

*Familiar  
Relations:*

*The duPonts  
& the  
University  
of Delaware*

CAROL HOFFECKER

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1812.

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The duPonts  
& the  
University  
of Delaware*

CAROL HOFFECKER  
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, NEWARK, DELAWARE

*Carol E. Hoffecker*

DELAWARE PUBLIC ARCHIVES

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FRONTISPIECE: *Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours' report to Thomas Jefferson on education entitled National Education in the United States of America.*

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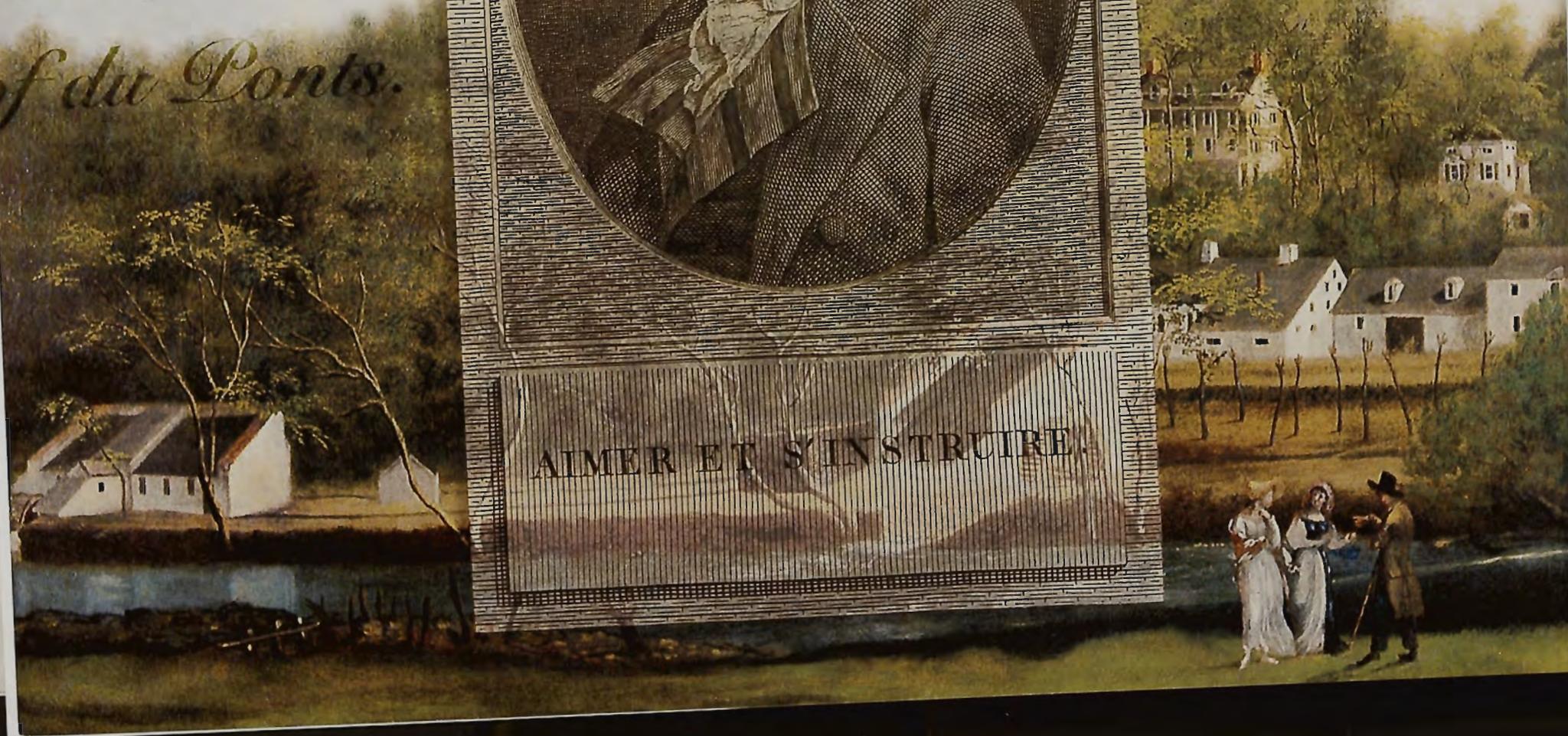
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DUPONT

DE NEMOURS



ALMER ET S'INSTRUIRE.



## INTRODUCTION

**E** DUCATION has been of primary importance to du Ponts for a very long time. It lay at the heart of Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours's aspirations for his family and for the advancement of humankind. One of his first tasks upon reaching America in 1800 was to write a treatise on education at the request of his friend, Vice President Thomas Jefferson. In this work, entitled *National Education in the United States of America*,<sup>1</sup> du Pont de Nemours laid out a comprehensive plan for the development of public schools and for the establishment of a national university, which he envisioned as a "palace of science," to be located in the new capital of Washington, D.C.



As befitted the Enlightenment leader that he was, du Pont devised an educational program that stressed freedom of enquiry and of teaching methods. His proposed curriculum emphasized the mastery of languages, of mathematics, and of the sciences "that the world may not be an unknown country."<sup>2</sup> He urged state and national governments to provide scholarships for poor but able students and to pay faculty members

well. He believed that the United States could best develop its economy, encourage cultural enlightenment, and become a well-governed, democratic country if it attracted the world's finest scholars to come to America to teach its young people.

Du Pont de Nemours's belief in the centrality of education to human happiness and to progress constituted his greatest blessing to his descendants. His heritage was deeply imbedded in

the values, goals, and commitments of subsequent generations of du Ponts. One need think only of du Pont de Nemours's namesake, his great-great-grandson Pierre S. du Pont, whose tireless and generous efforts transformed the State of Delaware's shamefully backward public-school system during the second and third decades of the twentieth century. It is also noteworthy that the great company that du Pont de Nemours's younger son, Eleuthère Irenée, created has been sustained to this day through its commitment to scientific research.

Many of America's great families have created or supported institutions of higher education. This also has been true for the du Ponts, who have been generous benefactors to the universities and colleges that they attended. The institution that has been most transformed by du Pont philanthropy and has been the focus of attention from the greatest number of family members is the University of Delaware.

This book provides a brief account of the relationship that has developed

over many years between the du Pont family and the University of Delaware. It is not an inclusive narrative. So many du Ponts have made gifts to the University over such a long period of time that to mention them all would require a lengthy catalog. The emphasis here will be on the most significant contributions, those that have had the greatest impact on shaping the evolution of the institution.

Today, the University of Delaware is a medium-sized university with an undergraduate population of 15,000 students, a graduate population of 3,000, and a highly selective full-time faculty of nearly 1,000. Although service to Delawareans is its first duty, the University also draws a large number of students from the mid-Atlantic region, as well as from the other states and from countries around the world. In addition to meeting the needs of students on the main campus in Newark, the University offers degree programs and continuing education courses in various locations around the state and

maintains a major presence in Lewes, Delaware, on the Hugh R. Sharp, Jr., Campus, home of the College of Marine Studies.

By most standards, the University of Delaware is a big operation. Its 420 buildings occupy over 2,600 acres of land. Its library system includes well over 2,000,000 volumes. It provides instruction in 120 major fields. But, these statistics hardly begin to describe the complexity of a modern university with its research centers, cultural programming, Honors Program, and computerized information networking. Nor can statistics do justice to the pride that students, alumni, staff, and friends take in the beauty of the campus, especially the central Mall with its dignified Georgian buildings and overarching elms.

The University, a land-grant, sea-grant, and urban-grant institution, is the premier public university in Delaware. Though it serves public purposes and is supported in part by the State of Delaware, it is governed by a largely private Board of Trustees.

The University's private-public status is a significant factor in its ability to provide programs of excellence at relatively low tuition cost. This felicitous combination accounts for the University's rank among the top twenty-five public institutions in the nation and as a "best buy" for aspiring but economy-minded students and their families.

Descendants of Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours have played significant roles in making the University of Delaware what it is today. We at the University salute members of the du Pont family on the occasion of the two-hundredth anniversary of their emigration to the United States, and we most heartily thank them for the many benefactions that are the subject of the narrative that follows. 

*OVERLEAF: Engraving of Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours from L'education, Paris, 1812 and Landscape of Eleutherian Mills, oil on canvas, circa 1840, by Bass Otis. Original site of the black powder mills founded in 1802 by Eleuthère Irénée du Pont, Pierre's son. Courtesy Hagley Museum and Library*

## LAYING THE FOUNDATION

**W**HEN Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours and his family reached American shores on January 1, 1800, the institution that has become the University of Delaware had been educating young men from Delaware and nearby states for over half a century. Its founder, Francis Alison, was a classically educated Presbyterian minister from Northern Ireland. The school that he created, later called the Newark Academy, offered the best education available in Colonial Delaware. During the early decades of the nineteenth century, while Eleuthère Irénée du Pont was struggling to develop his black powder manufactory along the Brandywine River, a number of Delawareans were pressing the parsimonious State legislature to create a college in the First State.



Their efforts finally succeeded in 1833, when the legislature chartered a College and provided funds from a State lottery for its building to be located in Newark. The notion that the needs of an entire liberal arts college could be accommodated under one roof was commonplace at the time.

The building that came to be known as Delaware College was typical

of collegiate structures of that era in both its design and function. Constructed mainly of brick in the then-popular style associated with classical Greece, the College building featured a grand exterior stairway that led upward to a central portico supported by Doric columns. Here, aspiring young men would be educated in the ideals of a free society.

The first member of the du Pont

family to enter Delaware College was Victor (1828-1888), a grandson and namesake of Victor Marie, Pierre Samuel's elder son. Young Victor du Pont's father was Charles I. du Pont, a Brandywine textile manufacturer, farm owner, and bank director, who served on the Delaware College Board of Trustees from 1838 until his death in 1869. Victor's mother was Dorcas Van Dyke du Pont, the daughter of a Delaware governor from the Revolutionary War era. General Lafayette had attended Victor's parents' marriage in the Van Dyke home in New Castle. Victor du Pont was only fourteen years old when he entered the College in 1842, an age that was two to three years younger than most of his classmates. Pleased with his new status, he addressed himself to his father as "Victor du Pont, collegian, Newark."<sup>3</sup> Victor graduated from Delaware College in 1845 and promptly registered as a senior at Harvard College, where, in less than a year, he completed the requirements for an A.B. degree. He then went on to law

# NEWARK

White Clay Creek — New Castle Co. Del.

Scale 30 Rods to the Inch

R. Wilson

J. W. Evens

Miller

F. A. Curtis



The first member of the du Pont family  
to enter Delaware College was Victor  
(1828-1888), a grandson and namesake  
of Victor Marie, Pierre Samuel's elder son

school before returning to Wilmington to become one of the city's leading attorneys, A gentle, upright man, he was admired as a good friend and father and a conscientious citizen.

Victor's younger brother, Charles I. du Pont, Jr., (1830-1873), also entered Delaware College at fourteen. Charles I., Jr., followed his father into manufacturing, and, in 1875, received a patent for an improved rotary pump. Another younger contemporary, Charles I. du Pont Breck (1840-1906), son of Victor Marie's daughter, Amelia Elizabeth, graduated from the College in 1858.

The College that these young men knew was one of many aspiring institutions of higher learning in the ante-bellum United States that ceaselessly struggled to cobble together enough money from state legislatures, churches, private donors, and tuition payers to keep their doors open. By the late 1850s, the struggle

was not going well in Newark. Perhaps because Delaware was so small and was governed by a legislature dominated by impecunious farmers, the State refused to augment its initial support, and in 1859, the Trustees closed the College for lack of funds.

No more College students were

admitted until 1870, when Delaware's portion of federal funds from the Morrill Land-Grant College Act of 1862 were assigned to Delaware College. Under the terms of the act, the income from the sale of federal land was distributed proportionately to each state to support a college to teach the useful subjects of agriculture, engineering, and military science.

With the modest income that came to Delaware under the Morrill Act, bolstered by occasional State support, Delaware College expanded its range to embrace agriculture and engineering. A few modest structures were constructed adjacent to the original

College building and an experiment in co-education was briefly tried and abandoned. The College eked out its existence with a student body that never exceeded much beyond one hundred. Its presidents devoted more of their time to teaching than to administration.



The Del. Coll. 1835

## New Ark College

*FACING PAGE: The first member of the du Pont family to enter Delaware College was Victor (1828-1888), Victor's younger brother, Charles I. du Pont, Jr. (1830-1873), also entered Delaware College at fourteen and their father, Charles I. du Pont, (1797-1869) served on the Delaware College Board of Trustees from 1838 until his death in 1869. Courtesy Hagley Museum and Library*

*ABOVE: Earliest known illustration of Old College drawn in 1835 by student William D. Clark.*

Elsewhere in the late nineteenth century, a new spirit and fresh capital were transforming American higher education. In nearby Baltimore, industrialist Johns Hopkins created America's first university based on the German model of research and graduate study, and in other states, captains of industry were inaugurating new colleges and universities or transforming old ones to suit the scientifically minded spirit of the age. Among the most prominent were John D. Rockefeller, who created the University of Chicago; Cornelius Vanderbilt, who financed Vanderbilt University; and Andrew Carnegie, who founded the Carnegie Institute of Technology. This dynamism of progress in industry and higher education however, seemed to pass by the little Men's College in Newark. 

*FACING PAGE: Pierre Samuel du Pont, in 1912, Hugh Rodney Sharp, 1900 graduate of Delaware College and his wife, Isabella Mathieu du Pont Sharp, sister of Pierre. Photographs courtesy Hagley Museum and Library. Background shows the renovation of Old College and Sharp's name, which he carved into a brick of the building as an undergraduate, while experimenting on the spelling of his name.*

## *THE LOYAL ALUMNUS AND THE FOCUSED PHILANTHROPIST*

*THE class of 1900 at Delaware College was typical in nearly every way. All but three of its eighteen members were Delawareans. Most came from small country towns; six were from Wilmington, the State's only city. Among the eighteen was a young man named Hugh Rodney Sharp, the son of a Sussex County farmer who had become deputy collector of the Port of Lewes.*



Hugh Rodney Sharp had relished the opportunity to attend college and had loved much of what he found in Newark, but even as an undergraduate, he must have recognized the school's limitations. Having trained neither to become a farmer nor an engineer but rather in the traditional liberal arts, upon graduating, he accepted the position of school master in the village of Odessa, Delaware. Rodney Sharp was entranced by the little community that had changed hardly at all in a hundred years. As was the case in much of rural Delaware, progress had

passed Odessa by, leaving undisturbed, the plain but dignified structures from an earlier age. In 1903, when Sharp left the village to accept a position in the Treasurer's Office at the Du Pont Company, he did not forget the little town nor his love of Delaware's Colonial architecture.

