

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WINTER 2010

THE FLAME

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



CCDC: A NEW PATHWAY TO EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY

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WE ATTENDED AN EXCEPTIONAL UNIVERSITY, DIDN'T WE?



As Ambassador of Grenada to the United States of America, I say without hesitation that it was because of my experiences at the University of the District of Columbia that I began a pathway that led to success and fulfillment. I believe that's true for countless UDC graduates and alumni. Our alma mater set the pace, provided the environment and delivered the goods that made so many of us leaders in our fields of study and professions.

If you are like me, you remember your days at the University as a time of personal growth and change. It was at UDC—where I studied education—that I experienced a character transformation. My instructors and professors always spoke of the UDC “family” and conducted themselves with pride as they took care in imparting the concepts of education, psychology, physical fitness and an array of life's lessons that went beyond the school book.

My fellow students and I began to feel that we did, indeed, belong to this UDC family, that we were being embraced in an oasis-like environment that nurtured our spirits as well as our minds. I can still hear the voices of my professors today. “Hold your chin up, young man. Learn to project when you speak. Learn to articulate, and walk with a good posture. Hold yourself up.” These words of advice still ring when I sit in international forums and meetings across the world.

Today, as Director of International Relations, I am often called upon to speak to new students and I relish this role. In my self-proclaimed role as “ambassador for UDC,” I recruit students just about everywhere I go. Whether in visits across the Western Hemisphere or in other parts of the world, I ask students to consider UDC for their studies. I have been introducing regional institutions to the concept of collaborating with the University. I have also been seeking ways to get Caribbean countries like Grenada to work in partnership with UDC and have participated in discussions between China and the faculty of the University.

Lately, I have been speaking with President Sessoms about harnessing the potential of the international community that surrounds UDC's campus. I have been working with the University

of the District of Columbia's National Alumni Society to activate the broad network of alumni that UDC has across the globe. There are many UDC alumni functioning as senior-level professionals in many walks of life worldwide and across this country. This is a testimony that our alma mater graduates professionals that lead in their respective fields; that UDC alumni can and do make a difference—everywhere!

I am putting forth a personal call to my fellow alumni: Each one, reach one, and tell one about the exciting things that are going on at the University and how our alma mater needs our support financially. Let us reach back to this center of excellence that gave us more than a degree but also the authority to stand up and be counted. Yes, the University of the District of Columbia needs YOU now. Together, we can make UDC the premier University in Washington, DC, but each of us must contribute to make this vision a reality.

With your gift we can accomplish great things. Your contribution matters to the future success of this great institution and the student body who will continue to impact our world!

Sincerely,
Denis G. Antoine '78



On the cover: Dr. Allen Sessoms is shown at the bottom of the new 40-foot staircase mural at the Connecticut Avenue entrance to UDC between buildings 38 and 39. “It's a symbolic statement of the direction of our institution,” he said at the unveiling. “The Firebird is rising, and all of Washington, DC, will soon be a part of this movement.”



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UDCNAS PUTS ON THE RITZ FOR HOMECOMING '09!

The opening event for the University of the District of Columbia's Homecoming Week did not disappoint!

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CCDC: A NEW PATHWAY TO EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY

On a bright and sunny day in late August, UDC's president Dr. Allen L. Sessoms welcomed District leaders, educators and students to the launch of the new Community College.

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76ERS COACH TO LEAD UDC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Philadelphia 76ers assistant coach Jeff Ruland has been chosen to lead UDC's men's basketball program.

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IN ACTION AND ON THE MOVE: PROFILES OF SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI

Around the world our alums are making news.

The University System of the District of Columbia is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY: The University System of the District of Columbia provides equal opportunity to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, physical disability, political affiliation, source of income or place of residence, in accordance with the provisions of the DC Human Rights Act of 1977 (DC Law 2-38). ©2010 University of the District of Columbia 1/10

HARRIS CONNECT TO BUILD BONDS BETWEEN UDC AND ALUMNI

The University of the District of Columbia is intent on keeping its alumni in touch with what's happening on campus. UDC is getting help from Harris Connect, a nationally-known company that supports relationship-building at colleges and universities using the Internet, directories and other well-tested research solutions. Harris Connect is reaching out to alumni—UDC's most esteemed stakeholders—via phone calls, email, postcards and other alerts to update alumni information, help them connect with fellow alumni and involve them in shaping the University's future. Alumni participation is critical to the success of this campaign, so if you're an alum and you are contacted by Harris Connect, please respond!



Jacquelyn V. Thompson, Office of Alumni Relations, cultivates alumni involvement at the University.

Alumni: You are important stakeholders

It is a fact. Alumni of the University of the District of Columbia and ALL of its predecessor institutions—Miner Teachers College, Wilson Teachers College, District of Columbia Teachers College, Washington Technical Institute, Federal City College, Antioch School of Law and the D.C. Law School—are important stakeholders at the University. That is key when one considers that this exclusively urban, public land grant institution in the nation's capital is meeting new challenges and working toward securing its place in the realm of higher education for District residents and its now global student populace.

As a stakeholder, you not only have a claim in what goes on at the University, but you undoubtedly want to ensure that your investment—the education you received—pays dividends for those who have followed in your footsteps and for those who will pursue their studies at the University for generations to come. You realize that your academic training was instrumental to the path you took and the ensuing accomplishments you've made. You ultimately want other young people—and, in many instances, older adults—to come to the realization that the University's wide-ranging scholastic offerings can help them meet their future goals.

As you become clearer about your role as a stakeholder, you will want to become more involved in alumni and University affairs. You'll want to attend meetings of the University's board of trustees and you'll want to be a part of things like University assessment

sessions that are exploring ways the University can reach its full potential. As a stakeholder, you will want to take a direct interest in how you can impact students in school now by possibly offering job internships or participating in on- and off-campus alumni-student networking and mentoring opportunities. And, of course, you'll want to connect with the University's Office of Alumni Relations to find out about the alumni news and publicity committee, special events committee, career and student networking and civic and community affairs committees that will give you hands-on opportunities to brainstorm and come up with ideas that will have both an immediate and long-term effect on the entire University community.

Clearly, stakeholders will be responsible for pushing the envelope to propel the University forward as it hones a new strategic plan under the leadership of President Allen Sessoms. It should be noted that a benchmark for this strategic plan is to continue to graduate alumni who are equipped to make a difference on the local, national and international scenes, whether in education, law, medicine, the arts and the humanities, engineering, architecture or business.

Because you're someone special—a stakeholder—you have affirmed an unwavering commitment to the University that this will happen. A weighty role? Yes! But then, you know you would not accept anything less than the best for your alma mater, would you?

ALUMNI FORGE STEADFAST ADVOCACY

The University of the District of Columbia National Alumni Society is dedicated to supporting and ensuring the future of the University by:

- ★ Serving as a strong advocate for resources for the University at all levels
- ★ Providing financial support and guidance for current and future students
- ★ Maintaining close relationships among UDC's alumni, including those of predecessor institutions.

UDCNAS officers and members have been busy and productive for the past two years with initiatives that included:

- ★ Participating in the selection process for the new University president
- ★ Successfully advocating for resources for career and technical training programs
- ★ Winning a grant from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund for an alumni training workshop that focused on reclaiming alumni and developing fundraising initiatives
- ★ Dispersing the first UDCNAS scholarships for undergraduates (\$2,000 per student)
- ★ Launching a campaign to raise \$50,000 to establish the UDCNAS Endowed Scholarship.

UDCNAS is growing, and its members are vested in building your alma mater into the capstone institution all alumni know that it can be. Find out how you can join UDCNAS by visiting www.udc.edu/alumni.

UDCNAS Officers 2008-10:

Michael D. Woodard, PhD '72, president

Carrington Smith '73, vice president

Gloria Green-Ridley '75, assistant vice president

Cornett Njoku '99, treasurer

Camille Anderson '75, secretary

Rip Preston '75, sergeant-at-arms



READY FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER!

BY RINA DANIELS '08

I began my academic career at the University of the District of Columbia in spring 1990. As an honors student attending UDC on a marching band scholarship, my first opportunity to act as an ambassador for the University was when the band played for commencement, I traveled to other universities, and I performed at an NFL stadium. What a great time that was!

Thirteen years, one husband and two children later, I had completed only one year of undergraduate study. A chance to return full-time to UDC as a business major came in fall 2004. I joined the Integrated Marketing Club, Delta Mu Delta Honor Society, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Undergraduate Student Government Association to add to my student life at UDC. During my senior year, I was elected to serve as president and treasurer of USGA. These opportunities added memorable value to my overall experiences at the University.

As anticipated, Commencement Day 2008 was an inspirational and happy day for my family, friends and me. I graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in business management and an associate degree in business technology.

I now plan to attend law school, and, more importantly, I intend to become a very active alumna of the University of the District of Columbia. I believe that the greater my professional successes and efforts are, the greater the legacy I will leave for future graduates of my beloved University. I can't think of anything better than giving back to a place that has given me so much, and I look forward to remaining involved with UDC for years to come. My heartiest congratulations to the Class of 2009!

