

Harker returns for economics lecture

Campus News February 23, 2016



Photographer's Emily Moore/THE REVIEW

Harker returns to campus to speak about the 2016 economic forecast

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Former university president Patrick Harker returned to campus as a speaker for the 2016 economic forecast last Tuesday. After leaving the university last July to become president of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank, he returned to campus to discuss the nation's economic outlook.

At the start of his presentation, Harker briefly reflected on his time on campus, deeming his return as an honor, and adding that colleges and universities are places where “nothing matches their innovation and knowledge creation anywhere.”

Harker addressed questions on issues including student debt, employment wages and the stability of the American bank system. He also made a point to emphasize the meaning of investment and cited the university's Science, Technology and Advanced Research (STAR) Campus as an example of how investment in education could not only benefit the state, but the entire American economy.

“We choose to invest our expertise in resources to build what now stands there and represents our future,” Harker said.

The forecast is sponsored by the Lyons Companies and the university's Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship (CEEE). Hosted annually in Clayton Hall, the event is open for students, faculty and local professionals to attend. Other speakers for this year's event included CNBC contributor Michael Farr and Wall Street Journal correspondent Jon Hilsenrath.

Kate Lyons, director of communication at the Lyons Companies, said the annual economic forecasts give Delawareans the chance to listen to “thought leaders” who are not often in the area.

“Each speaker we bring offers a different perspective which is great for students,” Lyons said.

Created 11 years ago by Lyons Companies CEO and President David Lyons Sr., and university economics professor James O'Neill, the purpose behind the forecast was to engage participants and keep them informed about America's economic trends and issues. Past speakers have included Federal Reserve Bank presidents, senators and notable economists.

According to Susan Sherry, a business administrator for the CEEE, about 400 people attend the forecast annually.

"We like to get speakers who are well-known in the financial world," Sherry said. "Hosting the forecast here helps our attendees think about how we can form and think about financial decisions."

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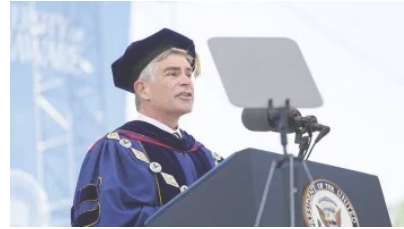
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