In 1903, the Du Pont Company was in the midst of a major transformation. Following the death of its president, Eugene du Pont, the previous year, three young du Ponts—T. Coleman, Pierre S., and Alfred I.—had assumed control of the venerable

SHARPE - 1900



...opens the way to the education of the  
that some day...  
might be offered the opportunity to get  
education at a college that is first class  
teaching force and equipment

powder company. As the company's new president, T. Coleman aggressively absorbed rival explosives manufacturers. Pierre, meanwhile, applied his business acumen as company treasurer to restructure the administration of the expanded company to achieve maximum efficiency and to provide the company's leaders with the information needed to make sound decisions. The road to rational consolidation was not without serious obstacles. In 1912, the federal government successfully sued the company for antitrust violations. More painful still, an interfamily legal battle ensued over the disposition of T. Coleman's stock when the president left the company to pursue other political and business interests. But, in spite of those troubles, the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company grew and prospered. When world war erupted in Europe in 1914, the company was able to expand rapidly to meet the unprecedented and highly lucrative demand for military powder.

As an employee of the Treasurer's Department, Hugh Rodney Sharp met its head, Pierre S. du Pont. Sharp became acquainted with Pierre's



*Delaware College as it looked between 1902 and 1917. Reconstruction in 1917 gave the building now called "Old College," its present day appearance.*

family and, in 1908, married Pierre's sister, Isabella. In 1913, Pierre was increasingly assuming the duties of leadership in the company of which he was soon to become President.

Needing more staff, he invited his brother-in-law to become his personal secretary. From a desk in Pierre's office, Hugh Rodney Sharp handled both company and personal business for his employer. The position gave Sharp opportunities to discuss mutual interests, including gardening and education. Pierre was appalled at the low quality of public education that existed in most of Delaware outside the city of Wilmington. He was determined to use his newly earned wealth for reform. His principal instrument was an organization called Service Citizens of Delaware, through which Pierre funded a dramatic transformation in public education in the First State that included the construction of modern school buildings, the imposition of a higher standard of preparation for teachers, and the enactment of a new school code. Pierre du Pont's involvement in educational reform set the stage for his subsequent interest in Delaware College.

By 1912, increased enrollment by non-tuition paying Delawareans had

strained the resources of Delaware College to the breaking point. George A. Harter, a long-time Professor of Mathematics and Acting President, turned to P. S. du Pont for help. He wrote the industrialist a letter in the hope that du Pont “might be interested in the work that we are doing at Delaware College with resources so slender as to make us feel much discouraged . . . .” President Harter pointed out that most of the College’s 160 students were Delaware residents who attended the tuition-free institution because they could not afford more expensive colleges.<sup>4</sup> The College “should offer training to our citizens in every line that may prove useful and enjoyable in life,” but that goal was impossible to achieve with the resources at hand. To illustrate the problem, Harter described in particular the scientific laboratory, a dark, subterranean space with a low ceiling and ventilation so inadequate that the room gave off “intolerable” vapors. Pierre du Pont’s response disappointed President

Harter. “I have read very carefully your letter . . . and appreciate fully the needs of Delaware College as well as the advantages to be gained by the community through enlargement of the school’s facilities. However, at this



*Three presidents at the Centenary celebration in May 1934: Walter Hullihen, Samuel C. Mitchell, and George A. Harter.*

time I am not in a position to consider making a donation, nor of organizing an effort to finance the College. In the future should I be able to do anything, I should be very glad . . . as it would be

a great pleasure to be of service and I am sure the effort would be well repaid.”<sup>5</sup>

Encouraging signs, however, were on the horizon. In 1913 a coalition of women’s clubs and farm organizations convinced the State legislature to create the Delaware College for Women, to be located on former farm land roughly a mile from Delaware College and to be administered by the Delaware College Board of Trustees. The State’s willingness to fund the construction of two buildings for the Women’s College gave hope that conditions at Delaware College might be improved. W. O. Sypherd, a Professor of English, and Everett C. Johnson, an energetic alumnus and member of the Board of Trustees, asked Rodney Sharp to help them devise a plan for the development of the Men’s College. Sharp discussed the matter privately with Pierre du Pont, who agreed to provide a substantial sum of money on three conditions: that his gift be anonymous; that the alumni first

demonstrate their support; and that Rodney Sharp join the Delaware College Board of Trustees and supervise implementation of the college's development.

In February 1913, when the Delaware College Alumni Association met for its annual dinner at the newly opened Hotel Du Pont, H. Rodney Sharp announced the commencement of a fund-raising campaign to boost their alma mater. The most immediate need, he noted, was to raise the salary of the President so that the college could have a full-time administrator capable of leading a renaissance. Sharp and his fellow committee members continued to keep the alumni engaged in the campaign. At the June commencement, they staged a parade of alumni followed by an alumni baseball game. Meanwhile, they mailed solicitation letters and began to receive replies. Most gifts were exceedingly modest. The largest donation was \$1,000. But, many

alumni participated, and by the end of 1913, \$5,669 had been pledged. In 1914, the College took its first major step forward when Samuel Chiles Mitchell, an experienced college



*FACING PAGE: The newly created Mall in the 1920s, showing the new dormitory, Harter Hall, built in 1917. Beyond it are temporary laboratories, Wolf Hall and, in the distance, Memorial Hall. Backdrop is the Day and Klauder plan for Delaware College and the Women's College.*

*ABOVE: Expansion began with the construction of Wolf Hall on the new mall. It was completed in 1917.*

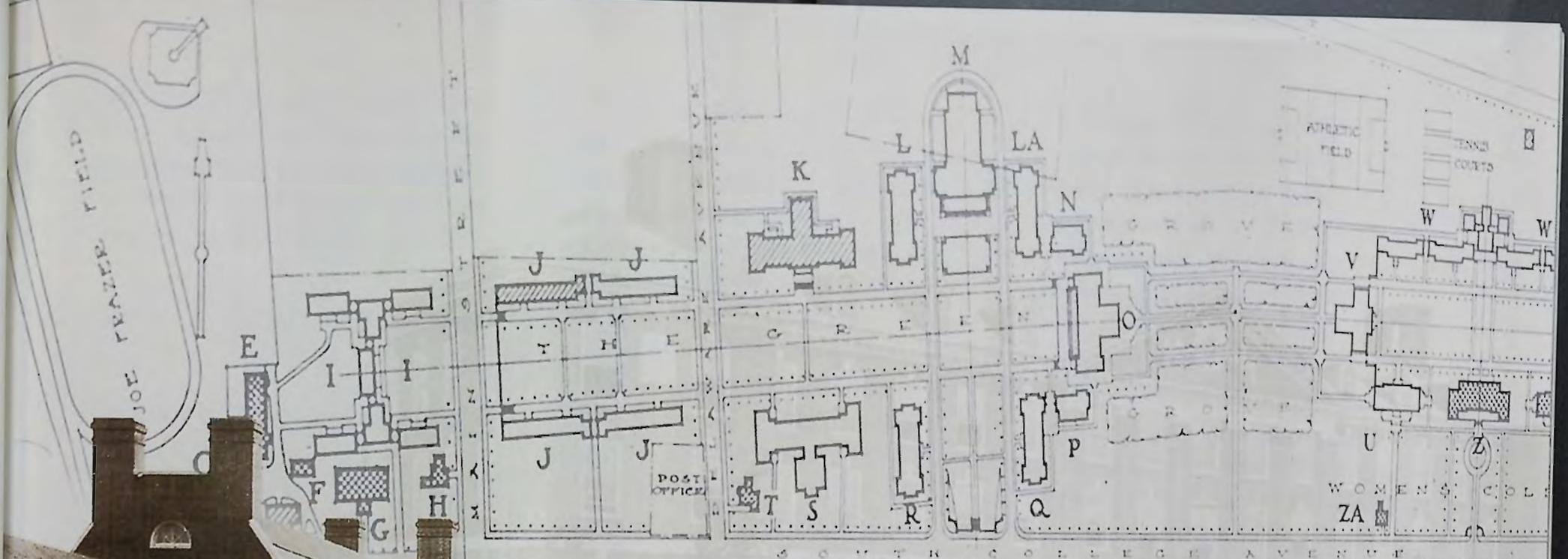
administrator from Virginia, was inaugurated as president of Delaware College and the Women's College.

Satisfied that his conditions were

being met and that the College could indeed become an important means to achieve educational reform in Delaware, Pierre S. du Pont was now willing to contribute to its support.

Delaware College's most pressing need was for more space. Hemmed in between Main Street and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks, there was little room for new buildings on the existing campus. The obvious path for growth lay on the south side of Main Street in the direction of the Women's College to link the two campuses. Part of the tract was

open farm land, but a good bit of it contained houses and other structures that included shops and a post office. In April 1915, Pierre du Pont anonymously offered the College \$218,000 to purchase the entire forty-acre tract and to remove unnecessary buildings. In his grateful reply, the College treasurer wrote that du Pont's gift "opens the way to the realization of the hope . . . that some day . . . young men and women might be



PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DELAWARE COLLEGE  
 WOMEN'S COLLEGE AT NEWARK, DELAWARE

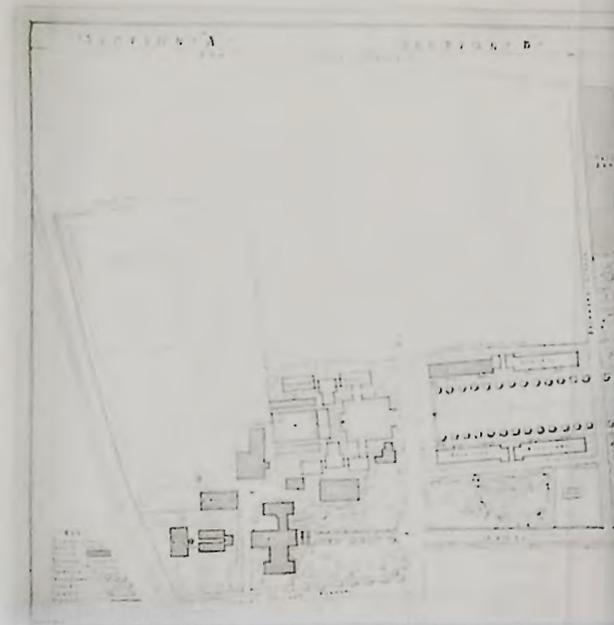
offered the opportunity to get an education at a college that is first class in [its] teaching force and equipment.”<sup>6</sup>

During the year that followed, Pierre du Pont’s gifts to the College were even more generous. Rodney Sharp dealt directly with President Mitchell and with the most renowned designers of college buildings in America, the Philadelphia-based firm of Frank Miles Day and Charles Z. Klauder. Pierre provided half a million dollars to the effort, of which \$300,000 was targeted toward new construction and \$200,000 toward raising the institution’s feeble endowment to provide the funds necessary to maintain the new buildings. Du Pont’s money paid for grading the land, planning the campus development, and constructing two buildings: Wolf Hall, a four-story, brick Georgian laboratory and classroom building for agriculture and the sciences, and Harter Hall, a dormitory. H. Rodney Sharp chose those names to honor two of his most respected professors.

By the middle of 1916, P. S. du Pont had given or pledged more than one million dollars to Delaware College. In addition to providing for land and buildings, his gifts paid for new equipment and for refurbishing the original college building, which henceforth was called Old College. In his letter of thanks to Pierre du Pont, President Mitchell wrote, “I have no words in which to tell you adequately of my personal gratitude . . . for the strength you have given to Delaware College.”<sup>7</sup> Du Pont’s mechanism for giving was simple but quick in light of his company’s remarkable wartime earnings. He placed five thousand, five hundred shares of his Du Pont stock in Rodney Sharp’s hands with instructions that the dividends were to go to the College until the amount of his pledge had been reached, “at which time the stock is to be released from trust and returned to me.”<sup>8</sup>

Characteristically, Pierre du Pont took pains to insure that his enormous gift would be spent wisely. His faith in H. Rodney Sharp’s ability to oversee the development of the

College was well-placed. Rodney Sharp was chairman of the Board of Trustees’ Committee on Grounds and Buildings, and his love for his alma mater was matched only by his astute



*Marian C. Coffin's landscape design for the new campus. An M.I.T. graduate, she was the first woman in America to become a major landscape architect. By the time Marian Coffin became involved with the campus plan, Rodney Sharp had already executed the most significant landscaping decision for the new campus, the planting of rows of elm trees along its walkways. Mr. Sharp joined with the student body to plant those trees, which have since been the glory of the University's Mall.*

aesthetic judgment and his gentle manner of persuasion. He stood at the cutting edge of the Colonial Revival, which was then just beginning to influence architectural taste. While

models. Rodney Sharp's goal was to produce an architecturally harmonious arrangement of simple, dignified, functional buildings. He aspired to create the most

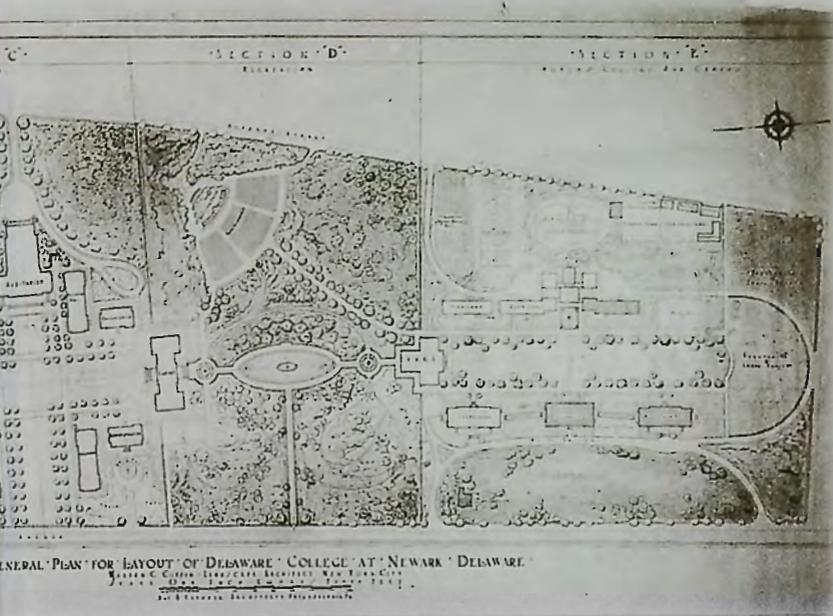
aesthetically attractive and compelling vista anywhere in the State, a campus design that would be equal to, or even superior to, the very finest anywhere in the United States.