UDCNAS PUTS ON THE RITZ FOR HOMECOMING '09!



The opening event for the University of the District of Columbia's Homecoming Week did not disappoint! The UDCNAS Alumni Dinner-Dance on Oct. 24 had all the characteristics expected of a fine affair, and remarks by the association's president, Michael Woodard, PhD, '72 alluded to the impact alumni have on the future of an institution that is ready for today's world.

Woodard and other alumni, their friends, 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz '80, and the keynote speaker, DC City Councilman-At-Large Michael Brown graced the black-tie event at the Hilton Washington, DC/Silver Spring

hotel with aplomb. Woodard made it clear to his audience—which included Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, CEO of the new Community College, and Dr. Valerie L. Epps, vice president for student affairs—that alumni of this unique institution for higher learning have made outstanding contributions in their professions. Woodard noted that their far-reaching accomplishments—Maj. Gen. Schwartz and others have been acknowledged on the world's stage—were signposts that the University was poised for further greatness in academia.

During the program portion of the night, the founding members of UDCNAS were honored for the

work they had accomplished in giving all alumni a focal point that has positioned the University's graduates to ponder, plan and implement great things for the University's future.

After a delicious dinner, the atmosphere livened up as students and everyone else had a chance to really celebrate by dancing to the records spun by DJ Lorenzo Roach. The evening concluded with alumni vowing to pay homage to their alma mater by having a repeat performance next year. Proceeds from the event go toward the establishment of the alumni organization's endowed scholarship fund.

Pictured above left: UDCNAS President Michael Woodard '72 (left) and Gregory Evans '06 (right) flank some of the founding members of UDCNAS, L-R: Herman "Rip" Preston '75, Georgia J. Herron '46, Cheryl Hawkins '93, Cornett Njoku '96, Theresa N. Travis '77 and '90, and Carrington Smith '73.

Above right: Alumni Dinner-Dance keynote speaker City Councilman-At-Large Michael Brown (left) and UDCNAS President Michael D. Woodard '72



Alumni motivate students in networking session

At this year's Alumni-Student Networking Session, UDC career counselor Dr. Joan Jackson '75 urged students to excel in their studies and move beyond the baccalaureate status to meet today's marketplace demands. She drove her point home with her personal story and elicited rapt attention from the audience.

Over 50 students and 13 alumni gathered at what has become a Homecoming highlight for both students and alumni. The networking session is coordinated and presided over by UDCNAS president Michael D. Woodard. Like the previous year, this event took place in the 4.0 Lounge, a fitting backdrop for a vibrant discussion on careers and the rigors of the academic path and how the two can, and must, converge for the matriculating student's blueprint for achievement.

Cheryl Hawkins '93, a UDC cable television production coordinator, spoke about her pride as a University graduate who now has the chance to teach and mentor students. Like Jackson, Hawkins also portrayed a bright picture of what could be accomplished with purpose, dedication and hard work.

Other alumni in attendance, many of whom made presentations, were Ronald Smith '75, Georgia Johnson Herron '46, Valerie Grant '78, Dr. Virginia Howard '78, Theresa Nelson Travis '77 and '90, Jacqueline Daughtry-Miller '04, Donald Nunley '03, Gregory Evans '06, Andrea Edwards-Hughes '94 and Essita Duncan, Esq., '98.

Pictured above left: Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, Dr. Valerie Epps and others stop for a photo
Above right: UDC career counselor Dr. Joan Jackson '75 and husband Dermont Jackson on the dance floor

Middle right: Dr. Joan Jackson '75 and husband Dermont Jackson enjoying the night
Bottom right: 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz '80 and wife Norma Schwartz

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ANTICIPATES NEW FACILITY



The School of Business and Public Administration is currently located at the Intelsat Building, 3400 International Drive NW, just across the street from the University's Van Ness campus. We're enjoying our second year at Intelsat, yet our thoughts are on the remodeling efforts going on in Building 52. We anticipate the refurbished building to be a state-of-the-art, business school facility for students, faculty and staff when it becomes fully operational in 2010.

Business school's new faculty and staff

Charlie E. Mahone Jr., PhD, dean of the School of Business and Public Administration, has shown that he has a commitment for excellence. He has charged the faculty to increase their pursuit for research and publishing opportunities; encouraged the alumni affairs liaison to reclaim, engage and improve alumni relations activities; and hired new staff, including Dr. Chigbo Ofong, associate dean of academics; new assistant dean for student services, Ann-Marie Waterman; Dr. Minnette Bumpus, professor of management; Dr. Nikolai Ostapenko, professor of

marketing; and Dr. Thiehong (Ann) Wang, professor of finance.

Help wanted

YES, you can help by lending your support—your time, talent or resources—which will make a difference in the lives of our students and our programs. Please contact the Career Services Officer at the School of Business and Public Administration at 202.274.7176 to discuss ways that you can contribute to the continued success of the school.

SBPA alumni connections

Many of our current and former students are excelling in their chosen professions. Our faculty members are publishing and producing research, our students are obtaining outstanding internships and our staff are providing excellent service to our students. The following are just some of the achievements of your fellow alumni and some matriculating students.

Peter Regis '84, CPA (BBA, accounting) is the owner and principal associate of Regis & Associates, an accounting firm. He is joined in his firm by wife Gwenn ('84) and several other SBPA accounting graduates. Regis has established a scholarship fund within SBPA that provides financial assistance to students attending conferences and has hired many students as interns. Regis received the Alumni Award at the SBPA Partners' Day event last fall.

Norma Bullock '83 (BA, human resources) is the chief of the Workforce Development & Sustainment Division, Office of Civilian Personnel Assistant Commandant for Human Resources, US Coast Guard, in Washington, DC. Bullock has established a SBPA memorial scholarship and has funded the scholarship for over 20 years.

Doris Barnes '93 (MBE) formerly served with the DC Public Schools. Currently, she directs the human resource office at Walker & Company, LLP. Barnes has hired many SBPA accounting students and attends the University job fairs to recruit students.

Julia Omotade '84 (BBA, accounting) is vice president and commercial manager for Provident Bank, Rockville, MD.

Floyd Haynes '84 (BBA, accounting) is the founder of Haynes Incorporated, a leading company in government accounting and financial management.

Kenneth Ellerbe '07 (MPA) is currently the Deputy Fire Chief of the DC Fire Department. He serves on the board of the Urban League and plans to pursue a doctoral degree. As a student, he was a member of Delta Mu Delta International Business Honor Society and maintained a stellar GPA while working full time.

Tiawo Pedro '84 (BBA, accounting) is president of Tai Pedro & Associates, PC, CPA, an accounting firm in Silver Spring, MD. He has created a scholarship for students majoring in accounting and has hired students for internships and career positions.

Jeffery Thompson '80 (BBA, accounting) is president of Thompson, Cobb, Bazillio, an accounting firm. TCB has been recognized as the largest minority-owned accounting firm in the nation. Two of its principals are graduates of the SBPA. Thompson funds an annual scholarship and has hired many SBPA students for internships and career positions. Thompson is president of the UDC Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors.

Ralph Bazillio '78 (BBA, accounting) is a principle in Thompson, Cobb, Bazillio and a member of the SBPA advisory board. He actively participates in events within the school. He has provided support for student trips and scholarships.

Pelontle Kebaswele '99 (MBA) directs the Strategic Planning Office at the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Botswana. He plans to join the University of South Africa to pursue a doctoral degree in management.

Wilbur Turner '07 (BBA, contracts and procurement) successfully completed an internship with the DC Convention Center and was hired as a contracts specialist.

Newton Nyairo '00 (BA, economics) has begun doctoral studies in agricultural policy at the University of Helsinki.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



The Power of One

Four years ago, Department of Mathematics alumnus John H. Douglas '72 gave \$102,500 to UDC to honor a professor who inspired him with his dedication and relentless drive to instill the importance of learning mathematics and striving for the highest level of quality in one's academic pursuits. Today, the James E. Joseph Endowed Scholarship Fund has more than doubled to \$237,800. This semester, three students received the first scholarships to be awarded under this newly-endowed scholarship fund.

The aim of The James E. Joseph Endowed Scholarship Fund is to increase the representation of minorities in the study of mathematics. Candidates for scholarships from this fund must either be in the top 25% of their high school graduating class or have sustained a grade point average at the University of the District of Columbia of 2.75 or higher. Douglas' generous gift will impact University of the District of Columbia students for years to come.

Annual book fair promotes reading

Reading is the key to knowledge. Dr. Virginia Howard '56, professor of English in the Department of Education, makes this fact crystal clear to her students in the College of Arts and Sciences and to those even younger with her annual book fair, sponsored by the University's Student National Education Association. The SNEA book fair on Nov. 4 had an audience of students from around the campus, some youngsters from the Children's Literacy Group and the Community Academy Public Charter School and faculty and staff for a day that emphasized the importance of reading, the excitement of books and the role that they play in education.

