth and Bert, and Dr. Feldstein's sons, Ted and Dan,” said Barbara. “The campus was our playground and we spent our summers going to the orchard, visiting and playing at the farms. In the winter, we enjoyed sledding from our house to the pond (now called Lake Archer), and ice skating on the pond. We also enjoyed exploring the Burpee Farm which was across the street.”

Barbara and her husband, Dennis Livrone, met when they both worked at the Bucks County Planning Commission. The couple received permission from President Feldstein to get married in the Ida Block Memorial Chapel on August 16, 1986. They have three daughters, Christine, Jacqueline and Emily, and six grandchildren. Dennis was an adjunct professor at DelVal for 25 years and currently serves on the One Health Committee. He taught land use planning courses in the landscape architecture, environmental science and policy departments. Dennis is currently an adjunct professor at Temple University, but notes that because of DelVal's smaller size, the experience at DelVal has many advantages over a larger university. It's easier to get to know students in other departments and programs.

In addition to the fond memories at House 1, Barbara and her family have remained connected to the University over the years. They were here for a ceremony in front of Lasker Hall for the dedication of a bench honoring Barbara's mother, Ruby Larsson, and Dr. Jim Diamond's wife, Betty. Another proud and fond memory from Barbara was during the 2018 Commencement ceremony on campus, when Michael Smerconish, CNN commentator, was the speaker.

“He had met my dad a week prior to the ceremony at Pine Run Community where my dad lived,” explained Barbara. “Mr. Smerconish was impressed that while my dad was Registrar at DelVal, citizenship was a course that received a letter grade. Smerconish was struck by Oskar's dedication to making sure students were prepared to participate as active citizens. Mr. Smerconish spoke about my dad in his commencement speech. Now, civics is a component of DelVal's E360 program.”

Barbara continues her relationship with the University today as a loyal volunteer in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.



▲ *Dennis and Barbara (Larsson) Livrone on their wedding day, with their daughters, Christine, Jacqueline, and Emily on August 16, 1986, at the Ida M. Block Chapel.*

An Aggie Family Legacy

The Goetz Family legacy is a generational one. As operators of the Wildly Native Flower Farm, their roots are at DelVal as Aggies for life.

Wildly Native Flower Farm is a sustainable farm that grows and creates arrangements for weddings, events, and more, as well as provides space for all types of events. Located in Chestertown, Maryland, Wildly Native Flower Farm is a place where guests can come and be immersed in flowers bursting from the field. Unlike a traditional florist, Wildly Native provides customers the ability to connect with all of their products in so many ways.

Liza Goetz '97, founder of Wildly Native Flower Farm, is an agriculture educator, Future Farmers of America (FFA) member, certified professional horticulturist, horticulture alumna, and outdoorswoman. In 2017, she stepped into the adventure of growing plants on a larger scale and created Wildly Native. Liza's father, **Dr. Joseph H. Bauer '73**, is a food science alumnus who grew up in the Doylestown area and went to A-Day at DelVal every year with his grandparents.

"Sometimes my dad would sneak me into the back where the apple orchards were, and DelVal was always just part of life," explained Bauer. "DelVal had the answers with the strong agriculture background and environmental perspective that I really craved."

But, there are more Aggies in the family than Liza and her father. Liza is married to **Joseph Goetz '96**, a criminal justice alumnus. Liza and Joseph have a daughter, **Elizabeth**

Goetz '23, who majored in landscape design, with a passion for flowers and all things green. Elizabeth's knack for flower scents and color palettes always has her in the field, design room and greenhouse.

"I like being outside, being with my family, and having a close-knit group of people," said Elizabeth. "DelVal was the only place that had a major in landscape design where it wasn't specifically architecture, and I could design my own degree to what I wanted to learn."

Horticulture has always been part of the family. As a staff of about 8 people, Wildly Native Family Farm is unique because it allows customers to watch their vision become reality. The team follows through on all aspects of the business from seed to flower, to product, to delivery, to photos, and more. With a wide variety of options, customers can even create their own arrangements. And, with sustainability in mind, Wildly Native works with minimal waste in packaging.

"We've had proposals, dinners, and we even had the Chamber of Commerce come out and have their team-building events out here," said Liza.

The family listed professors, Liu, Eyre, Charlesworth, Dr. Vincent, Dr. Orr, Dr. Weber, Dr. Rusiloski, Richard Luger, Scott Robotello, orchard manager, and the Muse's as monumental in their DelVal

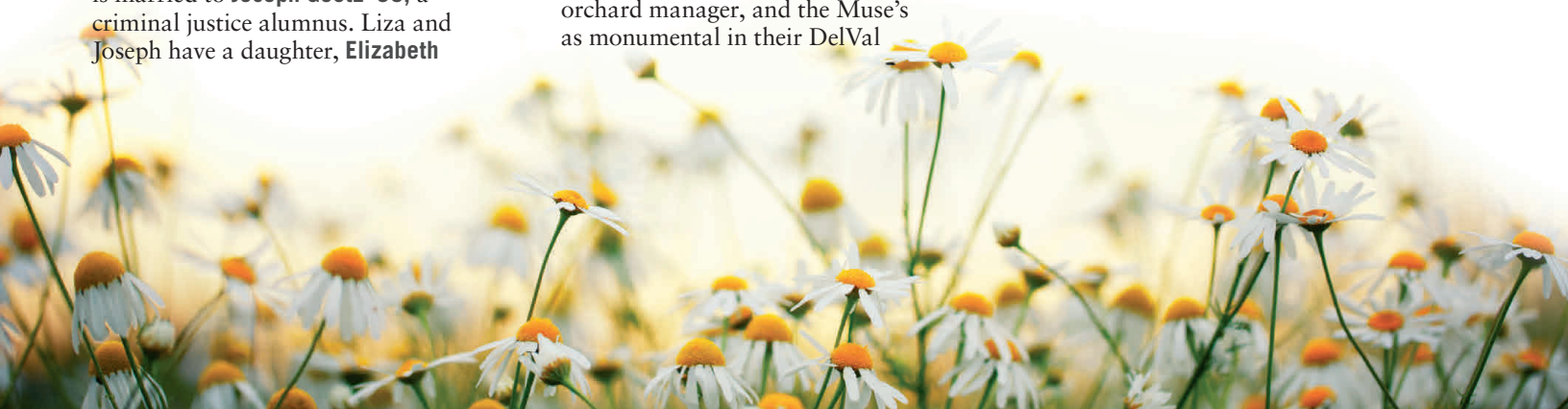
"DelVal had the answers with the strong agriculture background as well as the strong environmental perspective that I really craved."