Landscaping was considered as an integral part of the plan. H. Rodney Sharp chose Marian C. Coffin to landscape the campus. An M.I.T. graduate, she was the first woman in

America to become a major landscape architect. In addition to her work at the Newark campus, Marian Coffin also provided landscape designs for Rodney Sharp's private properties at Gibraltar in Wilmington and, later, at the Corbit-Sharp House in Odessa. Sharp met her through their mutual

friend, Henry Francis du Pont, who had known Marian Coffin since childhood. She worked with Henry F. to design the gardens at Winterthur and later planned gardens for Lammot du Pont Copeland at Mt. Cuba. By the time Marian Coffin became involved with the campus plan, Rodney Sharp had already executed the most significant landscaping decision for the new campus, the planting of rows of elm trees along its walkways. Mr. Sharp joined with the student body to plant those trees, which have since been the glory of the University's Mall. Elsewhere on the campus, the hand of Marian Coffin can be seen, especially in her adroit handling of the place where slightly differing axes of the men's and women's campuses met in what was then known as "no-man's land." For that junction, she designed a large circle of magnolias that fools the eye into believing that the mall proceeds along a straight path.

The building that stands at the center of the Mall is Memorial Hall, built in 1924 to be the library for both



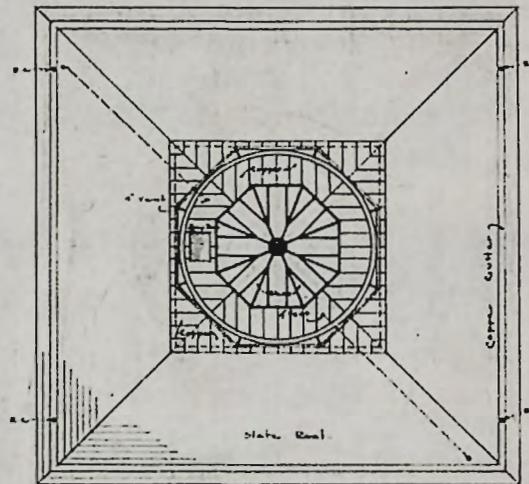
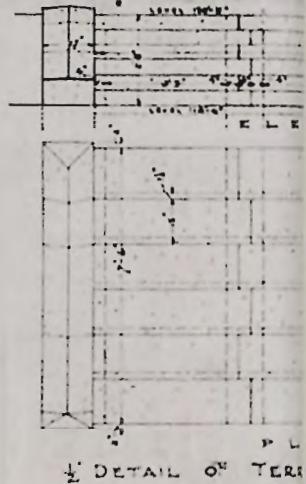
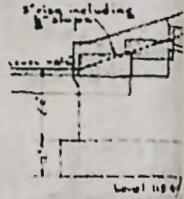
the plan for the new campus drew heavily from such non-Delaware sources as the lawn at the University of Virginia and the Colonial buildings in the Harvard Yard, Sharp urged architect Charles Z. Klauder to examine Delaware's architectural heritage for appropriate building

# MEMORIAL LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE NEWARK DELAWARE

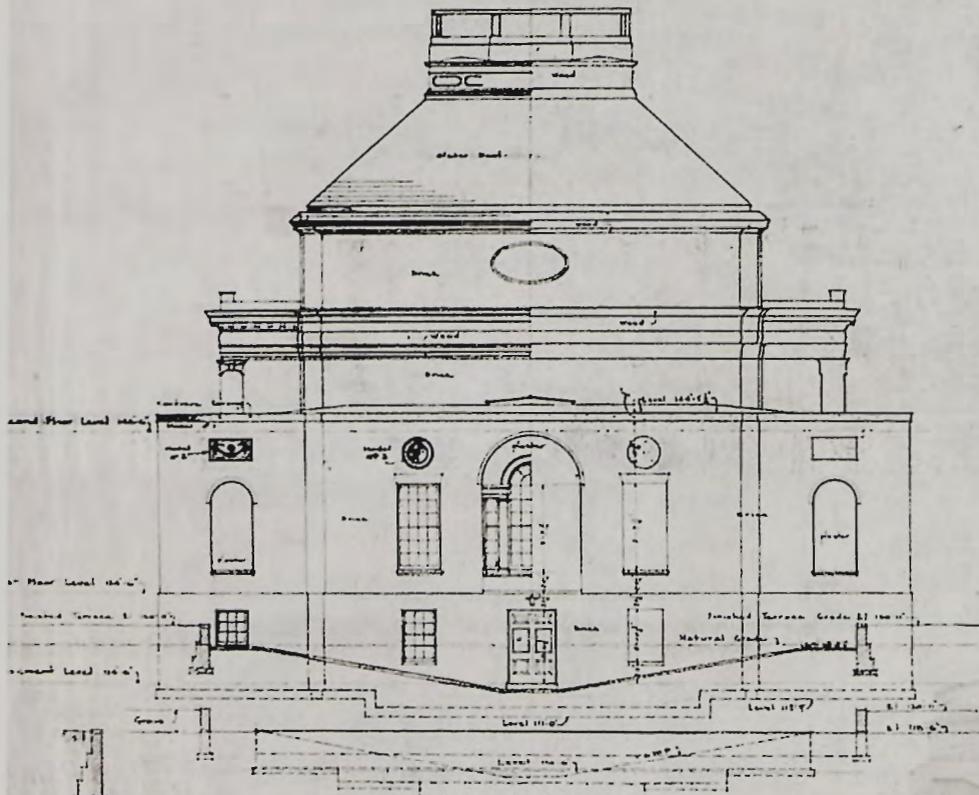
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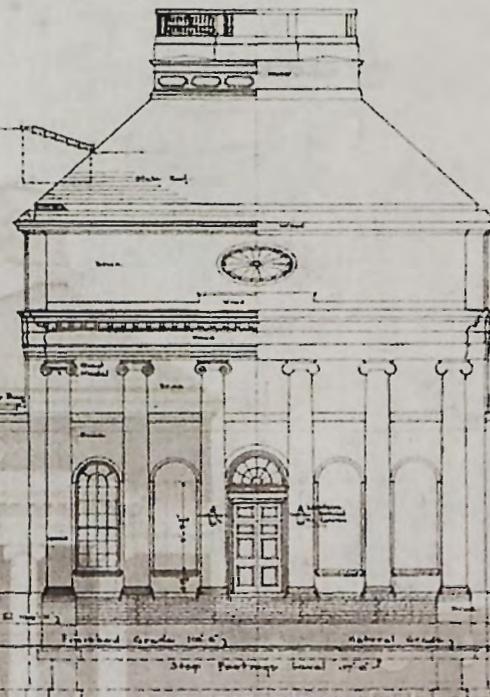
REVISED DATE: DEC. 22, 1923



PLAN



Section thro retaining wall  
Detail of retaining wall at West side of ramp.  
WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION

Note - All portions shown in outline to be identical to those similar portions shown in detail.  
See Sheet No. 31A for changes, additions and omissions on these elevations.

Colleges and Delaware's major memorial to her 262 sons who lost their lives in World War I. President Mitchell first suggested the need for such a building in a letter to H. Rodney Sharp in November 1918.<sup>9</sup> Shortly thereafter, Charles Klauder sent Sharp a preliminary design for the building based loosely on Philadelphia's square-shaped Pennsylvania Hospital, which had been built in the 1790s. H. Rodney Sharp examined the library plans carefully and suggested modifications that were incorporated into the final design. He also took an active role in organizing the fund-raising drive for the building. The canvass, which was the most far-reaching and inclusive such effort in First State history, aimed not only to attract contributions from alumni, faculty, and people of wealth, but from every Delawarean, including the students of the two Colleges and school children throughout the State. Based on the theme, "He is not dead who giveth life

to knowledge," all were urged to give their coins and dollars to show that "Delaware does not forget." As chairman of the Wilmington branch of the campaign, H. Rodney Sharp canvassed the wealthiest potential donors. His efforts raised most of the



*FACING PAGE: Day and Klauder plan for Memorial Hall, built in 1924 to be the library for both colleges and Delaware's major memorial to her 262 sons who lost their lives in World War I.*

*ABOVE: During Walter Hullihen's initial year in Newark, the new President developed a direct relationship with Pierre du Pont, which greatly influenced developments at the University during the 1920s.*

money, including the largest single contribution, that of Pierre S. du Pont for \$80,759.70. Other du Pont family members who contributed generously to the campaign included Mrs. Alexis I. du Pont, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene E. du Pont, Mr. and Mrs. H. Rodney Sharp, Senator and Mrs. T. Coleman du Pont, and Mr. and Mrs. Irénée du Pont. The total cost of the building was \$330,000, to which was added an endowment of \$50,000 and \$20,000 for books.

The completion of the library in 1925 marked an important milestone in the history of the University. It consolidated the meager library collections of the Men's and Women's Colleges and provided space for expansion into a respectable college library. Before the library project could be realized, Samuel C. Mitchell resigned the presidency at Delaware to return to teaching in his native Virginia. In a letter of appreciation addressed to Pierre S. du Pont, Mitchell wrote that

“you and Mr. Sharp have meant everything to me in the work here, and I can never thank you sufficiently for all your kindness and moral support. I have absolute faith in the future of the College, owing to the growth which your great gifts have made possible.”<sup>10</sup>

President Mitchell’s successor, Walter HULLIHEN, aspired to move the institution forward on many fronts. His first major act as President was to convince the board to combine the sex-segregated colleges under the name University of Delaware. HULLIHEN kept H. Rodney Sharp closely informed on University affairs even while the Sharp family was enjoying a leisurely world tour in 1921-1922. Writing on a portable typewriter as he traveled by train from New York to Wilmington, HULLIHEN told Sharp that he had held back sending him a thank-you letter for the library campaign until he had written all the other letters of thanks. “Now I come to you and I do not know what to say. I cannot use the perfunctory phrases I had to use in the other

National Education  
in  
The United States of America  
by  
DU PONT DE NEMOURS

Translated from the Second French Edition  
of 1812 and with an Introduction

by  
B. G. DU PONT



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE PRESS  
Newark Delaware  
1923

*In the 1930's, the newly created University of Delaware Press agreed to publish Pierre S. du Pont's great-grandfather, Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours' report to Thomas Jefferson on education entitled National Education in the United States of America. Pierre's brother, Irénée du Pont, oversaw the distribution of copies of this book to prominent American educators and political leaders, including congressmen and senators.*

letters. But I do want you to know how very deeply I appreciate and how completely I understand what you have done for the University. . . .”<sup>11</sup>

Perhaps because H. Rodney Sharp was abroad during Walter HULLIHEN's initial year in Newark, the new President developed a direct relationship with Pierre du Pont, which greatly influenced developments at the University during the 1920s. Through Service Citizens, Pierre's organization to improve education in Delaware, the University received funding to enlarge its heating plant and to build the Kent Dining Hall at the Women's College. Pierre personally gave money to build two fraternity houses on the men's campus and to purchase more land for University expansion. Pierre also supplemented the salaries of the Dean of Engineering and of a Professor of Economics whom HULLIHEN was especially eager to attract to Delaware. In the 1930s, Pierre du Pont funded pensions for retirement-age faculty. The University returned his many favors in its own small way when the

newly created University of Delaware Press agreed to publish an English translation of Pierre's great-grandfather, Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours's report to Thomas Jefferson on education, entitled *National Education in the United States of America*. Pierre's brother, Irénée du Pont, oversaw the distribution of copies of this book to prominent American educators and political leaders, including congressmen and senators. In 1922, the University publicly honored its rather conspicuous "anonymous" donor with the degree of Doctor of Civil Law.

Among Pierre du Pont's most memorable contributions to the University in the 1920s and early 1930s were his annual invitations to students and staff to attend theatrical performances in Wilmington. With his characteristic attention to detail, Pierre du Pont not only provided tickets to the entire student body and faculty to see the best (and most educational) play presented each season at the Hotel Du Pont's Playhouse, he also supplied a special

train to bring those several hundred people to Wilmington. He then arranged to have trolley cars transport them from the Baltimore and Ohio station on Union Street to the Du Pont Building. To judge from the appreciative tone of the many letters of thanks that Pierre received from students, faculty, and administrators, this was an especially welcome and treasured gift to be savored and remembered.

Another unusual, indeed unique, contribution of Pierre S. du Pont to expanding educational opportunities at the University of Delaware was his agreement to underwrite the initial years of the foreign study program. The First World War had opened the eyes of many people to the need for Americans to learn more about Europe as a means to encourage peaceful relations, cultural enlightenment, and the expansion of international trade. In 1920, a young Professor of French named Raymond W. Kirkbride convinced newly inaugurated President Walter HULLIHEN that the University should

inaugurate a foreign study program. The idea was entirely novel. Until that time, Americans had ventured across the Atlantic to do graduate study at European universities, but no program existed at any American college or university whereby undergraduate students could earn credit for study done at foreign universities. Raymond Kirkbride proposed to shepherd a group of students to France for a year. During that year, the students would live with French families, study at a French university, and earn credits toward their baccalaureate degrees at the University of Delaware.

