

# 'Land & Sea' lectures set next month in Lewes

Delaware folk artist, slavery in the First State, U.S. tax policy and the civil service are the topics in the University of Delaware's 12th annual University by the Sea "Land and Sea Lecture Series," to be held each Friday throughout February in Lewes and Seaford.

Free and open to the public, the lectures showcase some of UD's finest educators addressing topics related to their recently published books.

Designed for the enjoyment and enrichment of those living in southern Delaware, the lectures will be held at 10 a.m. in the Virden Center, 700 Pilottown Rd., Lewes, and later that day, at 2 p.m., in the Methodist Manor House, 1001 Middleford Rd., Seaford.

The series opens on Friday, Feb. 7, with William H. Williams, University Parallel Program in Georgetown, who will discuss his book, *Slavery and Freedom in Delaware, 1639-1865*.

There are many documents and records about the rich and famous in history, but there is comparatively little information about members of less prominent groups that also were important in shaping our past and present. Williams, an authority on Delaware history, gives an extensively documented overview of the history of slavery while looking at the

people, the institution and past race relations within the First State.

Published by Scholarly Resources Inc., his new book began 10 years ago when Williams wrote *The First State, An Illustrated History of Delaware*.

"While researching that book, I discovered that, although other Southern slave states had published studies of slavery and freedom, little had been published about the history of slavery and African Americans in Delaware," he said.

In the introduction, he said he decided to write the book to give a "more accurate depiction of past race relations" within the state.

Researching the book was a formidable task because of the lack of information and records.

"Delaware is a small state and did not have big plantations as they did further south where record-keeping was more important," Williams said. "Most slaves could not read or write, so they left little written legacy. Research on the Underground Railroad also was difficult because the people involved were outside the law and did not want to leave incriminating records," he explained.

A graduate of Drew University, with a master's degree in education from Yeshiva University, Williams

received his doctorate from Delaware in 1971. He is the author of *The Garden of American Methodism: the Delmarva Peninsula, 1769-1820*, *The First State: An Illustrated History of Delaware* and *America's First Hospital: The Pennsylvania Hospital 1751-1841*.

On Friday, Feb. 14, Sheldon D. Pollack, accounting, will speak on his book, *The Failure of U.S. Tax Policy: Revenue and Politics*. Pollack, who teaches business law and also is a tax attorney, examines how our present system got to be the "out-of-control," overly complex, tangled mess it is today. He details the explosion of tax legislation during the Reagan years that first lowered taxes—giving special interests big tax breaks—then raised them when the deficit soared and the political climate changed. Pollack also assesses the prospects of reforming the tax system.

*Americana Crafted: Jehu Camper, Delaware Whittler* is the title of a recent book by Robert D. Bethke, English, and also the title of his talk scheduled for Friday, Feb. 21.

As a young man growing up in rural Kent County during the early years of the 20th century, Camper witnessed many changes in everyday farming and community life. To preserve this cultural heritage, Camper, who lived to be 91, began to

create in wood scaled-down scenes that he had witnessed as a youth. This folk art legacy is examined in the book as Bethke looks at folk art as a means to preserve the past, while linking young and old together with a collective identity and shared experience.

The series concludes on Friday, Feb. 28, when authors William W. Boyer Jr., Charles P. Messick Professor Emeritus of Political Science and International Relations, and Mark Huddleston, political science and international relations, discuss their book, *The Higher Civil Service in the United States: Quest for Reform*. The book is the story of America's efforts—largely frustrated—to develop a higher civil service and examines different administrations' approaches to the problem.

"The U.S. system of higher administration has not worked. It has failed presidents. And more important, it has failed the American people," the authors write. The book concludes with four proposals to improve the civil service system.

The Land and Seas Lecture Series is sponsored by the Office of Alumni and University Relations. For more information, call 855-1620 in Georgetown or 735-8200 in Dover. Δ

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## Memorial service on Feb. 1 for

## UP AND COMING

7 p.m. from Milford at 1:45 p.m. and