

YAPC: :NA 2004 Venue Proposal

University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716
<http://www.udel.edu/>

Venue Overview

The University of Delaware has everything that YAPC would require for a successful university-hosted conference.

- Reasonably priced classrooms, dormitory housing, and a plethora of shops and restaurants all coexist within a brief walking distance of each other.
- A desirable location, both close to several active Perl Monger groups as well as a major international airport, with public transportation available from the airport to campus.
- A university sponsored Conference Services representative comfortable with a YAPC-style conference and its particular low budget needs.

Part of what makes Delaware promising is its very close proximity to a number of eclectic places to eat and drink - conference costs can be lowered substantially by not providing meals, yet attendees will not feel as though they need to forage.

Delaware's campus is also very picturesque, full of grass and shade, and is temperate in the summer, so lounging around outside between sessions would be comfortable. At night, Delaware offers a number of local bars and restaurants to hang out in and exchange ideas, as is customary.

GEOFFREY YOUNG

203 HOYT PLACE ■ WALLINGFORD, PA ■ 19086
geoff@modperlcookbook.org

Host University

The University of Delaware (<http://www.udel.edu/>) is a mid-sized university with approximately 19,000 full-time students during the academic year. The main campus is located right in downtown Newark (<http://newark.de.us/downtown/>), a small, college-centric town that is fairly quiet during the summer.

Delaware is centrally located between Washington, DC and New York City - about 45 miles from Philadelphia, 60 miles from Baltimore, 100 miles from Washington, DC and 140 miles from New York, which puts it right in the middle of several active Perl Monger groups.

For a VR tour of the campus visit <http://www.udel.edu/main/tour/qtvr/>. The conference classrooms would be in Purnell Hall, which is part of Fountain Plaza and between Smith, Kirkbride, and MBNA America Halls. Dormitory housing would be supplied in the Rodney Complex, which is behind MBNA America Hall. The area between North Central and Old College is East Main Street, part of downtown Newark, which is where all the eateries are, as well as a galleria, record shop, newsstand, ATMs, and similar services.

Availability

Currently, YAPC has its choice of any dates between June 14, 2004 and August 13, 2004.

Travel

The closest airport to Delaware is Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) (<http://www.phl.org/>), which is about 40 miles from the campus. It is possible to get on campus (almost right to the dorms) entirely on regional public transportation for a cost of about \$10 each way.

Amtrak (<http://www.amtrak.com/>) directly serves Newark, DE (NRK) from Philadelphia (PHL) once daily, generally departing Philadelphia around 7:30 PM and arriving at 8:00 PM, for a cost of \$31 each way.

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Preliminary investigation (<http://www.delexpress.com/airport.html>) puts the cost of a shuttle from Philadelphia International to Newark at about \$35 per-person each way.

Housing

Dorm housing is available for a modest cost. The dorms are a five-minute walk from the conference facilities and air-conditioned. Accommodations can be made for male/female separation by floor if required. Single occupancy rates are provided below.

Single Occupancy with no linens:	\$18 nightly
Optional one-time linen fee:	\$18
Single Occupancy with linens and daily servicing:	\$34 nightly

Lost dorm keys are subject to a \$125 replacement fee.

Hotel accommodations are also readily available, many of which are in the \$60 range. Some are within reasonable walking distance of the conference area, while others are about a (brisk) 30-minute walk from the classrooms.

<http://www.udel.edu/admissions/viewbook/visit/accommodations.html>

Conference Facilities

The conference would be held in classrooms in Purnell Hall (<http://chico.nss.udel.edu/buildings/NW35.html>), which has a large auditorium and a sufficient number of classrooms for conference purposes. Prices are as follows:

Auditorium:	\$500 per day
Classrooms:	\$75 per day
AV Equipment:	Included

Network Connectivity

Attendees will have access to the internet through a “flex card” at a fixed cost of \$5.00 per-person for the length of the conference. YAPC will be required to provide the names and social security numbers of attendees that want net access, and unreturned cards are subject to a \$20 replacement fee.