A president less ambitious for his university would have dismissed Kirkbride's idea as too costly and inopportune, in light of the University of Delaware's many pressing needs. But, something in the young professor's earnest zeal and in HULLIHEN's own hopes for educational progress in an unstable world led him to embrace the concept. The President approached Dr. Joseph Odell, administrator for Service

Citizens, to inquire if that organization might help finance such a program. Odell considered the proposal outside his organization's scope, but he passed Hullihen's letter on to Pierre du Pont, who read it "with a great deal of interest." Du Pont informed President Hullihen of his "inclination" to support the project if others would do so as well.<sup>12</sup> Hullihen demurred, noting that all of his other funding requests had to be focused on the library building project. "Besides yourself, I know of no one in Delaware who would likely be interested," he concluded.<sup>13</sup>

The experiment in international study appealed strongly to Pierre du Pont's wife, Alice, who won over her husband. A man of unusually methodical discipline in the expenditure of money, Pierre finally

overcame his fear that foreign study might be icing on an incomplete cake. With his support, the novel program was launched. In July 1923, eight excited young men, all but one



*University of Delaware foreign studies students with Professor Raymond W. Kirkbride (center) in Nancy, France, 1923.*

students at the University of Delaware, embarked on the steamship *Rochambeau* for a year in France, accompanied by Professor Kirkbride.

On the eve of their departure, Pierre du Pont met them in New York and treated them to dinner and a show. He even sent flowers to the ship. Newspapers in France and the United

States ran complimentary articles about the foreign study plan, which drew favorable attention to the University and paved the way for Pierre du Pont's elevation to become an officer of the French Legion of Honor.

In the years that followed, Pierre du Pont continued to support the foreign study program financially and to

involve himself in its development. He maintained a steady triangular correspondence with Walter Hullihen and Raymond Kirkbride. Sometimes, he found it necessary to hold back the irrepressible Kirkbride, as when the professor expressed a Napoleonic

desire to assert the University of Delaware's dominance over other American universities that might undertake similar programs. "While Delaware is entitled to some pride for having started the movement," Pierre wrote in avuncular style, "I do not think that it is proper to seek a monopoly on this form of training, particularly as we have funds insufficient for proper development."<sup>14</sup> As the years went by, the program grew to include as many as sixty students, most of them from universities and colleges outside of Delaware. Du Pont provided up to \$10,000 each year through Service Citizens, enough to make up the difference between the income from student fees and the true cost. In 1926, when Joseph Odell visited France he enthusiastically reported back to Pierre that the program was far more important in the eyes of French leaders than anyone in the United States might imagine.<sup>15</sup>

Pierre du Pont did not doubt the value of the foreign study program, but he was unwilling to be its sole

benefactor. As his contributions became smaller, others came forward to pick up the slack, among them was Senator T. Coleman du Pont. Pierre never abandoned his interest in the program, nor in its earnest young champion. In 1928, Raymond Kirkbride contracted a fatal disease that took his life in 1929. During the period of Kirkbride's illness, Pierre du Pont paid the young professor's hospital and doctor's bills and, when he died, paid for his funeral.

Pierre du Pont's conscientious, rational approach to philanthropy had a great impact on those around him. In January 1949, when Pierre and H. Rodney Sharp were advanced in years, Sharp sent his brother-in-law a reflective letter that concluded, "If I have been able to bring happiness into the lives of others, it was you who first showed me the way."<sup>16</sup>

By the end of World War I, Rodney Sharp and his wife, Isabella, had attained a level of wealth that far exceeded their expectations when they had married in 1908. As a result, H. Rodney Sharp was now able to

provide major funds to support good causes that interested him, and the University of Delaware remained by far the most prominent of these. H. Rodney Sharp wished to preserve the sense of a close, shared community that he had experienced as a student in the late 1890s for the current students and faculty of Delaware College. Believing that a college education consisted of more than could be learned from books, lectures, and laboratory work, he decided to give "the College," as he continued from long habit to call it, a building that could serve as its assembly hall, concert hall, and theatre. In 1927, he offered to build an auditorium to seat one thousand persons to be located at the western cross-axis of the Mall. He named the building Mitchell Hall to honor Samuel Chiles Mitchell, the President with whom Sharp had worked so closely and harmoniously in the heady days when they were planning the new campus.

Charles Z. Klauder's sophisticated design for Mitchell Hall included a domed central space over the



*a place where students from  
men's and women's colleges  
worked together to produce  
theatrical and musical events  
where members of the entire  
campus community gathered  
for meetings and ceremonies  
and where citizens, students  
and university employees  
attended concerts and plays  
presented by outstanding  
sessions.*

auditorium, a balcony that ran along three sides, and a handsome vestibule. The three doors that gave entry to the building from the front were surrounded by carved white marble. H. Rodney Sharp paid close attention to the planning and execution of every detail that went into the building—the fabric material chosen for the auditorium seats, the heating system, even the choice of marble for the bathrooms. The stage was designed to accommodate a large organ, valued at \$100,000, that Pierre du Pont donated to make way for a new organ at his Longwood Gardens estate. On the day that Mitchell Hall was dedicated, H. Rodney Sharp held a luncheon for 250 guests, including many members of the du Pont family, in the refectory in Old College. Afterward, his guests gathered in the new auditorium to enjoy a series of brief performances that demonstrated the building's versatility. These included an organ recital, a one-act play written and acted by students from the Men's College, and a concert by the



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*ABOVE: Another gift of Sharp, Discobolus arrived by steamship from Italy in 1923 and was transferred to the gymnasium of the men's college. It now stands in the vestibule of the R.R.M. Carpenter Sports Building.*

Women's College Glee Club. The Student Council presented H. Rodney Sharp with a bronze plaque, now affixed to the front of the building, proclaiming that Mitchell Hall was "The Gift of H. Rodney Sharp, Class of 1900."

As Rodney Sharp had anticipated, his magnificent gift became a centerpiece of life at the University, a place where students from the Men's and Women's Colleges worked together to produce theatrical and musical events, where members of the entire campus community gathered for meetings and ceremonies, and where citizens, students, and University employees attended concerts and plays presented by outstanding professional players.

Although Mitchell Hall remains the most visible sign of Rodney Sharp's life-long commitment to his beloved College, it was but one among many of his significant gifts. He never stopped thinking about how he might assist the development of the University. During his world tour in 1921-22, Sharp took time to visit the

# Familiar Relations:

## The duPonts & the University of Delaware



→ In 1920, H. Rodney Sharp chooses Marian C. Coffin to landscape the campus. An M.I.T. graduate, she is the first woman in America to become a major landscape architect.

→ In July 1923, the first foreign-study program under Professor Raymond W. Kirkbride begins. P.S. du Pont helps launch this novel program through his support.

→ H. Rodney Sharp donates marble sculpture of Greek discus thrower, or Discobolus, in 1923.



→ In the 1930s, P.S. du Pont funds pensions for retirement-age faculty.

→ In 1930, Mitchell Hall opens. H. Rodney Sharp provides funds to build this campus centerpiece.



→ During WW II, R. R. M. Carpenter steps in to fund the structure that now bears his name. The Carpenter Sports Building opens in 1943 and is expanded and



1923

1930-

1943



1915

→ April 1915: P.S. du Pont anonymously offers the college \$218,000 to purchase the entire forty-acre tract (site of the present central campus) and to remove unnecessary buildings.

1916

→ Middle of 1916: P.S. du Pont has given or pledged more than \$1 million to Delaware College. In addition to providing land and buildings, his gifts pay for new equipment and for refurbishing the original college building, which is now called Old College.

1920-

→ In the 1920s, Service Citizens, P.S. du Pont's organization, gives funding to enlarge the heating plant and to build the Kent Dining Hall at the Women's College. He personally gives money to purchase more land for

University expansion, and to build two fraternity houses on the men's campus.

1924

→ Memorial Hall opens in 1924, with the largest single contribution from P.S. du Pont for \$80,759.70. Other du Pont family members who contribute

generously to the campaign include Mrs. Alexis I. du Pont, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene E. du Pont, Mr. and Mrs. H. Rodney Sharp, Senator and Mrs. T. Coleman du Pont and Mr. and Mrs. Irénée du Pont.

1939

→ UNIDEL Foundation is created by Miss Amy du Pont. In the period between 1939 and 1999, UNIDEL provides more than \$112 million to enhance University of Delaware programs.



improved several times in years to come. In the mid-1960s, a swimming pool wing is added and other facilities are enlarged. An extensive renovation is completed by the fall of 2000.

→ Since 1952, the Winterthur Program, the first museum-studies-oriented master's degree in the nation, has produced hundreds of scholars, curators and

connoisseurs who have become leaders of museums of American history and decorative arts and of academic programs in American studies.

1952

→ In 1958, Edith du Pont Riegel Pearson provides for the University to receive income from certain of her trust funds throughout her lifetime. One-half of the income is designated for the purchase of reading materials for the library.

1958

→ Pierre S. du Pont Hall is built in 1958 for the College of Engineering. Funding for Du Pont Hall comes from the Good Samaritan Foundation, the creation of Elias Ahuja, a former Du Pont Company agent for Chilean nitrate, and P.S. du Pont's Longwood Foundation.



→ In 1966, Irénée du Pont Jr. contributes his father's mineral collection to the University of Delaware. Wilhelmina Laird Craven later augments the collection with several additional gifts.

1966

→ In 1969, Willis du Pont, the son of Lammot du Pont Jr., presents the University with a large collection of Indian artifacts and a twenty-volume portfolio edition of The North American Indian by 19th-century ethnographer Edward S. Curtis.

1969

→ In 1969, Ellen du Pont Meeds Wheelwright, a daughter of T. Coleman du Pont, gives the University her home, Goodstay, a stone colonial house with its adjacent formal gardens located in Wilmington on Pennsylvania Avenue.



1950-

→ The Sharp Trust provides \$32,589,183.84 to the University between 1950 and Mr. Sharp's death in 1968. Since the University invests much of that money, by 1968, the total value of the Sharp Trust to the University's endowment grows to \$58,532,640.05.



1954

→ The Hagley Graduate Program, founded in 1954 in the University's Department of History, concentrates on the history of industrialization, and includes students pursuing both master's and Ph.D. degrees.

→ J. Bruce and Octavia du Pont Bredin support the University's general fund through their Bredin Foundation. The Bredins also provide salary support for the Charles E. Birchenall Professorship.



1962

→ In 1962, Lammot du Pont Copeland establishes the Andelot fellowships for doctoral degrees in the humanities.



→ William Winder (Chick) Laird Jr. gives the University the valuable property located on New London Road in northwest Newark, which is now fittingly called the Laird Campus.

1967

→ In 1967, just one year before he dies, Rodney Sharp provides \$200,000 to buy the Newark Presbyterian Church property on Main Street. In 1994, this becomes the site of a new student center.



→ The Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture is created in 1967 to link P.S. du Pont's Longwood Gardens with the University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

→ Hugh Sharp's interest in the work of the College of Marine Studies since its introduction in 1971, leads Du Pont Company executives to fund the

E.I. du Pont professorship in Marine Biology, the raising of money to purchase the research vessel Cape Henlopen and the founding of the Marine Studies Associates.

→ The most visible reminder of Amy E. du Pont's ongoing benefaction to the University is the music building named in her honor, which includes a recital hall and practice rooms. It is constructed in 1973, thanks to a Unidel grant.

→ Since 1980, the Eugene du Pont scholarships have provided aid to hundreds of highly deserving students and are the centerpiece of student financial support for the University Honors Program.

→ At Bob Carpenter's death in 1990, plans are already under way to construct the indoor sports-convocation center to be named in his honor. Members of

the du Pont and Carpenter families join many other donors and the state of Delaware in completing the \$20 million structure.

1971

1973

1980

1990



1970

→ Jean du Pont's financial support and encouragement lead to the creation of a criminal justice concentration in the Department of Sociology.

enhancement of faculty salaries to the improvement of buildings and the publication of books. At his death in 1970, he bequeathes the University a substantial legacy. His widow, Emily du Pont, contributes to the establishment of the H.B. du Pont Professorship in Chemical Engineering.

→ George W. Laird, who dies in 1977, provides a bequest to the University that is used for computer-assisted engineering.

→ In 1987, together with Crawford and Margaretta du Pont Greenewalt and Octavia du Pont Bredin, Emily du Pont supplies the bulk of the matching funds for the University to begin the nation's first Ph.D. program in art conservation.

→ In 1993, the Lammot du Pont Laboratory is dedicated. Many of the generous donors are du Ponts, mostly

descendants of Lammot du Pont and their relatives by marriage.

→ H.B. du Pont donates property to be used either for future expansion or to be sold. Other life-time gifts range from the





studio of sculptor Eugenio Battaglia in Florence, Italy, from whom he ordered a large sculpture of a Greek discus thrower, or *Discobolus*, for the University. Chiseled from Carrara marble, *Discobolus* arrived by steamship in 1923 and was transferred to the gymnasium of the Men's College. It now stands in the vestibule of the R.R.M. Carpenter Sports Building.

During the 1930s, Rodney Sharp commissioned the erection of a brick wall, designed by Marian Coffin, that was extended year by year until it enclosed the central campus. He continued to monitor the University's plantings closely, sometimes in the company of fellow trustee and gardening enthusiast, Henry Francis du Pont of Winterthur. Sharp also paid the salary of the alumni secretary and purchased uniforms for the University's Marching Band.

H. Rodney Sharp's largest and most lasting legacy to his alma mater was his extraordinary gift to its endowment. The size of this gift was dictated by the fact that Mrs. Sharp predeceased her husband by twenty-

two years. In 1931, Isabella du Pont Sharp and H. Rodney Sharp had entered into trust agreements whereby each left the other life use of his or her trust. After both had died, the corpus of the trusts would devolve to their children. When Mrs. Sharp died in 1946 at the age of sixty-four, her husband decided to give the income from her trust to several non-profit organizations, including the University of Delaware, which received by far the largest share. The Sharp Trust provided \$32,589,183.84 to the University between 1950 and Mr. Sharp's death in 1968. Since the University invested much of that money, by 1968, the total value of the Sharp Trust to the University's endowment had grown to \$58,532,640.05.