Howard's authors for the day were as diverse as her audience. They were: Bernice Hammond Jackson, *Hokus, Pokus, the Goodwill Pixie*; Joanne Crutchfield, *It'll All Come Out in the Wash—Growing Up Colored in Jim Crow's South*; Dorothy Phaire, *Murder and the Masquerade* and *Blind Delusion*; Ambassador Denis G. Antoine '78, *Effective Diplomacy, A Practitioner's Perspective—A Handbook for Diplomatic Officers*; and Deborah Dessaso '97, *What Do You Do When Your Name Means Nothing?* Gabriel Benn with the Hip Hop Educational Literacy Program participated in the book fair as well. There were also workshops in Spanish, mathematics, art, jazz, storytelling, face painting and even salsa classes!





SOAR4 launches first cohort

After a summer of faculty and staff training at UDC, Scholars on a Roll, or SOAR4, launched its first cohort in the fall with eight instructors, 10 sections (reading improvement and English fundamentals) and 42 students taking at least four courses together.

A \$100,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation in March 2009 made it possible for the University to implement a summer institute to train faculty and staff in learning communities and integrative assignments. The SOAR4 team worked closely with the First-Year Experience, the Center for Academic Advising and the Division of Student Affairs to facilitate project implementation.

SOAR4 is an initiative to raise the retention and success of students taking developmental English and mathemat-

ics by linking these courses with sociology and freshman orientation and creating an effective learning community. It was borne out of a proposal by the Myrtilla Miner Professional Development Academy (formerly, UDC Building Engagement and Attainment for Minority Students, or BEAMS) after the team returned from a 2007 summer institute on learning communities at the Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education.

In 2003, UDC BEAMS began with its attendance at the Summer Academy of the American Association of Higher Education. At that time, the University Scholar Series was established to present workshops and other professional development activities for faculty, staff and students to learn more about the interconnections of assessment, learning and



technology. BEAMS renamed the series the Myrtilla Miner Professional Development Academy in 2003 to honor its founder, and the workshops expanded to include activities on retention.

Faculty publications

Shurron Farmer published *Some Results on the Analysis of a Climax Population Model: A Single-Species Two-Age Class Climax Population Model*, VDM Publishing House Ltd., 2009.

Stanley M. Einstein-Matthews and Jeffery Fleming published “Continuity and Differentiability Properties of Parameter-Dependent Solutions of the t -Equation” in *African Diaspora Journal of Mathematics*, Volume 7, Number 1 (pages 79–91), 2008.

Stanley M. Einstein-Matthews and Jeffery Fleming published “Weighted Parameter Dependent Bergman Kernel, Bergman Projection and Fourier Integral Operators” in *African Diaspora Journal of Mathematics*, Volume 7, Number 2 (pages 107–118), 2009.

April Massey, Rachel M. Petty, Jeffery Fleming, Matthew Petti and Lena Walton published “Increasing the Numbers: Aligning the Strength of the Academic Core with Outcomes for Student Retention,” *Successful Models for Effectively Retaining and Graduating Students*, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, 2009.



“IT IS OUR GOAL TO SHOW THE WORLD HOW THIS NEW INSTITUTION CAN BENEFIT THE NATION’S CAPITAL AND BEYOND.”

—**Dr. Jonathan Gueverra**,
CEO, Community College
of the District of Columbia

CCDC: A NEW PATHWAY TO EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY

On a bright and sunny day in late August, UDC's president, Dr. Allen L. Sessoms, welcomed District leaders, educators and students to celebrate the opening of the Community College of the District of Columbia and to introduce its first CEO—Dr. Jonathan Guevra, a community college graduate and advocate.

Guevra brings a wealth of experience and innovation in higher education management. Before joining the UDC family, he was provost of Northern Virginia Community College (Alexandria campus), where he was responsible for significantly increasing enrollment and building a first-class academic program. Guevra's vision for this newest addition to the UDC system is to expand access to higher education and opportunity to all residents in the District and the region.

"Everyone deserves a chance to learn," Guevra said to an enthusiastic crowd. "It is our goal to show the world how this new institution can benefit the nation's capital and beyond."

The community college is currently housed on the campus of UDC but

will be in its own, separate location by fall 2010. It is the University's goal to build satellite locations in all eight wards of the city to provide access to two-year associate degrees, certificates and workforce development programs.

"This represents a milestone in education for our community," said Sessoms. "Following President Obama's vision for education in this nation, we are bringing high-quality programs to people who need them most, at the best possible value."

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony that took place on the first day of classes, then-chair of the board of trustees Emily Durso beamed, "This is the educational link that has been missing in this town. Now, there is a bridge for all students between high school and college that also serves as a connection to people already in the workforce who want to augment their professional skills or simply learn a new skill."

In its first year, a top priority for Guevra and his administration was to build the institution's Student Success Team, which is committed to helping CCDC's more than 1,600

students make the most of their education so they can advance to higher academic achievement or new careers.

"Graduation is a must," said Guevra. "We are ready to support our students in every way possible, but if you start a curriculum here, you must graduate. There is no alternative."

The community college currently offers more than 20 degree and certificate programs, and many more are being considered. There is also a robust workforce development component, which serves approximately 1,500 students in areas such as health care, construction trades, office and administrative technology and hospitality.

"This is a development that is long overdue," remarked DC City Council chair Vincent Gray, a major fan of UDC. "DC students now have a clear path to get them from high school to the halls of higher education. Our adult students now have a significant tool to help them boost their careers."

To learn more about CCDC, visit www.udc.edu/cc.

SEASONED EDUCATIONAL LEADER IS CEO OF NEW COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, CEO, CCDC

After holding numerous leadership and faculty positions at both two- and four-year higher education institutions, Dr. Jonathan Gueverra took the helm as chief executive officer of the new Community College of the District of Columbia. President Allen Sessoms, announced his appointment, effective Aug. 1.

“This is an exciting day for the entire University system and we are delighted that a leader with Dr. Gueverra’s experience and talent has taken on this challenge,” Sessoms said. “The University system is now well-positioned to deliver a high quality education to area residents, allowing them to quickly and affordably develop the skills and degrees they need to join the workforce, advance their careers or pursue a path toward lifelong learning.”

Gueverra was most recently the provost for the Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College. There, he spearheaded a significant increase in retention and enrollment rates.

“I am honored and extremely excited to be associated with the launch of a new community college in our nation’s capital,” commented Gueverra. “In the coming weeks and months we will work hard to build an institution with programs and services that not only provides open, affordable access to higher education for all residents of the Washington metropolitan area, but also serves as a model of excellence for community colleges nationwide. I look forward to establishing and maintaining an open dialogue with the various stakeholders in our community about this vision and the process we are undertaking to make it a reality.”

Established as an independent institution in January 2009 and officially launched in August 2009, the Community College aims to create a dynamic and innovative institution focused on providing residents of the Washington metropolitan area access to affordable, high-quality education for lifelong learning, career advancement and workforce development.

The Community College currently offers 20 associate degrees, three certificate programs and more than 22 workforce development programs. A member of the University System of the District of Columbia, the College’s main campus is currently located within the UDC campus at 4200 Connecticut Ave. NW. As part of its workforce development program, the Community College also has five program locations located across District wards.

Gueverra is a noted author of articles on planning, leadership and technology, and he has taught numerous undergraduate and graduate courses. In April 2007, Gueverra received an Exemplary Leadership Award from the Chair Academy, an international organization for educational leaders founded by the Maricopa Community Colleges. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Beta Gamma, Who’s Who Among Students and Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.

Gueverra earned a doctorate and MBA from the University of Massachusetts at Boston, a bachelor’s degree from Providence College and an associate degree from Newbury College in Massachusetts.

“I AM HONORED AND EXTREMELY EXCITED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE LAUNCH OF A NEW COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN OUR NATION’S CAPITAL,”

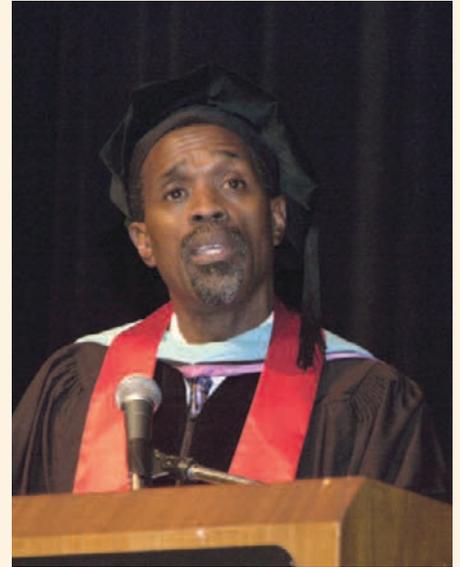
— Dr. Jonathan Gueverra

COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES FIRST OPENING CONVOCATION

The Community College of the District of Columbia held its first opening convocation Sept. 24 on the UDC campus. Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, CEO of the Community College, delivered the convocation address with remarks from DC City Council chair Vincent Gray and UDC System president, Dr. Allen L. Sessoms.

Gueverra presented the new school's logo and colors during the convocation, celebrating new educational opportunities offered through the Community College.

