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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public invited to define the Heart & Soul of Sussex County

Beaches and boardwalk - weathered barns from a bygone era - fishing and crabbing along a favorite waterway - acres of emerald corn and soybean fields - the aroma of sizzling scrapple in the morning - early morning gathering places where “important things” are discussed. Any of these might be responses to the question "What do you value most about Sussex County? What makes up its Heart and Soul?

Bill McGowan wants to hear your answer. McGowan, a county agent with the University of Delaware and co-director of UD’s Coastal Community Enhancement Initiative extends a county-wide invitation to compile a portrait of Sussex County from those who know it best - its residents.

“Heart & Soul is who we are. It's what makes us special. It's our people, places, events, those beautiful and quirky things that make Sussex Sussex,” McGowan said. “It's the stuff you don't think about on a daily basis but if it goes away, we lose a little bit of who we are.”

McGowan hopes to see a diverse response from those who call Sussex County their home. By collecting tangible and intangible elements that make up our southern Delaware communities, Heart & Soul will celebrate the connections that give Sussex County its own unique identity.

According to Heart & Soul beliefs, “Only by going to, listening to and learning from everyone, the influential and the forgotten, old timers and newcomers, young and old, rich and poor, business owners and workers, professionals and tradesmen, the noisy and the quiet, the caregivers and the gatekeepers - can shared purpose and identity live in and guide a community.”

The public is invited and encouraged to share in painting this evolving portrait of Sussex County. Specific memories or experiences, a favorite photo, a unique landmark or emblematic architecture, a simple story, a deeply- felt emotion or admired personality are examples of characteristics that can be shared. Across Sussex County, newspaper advertisements, posters, and response boxes will provide the opportunity for the public to participate. Responses may be emailed or submitted to a new Web site: www.ccei.udel.edu. The mailing address: Sussex County Heart & Soul, University of Delaware, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, Del. 19947.
For more information visit the Sussex County Heart & Soul Web site, or contact Bill McGowan directly at billmcg@udel.edu (302) 856-2585 ext 592.

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