No other donor's gift to the University has come close to matching the size of Mr. Sharp's benefactions. In fact, few private donors have matched such generosity to any American university. The ongoing income from the Sharp endowment has allowed the University to expand

both in size and, more importantly, in the quality of its programs, while keeping the cost of student tuition and the cost to Delaware taxpayers low. H. Rodney Sharp's philanthropy was especially significant because his long-term personal involvement helped shape both the University's physical appearance and its internal values. Moreover, it is unlikely that Pierre S. du Pont would have provided support to Delaware College at a critical juncture in the school's history had it not been for Mr. Sharp's encouragement. The State of Delaware and the many thousands of alumni whose careers have been forged at the University of Delaware owe much to these two prescient men.

At the graduation ceremony in June 1948, the University awarded H. Rodney Sharp an honorary L.L.D. degree in recognition of his outstanding service to both the University and to the State of Delaware. In 1951, the University's trustees further honored Mr. Sharp when they named a new men's dormitory in his honor. Later, in 1962,



*Funding for du Pont Hall  
came from the Good Samaritan  
Foundation, the creation of Senor Elias Ahuj,  
a former Du Pont Company agent for Chilean  
nitrate, and Pierre S. du Pont's Ponawood Founda*

a classroom-laboratory building was named Sharp Laboratory. In addition to these buildings, in 1958, the board created five H. Rodney Sharp Professorships designed to attract and to reward outstanding faculty. A decade later, the board established the H. Rodney Sharp Scholarships to encourage outstanding students to attend the University, without regard to the recipients' sex, place of residence, or chosen field of study.

While these honors were flowing his way, Rodney Sharp continued to assist the University. He took particular interest in the construction of Pierre S. du Pont Hall, built in 1958 for the College of Engineering. Funding for Du Pont Hall came from the Good Samaritan Foundation, the creation of Señor Elias Ahuja, a former Du Pont Company agent for Chilean nitrate, and Pierre S. du Pont's Longwood Foundation. The team that had built the Du Pont Company's Experimental Station designed the building to be



*OVERLEAF: Funding for Du Pont Hall came from the Good Samaritan Foundation, the creation of Señor Elias Ahuja, a former Du Pont Company agent for Chilean nitrate, and Pierre S. du Pont's Longwood Foundation. Here, du Pont and Ahuja pose during a voyage in 1905. Courtesy Hagley Museum and Library*

*ABOVE: In 1967, just one year before he died, Rodney Sharp provided funding to buy the Newark Presbyterian Church property on Main Street. It was on this property that, in 1994, the University commissioned the internationally known architect Robert Venturi to build a student center designed to harmonize with nearby structures.*

functional. Its aesthetic drabness bothered Rodney Sharp, in part because the building bore the name of his recently deceased brother-in-law and close friend, but also because this nondescript box of a building was located on the Mall amid elegantly proportioned Georgian structures. This would not do. So, in 1960, Rodney Sharp organized a campaign among P. S. du Pont's nephews and nieces to put a Georgian portico on the facade. His efforts provoked interesting responses from du Ponts. Several agreed with Sharp that improvement to the appearance of the building was a project worth their contribution, while others saw no reason to alter a perfectly serviceable building. People of both opinions felt sure that, were he living, Uncle Pierre would have been of their mind on the issue. Needless to say, Rodney Sharp's appeal collected enough money to mount a renovation.

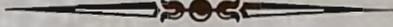
In 1967, just one year before he died, Rodney Sharp made yet one

more special gift to the University. Over and above the endowment from his deceased wife's trust, he provided \$200,000 to buy the Newark Presbyterian Church property on Main Street. It was on this property that, in 1994, the University commissioned the internationally known architect Robert Venturi to build a modernist student center designed to harmonize with nearby Georgian and Victorian structures. The building incorporated the old church, which is now a study hall. The architects preserved the ornate fabric of the former church, including its stained glass windows. The attention to detail and subtle use of color that marked its restoration would have delighted Rodney Sharp. 

**OVERLEAF:** *One of R.R.M. Carpenter's (right) most significant gifts to the University was interesting his son, R.R.M. (Bob) Carpenter, Jr., (left) in Delaware's athletic program. When Bob Carpenter died in 1990, plans were already under way to construct a five-thousand-seat indoor sports-convocation center to be named in his honor. Photograph of R.R.M. Carpenter courtesy of Hagley Museum and Library. Photograph of R.R.M. (Bob) Carpenter, Jr., courtesy Philadelphia Phillies*

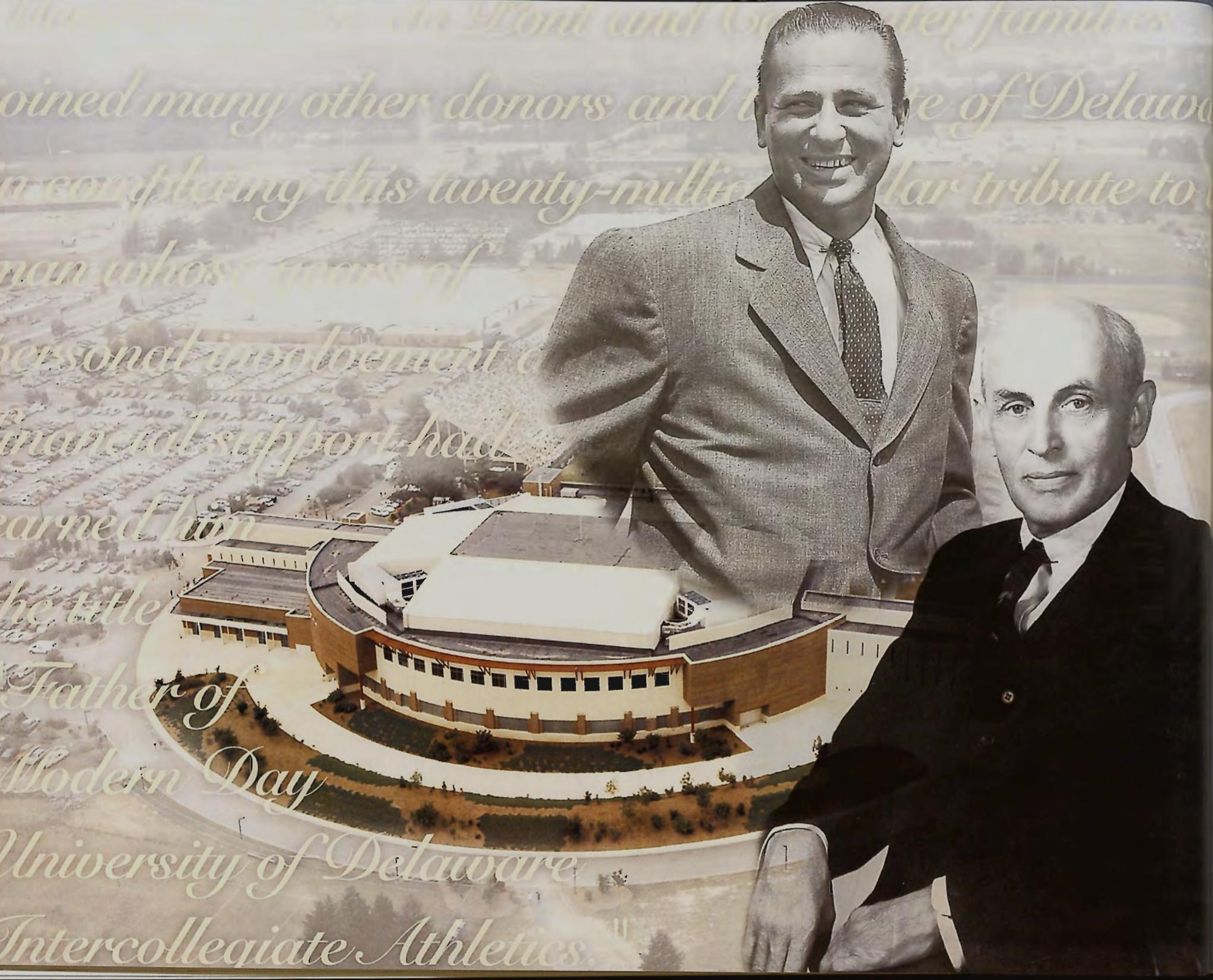
## PROGRAM ENRICHMENT

**A**MONG Du Pont Company executives of the first half of the twentieth century were several men who made substantial benefactions to the University of Delaware. H. Fletcher Brown, Robert Ruliph Morgan (R.R.M.) Carpenter, and his younger brother, Walter Carpenter, who chaired the University's board, are notable examples. Of these, only R.R.M. Carpenter was directly connected to the du Pont family through his marriage to Margaretta du Pont, who was a sister of Pierre S. du Pont and Isabella du Pont Sharp.



When R.R.M. Carpenter joined the University's Board of Trustees in 1940, he agreed to lead the Board's Committee on Athletics and Physical Education. He thus began a tradition, as yet unbroken, of Carpenter family service to the University that has focused on athletics. On the eve of World War II, the University's athletic facilities, especially those for male students, were sadly inadequate. Little attention had been given to keeping

instruction in physical education abreast of other academic improvements and the University cut a mediocre figure in intercollegiate sports. During the difficult war years, R.R.M. Carpenter was the catalyst for the development of those programs. His first priority was to build a new gymnasium. In spite of wartime restrictions on building materials, the gymnasium was justified because it could serve as a drilling field for ROTC. The State and federal governments agreed to pay for the



*...the ... of the ... and ... families  
joined many other donors and ... of Delaware  
in completing this twenty-million dollar tribute to  
a man whose years of  
personal involvement and  
financial support had  
earned him  
the title  
Father of  
Modern Day  
University of Delaware  
Intercollegiate Athletics.*

building, but later, both backed away from their commitments and R.R.M. Carpenter stepped in to fund the structure that now bears his name.

In addition to his timely assistance with the sports building project, R.R.M. Carpenter made an even more significant gift to the University by interesting his son, R.R.M. (Bob) Carpenter, Jr., in Delaware's athletic program. In 1945, Bob Carpenter replaced his father on the University's Board of Trustees and, like his father before him, and his son, Ruly, after him, chaired the Board's Committee on Athletics. Bob Carpenter's name became so intertwined with University of Delaware sports and his gifts to its athletics programs so generous that many people have assumed that he was an alumnus. He was not. A graduate of Wilmington's Tower Hill School, Bob Carpenter attended Duke University in the late 1930s, where he played football. Bob Carpenter was back in Delaware by 1940 when his father joined the University's Board. In that year,

together with fellow sportsmen Henry Belin du Pont and John J. DeLuca, an attorney, Bob Carpenter donated the funds that began the vitalization of the University's sports program. Bob helped to locate and hire a new head football coach, William D. (Bill) Murray, whom he had known in North Carolina. Within three years, Murray turned a losing football team into an undefeated team that began Delaware football's winning tradition. In the decades that followed, Bob Carpenter gave generously not only to support Delaware's intercollegiate athletic teams, but also to assist physical education, recreational sports, and the establishment of athletics-related research at the University.

Bob Carpenter was a man of many interests—nearly all related to sports. He owned the Philadelphia Phillies for three decades; he bred hunting dogs; he organized sports events to assist in the care of retarded children; and he hunted on his plantation in South Carolina.

But, his most longstanding and deepest commitment was to University of Delaware football. David M. Nelson, who succeeded Bill Murray as the University's football coach and was later Director of Athletics and Dean of Physical Education, Athletics and Recreation, worked closely with Carpenter for forty years. Bob Carpenter, Nelson said, "did everything he could to support us." Nelson credited Carpenter with creating Delaware's philosophical commitment to make education the cornerstone of its athletics program and to use athletics as a means to help young people mature into responsible adults. Bob Carpenter "had a dream to provide youngsters who wanted to play college football and couldn't afford to attend school the opportunity to do so," Nelson said. He "never lost sight of his primary objective . . . assisting youngsters with the courage and talent to play football to receive a first-class education."<sup>17</sup>

When Bob Carpenter died in



*Condel provided  
close to seventy-  
eight million  
dollars to enhance  
University of Delaware  
programs.*

*Each year this  
remarkable bequest  
from a woman who  
sought to honor her  
father continues to  
support the work of scholars  
and their students.*

1990, plans were already under way to construct a five-thousand-seat indoor, sports-convocation center to be named in his honor. Bob's son, Ruly Carpenter, successfully led the campaign for the Bob Carpenter Sports/Convocation Center, now affectionately known to students as "The Bob." Members of the du Pont and Carpenter families joined many other donors and the State of Delaware in completing this twenty-million-dollar tribute to the man whose years of personal involvement and financial support had earned him the title "Father of Modern Day University of Delaware Intercollegiate Athletics."

At the other end of the campus, the Carpenter Sports Building has been expanded and improved several times since it was constructed during World War II. While a major renovation was completed in 2000, a significant enhancement occurred in the mid-1960s, when a swimming-

pool wing was added and other facilities were enlarged to meet the needs of expanded enrollment. The primary source of funds for that project, amounting to one million, seven hundred and fifty thousand

dollars, came from the Unidel Foundation, the creation of Miss Amy du Pont.

Amy E. du Pont (1875-1962) was the



*FACING PAGE: Amy E. du Pont (top right) was the daughter of Eugene du Pont (top left), who presided over the Du Pont Company from 1889 to 1902. Through her lawyer, Hugh M. Morris, she created the philanthropic Unidel Foundation to honor her father. At the November 4, 1973, laying of the datestone and dedication of the Amy E. du Pont Music Building are (clockwise, from lower left) University President E.A. Trabant; Dr. Samuel Lenher, Chairman of the UD Board of Trustees; Judge G. Burton Pearson, Jr., UD Trustee and Chairman of the Unidel Foundation Board; and Edmond du Pont, UD Trustee. Photograph of Eugene du Pont courtesy Hagley Museum and Library. The most visible reminder of Amy du Pont's ongoing benefaction to the University is the Amy E. du Pont Music Building (background).*

*ABOVE: Tamara Hareven, Unidel Professor of Individual and Family Studies, is an internationally known authority on the history of the family.*

daughter of Eugene du Pont, a scientist by training and temperament who presided over the Du Pont Company from 1889 to 1902. Her mother was Amelia du Pont, who descended from the Victor Marie branch of the family. In his will, Eugene du Pont provided equally for his five children, but whereas his sons inherited their portions outright, the daughters' portions were held in trust for them. The daughters could, however, gain discretion over the use of the corpus of their inheritance through their wills.