The Community College serves the District's residents by integrating work-force preparation, employability skill development, quality education and remediation, economic development, and employer linkages in its school-to-career training/educational programs. It provides a seamless transition from kindergarten through 12th grade to adult education and literacy and to college prep—and continuous lifelong learning. This new institution is of great importance to DC citizens, employers, the University and the District of Columbia.



Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, CEO, CCDC

DON PEEBLES DELIVERS OPENING CONVOCATION SPEECH



R. Donahue Peebles, keynote speaker

R. Donahue Peebles of The Peebles Corporation, a real estate development company with a \$4 billion development portfolio, gave the keynote address at the University of the District of Columbia's 15th Annual Convocation Ceremony on Sept. 22.

In May 2009, *Forbes* listed Peebles in the top ten of the wealthiest black Americans in the country. He is the author of *The Peebles Principles*, which distills the lessons he learned building his successful company and personal fortune.

Prior to founding the Peebles Corporation, Peebles was the chairman of the District of Columbia's real estate tax appeals board. A native of Washington, DC, Peebles is recognized as the first African-American to truly diversify south Florida's all-white ranks of developers. He is vice chairman of the Greater Miami Conventions and Visitors Bureau, a former board member of Florida International University and a member of the Visitors Industry Council Board. He lives with his wife and two children in Coral Gables, FL.

GETTING WATER TO AN ETHIOPIAN TOWN: AN 8-DAY, SOLAR-WIND PROJECT



Pictured above: Dr. Samuel Lakeou (2nd from right) and Stephen Omoijuanfo (4th from left) at the site of the Faris Sankale project in Ethiopia.

BY STEPHEN OMOIJUANFO, BS '08

Traveling to the east African country of Ethiopia is an experience I would like to have again and again. Having an opportunity to go to Africa after five years in the United States was a much needed one. When I was selected to go on this trip during spring break 2008 with Dr. Samuel Lakeou, chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering and director of the Center of Excellence for Renewable Energy at UDC, I was excited. It was an opportunity for me to apply what I learned in class to practical engineering problems.

The CERÉ of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences is working jointly with Hope 2020, a nongovernmental organization in Ethiopia, to develop a renewable energy power source for pumping well water in the rural community of Ambo, located in the Faris

Senkale district about 125 km west of Addis Ababa. We were to install a solar-wind hybrid system there and assist engineers from Hope 2020 with technical details.

The project was supported by an endowment from the U.S. Department of Energy and by corporate and private donations. Inauguration of the project took place in July 2008 with a UDC delegation led by Dr. Ben O. Latigo, dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The sunny skies, everyday people walking and selling on the streets and the rich culture exhibited a warm hospitality that I enjoyed during my eight days in Ethiopia. We wasted no time in getting straight to work.

Choosing the site for the proposed project wasn't easy. The stream where the villagers got their water was about a mile away. The hilly terrain of the area and the power of the water pump

made it impossible to place the water distribution outlet at the village. The solar panel had to be placed where it could get the full intensity of the sun's rays without interference of trees or shade. Also, the wind turbine needed to be where there was an uninterrupted movement of air. These locations were about 400 feet from the village, away from private farms and pasture lands.

Some community locals expressed concerns over the selected location for the water reservoir and its distribution outlet. We had to explain that, although we could not pump the water right into their community, the water they would get would be clean and healthy as a result of the project. Later, one or two water pumps could be brought in to help bring water right to their doorsteps.

I had the opportunity of visiting restaurants that offered live traditional Ethiopian music and dances of the various ethnic cultures of Ethiopia. Ethiopians are either Muslims or Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, and they observed their fasting religiously, with some restaurants preparing special foods for those who were fasting.

All in all, this learning and working trip is one I'll never forget. I am especially grateful for the academic and career opportunities given to me to be a part of this project by the University of the District of Columbia, particularly the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

A replica of the renewable energy project is situated on the University's campus near Building 47.

SCHOOL OF LAW: RAISING THE BAR

Notable achievements this year at the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law included:

New Part-Time Program: The School of Law won American Bar Association approval and in the fall of 2009 admitted 27 excellent students to its new part-time program of study for the Juris Doctor degree.

Awards: Prof. Louise Howells won the Washington Council of Lawyers 2009 President's Award for her work with tenant organizations and in preserving affordable housing in the District.

Professor Edgar Cahn and the late Jean Camper Cahn won the 2009 National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) Charles Dorsey Award, recognizing individuals who provide extraordinary and dedicated service to the equal justice community and to organizations that promote expanding and improving access to justice for low-income people.

Dean Shelley Broderick won the 2009 Legal Community Award at the Annual Community Outreach, Recognition and Opportunity (CORA) Awards ceremony during Hispanic Heritage month held at the DC Superior Court, for "sustained commitment and demonstrated excellence providing legal services to the Latino Community." She also won the 2009 American Association of Law School's Deborah Rhode Award.

\$266,000 in annual federal funding for 2009–2013: The School of Law was listed as an HBCU graduate program in the 2008 Higher Education Act, which will provide a minimum of \$1 million a year to the School of Law.



New Grant Funding: New funding from the D.C. Bar Foundation, the D.C. Superior Court and from federal grants combined with existing funds this year are underwriting:

- ★ A clinical fellow in the Housing and Consumer Clinic
- ★ A faculty member and a clinical fellow in the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic
- ★ Two clinical fellows in the HIV/AIDS Clinic, one dedicated to child welfare
- ★ A clinician in the Legislation Clinic.

New Clinic: The School of Law is currently interviewing candidates to direct a new Immigration/Human Rights Clinic opening in 2010.

Bar Passage Rates, Applications Soar: 83 percent of 2008 graduates passed the bar on their first attempt, the highest in school history. UDC-DCSL received over 1,600 applications during the 2009 recruiting season, our highest yet, and a 35% increase over 2008.

New Critical Staff: We have added a dean of students, director of development and three new student services staff assistants.

Nationally, UDC-DACSL is highly ranked:

- ★ Fourth in the nation for diversity (*US News and World Report*, 2008)
- ★ Ranked in the top 25 for law school clinical programs (*US News and World Report*, 2008)
- ★ Sixth in the nation in percentage of African-American students (ABA)
- ★ Ninth in the nation in percentage of minority students (ABA)

Unprecedented Alumni Bar Program:

A 79 percent cumulative pass rate over the last five years still leaves much room for improvement. As a result, the School of Law has taken an unprecedented step of providing an intensive bar-passage course to alumni who have not yet passed an exam. This summer, 20 alumni participated in an exacting program here at UDC that focused on essay writing and many also took the six-day Professional Multistate Bar Review (PMBR) course. We plan to continue this program and, with it, drive our bar passage rates higher and higher.

40-FOOT TILE MURAL GREET'S UDC VISITORS

Tens of thousands of ceramic tiles were individually scored and then reassembled as part of a 40-foot mural that covers nearly 40 steps in the University of the District of Columbia's administration building. It's the work of art professor Marcela Noriega del Valle and her designer Suzanne Moe, who worked for months on the design and even incorporated student insight and labor in installing the giant mural.

President Allen Sessoms was awestruck at the overwhelming feeling of uplift one gets upon entering the main build-

ing. "It's a symbolic statement of the direction of our institution," he said at the unveiling. "The Firebird is rising, and all of Washington, DC, will soon be a part of this movement."

The mural depicts two facing Firebirds surrounded by swirls of color. It is designed to inspire a feeling of upward movement as students ascend the stairs toward their goals in higher education.

Professor Marcela Noriega del Valle and designer Suzanne Moe



CERAMIC TILE 'CARPETS' ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ENTRANCE



On Aug. 25, President Allen Sessoms unveiled the "Ceramic Tile Carpet" art installation in front of the administration building. Marcela Noriega del Valle, a ceramics professor in the Department of Mass Media, Visual and Performing Arts, and designer Suzanne Moe worked on the project, which took 10 days from manufacture to installation.

President Sessoms, faculty, staff and students at the unveiling of the tile "carpet"

UDC.EDU'S NEW LOOK



In late July, the University of the District of Columbia System unveiled the first in a series of updates to its main Web site. The new look and feel for the home page is part of UDC's ongoing campaign to improve services to the community, making information easier to find and access.

Updates will be made to other key areas of the Web site, upgrading the appearance and functionality of the most popular sections first and working through the rest of the site. This will be an ongoing process until all important content has been updated.

The UDC System's presence on the Internet coincides with several other activities designed to position the University as a world-class institution of higher learning. These activities include: a rebranding of the University's logos and public face and strong promotional programs to highlight the University's new Community College, a highly regarded mortuary science program and nationally-renowned law school.

"We look forward to bringing our image in line with the excellent educational opportunities that UDC provides to the community of DC and the world," said President Allen Sessoms. "The new UDC is an institution that is poised to seize the opportunities of the 21st century and beyond."

Check out the new look at www.udc.edu

JAZZALIVE KICK-OFF CELEBRATES CALVIN JONES

On Oct. 26, the UDC Jazz Ensembles, under the direction of Allyn Johnson, kicked off its fifth annual JAZZAlive showcase celebrating the legacy of Calvin Jones. Jones was director of the jazz studies program 1976–2004 and a legendary figure in the Washington, DC, community.