-Dr. Joseph H. Bauer '73

education. Liza explained, "They gave us the ability and the knowledge for generational future impact and change."

Liza discusses what the next few years of Wildly Native look like for her, and that's figuring out how the team can be more efficient, more sustainable, and more creative. "You've got three generations of DelVal alumni here with three different perspectives. We strive to continue to build our legacy," said Liza.

Learn more about Wildly Native Flower Farm at wildlynativeflowerfarm.com.



Your Connection to DeVal is Lifelong

Visit delval.edu/classnotes to share your news

1970s



Ray Funkhouser '72 recently went to Poland to compete in the World Masters Indoor Track & Field World Championships. Ray had two races and finished individually 10th & 11th.

1980s



John Neyhart '81 was the 2022 Region VI National Association of Agricultural Educators Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

2000s

Beth Patrick '00 has been awarded Delaware Farm Bureau's New Castle County Farm Family of the Year.



Robin Goldblum '01, DVM has accepted a position at Vetco Total Care of Petco in Warrington. She's excited about this new opportunity in her career. She's also now teaching "Exploring Veterinary Science" to high school students at DeVal's InspireU program, a summer learning experience for teens ages 14 to 18.

Emil "Jay" Kolick '01, a criminal justice alumnus, was recently appointed as the Academic Dean for the School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Rosemont College.

Elka Kappel Wozniak '02 married and moved to Washington in 2006 where she currently works at International Paper as a research and quality chemist. She worked on a master's degree at Arcadia University with a specialty in environmental education and has teaching experience. Throughout her career, she has worked on many different research projects as well as trained as a HAZMAT responder.



Katie (Powell) Fieno '04 and her husband Peter Fieno welcomed their daughter, Isabella Kathryn Fieno, on March 6, 2023.

2010s



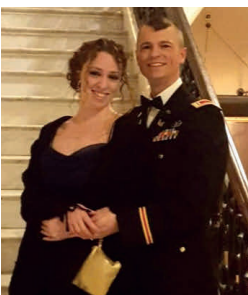
Mary Frances (Molly) Lawton '13 and her partner Jake had a baby girl on October 28, 2022.

Brian Long '14, has recently received his Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Northwestern Health Sciences University and relocated to San Antonio, Texas, where he intends to go into private practice.





Brittany '14 and Jake '14 Conover celebrated the birth of their first baby boy, Kip Alan Conover, on December 18, 2022.



Chris Handy '13, MPP '20, and Sarah Handy '10, M.A. '22, recently celebrated the birth of their third child shortly after purchasing their first home. Chris is currently employed at Bucks County Opportunity Council as well as the PA Army National Guard. Sarah is currently employed at the County of Bucks. They are celebrating 20 years of marriage this year, and their eldest child will be attending DelVal in the upcoming fall semester.

2020s



Leyla Danis '21, M.A. '23, earned her Master's of Management and Organizational Leadership from DelVal and was recently promoted to manager of social media and web at the University.



Nina Morales '21 was accepted to Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine to pursue her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. She has completed her first year as a DVM student.

In July of 2022, **Zachary Goodell '22** started a career as a Wildlife Expert at White Oak Conservation in Yulee, FL.



Camryn Quaste '22 got her dream job as a pathology scientist at Merck. She attributes this success to the hands-on experience from labs, valuable insight from her professors, and career advice from the Center for Student Professional Development.

In Memoriam

Alumni

- Rudolph "Rudy" J. Loewenstein '42
- Dr. Chester "Chet" N. Roistacher '47
- Henry S. Hudson '51
- Dr. Andrew "Andy" J. Snope '60
- Frederick "Fred" W. Hotchkiss '65
- Remy J. Ferrario '66
- John N. Vaneschak '66
- Richard S. Haldeman '67
- Richard T. Ives '67
- Robert "Bob" T. Capper '68

- Fred W. Linton, Jr. '69
- John N. Nice '69
- Douglas "Doug" N. Dobak '70
- Joseph "Joe" R. Stryjewski '73
- Eugene W. Nowak '73
- Thaddeus "Thad" T. Makachinas '78
- Charles "Kurt" K. Weiss '78
- Jeffrey "Jeff" J. Weirback '79
- Howard C. Smith '82
- Mark N. Dauber '83
- Theodore "Ted" W. Deppe '85
- Brett D. Greenland '89

- Susan Pares '93
- Jennifer A. Carcaci '01
- Wesley "Wes" J. Franken '15

DelVal Faculty and Staff

- David "Dave" E. Benner
- Dr. Janice M. Corbett
- Joseph "Joe" F. Kirby
- Raymond "Todd" T. Mathews
- Mary Jane Sergeant



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