Amy du Pont never married. Horses were her passion, but she also took an interest in philanthropic endeavors, centered particularly on the Women's College of Delaware. In 1939, she joined the College's Advisory Committee. That same year, she undertook through her lawyer, former federal court Judge Hugh M. Morris, who then chaired the University of Delaware's Board of Trustees, to create a philanthropic foundation to honor her father. The foundation was called Unidel.

Amy du Pont and Judge Morris planned the Unidel Foundation carefully. Although its Board was to have a broad mandate, the primary purpose of the Foundation was “to aid and promote higher education in the State of Delaware, and to increase, enlarge and improve the scientific and educational advantages and opportunities of its people by gifts and contributions . . . to the University of Delaware.”<sup>18</sup> Fearing that knowledge of the Foundation’s resources might undermine the State government’s sense of responsibility for the University, Unidel was not to support the institution’s basic budget, but, rather, to provide enhancements beyond what the taxpayers should be expected to support. Unidel’s resources and gifts were modest throughout the remainder of Miss Amy’s life. The Foundation’s initial grants went to the Women’s College to purchase a residence for its Dean and to support faculty salaries in home economics. With her death in 1962, the principal corpus of her inheritance, then valued at twenty-five

million dollars, came to Unidel. The decision to fund the addition to the Carpenter Sports Building was among the trustees’ first actions after Miss Amy’s death.

Unlike the endowment funds supplied by H. Rodney Sharp, Pierre S. du Pont, and others, Unidel’s money is not part of the University’s endowment, but there has always been considerable overlap between the University’s Board of Trustees and the Board of the Foundation. Judge George Burton Pearson, Jr., husband of Edith du Pont Riegel Pearson and a University Trustee from 1951 until his death in 1999 at the age of 94, was the major link. He served on Unidel’s Board from the Foundation’s creation in 1939, and was its Chairman from 1962 until his death. Other du Pont family members who have served on the Unidel Board include J. Bruce Bredin, Irénée du Pont, Jr., and Alfred E. Bissell. With rare exceptions the Unidel Board has agreed to finance projects suggested to it by University administrators so

long as those projects fit within Unidel’s mandate. Among the many grants that the University has received from Unidel, the one that, one suspects, would have made Miss Amy most pleased has been the trustees’ ongoing support for the Eugene du Pont Scholarship Program. Since its inception in 1980, the Eugene du Pont Scholarships have provided aid to hundreds of unusually deserving students. The program is the centerpiece of student financial support for the University’s highly successful Honors Program.

The most visible reminder of Amy du Pont’s ongoing benefaction to the University is the Amy E. du Pont Music Building, a major cultural amenity for the University and the region. The building, which includes a recital hall and practice rooms, was constructed in 1973, thanks to a Unidel grant. Amy du Pont’s Foundation also has played a significant role in attracting and compensating high-quality faculty who have strengthened many

academic units. Unidel's grants have raised the level of University teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The many examples of Unidel's impact include the creation of named professorships, support for graduate fellowships, the purchase of scientific equipment, and funding book purchases for the Morris Library. In the period between 1939, when the Foundation was created, and 1994, Unidel provided close to seventy-eight million dollars to enhance University of Delaware programs. The total gifts from Unidel through 1999 are one hundred twelve million, three hundred twenty-six thousand dollars. Each year, this remarkable bequest from a woman who sought to honor her father continues to support the work of scholars and their students. 

## *PERSONAL INTEREST CONNECTIONS*

*PERSONAL interests have moved several members of the du Pont family to support the development of outstanding, even world-class, educational programs at Delaware. Henry Francis (Harry) du Pont of Winterthur represents an excellent example. A 1902 graduate of Harvard College, young Harry took over his father's interest in the Du Pont Company and his farm, while the Colonel served in the United States Senate. In 1918, probably at the urging of H. Rodney Sharp, Harry du Pont agreed to join the Board of Delaware College.*



During the decade that followed, he provided financial support for campus landscaping by his friend, Marian Coffin, and also helped fund research into cattle disease—an important concern for a man who was building a prize-winning herd of Holstein-Frisian cattle. During this same period, Harry du Pont began to collect early American furniture and decorative arts objects. By 1951, when Winterthur was opened to the public as a museum, the scope, size, and quality of his collection was unparalleled.

Harry du Pont hired scholarly connoisseurs to catalog, study, and care for his growing collection. One of those professionals was Charles F. Montgomery, who recognized the potential for the Winterthur collection as a resource for education and research. Montgomery approached key University of Delaware administrators and faculty to explore the creation of a post-graduate curriculum that would combine humanities disciplines with the study

of the museum's collections. Like the foreign study program begun three decades earlier, this proposal led to the creation of a wholly new educational plan, the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture. Since the first five graduate students were admitted in 1952, the Winterthur Program has produced hundreds of scholars, curators, and connoisseurs who have become leaders of museums of American history and decorative arts, as well as of academic programs in American studies. The Winterthur Program offered the first museum-studies-oriented master's degree in the nation, and although it has since been copied elsewhere, its position



*Winterthur Program Fellows of the Class of 1996 pose in the Montmorenci Stair Hall at the Winterthur Museum. H.F. du Pont (right of center) provided funds to the University to hire faculty such as E. Wayne Craven (upper right), an outstanding art historian whose specialty is Colonial era American art. Photograph of H.F. du Pont courtesy of Winterthur Library, The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum*

of leadership has never been usurped. To further enhance the value of this unique Program, in 1960, H. F. du Pont provided funds

to the University to hire faculty in each of three key disciplines—

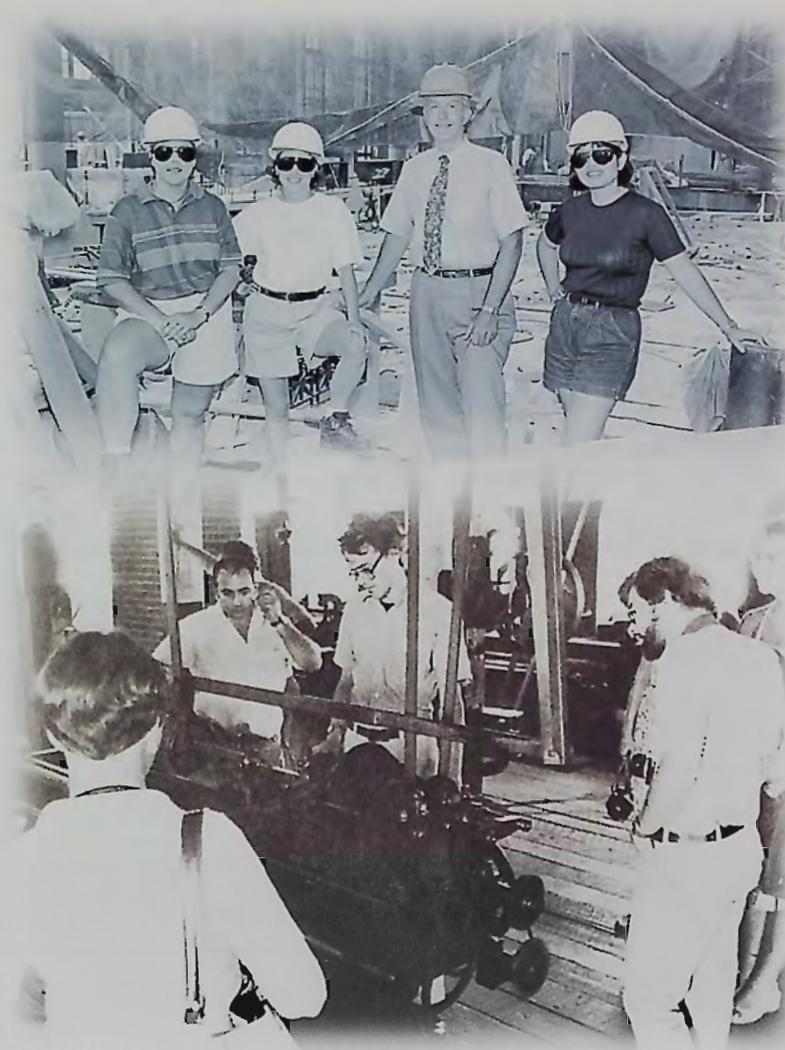
History, Art History and English. The faculty selected to hold these positions were designated as Henry Francis du Pont Professors. They teach undergraduate courses in their respective fields

as well as seminars for Winterthur fellows and other graduate students. Thanks to the addition of these faculty and the University's association with the Winterthur Museum, Delaware is recognized nationally as a leading institution in American culture and museum studies.

Following on the early success of the Winterthur Program, the University made a similar arrangement with the Hagley Museum, which is located at the site of the original Du Pont Company mills on the Brandywine River. The

Hagley Museum was developed and endowed by the Du Pont Company following the company's 150th anniversary celebration in 1952. Its significance to scholars was enhanced when it acquired Pierre S. du Pont's personal collection of books and papers from Longwood as well as the papers of the Du Pont Company. Since that time, the Hagley Library has grown to become one of America's greatest repositories of manuscripts and books relating to business and technological history. The Hagley Graduate Program, founded in 1954 in the University's Department of History, concentrates on the history of industrialization and includes students pursuing both master's and Ph.D. degrees.

The third in the triumvirate of du Pont-related graduate programs affiliated with the University of Delaware is the Longwood Graduate



*TOP: Longwood Graduate Program Fellows with Program Coordinator James E. Swasey on a visit to the Orangerie reconstruction site at Longwood Gardens, ca. 1997.*

*ABOVE: Hagley Graduate Program Fellows on a visit to Old Slater Mill in 1977. Courtesy Hagley Museum and Library*

Program in Ornamental Horticulture. The Longwood Program was created in 1967 to link Pierre du Pont's Longwood Gardens with the University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. A recent change in name to the Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture emphasizes the Program's concentration on the training of specialists capable of caring for and leading large public gardens. Students from around the world are attracted to the Program by its unique combination of plant science and the mastery of museum leadership skills.

Since 1970, the University has offered courses in museum studies where Winterthur, Hagley, and Longwood students, together with other graduate students, are brought together to learn museum exhibition techniques and the management of cultural resources. The University of Delaware's present leadership in the

education of curators, scholars, and administrative leaders in the museum field is a direct result of pioneering programs begun under the auspices of H. F. du Pont, P. S. du Pont's Longwood Foundation, and, in the case of Hagley, the Du Pont Company.

Jean Kane Foulke du Pont offers yet another example of how one person's focused and passionate commitment can produce significant results. The descendant of many prominent Delawareans from the State's earliest Colonial period, Jean Kane Foulke married Francis Gurney du Pont's son, Eugene Paul (known as E. Paul) du Pont in 1910. She was part of a generation of progressive young women who reached out to assist the less fortunate. Although she shared interests in gardening, arts, and music that were common among her

peers, Jean du Pont concentrated her attention on prison reform. In 1919, she became a founder of Delaware's Prisoners Aid Society; she also was instrumental in creating a



*Jean Foulke du Pont (Mrs. E. Paul) driving her du Pont automobile in front of the E. Paul du Pont residence, formerly the Du Pont Company office. Courtesy Hagley Museum and Library*

separate prison for female offenders, a half-way house for male prisoners, and Bridge House for juvenile delinquents. Her recognition that

Delaware's criminal justice system was failing to rehabilitate those sent to prison bore heavily upon her. Seeking some means to address this major problem, she turned to the University of Delaware.

In 1964, fourteen years after her husband's death, Jean du Pont wrote to the University of the need for "a training and educational program for the State's correctional workers" to include those working in probation, parole, family court, and youth services, as well as the guards in state prisons.<sup>19</sup> She offered to create the E. Paul du Pont Endowment for the Study of Crime, Delinquency,

and Corrections if the University would agree to train correctional personnel. Her greatest concern was that this Endowment be used to enroll all of the State's correctional and law enforcement workers in special training seminars. She also

provided a smaller grant over ten years to encourage the University faculty to study prison reform and prisoner rehabilitation issues.

The University rose to the challenge. The Division of Continuing Education hired a specialist in criminal justice who organized non-credit training seminars for state correctional employees. Beginning in 1970, the University also sponsored a lecture series aimed at judges, lawyers, politicians, and interested citizens. The series, which ran for several years, addressed such topics as "Modern Corrections: A Collaborative Effort," "Violence In American Life," and "The Administration of Justice In America." Most significantly, Jean du Pont's financial support and

encouragement led to the creation of a Criminal Justice concentration in the Department of Sociology.

