

# Newsmakers

Compelling, intriguing, relevant ... University of Delaware experts are in the news on local airwaves to international media nearly every day. Here are selected highlights from print, broadcast, and online media during the past year.



## Elson comments on Wall Street crisis

Charles Elson, Edgar S. Woolard Jr. Chair and director of the John L. Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance, is UD's most-quoted expert. In 2008 alone, he was quoted more than 150 times in local to international media, from Delaware's *News Journal* to the *Wall Street Journal* and CNN's "Finance News."

Featured on NBC's "Today Show," Sept. 17, 2008, in a segment about the financial crisis on Wall Street, Elson said: "The amount of money these folks were making was really absolutely incredible. And the problem was because they argue that they knew such — so much more about this than the rest of us, that there was no accountability, there was no counterweight to what they were doing. And that's where the greed became unbridled greed."

## UD offshore wind research in national news

UD's offshore wind power research has been sweeping across the nation and around the world. Willett Kempton, associate professor of marine policy, established the first graduate course in offshore wind power in the United States at UD in 2005.

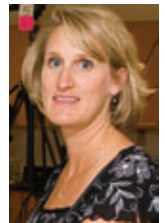
On Sept. 28, 2008, *The New York Times Magazine* described the political process that took offshore wind power from concept to possibility in Delaware, starting with the landmark study led by Kempton's graduate student Amardeep Dhanju, which quantified the Mid-Atlantic offshore wind resource.

In *Nature* on April 16, 2009, Kempton said he "expects that, by 2018, the United States will be installing offshore wind capacity at a rate of 500 megawatts per year and will employ hundreds of scientists in design development, impact assessments, manufacturing and installation."



## Stroke research highlighted

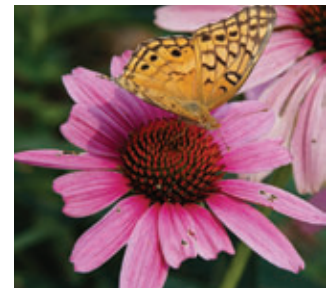
Darcy Reisman, assistant professor of physical therapy, was featured on *Ivanhoe News*' "Discoveries and



Darcy Reisman

Breakthroughs Inside Science" for her research on retraining the brain after a stroke.

She's determining if a specially designed split-belt treadmill may speed a stroke patient's recovery. The belts can run together or be programmed to run separately. When a patient's legs move at two different speeds, the brain sends an error signal to the cerebellum, which controls coordination. Her research shows that for a period after usage, stroke patients have an easier time walking on solid ground.



## Use native plants in the garden, expert advises

Douglas Tallamy, chair of UD's Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology and author of the acclaimed book *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* (Timber Press, 2007), recently has been interviewed by *The New York Times*, *USA Weekend*, and other media.

"Most native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants," said Tallamy in an interview for "Native Delaware," UD Cooperative Extension's weekly column in the *Wilmington News Journal*.

"When native plants disappear, so, too, do native insects. A land without insects sounds like a gardener's dream; doesn't it?" Tallamy said. "But a land without insects is a land without most higher forms of life," he noted.



## Prof shares campaign insights from "epicenter of politics"

Numerous media sought out Joseph Pika, James R. Soles Professor of Political Science and International Relations, for expert comment on the presidential election, months before and after.

From August 23–26, 2008, alone, Pika was featured in a *Washington Post* online discussion of the selection of UD alumnus Joe Biden as the vice presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket, quoted in *USA Today* about the selection, and cited in a *Bloomberg News* story that hailed UD as the "epicenter of politics" for its many connections to the presidential campaign. In addition to Vice President Biden and Second Lady Jill Biden, who are both UD alumni, presidential campaign strategists David Plouffe for the Democrats, and Steve Schmidt for the Republicans, also attended UD.

## Prof lauded as a “modern Caravaggio”

The work of Stephen Tanis, who retired from the UD art faculty in 2000, was recently shown at the University Gallery and highlighted in a review in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

“Tanis is a remarkably robust realist with demonstrable roots in Old Master technique and attitude,” wrote art critic Ed Sozanski. “In particular, he often resembles a modern incarnation of the Italian master Caravaggio. His realization of figures and still lifes is exceptionally vibrant, and imbued with such spatial and psychological tension, as to make most of what his contemporaries are producing look insipid by comparison.”