The evening featured performances by the University's powerhouse big band—always "in the pocket," as Jones would say—and the exciting Calvin Jones Legacy Ensemble to once again

treat jazz lovers to a soul-stirring night to remember.

For this five-year anniversary, JAZZAlive also honored jazz great and living legend Roger "Buck" Hill for his outstanding contributions to jazz and to music in Washington, DC. Produced by the jazz studies program and the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives, the event opened this year's Scholarship Benefit Series and kicked off UDC Homecoming 2009.



FARMERS' MARKET AT UDC FEEDS THE BODY AND MIND



The University of the District of Columbia's Community Outreach and Extension Services and the Mid-Atlantic Growers and Consumers Cooperative (MAGCC) launched the city's newest, most innovative farmers' market on the University's campus in July. The market, which was created to provide healthy, nutritional foods to local residents, sold fresh fruits and

vegetables at affordable prices and will eventually expand the product line to include free-range meats, dairy products and more.

Consumers benefit from access to food for the table and food for thought, as the market also offers free research-based publications and on-site consultations to help residents improve their quality of life with regard to nutrition, financial literacy, gardening, parenting, home repair, water quality and more.

As the nation's only urban land grant institution and the city's only public institution for higher education, UDC conducts research on matters relevant to the District and extends beneficial, research-based information to residents through its land grant units, the

Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service.

The market opened this summer at the entrance of the UDC campus, conveniently located on Metro's Red Line at the Van Ness stop.

Quinton Robinson, market manager, remarked, "The creation of this market is exciting and unique because of our focus on supporting local farmers and providing access to healthy food alternatives for urban dwellers."

MAGCC is a DC-based organization composed of farmers and consumers in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, Virginia and North Carolina. It is dedicated to providing urban consumers with a consistent source of regionally grown fresh foods.

FIBER OPTICS LINK STUDENTS IN DISTANCE LEARNING INITIATIVE

UDC students had an extraordinary opportunity to plug into the expertise of other universities via fiber optic technology in a program that started Sept. 17. It was a project that had been months in the making and linked students in Washington, DC, to students and professors in other states. The idea is to expand the scope of instruction and get input from multiple sources in the course of a class.

Strongly advocated and supported by Dr. Suzan Harkness, assistant dean in UDC's Center for Academic Technology, the initiative has been enthusiastically endorsed by all the partners involved. The first course, in political science, included participation by Harkness' students and students from Pace University in New York, George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, and Denver University in Colorado.

During the course of the classes, students had the opportunity to learn directly from experienced professors and from national newsmakers, including authors Richard Wolffe and Stephen Farnsworth, former Bush campaign manager Joe Allbaugh and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Classes were held each Thursday in the University's television studio.

BUSINESSMAN HONORS MOM, STARTS SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN

At UDC's opening convocation, entrepreneur real estate mogul R. Donahue Peebles credited his mother's determination to learn the real estate industry as a defining thread in his climb to the top. His mother, Yvonne Willoughby Poole, passed away this summer following a lengthy illness. In her honor, Peebles established a scholarship for UDC women who exemplify self-betterment and business ingenuity.

In establishing the Yvonne Willoughby Poole UDC scholarships, women everywhere who sacrifice for their families are given a great opportunity to succeed. The scholarships, designed to cover tuition, fees and other expenses, will be awarded yearly.

President Allen Sessoms announced the new scholarship in October. "What a



R. Donahue Peebles, CEO and chairman of The Peebles Corporation

great testament to his mother and to women across this nation," said Sessoms. "This generous offer will make dreams come true for UDC students for years to come."

Peebles has created a foundation that will be administered by his mother's sisters. They will establish criteria for the awards and will make them based on need, goals and other factors beginning next year.

M. BRINSLEY BAKER GETS MAX ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP

Senior M. (Sloan) Brinsley Baker Jr. was awarded the 2009 Max Robinson Scholarship, a fund established in memory of the nation's first black network news anchor. Baker is majoring in mass media with a concentration in journalism and is president of UDC's Journalism Club. The \$3,000 scholar-

ship will cover tuition, fees and educational materials for one academic year.

In addition to journalism, Baker's interests include screenwriting, video production and editing. Well-versed in aspects of multimedia, he wrote "The Grounds Crew," a blog about the Washington Nationals for *The Washington Post*, in 2008.

The scholarship honors Max Robinson for his contributions to journalism and his commitment to providing opportunities for the advancement of black professionals in the field of mass communications. Robinson taught at the Federal City College, a predecessor to UDC, from 1968 to 1970.

NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS

Craig W. Parker is the general counsel for the UDC system as of Dec. 1.

“Craig brings tremendous talent to our team,” said Dr. Allen Sessoms. “His reputation and ability will be significant forces in moving our system forward.”

Parker had been associate vice president and general counsel at Catholic University of America since 1987 and in recent years took on leadership responsibilities in the areas of community and government relations. He also served as CUA’s assistant general counsel and dean of its law school.

Parker received a BA in journalism from the University of Kansas and a JD from Catholic University. He is a member of the Legal Services Review Panel of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the NCAA General Counsel Advisory Board. Parker is also active in the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

Alan Etter is vice president of University relations and public affairs. He joined UDC in July as director of public relations. In this position, Etter is responsible for all public affairs duties for the University as well as institutional advancement, marketing and alumni affairs, and he serves as spokesperson for the University system.

Etter, a veteran Washington journalist, served as public information officer for the DC Fire & EMS Department for nearly nine years before coming to UDC. In that role, he was chief spokesman for the department and he arranged special events. He continues his affiliation with the fire service as a

volunteer emergency medical technician and firefighter. He also serves on the boards of directors for the Radio and Television News Directors Association and the Port of Washington Yacht Club.

Prior to joining DCFD, Etter was a well-known news reporter, working in television and radio, most notably WTOP News in Washington, where he earned several national and local awards for his work.

Dr. Valerie Epps is vice president of student affairs. She also handles the admissions and veterans affairs functions for the University. Her priority in her combined roles is to develop programs that will increase enrollment and retain students.

Epps is a former vice president of student affairs at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. She has also served in leadership positions at several institutions, including the George Washington University in Washington and Atlanta Metropolitan College, where she was leadership director. She has more than 20 years of management experience in higher education.

His Excellency Denis G. Antoine is the executive director of international programs and exchange. Formerly Grenada’s ambassador to the United States and a permanent representative to the Organization of American States, where he currently serves as chairman of the board of the directors for the Young Americas Business Trust, he is the 2008 recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award for International Service and is also former dean of the Corps of Ambassadors of the Western Hemisphere.

Before his appointment as ambassador, Antoine served as a program specialist for the government of the District of Columbia and was education supervisor for DC Public Schools until 1995. He holds a PhD from LaSalle University, a MS from National-Louis University and a MA from UDC.

Dr. Jacqueline Skinner Jackson is interim dean of academic affairs for the Community College. She officially began her duties on July 16 and is currently working out of the Community College’s offices on UDC’s Van Ness campus.

Jackson comes to the UDC community with significant experience as a professor, educational consultant, dean and program director. Most recently, she served as a visiting assistant professor at George Washington University’s Graduate School of Education and Human Development (Washington, DC), where she taught master’s and doctoral courses in the higher education administration program, served on doctoral dissertation committees and oversaw an educators’ speaker series.

Other institutional affiliations include: Northern Virginia Community College, American College Personnel Association, Consortium for the Advancement of Private Higher Education, St. Olaf College, Old Dominion University, University of North Carolina at Wilmington and University of North Dakota. She has participated in numerous peer-reviewed presentations and is the recipient of several awards, most notably the Barbara Jordan Community Service Award (Old Dominion University, 1997).

PRESIDENT SESSOMS TESTIFIES ON SIMON ACT



Dr. Allen L. Sessoms

Dr. Allen L. Sessoms, UDC president, testified on Oct. 8 before a panel of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on behalf of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2009.

The legislation calls for the creation of an innovative program to help American students gain a global education. The Simon Act stresses the importance of foreign language skills and cross-cultural competencies. The legislation would provide American students opportunities to study in foreign countries in order to develop cultural awareness

of various issues that would not be available through domestic study.

“The Simon Act is a tremendous way to immerse students in an educational experience that will last a lifetime,” said Sessoms. “Hands-on learning is the best and most lasting experience we can offer students.”

Sessoms spent 14 years as a foreign service officer working for the US Department of State before beginning a career as a higher education administrator, serving as president of institutions such as Delaware State University and Queens College in New York.

COUNCIL VOTES TO RESTORE UDC PURCHASING AUTHORITY

In late September, the DC City Council voted unanimously to restore procurement autonomy to the University of the District of Columbia, a step toward UDC achieving complete independence. The action is pending council approval of a plan of rules and regulations that will be submitted by the University.

In passing the measure, city council chair Vincent C. Gray said that he was honored to have played a part in the process.