Frank R. Scarpitti, the first Professor of Sociology hired to teach criminology, credited the lecture series and the publications that arose from it with putting the University of Delaware on the map as a place giving serious attention to important, complex, social issues heretofore all but ignored in academic circles. Thanks to Jean Foulke du Pont's initial gift,

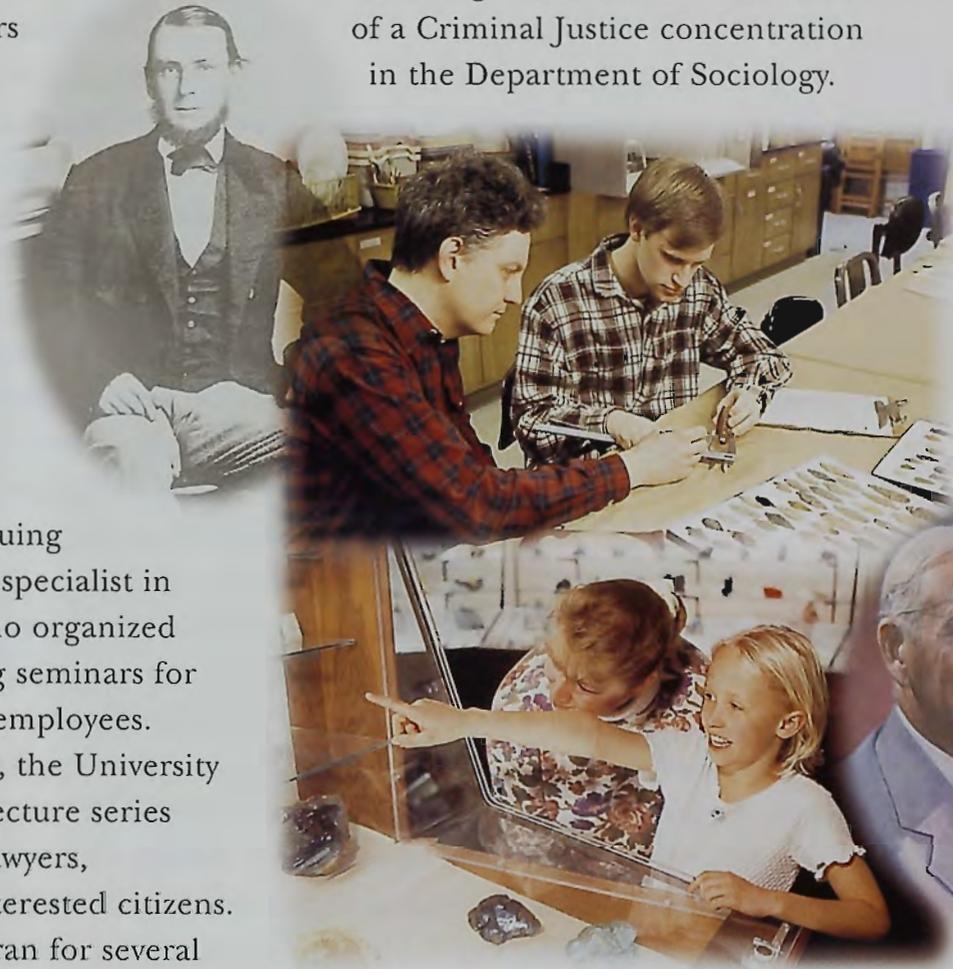
University of Delaware

programs in Criminal

Justice are recognized as among the best in the country.

The list of du Pont family members who have targeted their benefactions to address particular concerns or

interests also must include S. Hallock du Pont, son of Pierre S. du Pont's brother, William Kemble du Pont. Like his cousin, Harry du Pont, Hallock raised livestock, an interest that led him to provide funds over many years to the



*In 1969, Willis du Pont, the son of Lammot du Pont, Jr., presented the University with a large collection of Indian artifacts (at top). The collection was begun by his grandfather, Lammot du Pont, Sr. (top left). Irénée du Pont, another son of Lammot, Sr., was fascinated by minerals. In 1966, Irénée du Pont, Jr. (above right) contributed his father's collection (above) to the University of Delaware.*

University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources for research in cattle and swine diseases. Rosa P. McDonald, a daughter of Mary du Pont Laird and William Winder Laird, is a major supporter of the University's program in nursing. Betty Paulanka, Dean of the College of Health and Nursing Sciences, calls Mrs. McDonald "a strong advocate for health education," whose gifts include a scholarship in the Department of Nursing given in memory of her parents and many other benefactions that support the education of nurses and nurse practitioners.<sup>20</sup>

Hobbies among the du Ponts also have benefitted education and research at the University. In 1969, Willis du Pont, the son of Lammot du Pont, Jr., presented the University with a large collection of Indian artifacts and a twenty-volume portfolio edition of *The North American Indian* by nineteenth-century ethnographer Edward S. Curtis. The artifacts included pots, masks, bowls, statuary, gold

ornaments, and a fifty-pound stone axe. Most items were North American in origin but others were from Mexico and South America.

The collection had been kept in a large, purpose-built wooden cabinet in Lammot du Pont's home at St. Amour for as long as Willis could remember. Some thought that Lammot, Jr., had amassed the collection, but a bit of research revealed that Willis's father had inherited it from his father, Lammot, Sr. Further enquiry revealed that the elder Lammot's interest in Native American artifacts had been aroused when workmen at Hagley brought him some arrowheads that they had found in the powder yards. Lammot subsequently collected artifacts from other parts of the country where Du Pont Company business took him or where the company had agents. He also purchased artifacts from dealers. Lammot cataloged his acquisitions to keep track of where he had obtained them. His interest in collecting Native American objects was shared by his uncle, Henry

du Pont, who presided over the Du Pont Company in the mid-nineteenth century. Items from the Henry du Pont artifact collection are on display at the Hagley Museum. Several scholarly articles have been written about these collections. Since 1979, when the University's Department of Anthropology hired Jay Custer, a specialist in Native American archaeology, the Lammot du Pont Collection has had an important educational function. "It is now used primarily for teaching purposes," Custer reports, "and provides a wonderful array of samples of prehistoric Native American technology and art for our students to see and experience."<sup>21</sup>

Irénée du Pont, another son of Lammot, Sr., was fascinated by minerals. He collected examples from around the world for display in a special room at his Granogue estate. In 1966, Irénée du Pont, Jr., contributed his father's collection to the University of Delaware. The collection features many rare specimens, including jade, amethyst,

topaz, and quartz, as well as precious metals—silver, gold, and diamonds. Another du Pont, Wilhelmina Laird Craven, has augmented the collection with several additional gifts, including cabinets to house the minerals. Beautifully displayed in the Irénée du Pont Mineral Room in Penny Hall, the home of the Geology Department, the collection is recognized as one of the best in the United States. It is heavily used by students in geology courses—from the introductory level through graduate levels—and is a popular destination for elementary- and middle-school field trips. 

## BOARD CONNECTIONS

*F*OR some members of the du Pont family, service on the University's Board of Trustees has been the introduction to a personal involvement in its development. Henry Belin (Hank) du Pont, who served on the Board from 1944 until his death in 1970, provides an excellent example. After majoring in history at Yale, H. B. du Pont had done graduate work in mechanical and aeronautical engineering at M.I.T. His unusually diverse educational background, coupled with his life-long interest in history, airplanes, and sailing, set the tone for his broad-based role at Delaware. He was well-informed on many issues, including business, technology, and science, and was a leader in community development.

From the vantage point of his airplane cockpit, H. B. du Pont recognized the implications for the future of New Castle County when Interstate-95 was constructed in the 1960s. Foreseeing a time when land values would rise along I-95, midway between Wilmington and Newark, he bought a large parcel of property there and donated some of it to the University, to be used either for

future expansion or to be sold. His other life-time gifts ranged from the enhancement of faculty salaries to the improvement of buildings and the publication of books. When Henry Belin du Pont died in 1970, he bequeathed the University a substantial legacy.

Henry Belin's widow, Emily du Pont, was a granddaughter of Victor du Pont, the first member of

the family to attend Delaware College. She assumed responsibility for maintaining her late husband's philanthropic interests by contributing to the establishment of the H.B. du Pont Professorship in Chemical Engineering. Her most significant benefactions, however, focused on areas of her own interest—art history and art conservation. With its strengths in chemistry, art, and the decorative arts, the University of Delaware was uniquely placed to develop the field of art conservation. In 1987, the J. Paul Getty and Andrew Mellon Foundations provided a grant to the University to develop a graduate research program in this field, on condition that the University raise a matching sum. Together with Crawford and Margaretta du Pont Greenewalt and Octavia du Pont Bredin, Emily du Pont supplied the bulk of the matching funds for the University to begin the nation's first Ph.D. program in art conservation. In addition to supplying a growing need

*Henry B. and Emily du Pont at home with their dogs. Courtesy Hagley Museum and Library. Their gifts to the University include the H.B. du Pont Chair in Chemical Engineering, which is currently held by Professor Stanley I. Sandler, a chemical engineer and member of the National Academy of Engineering.*

*Also pictured are Professor Joyce Hill Stoner and a student of art conservation at work restoring an N.C. Wyeth mural.*



for specialists capable of saving and restoring fragile paintings, textiles, and statuary, the students and faculty in this program are doing pioneering research to extend knowledge of successful techniques to salvage deteriorating works of art.

Octavia du Pont Bredin, a daughter of Irénée du Pont, has in her quiet, unassuming way, been another major figure among University donors. Her husband, J. Bruce Bredin, joined the University's Board of Trustees in 1957 and was its chair from 1982 through 1988. The Bredins have supported the University's general fund through their Bredin Foundation. They also provide salary support for a metallurgist in the Chemical Engineering Department. The first person hired to occupy that position was Professor Charles E. Birchenall. After he died, the Bredins characteristically declined to name the professorship for themselves, but, instead, named it for Birchenall.

Another du Pont who has supported the University is Edith

*J. Bruce Bredin (left), joined the University's Board of Trustees in 1957. Bredin and his wife, Octavia du Pont Bredin, a daughter of Irénée du Pont, have supported the University's general fund through their Bredin Foundation.*

*They also provide salary support for a metallurgist in the Chemical Engineering Department. The first person hired to occupy that position was Professor Charles E. Birchenall (top).*



the 1960s and 1970s, Mrs. Pearson made several additional assignments to support the University. Mrs. Pearson's husband, former State Supreme Court Judge, George Burton Pearson, Jr., joined the University's Board in 1951, and chaired its Committee on Education and Training. In recognition of the Pearsons's on-going support, the University named a classroom building in their honor in 1994.

Hugh Rodney Sharp, Jr., took his father's place on the University's Board when the latter died in 1968. Though an alumnus of the University of Virginia, he nonetheless became a major figure at his father's alma mater. An airplane pilot and fisherman who had spent much of his life by the sea in Maine, Florida, and at his grandparents' home in Lewes, Delaware, Hugh Sharp was intrigued

*Judge George Burton Pearson, Jr., a longstanding trustee of the University, speaking at the dedication of Pearson Hall in 1994. His wife, Edith du Pont Riegel Pearson, shared in his interest in the University. Courtesy of Hagley Museum and Library*



du Pont Riegel Pearson, daughter of Lammot du Pont, Jr. To honor the memory of her late father, in 1958, she provided for the University to receive income from certain of her trust funds throughout her lifetime. She stipulated that one-half of the income be used to purchase reading materials for the library. She also suggested that some of the remainder support teaching about "the advantages of Capitalism." In

by water and weather. The fickleness of weather at sea, its winds, waves and storms, its tides and currents fascinated him. His interests coincided perfectly with the introduction in 1971 of the University's College of Marine Studies. This interdisciplinary, research-oriented graduate college built upon Delaware's existing

strengths in marine biology, geology, and ocean engineering.

The college's primary research facilities were

constructed in Lewes.

Major funding for the marine studies enterprise came from such federal agencies as the National Sea Grant College Program and the Office of Naval Research, together with the State of Delaware, and private foundations, including the Longwood Foundation. Among the individuals who took an interest in the college, Hugh Sharp stood out. "He just believed in us," says the college's Dean Carolyn A. Thoroughgood.<sup>22</sup> He was excited about what the faculty and students were doing to expand knowledge of the sea and got personally involved in the life of the college. Hugh Sharp's interest in the work of the college and his familiarity with potential sources of funds were

crucial in the development of the College of Marine Studies. He successfully encouraged Du Pont Company executives to fund the E. I. du Pont Professorship in Marine Biology, which expanded the University's research into the emerging field of marine biochemistry. He also raised money to purchase the Research Vessel, *Cape Henlopen* and was a founder of a friends' organization, the Marine Studies Associates. Sharp's enthusiasm for the work of the college was crucial to securing grants from du Pont-related foundations, such as Longwood and Fairplay. It is especially fitting,



*Ellen du Pont Meeds Wheelwright, a daughter of T. Coleman du Pont, gave the University her home, "Goodstay," a stone, Colonial house located in Wilmington on Pennsylvania Avenue.*

*Hugh Rodney Sharp, Jr., (right) took great interest in the work of the College of Marine Studies and his familiarity with potential sources of funds were crucial in its development. He successfully encouraged Du Pont Company executives to fund the E. I. du Pont Professorship in Marine*

*Biology, which is held by Professor*

*John S. Boyer, a plant physiologist/biochemist who is a member of the prestigious National Academy of Science. The Research Vessel, Cape Henlopen, is equipped to collect data and carry out experiments at sea.*



therefore, that the University's Lewes campus has been named the Hugh R. Sharp, Jr., Campus.

Many other du Pont family members have added to, or assisted, particular aspects of the University. Ellen du Pont Meeds Wheelwright, a daughter of T. Coleman du Pont, gave the University her home, "Goodstay," a stone, Colonial house located in Wilmington on Pennsylvania Avenue. Although its existence predated du Pont family ownership, "Goodstay" had been a du Pont property since 1868, when Alfred Victor du Pont's widow, Margaretta Lammot du Pont, purchased it. Mrs. Wheelwright's donation of the house—with its adjacent formal gardens—came just one-hundred years later. Thanks to a grant from Unidel, the University subsequently purchased adjoining property. The University's Wilmington Campus



*William Winder (Chick) Laird, Jr. (left), whose mother, Mary, was a sister of Pierre S. du Pont, also gave the University numerous gifts. Chief among them was a valuable property located on New London Road in northwest Newark, which is fittingly called the Laird Campus.*

*Lammot du Pont Copeland (below) established the Andelot fellowships. Those fellowships paid tuition and stipends for graduate students in History, English, Modern Languages, and Art History for a twenty-year period. Courtesy Hagley Museum and Library*



now serves many functions—as a site for continuing education and life-long learning, as well as for lectures, meetings, and receptions.