“Phone Call” by Stephen Tanis



Peter Feng (left) and Turner Classic Movies host Robert Osborne

## Feng cohosts TCM series

Peter X Feng, UD associate professor of English and women's studies, co-hosted the film series “Race and Hollywood: Asian Images in Film” on Turner Classic Movies (TCM) with Robert Osborne last June.

Feng authored *Identities in Motion: Asian American Film and Video* (2002), is editor of *Screening Asian Americans*, and serves on the *Journal of Asian American Studies*' editorial board.

## UD composites on Sundance, Discovery Channel

What do you get when you combine soy oil and chicken feathers? Richard Wool, professor of chemical engineering, is turning the unlikely combo into cool stuff like computer circuit boards and hurricane-resistant roofs.

Wool directs UD's Affordable Composites from Renewable Sources (ACRES) program at the Center for Composite Materials. The program's innovative research was featured during the past year on the Discovery Channel's “How Stuff Works” and on the Sundance Channel's “Big Ideas for a Small Planet.”

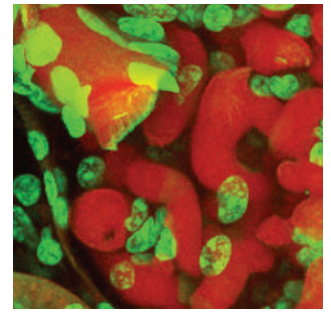


Richard Wool

## UD gives new view into kidney on Apple Web site

Professor Emeritus Roger Wagner's three-dimensional modeled images of a glomerulus — one of about two million renal corpuscles found in the human kidney — debuted on the Apple Web site in “Inside the Image: How Scientists See the World.”

Modeled images allow anatomic structures to be observed from any angle. They also provide precise quantitative information because data are rendered in volume elements called voxels. Thanks to these images, we now know there are about 19 miles of capillaries in a single kidney, Wagner said.



## Begleiter interviewed about Pentagon policy on photos of the fallen

In February, the Associated Press, *Washington Post*, National Public Radio, and other media interviewed Ralph Begleiter, Edward F. and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor of Communication and Distinguished Journalist in Residence, about plans by the Obama administration to review the ban on photography of coffins of men and women killed in military service, and the administration's decision to lift the ban on Feb. 26. Begleiter filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit in response to the ban in 2005.

In his commentary on the policy reversal published on CNN.com, Begleiter concluded: “This dramatic change in government policy should once again allow all Americans to see the full human cost of war, while paying respect to those who served their nation as well as to their families.”



## Policy leader urges changes in energy habits

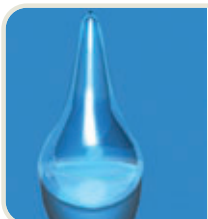
John Byrne, Distinguished Professor of Energy and Climate Policy, director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy, and a member of the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said that people hold the key to solving the climate problem, not technology, in an April 18, 2009, article in the *News Journal*. Over the past year, Byrne has been interviewed for several articles in Delaware's top-circulation newspaper, which recently initiated an “All Green to Me” Web site with “go green” news, blogs, and tips.

“There are things we can do today,” Byrne stressed. “Our buildings and our driving — Delaware has a long way to go.”

Expanding passenger rail service and getting people to use it is a step the region's leaders need to take, Byrne said. Turning off lights, limiting power usage at peak times, and making sure buildings aren't leaking heat in winter and air conditioners aren't working too hard in summer are steps we all can take.



John Byrne



## Physics of teardrops on *LiveScience*

Doctoral student Kara Maki and Richard Braun, professor of mathematical sciences, are using mathematical computer models to find out how fluid travels through the eye and leaves as teardrops. The research was reported on *LiveScience*.

“The reason why we're interested in studying this is because it's a highly dynamical system,” Maki said. “If we can try to understand and gain insight into tear film dynamics, we can aim at trying to find better treatments for dry eye.”