“We are ecstatic over this action,” said UDC President Allen Sessoms. “This allows us to move more quickly in putting in place the processes we need to make this University the great institution we envision.”

Sessoms indicated a plan would be presented to the council in the coming weeks that would define how the new authority would be managed. “Specific controls will be put in place,” said Sessoms, “that will demonstrate to the council our desire and ability to move

through this process effectively and responsibly.”

Procurement autonomy has long been sought by the UDC administration as a key component of the transformation of the only public institution for higher learning in the nation’s capital. Over the last year, UDC has seen unprecedented change in the management of its physical property and in the strengthening of its programs.

SHEILA WEAVER IS UDC'S NEW HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH

Patricia A. Thomas, athletics director at the University of the District of Columbia, announced on Aug. 18 the appointment of Sheila Weaver as the University's new head women's volleyball coach. Sheila Weaver has amassed over 20 years of experience in athletics. She began her coaching career at The State University of New York (Binghamton) where she coached both volleyball and basketball. Sheila also served as coordinator of women's athletics at Union College in Schenectady, NY.

A former *Washington Post* Coach of the Year, Weaver has been featured on the cover of the *American Volleyball Coaches Magazine* and was recognized as Private School Coach of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation for her outstanding coaching performance at Sidwell Friends School in Washington, DC.

During Weaver's tenure at Sidwell, *USA Today* ranked her program among the top 25 teams in the nation. Her daughter Cheryl, a former All-Metropolitan standout in volleyball and basketball, was a college All-American in volleyball and is currently a member of the U.S. National Team. Sheila was the founder of The Academic and Athletic Alliance of Washington, DC and Shelovessports.com.

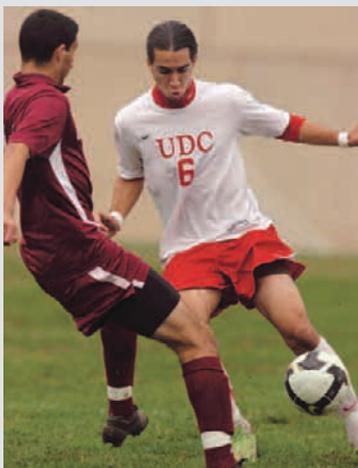
Coach Weaver received her BS in health and physical education from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, and earned her MA in health and physical education from Kent State University, Ohio.

"I am excited to be part of UDC's renewed commitment to student-athlete excellence in the classroom, on the court and on the playing field," said Weaver.



"It is evident the University is moving in a positive direction, and I look forward to the challenges ahead."

UDC SOCCER WINS OVER UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



On Aug. 29, sophomore mid-fielder Said Nabih (Alexandria, VA) scored on a free kick in overtime to lift the University of the District of Columbia Firebirds to a 1-0 overtime win over the University of Pittsburgh Mountain Cats. The game went into overtime after neither team was able to get the ball past some tough defensive stances. Nabih also kicked the tying score for the Firebirds in their 1-1 game tie with Wheeling Jesuit University the following Thursday night in West Virginia.

BOWIE STATE HOMECOMING CHALLENGE

The UDC track and field team won the Bowie State University Homecoming Challenge in Bowie, MD, with junior James Kichwen (Kapsabet, Kenya) finishing in first place with the time of 27:03 and claiming four of the top places in the meet. Finishing in third place was freshman Justin Chemallan (Nandi Hills, Kenya) 27:38, and coming in fourth place was his brother, senior Wilfred Chemallan (Nandi Hills, Kenya) 27:48.

ERICA NIXON MAKES ALL-ACADEMIC TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

Erica Nixon, a sophomore sprinter for the women's track and field team, was named to the 2009 U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division II All-Academic Track & Field Team. To qualify for the USTFCCCA All-Academic Track and Field Team, the student athlete must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 and have met the NCAA Division II Indoor or Outdoor automatic or provisional qualifying standard in their respective event.

Nixon is a two-time Track & Field All-American. As a member of the University's indoor track and field

team, she competed in the 2009 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships and achieved All-American status as result of the team's performance in the 4x400 meter relay.

During the 2009 outdoor track season, she competed with the 4x100 meter relay team and also qualified for the 2009 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Nixon received her second All-American designation as a result of her performance in the NCAA Championships.

A biology major, she is a native of Bronx, NY, and the daughter of Eric



and Effie Nixon. She is a 2007 graduate of Cardinal Spellman High School, where she also excelled in track and field.

JASMINE ROGERS TO HEAD MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY, WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Former standout college athlete Jasmine Rogers is the new head coach for men's and women's cross country and women's track and field, announced Patricia Thomas, UDC director of athletics. "Jasmine will be extremely effective progressing into coaching from her outstanding career as a scholar-athlete. I am proud to have her join the Firebird family," said Thomas.

Rogers feels good about her prospects at the University, saying, "I am excited to be at the University of the District of Columbia and look forward to continuing the program's success." Rogers finished an illustrious career as an athlete at Delaware State University in

Dover, DE. She graduated from Delaware State, with honors, with a bachelor's degree in management with a concentration in marketing. In the spring, she received a master's degree in sports administration from Delaware State. Rogers completed internships in athletic marketing and media relations and served as a volunteer coach for the Delaware State men's and women's track teams.

Rogers was an outstanding track and field athlete at Delaware State, specializing in the high hurdles. Her 2007 accomplishments included becoming an Outdoor East Regional Qualifier in the 100-meter hurdles, becoming

an ECAC finalist in the 100-meter hurdles, and the 4x100-meter relay. She was also named to the MEAC All-Academic Team for cross country and indoor and outdoor track.

In 2008, Rogers set the outdoor meet record at the Swarthmore Invitational in the 100-meter hurdles. She also became an ECAC qualifier in the outdoor 100-meter hurdles. Earlier in the year, she was an ECAC qualifier in the 60-meter hurdles and a MEAC finalist in the 60-meter hurdles. Rogers spent two years at Manhattan College in New York City, where she was a member of the volleyball and track and field teams. She is a native of Pittsburgh, PA.

76ERS COACH TO LEAD UDC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Philadelphia 76ers assistant coach Jeff Ruland has been chosen to lead UDC's men's basketball program, announced President Allen Sessoms in a press conference Aug. 18. Sessoms praised the work of Athletic Director Patricia Thomas in finalizing a deal that brings Ruland to UDC for at least five years.

Coach Ruland brings more than 30 years worth of professional and collegiate playing and coaching experience to the game. He played professionally for teams in Washington, Philadelphia and Detroit and spent nine years as the head coach of his alma mater, Iona College in New Rochelle, NY.

"IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM OF MINE TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON, DC,"

said Ruland. "UDC presents a perfect opportunity to mesh my coaching philosophy with that of an institution undergoing a rebirth. The Firebird is definitely rising again!"



Coach Jeff Ruland

Ruland's athletic history

Jeff Ruland was drafted by the Golden State Warriors as an undergraduate in the second round (25th overall) of the 1980 NBA draft. He opted, however, to play one season of professional basketball in Barcelona, Spain, where he averaged 21 points and 11 rebounds per game. Ruland spent five pro seasons in Washington, DC, leading the Bullets in rebounding and field goal percentage each of those five years. He was selected to the 1984 and 1985 Eastern Conference All-Star teams and named to the 1982 NBA All-Rookie squad. His best season in Washington, and as a professional, came during the 1983-84 campaign when he averaged 22.2 points and 12.3 rebounds while shooting 57.9 percent from the floor. Ruland also played professionally with the 76ers and with the Detroit Pistons before leaving the NBA in 1992 following an injury.

Ruland returned to the 76ers the next year as an assistant coach but left in 1995 to join his alma mater, Iona College, as an assistant coach. He was head coach there from 1998 to

2007. In August 2008, Ruland again returned to the 76ers as an assistant coach, where he has served until the present time.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

As an integral part of the flagship university, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics provides experiences that enhance the comprehensive development of students. With a commitment to excellence, the department embraces the overall mission of the NCAA with emphasis on the Division II strategic positioning platform which "provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletic competition and development of positive societal attitudes in service to community." In addition, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is committed to providing a game environment that respects fairness, courtesy and ethical conduct toward others. The department will uphold the fair and equitable treatment of all persons and will conduct its programs consistent with University guidelines as well as NCAA rules and regulations.

UDC MEN'S BASKETBALL 2010 SCHEDULE

1/4	Alderson-Broaddus College, Sports Complex, Washington, DC	2:00 PM
1/7	Bowie State University, Sports Complex, Washington, DC	7:00 PM
1/17	New York Institute of Technology, Sports Complex, Washington, DC	TBA
1/26	AT Washington Adventist Univ., The Pit-Takoma Park, MD	7:00 PM
1/28	AT University of Sciences, Bobby Morgan Arena, Philadelphia	8:00 PM
2/18	University of Sciences, Sports Complex, Washington, DC	8:00 PM
2/20	Central State University, Sports Complex, Washington, DC	3:00 PM
2/27	AT Central State Univ., Beacom-Lewis Gymnasium, Wilberforce, OH	3:00 PM
3/5-3/6	National Independent Schools Tournament, Beacom-Lewis Gym., Central State Univ., Wilberforce, OH	TBA

HOYAS COACH NOW LEADING FIREBIRDS TENNIS TEAMS

Former Georgetown University assistant tennis coach Theodore Richard F. Mahaffey III is now the head coach for UDC's men's and women's tennis teams. Mahaffey served as assistant tennis coach at Georgetown for their Division I men's and women's tennis teams from 2006 through early 2009.