William Winder (Chick) Laird, Jr., whose mother, Mary, was a sister of Pierre S. du Pont, also gave the University numerous gifts. Chief among them was a valuable property located on New London Road in northwest Newark, which is fittingly called the Laird Campus. This land, located within walking distance of the main campus, is the site of the University's major conference center, John M. Clayton Hall, built in 1972. Two high-rise residence halls and several more traditional residence halls, with an accompanying dining facility, also occupy this site. When Chick Laird donated the New London Road property, it was not contiguous to the main campus. To remedy that, he anonymously acquired additional parcels of land between the two parts of the campus. In the 1980s, this connective property became the location for the University's Ray Street Residence

Hall Complex. Chick Laird's son, George W. Laird, who died in 1977 while still in his thirties, provided a bequest to the University that is used for computer-assisted engineering. To honor his memory, his friends contributed funds to create the George W. Laird Merit Fellowship.

Lammot du Pont Copeland, son of Pierre S. du Pont's sister, Louisa d'Andelot du Pont, and Charles Copeland, and Lammot's wife, Pamela Cunningham Copeland, have also been generous donors. In 1962, when several of the University's humanities departments were first offering doctoral degrees, Lammot du Pont Copeland established the Andelot fellowships. Those fellowships paid tuition and stipends for graduate students in History, English, Modern Languages, and Art History for a twenty-year period. 

## A LABORATORY AND A LEGACY

**I**N October 1993, the University dedicated the Lammot du Pont Laboratory, a twenty-million-dollar, state-of-the-art research facility for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the College of Marine Studies. Before an audience studded with du Pont family members, Dr. Edward G. Jefferson, then Vice Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees and a former President of the Du Pont Company, conferred an honorary degree on Dr. Howard Simmons, a retired senior executive at Du Pont and President of the University of Delaware Research Foundation.

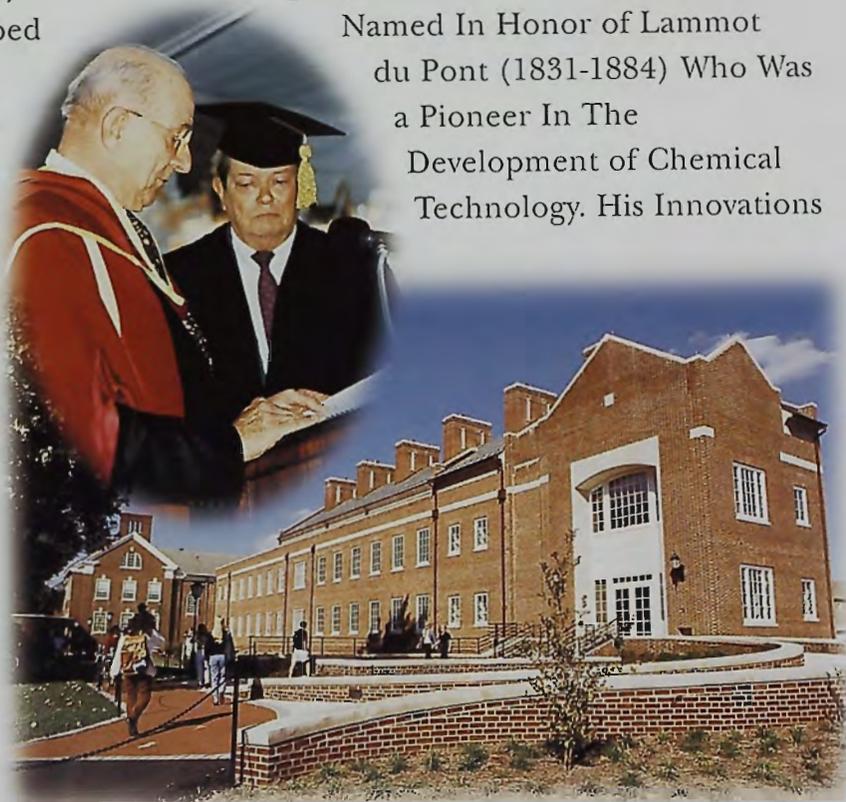


In his remarks, Dr. Simmons noted that "the Chemistry Department here at the University has steadily grown in stature over all the forty years that I've been watching it. It excels now both in teaching and research and has some world-class people and projects." Another speaker was Dr. Daniel Nathans, a 1950 graduate of the University who became a distinguished professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a Nobel Prize-winner

in molecular biology. Nathans's remarks focused on the University's mission to provide a first-class education to students of limited means. For himself and his siblings "going to college meant going to the University of Delaware, and what a great privilege it was. . . ," the Nobel laureate said.<sup>23</sup>

The new building was designed to accommodate the most demanding chemical research activities. Its high-velocity exhaust fans and other air-conditioning features are crucial to

the conduct of synthetic chemistry. The analytical chemistry laboratories are equipped for research in mass spectrometry and laser spectroscopy. The ground floor contains a clean room and “clean corridor” designated to receive the portable analytical laboratory that travels aboard the Marine Studies Research Vessel, *Cape Henlopen*. This laboratory is responsible for monitoring inorganic and organic runoff from the land into the Atlantic Ocean.<sup>24</sup> Two plaques are affixed to the walls of the vestibule of the new laboratory. One lists the names of those individuals and foundations that contributed to its construction. Among them are many du Ponts, mostly descendants of Lammot du Pont and their relatives



*At top, Dr. Edward G. Jefferson (left), then Vice Chairman of the University of Delaware Board of Trustees and a former President of the Du Pont Company, confers an honorary degree on Dr. Howard Simmons, a retired senior executive at Du Pont and President of the University of Delaware Research Foundation. The presentation was part of the October 1993 dedication ceremony for Lammot du Pont Laboratory, above, a twenty-million-dollar, state-of-the-art research facility for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the College of Marine Studies.*

by marriage. On another wall, a plaque reads: “This Building is Named In Honor of Lammot du Pont (1831-1884) Who Was a Pioneer In The Development of Chemical Technology. His Innovations

Led To Standards of Excellence For The Chemical Industry Much In Evidence Today.”

The Lammot du Pont Laboratory, with its sophisticated laboratories housed behind a neo-Colonial architectural façade, is symbolic of what the University of Delaware has become. How great the distance from this new facility, which is one of the finest research buildings in the world, to the cramped, poorly equipped laboratory room that President George Harter had described in his letter to Pierre S. du Pont in 1912! How pleased Pierre and Rodney Sharp might be if they could see how sound their investment in the University of Delaware has turned out to be. ☞

## ONGOING RELATIONS

*I*N 1995, less than two years after the completion of the Lammot du Pont Laboratory, the family of W.L. Gore offered the University a substantial monetary gift. The Gores's generosity made it possible for the University to realize Hugh Rodney Sharp's dream to complete construction on the Mall, according to the plan created by the architects Day and Klauder in 1915. The site that the new building was to occupy lay on the west side of the Mall—between Mitchell Hall and Sharp Laboratory and directly across from P.S. du Pont Hall.



The University employed Allan Greenberg, an internationally acclaimed interpreter of American Colonial style, to design a much-needed classroom building to fit the site. Greenberg produced a monumental edifice of brick and limestone that is fronted by an arched arcade, supported by massive pillars. Gore Hall opened in 1998 to rave reviews from faculty and students alike, who love both the building's feeling of historic dignity and its state-of-the-art instructional

technology. Observers were quick to note, however, that the new structure overawed P.S. du Pont Hall, its partner across the Mall.

H. Rodney Sharp had been disappointed by Du Pont Hall's aesthetic deficiencies when the building was first constructed in 1958. His effort to improve its façade by adding a pillared portico only partially obscured the structure's unadorned functionality. A problem of equal significance was the position of Du Pont Hall relative to the Mall.

According to the cathedral-like layout envisioned by Day and Klauder, the front of Du Pont Hall should have been constructed in line with Wolf Hall and Brown Laboratory—close to the Mall walkway as in the nave of a church. It was, instead, built in line with Evans Hall, which, with its partner across the Mall, Mitchell Hall, had been set back as the cross axes of the cruciform plan.

The strikingly evident contrast between the architectural awkwardness of Du Pont Hall and the magnificence of Gore Hall provided the impetus for the University to rectify its design problem on the east side of the Mall and to increase the space available to the College of Engineering. In October 1998, President David P. Roselle announced the University's first major fund-raising drive—called the Campaign for Delaware—with an initial goal of two hundred and twenty five million dollars. While the campaign emphasized scholarship support and the creation of new, named professorships, bricks-and-



*With the completion of  
the Du Pont Hall  
addition and  
renovation  
the Mall the  
P.S. du Pont  
monymous gift made possible will truly  
be completed—and remarkably true to  
the specifications of its original planners*



WOLF HALL

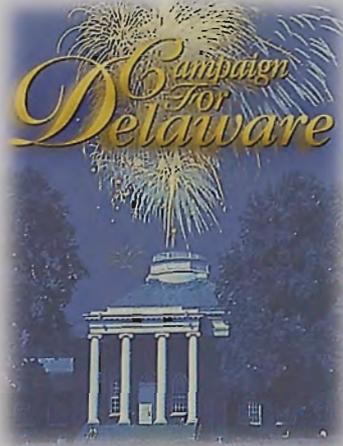
DUPONT EXPANSION

EVANS HALL

mortar projects also were included. Most particularly, the fund-raisers focused on the desirability of putting a major addition on the front of P.S. du Pont Hall that could, at one stroke, resolve all of the problems associated with the structure.

To address Du Pont Hall, the University turned to the two foundations that had funded the building originally—P.S. du Pont's Longwood Foundation and Señor Elias Ahuja's Good Samaritan Foundation. Both

responded with generous gifts that will cover a large portion of the cost of the technically complex addition. Allan Greenberg was once again retained to design a new façade that brings the building into line with Wolf Hall and that provides a fitting complement to Gore Hall across the



ABOVE: From left, President David P. Roselle, Genevieve W. Gore, Robert W. Gore, and Sarah I. Gore on the University Mall for the announcement of what became the family's seventeen-and-a-half-million-dollar gift of a classroom building.

LEFT: *The Campaign for Delaware* is the University's first institution-wide fund-raising drive. While the campaign emphasized scholarship support and the creation of new, named professorships, bricks-and-mortar projects also were included.

OVERLEAF: *H. Rodney Sharp* had been disappointed by Du Pont Hall's aesthetic deficiencies when the building was first constructed in 1958 (construction photo, lower right). His effort to improve its façade by adding a pillared portico (upper right) only partially obscured the structure's unadorned functionality. Architect Allan Greenberg was once again retained to design a new façade (rendering at upper left) that brings the building into line with Wolf Hall and that provides a fitting complement to Gore Hall across the Mall.

Mall. While funds to complete the project are still being sought, the University is confidently pressing forward on construction. With the completion of the Du Pont Hall addition and renovation, the Mall that P.S. du Pont's anonymous gift made possible will truly be completed—and remarkably true to the specifications of its original planners.

The transformation that has taken place in Newark has been the result of a widely shared partnership. The people of Delaware, through their State appropriations from the General Assembly, have done much of the work. State funds, for example, provided seventeen million dollars toward the Lammot du Pont Laboratory. Alumni giving, gifts from friends, foundation support, and federal dollars have been extremely significant. Some of the most

important and timely gifts have come from descendants of the immigrant philosopher, Pierre S. du Pont de Nemours.

Throughout the University's development, members of the du Pont family have provided assistance at key moments when no other source was available. On many occasions and in many fields, they have demonstrated the vision and commitment without which there can be no true excellence. In 1800, du Pont de Nemours wrote in his treatise on national education that if his ideas were realized, "We shall have increased knowledge by giving it a worthy home."<sup>25</sup>

Providing good educational ideas with "a worthy home" has been the legacy of the du Pont family at the University of Delaware. We who learn, study, and create at the University salute this remarkable family, whose ongoing partnership with us continues to make the University a place that can bring a better future to all who are touched by it. 

## NOTES

1. Du Pont de Nemours, *National Education in the United States*, translated by B. G. du Pont, (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1923).

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3. Charles E. du Pont papers, Series A, Box 2, Accession 298, Hagley Museum and Library (hereafter H.M.L.).

4. Papers of P. S. du Pont, Group 10, Box 1, file 643, George A. Harter to Pierre S. du Pont, November 14, 1912, H.M.L.

5. Papers of P. S. du Pont, George A. Harter, November 20, 1912, H.M.L.

6. Papers of P. S. du Pont, Charles B. Evans to P. S. du Pont, April 21, 1915, H.M.L.

7. Papers of P. S. du Pont, Samuel C. Mitchell to P. S. du Pont, July 18, 1916, H.M.L.

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11. Walter Hullihen to H. Rodney Sharp, November 3, 1922, H. Rodney Sharp box, U.D.A.

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14. Papers of P. S. du Pont, P. S. du Pont to Raymond W. Kirkbride, April 12, 1924, H.M.L.

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16. Papers of H. Rodney Sharp, H. Rodney Sharp to Pierre S. du Pont, January 1, 1949, U.D.A.

17. *News Journal*, July 10, 1990.

18. Certificate of Incorporation of Unidel Foundation, October 2, 1939. Unidel Foundation, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware.

19. Jean F. du Pont to John A. Perkins, December 30, 1964. University of Delaware Archives.

20. Author's interview with Dean Betty Paulanka, November 4, 1998.

21. Jay Custer memorandum, August 12, 1998; also see his article "The Henry du Pont and Lamot du Pont Indian Artifact Collections of Pennsylvania and Delaware" in *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*, V. 56, Nos. 1 and 2, pp. 53-58, 1986.

22. Author's interview with Dean Carolyn A. Thoroughgood, August 4, 1998.

23. *UpDate*, V. 13, No. 9, p. 1, October 28, 1993.

24. Jean H. Futrell, former chairperson, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, memorandum to author.

25. Du Pont de Nemours, 147.

## COLOPHON

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A circular portrait of Carol E. Hoffecker, a woman with short, wavy grey hair, wearing a dark top and a necklace. She is smiling slightly.

Carol E. Hoffecker is a native Delawarean and a 1960 graduate of the University of Delaware. After earning a Ph.D. in history at Harvard University in 1967, she accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the Hagley Museum and Library, where she researched and wrote several books concerning the history of Wilmington. Since joining UD's Department of History in 1973, she has continued to write and lecture on topics relating to the First State. Her most recent book, *Honest John Williams, U.S. Senator from Delaware*, was published earlier this year. Dr. Hoffecker is Richards Professor of History and also serves as University historian. ☞

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