Access appears to be through one of the many computer labs around campus, one of which is located in Purnell Hall, which is where the classrooms are. I have not gotten an answer back as to wireless connectivity around campus.

On-Campus Dining

No offsite caterers are allowed on campus, so in order to provide meal services we need to rely on University services.

The University offers dining hall catering at the following rates:

Breakfast:	\$6.00 per person
Lunch:	\$9.30 per person
Dinner:	\$11.00 per-person

If we were to use the dining hall services, we would need to coordinate in advance and provide a guarantee.

University services can also provide an assortment of snacks for morning and afternoon breaks for a cost of around \$6.25 per-person per-break. A full menu can be found at <http://www.udel.edu/conf/breaks.htm>.

Off-Campus Dining

OSCon this year did not provide snacks for tutorial days or dinners, and only occasional lunches. For the most part, attendees were ok with this (save some complaints about the opulence of past years). Given the close proximity of a multitude of college-student-priced off-campus eateries (you can see them from the classrooms), attendees would probably enjoy getting food on their own, thus saving the conference any costs associated with food.

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East Main Street, the campus main drag, is about a two-minute walk from the classrooms and about a five-minute walk from the dorms. It has its share of restaurants, cafes, and bars (27 by my count), as well as easy access to ATMs. Popular sites include

Iron Hill Brewery

<http://www.ironhillbrewery.com/index1.htm>

Deer Park Tavern (known for Wednesday nacho night)

<http://www.deerparktavern.com/>

East End Cafe

<http://www.eastendcafe.com/>

Klondike Kate's

<http://www.klondikekates.com/>

Night Life

Newark is a college town, and Delaware used to be known as a party school, so there are plenty of bars within stumbling distance. The most popular (when I was there, at least) are the aforementioned Deer Park Tavern, as well as the Stone Balloon (<http://www.stoneballoon.com/>).

Besides drinking, there is not much to do locally. The nearest large city is Wilmington, which is about a 20 minute car ride away and isn't all that interesting. One notable exception is a minor league baseball team, the Wilmington Blue Rocks. If the conference wanted to organize an outing, Frawley Stadium has facilities for large groups at a reasonable rate. For instance, \$20 per person (prepaid and 140 people max) gets a seat at the game, decent, unlimited food and drinks, including beer (I've been, and it's good, cheap fun). For \$7 per-person you can reserve a picnic area where non-alcoholic drinks, chips, etc are supplied. For more information, see <http://www.bluerocks.com/groupsales.html>.

Downtown Philadelphia is about a 45-minute drive, and has just about anything you want.

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Insurance

YAPC will be required to have liability insurance for the event.

“Your organization will be required to have liability insurance for two million listing the University of Delaware as additionally insured. This is typically a rider on an existing insurance policy.”

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Cost Estimate

Costs for just the facilities can be estimated as follows:

	<u>Each, Per Day</u>	<u>3-Day Conference Costs</u>
Auditorium (1)	\$500	\$1500
Classrooms (4)	\$75	\$300
AV Equipment	Included	None
Total		\$1800

Catering costs for providing lunch-only for all three days can be estimated based on the number of attendees:

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Per Day</u>	<u>3-Day Conference Costs</u>
200	\$1860	\$5580
250	\$2325	\$6975
300	\$2790	\$8370

Break costs hover around \$6.25 per-person, depending on the menu chosen. Below are estimates for one break per-day (morning or afternoon) or two breaks per day.

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>One Break Only</u>	<u>3-Day Conference Costs</u>
200	\$1250	\$3700
250	\$1600	\$4700
300	\$1900	\$5600

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Both Breaks</u>	<u>3-Day Conference Costs</u>
200	\$2500	\$7500
250	\$3100	\$9400
300	\$3800	\$11000

Incidentals, such as the costs of printed materials, registration overhead, insurance, and other costs can hopefully be determined through past conference experiences.