"Coach Mahaffey brings expertise, enthusiasm and an outstanding work ethic to our program," said Patricia Thomas, UDC director of athletics. "His experiences at two of the country's most outstanding academic institutions prepared him to serve our students in support of the mission of the University of the District of Columbia," she said.

Mahaffey stated, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead the tennis programs at my home city's university. I am looking forward to getting the UDC Firebirds ready to soar in NCAA Division II tennis and the East Coast Conference."

Mahaffey was assistant director and senior instructor for the Georgetown University Tennis Camp from 2005 to 2007, director of tennis for the One-on-One Basketball in Training—Dual Sports Camps, and assistant head tennis pro for the Edgemoor Club. He is a 1995 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations. Mahaffey also pursued further studies in financial and managerial accounting at Georgetown University.

In addition to his career in athletics, Mahaffey has served as a consultant at several large organizations, including Booz-Allen & Hamilton, the U.S. Defense Department, and the Washington Strategic Consulting Group and Trade Builders. He has also served as director of operations for the Leeward Islands Lottery Holding Company of the Virgin Islands.

UDC TENNIS BECOMES EAST COAST CONFERENCE ASSOCIATE MEMBER

East Coast Conference commissioner Robert Dranoff has announced the addition of the University of the District of Columbia as an associate member in men's and women's tennis, as voted on by the league's presidents. The Firebirds will commence conference play this fall.

"We are very excited to have UDC join the East Coast Conference as associate members in men's and women's tennis," Dranoff said. "This addition helps strengthen these sports in our conference, expand our presence into a new area and assist UDC with the opportunity to gain conference affiliation and post-season play."

East Coast Conference institutions have been a presence on the regional and national landscape in tennis. Last year, three men's tennis teams and two women's tennis teams advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

"The mission of the East Coast Conference is consistent with the mission of the University of the District of Columbia," commented Athletic Director Patricia Ann Thomas. "The East Coast Conference provides a competitive opportunity among outstanding academic institutions. Our affiliation with the ECC enhances the University's ability to provide a positive experience for our student athletes." Tennis has been an integral part of the UDC's athletics program for 32 years.



IN ACTION AND ON THE MOVE: PROFILES OF SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI

Bess Jones Weaver '98, '05 (BA, MPA)



has worked under six U.S. presidents and for 14 U.S. budget directors and has served as an adjunct professor at the University

of the District of Columbia. Weaver is as much an expert in the preparation and implementation of presidential executive orders and proclamations as she is in teaching legal research, writing and structure and operations of the U.S. courts' legal system to students at the University. She has been a paralegal certified by the National Paralegal Association since 1992.

Weaver attended elementary, junior high and high school in the District of Columbia, graduating from Dunbar High School.

Far from the din of her work activities, Weaver enjoys her creative side as a noted jazz singer, leading a four-person combo at Blues Alley and other Washington area venues, and as founder of Unicorn Music Productions, Inc. A member of the Children's Writing Guild since 1988, Weaver has authored a number of children's books.

Suzanne Mayo-Theus '84 (MS), a dynamic motivational speaker and an innovative thinker with a unique charm and ease, is a PhD candidate in family studies and human services at Kansas State University. She has been a guest lecturer in the College of Education at Kansas State, where she taught Introduction to Leadership Theories

and Culture and Context from 2005 to 2007. Currently, she serves as the graduate coordinator of the K-State Student Saves campaign.

Her good friend Diane Abbott, a member of Parliament in London, invited her to be the keynote speaker in 2005 for the 10th Anniversary of the Black Women Mean Business Conference in London. She has traveled extensively as a speaker and consultant on subjects of diversity, college success, leadership, organizational effectiveness, mentoring, fundraising and more. For her home state of Louisiana, devastated by hurricane Katrina, she organized efforts for student and corporate support. More recently, she worked with Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, that resulted in Denzel Washington's contribution of \$1 million to reestablish their debate team. Mayo-Theus is the author of books on fundraising, leadership and philanthropy and has manuscripts in progress, including "Creating Partnerships in Higher Education."

His Excellency, **Dr. Denis G. Antoine '78** (MA) was Grenada's ambassador to the U.S. from 1995 to 2009 and chairman of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States. He serves on the board of directors for the Young Americas Business Trust, an organization promoting entrepreneurship among people in the Americas by developing programs in leadership, training, technology and strategic alliances. Antoine was the only ambassador from the Western Hemisphere to serve as head of the delegation to the Special Summit of the Americas in

Nuevo León, Mexico, in January 2004. He received his master's degree in education from UDC, a MS in organizational management from National-Louis University and a PhD in management from LaSalle University, Philadelphia. He now serves as UDC's Director of International Affairs.

Joyce Ann Washington '75 (BS) maintains a long-range vision of her future, which has inched her closer to her ultimate goal: earning an EdD in instructional technology and distance learning from Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. She received her bachelor's degree in 1975 from Federal City College (FCC).

Washington is an assistant professor of business management at the Borough of Manhattan Community College of the City University of New York. Her dedication and commitment to her profession and her students have led to several awards for outstanding service. "I try to instill in students what was instilled in me at FCC," she says with modesty. "I tell them that in order to succeed, you must have a goal and that you must work hard every day toward that goal." Like her professors at FCC, she is always available for teacher-student consultations, and her students feel free to discuss with her class work and other issues.

Washington is a member of The National Business Education Association, serves on the board of directors for Miracle Way Bible College and is on several professional committees at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Dr. Michael D. Woodard '72 (BA)



credits his undergraduate advisor, Dr. Abdullah Elawalh, for encouraging him to attend graduate school after graduating from

Federal City College with a bachelor's degree in sociology. In a chance meeting in a hallway, Elawalh directed Woodard to apply to the doctoral program in sociology at the University of Chicago. He did so and, to his surprise, was admitted. He graduated and went on to teach and conduct research at the University of Maryland, at the University of Missouri, and at UCLA for 15 years.

Woodard has published numerous articles, and his book, *Black Entrepreneurs in America: Stories of Struggle and Success*, was published in 1997. He now heads Woodard & Associates, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in equal employment opportunity, organizational development and alternative dispute resolution.

Woodard proudly said, "I have had a good life, in part, due to a nurturing comment from a UDC faculty member who saw something in me. What is common about an education at UDC and its predecessor institutions is the nurturing."

"It is now incumbent upon me to give back to UDC, and I call upon all alumni to become involved in the University of the District of Columbia National Alumni Society (UDCNAS)," said Woodard. "There are small but critically important tasks that you can accomplish for the good of the University and for current and future

students," he said. In June 2008, Woodard was elected to a two-year term as president of UDCNAS.

Octavia Taylor Jackson '93, '03,



MPA (BA, MA), began her own educational supplies and consulting business this year. Since leaving nonprofit literacy

organization First Book in March 2009, Jackson started Y.E.S.S.S., which stands for both the retail arm, Your Educational Supplies and Scholastic Services, and the IT consulting arm, Your Excellent Systems, Supplies and Services, of her new company. The IT consulting division caters to schools in need of computer network and telephone system upgrades. The retail division opened a store in northwest Washington, DC, to sell school uniforms and supplies. Prior to First Book, Jackson worked at the Library of Congress.

Jackson says that she left her position at the Library of Congress to become a senior vice president in a nonprofit organization because she wanted to do work that makes a positive impact on the lives of children. Now that she is the president of her own company, she has more control of ensuring that her work is helpful to children right here in the nation's capital.

Jackson served on the dean's search committee for the School of Business & Public Management (2007) at the University and on UDC's strategic planning committee (2005–06). She is the recipient of several federal government awards and was Employee of the Year at Black Entertainment

Television in 1997. You can find out more about Jackson's company on her Web site, www.theyesss.com.

John Wormley, Jr. '79 (BS) is

a marine analyst at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency and an ordained deacon at Kingdom of Zion Baptist Church in Washington, DC. "A man who is in touch with his purpose is one who inspires and helps others as he carries on his daily duties, whether they are business or otherwise." That's Wormley's approach to life, which he believes serves him well in his profession and will serve him just as well after retirement, when he plans to devote himself to missionary work. Wormley has been commissioned in international missionary work; he has traveled to Haiti and Zimbabwe, and he volunteered to work with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans in Ward 9—one of its most devastated areas—in his bid to help that city's residents recover after hurricane Katrina.

Wormley graduated from DC Teachers College, a UDC predecessor institution, where he was certified to teach social studies. But rather than teach, he decided to seek a career in the federal government as a cartographer.

"While at DCTC, I had the opportunity to be exposed to a geography department that was not only concerned about my future career but also about my development as a student and as a human being," Wormley states. "Classes were small, so [the professors] took the time and effort to make sure that I got what I needed to be able to perform on a professional level," he said. Today, Wormley still feels honored and humbled to know that people he met at UDC will always hold a very special place in his heart.

ADVANCEMENT AND ALUMNI: A WORK IN PROGRESS

A blueprint is underway to ensure that the University of the District of Columbia's alumni mission grows within the broadened arena of advancement services. Actually, the partnership is between the Office of Alumni Relations, the Development Office and the University of the District of Columbia Foundation (a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization). This partnership, dedicated to advancing education through private financial support, has been in place for a few years, but now it has new emphasis under the new name: advancement services. These newly combined services provide a structured plan for alumni to increase financial contributions to the University.

Why is it important for alumni to give? The University needs more than its appropriated budget to broaden academic programs of its schools and colleges to increase student scholarships, expand capital spending projects, and to procure lab equipment, new computers and resource materials. Alumni want to see the University sustain itself and be recognized as a leading public university in the District of Columbia and worldwide.

The development team at UDC has made momentous inroads in moving University goals forward. All alumni of the University and its predecessor schools are implored to become a central part of this significant effort.

Felicia H. Brant, the University's director of development and executive director of the University's foundation, says they "have completed a feasibility study to determine our readiness for a Capital Campaign...Our vision is to see the new student center, alumni house and athletic field completed."

Those plans are not pieces of a dream; they can become reality when alumni gear up in force and do their part in fundraising efforts. Only then will a highly anticipated, end result emerge, and alumni can fuel similar support from other graduates and friends of UDC as the University continues its ascension.

NEW ALUMNA MAKES A BOLD MOVE

It's always a good thing when alumni return to their alma mater, whether to support the students, to come to a special event or to make a financial contribution. But it's really worth mentioning when a new alumna puts into motion a gift that will keep on giving so other students will be able to follow in her footsteps. **Glenda A. Campbell**, who received her BS in business management in May 2008, has made such a contribution.

Campbell, who is currently employed with Trinity University's bookstore, says that by creating The Glenda A. Campbell Foundation, LLC, a scholarship that will be given through the School of Business and Public

Administration, she hopes to help others who are seeking higher education at UDC to achieve their dreams. Campbell developed the scholarship's criteria: a GPA of 2.5, a statement of career goals, an essay on why he/she would be deserving and a personal interview.

She stated that the University gave her so much that she was compelled to demonstrate a giving spirit as soon as possible. "I am glad to be able to give back to UDC, because I have learned many valuable lessons in business that will be useful in the job market," Campbell said. "I look at all the obstacles and distractions that I had to overcome in the 34 years it took me



to obtain my degree, and it took a great deal of determination. Truly, my children and husband have been a great source of inspiration to me for this major life accomplishment."

IN MEMORIAM

Hilda Howland Mason '52, '61

(Miner Teachers College, BS; DC Teachers College, MA) was universally known as an educator, civil servant and champion and as the self-proclaimed “grandmother of the world.” Her love of her alma mater and her philanthropic activities were fact, not fiction. From her days on the District of Columbia City Council, and chair of what is now its Education, Libraries and Recreation Committee, she let it be known, publicly and privately, that the educational needs of the city’s residents were a real concern and should be addressed.

A teacher, counselor and administrator for the DC Public School System for 19 years, she was appointed to the DC Council to fill the unexpired term of Statehood Party founder Julius Hopson. The legendary figure and her husband, the late Charles N. Mason, were committed to education, civic, community and legal affairs. Ms. Mason played a central role in the creation of the University of the District of Columbia in the 1970s. In the 1980s, the couple staunchly supported what eventually became the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law. Over time, the Masons contributed some \$4 million in scholarship money to the law school and were honored to have the law school library named for them.

Florence Elaine Towles Rosser '54

(Miner Teachers College, BS), who always wanted to be a teacher—in spite of her father’s wish for her to study medicine, enjoyed her chosen profession for 12 years, until resigning to teach her own children. A concerned parent, Rosser became involved in the PTAs of the schools her children attended and served as an area liaison to parents living in “off areas” during the desegregation of Prince George’s County schools. Rosser maintained a very busy schedule with her family and others, was an excellent cook and an avid reader with a strong interest in Civil War history and rare books. She enjoyed jazz music, tennis, family tent and trailer camping and loved football. Rosser joined the DC graduate chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and worked in many political campaigns. A “Life Fully Paid” member of the NAACP, she chaired fundraising banquets for the Prince George’s County branch of the NAACP and, over the years, made donations to countless causes and charities.

She was the wife of Dr. John R. Rosser, Jr., a graduate of DC Teachers College ('58), and the two declared their love for the University of the District of Columbia throughout their marriage.

Kenneth Edward Spann Sr. '72

(MA) was a man of many talents who believed that one should never stop striving for the top. So it was of little surprise to family and friends that, in spite of illness, he continued his academic studies and received a doctorate of education from Concordia College and University in 2001. In addition to his degrees from UDC and Concordia, he received his BS in business administration from American University and held a certificate of advanced graduate studies in higher education administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Spann held many administrative positions at UDC and its predecessor institutions during his tenure, including associate provost, associate professor of education administration, assistant director of personnel and chief negotiator for non-faculty contracts. He was one of the founding members of the UDC Phi Delta Kappa (chapter 1521), an international education association. He also served as chapter president and was recipient of the Kappan Service key. He received distinguished service awards from the UDC and Maryland chapters of the association. Prior to his career as an academician, he proudly served in the United States Army as a commissioned officer.

GET THE SCOOP! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If the Office of Alumni Relations does not have your email address, or if you know of any alumni who have not been hearing from us, please contact us: alumni@udc.edu. www.udc.edu/alumni, 202.274.5954



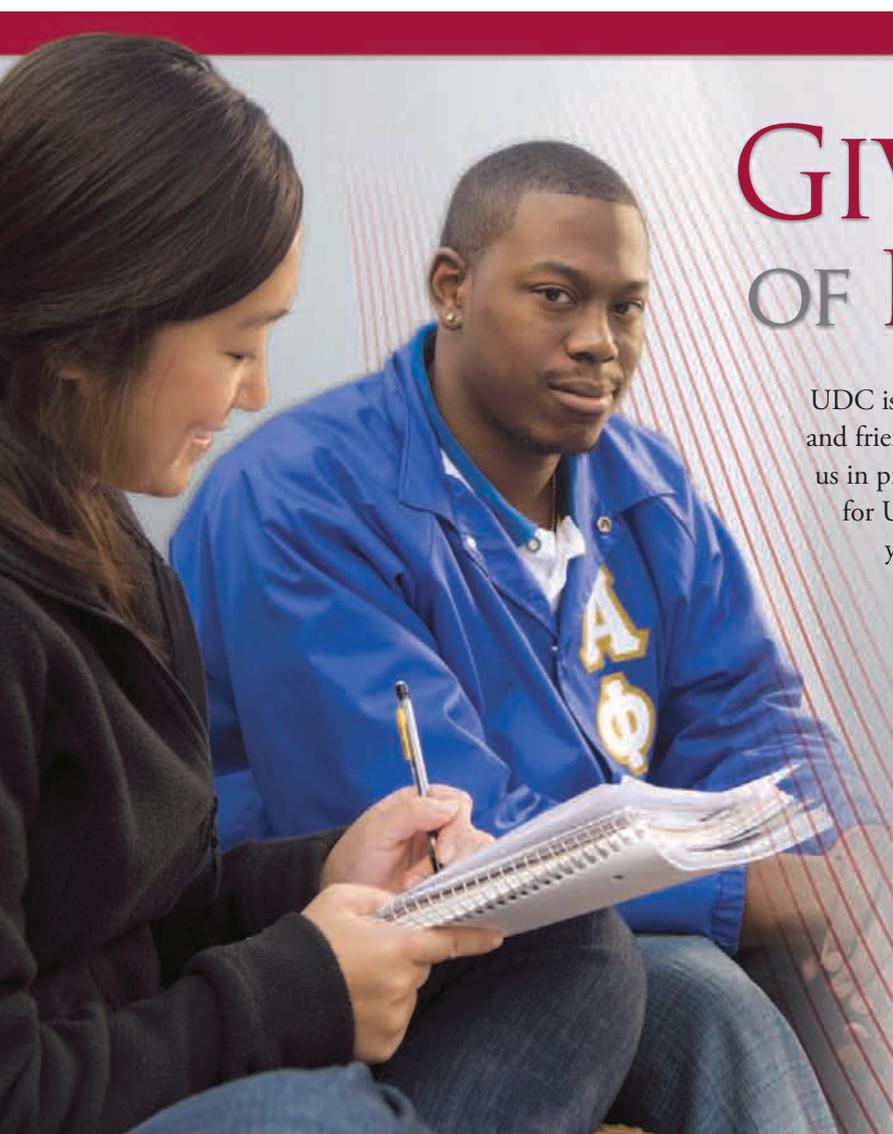
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