

Creating Connections

A Newsletter for First-Year University Students

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SUMMER / FALL 2007



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Greetings, Students, and Welcome to the Home of the Firebirds!

As Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of the District of Columbia, I am extremely elated to welcome you to our unique, exciting, and wonderful University, a University where you can really feel at home and fulfill your goals and aspirations.

While matriculating here, you will discover that your voice will indeed be heard, and that our University faculty and community will ensure that you acquire the skills and knowledge to achieve those life goals you have set for yourselves. You have joined a University family that truly understands the importance of your desire to achieve your goals, and one that will help position you to be of valuable service to your community and to others with whom you come in contact.

We will do our best to create opportunities for you to learn and discover, and hope that you will embrace these opportunities and pursue them with determination, perseverance, and enthusiasm. We hope your time here transforms your lives, as well as help to provide a foundation on which you will make your many contributions to a better District of Columbia and world.

Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke

Retention is Real at UDC

Dr. Bertha D. Minus

Associate Provost for Student Retention, Professional Development and International Programs

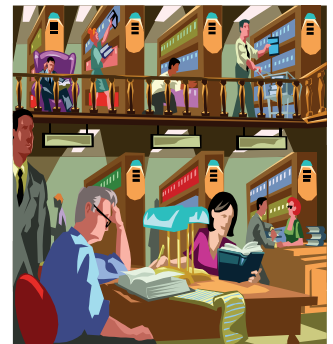
Welcome graduates of the class of 2011! We are elated that you are a member of the 2007 freshman class of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) – the nation’s capital only public land grant university.

We greet you with mixed emotions because we realize that in just four short years, you will graduate and leave this great University where excellence is the expectation, character is a cornerstone, and achievement is a way of life.

However, during your time of matriculation here, we want you to know that student *retention is real* at UDC. We are committed to providing high quality instruction, a challenging, learning-centered campus environment, and state-of-the-art student support services. We want you to achieve academic success, be-

come actively engaged in our campus life, and graduate from UDC. Our efforts will be in vain, unless you also make a commitment to uphold the high standards of the University and fulfill your responsibilities as a student. You are here because you have a desire to further your education and attain your career aspirations. We are here to guide you, support you and help you realize your dreams. *Retention is real* when we work together to achieve these goals.

Have an outstanding academic year, and remember . . . *retention is real* at UDC.



Study what interests you!

DATES TO REMEMBER



OCTOBER

Columbus Day (University Closed)	8
Mid-Term Week	15-19
CLR James Faculty Honors Convocation	25

NOVEMBER

Academic Advising Period for Spring 2008	5-16
Veteran's Day (University Closed)	12
Registration for Spring 2008 Begins	17
Thanksgiving Day (University Closed)	22-23

DECEMBER

Registration continues	3-12
Winter Recess Begins (University Closed)	24



Where is the Health Center?

WHERE IS IT? UNIVERSITY RESOURCES JUST FOR YOU

Academic Affairs	Building 39, Room 301D, 202/274-5072
Admissions	Building 39, Room A12, 202/274-6110
Athletics	Building 47, A31, 202/274-5083
Counseling & Career Dev.	Building 39, Room 120, 202/274-6000
Financial Aid	Building 39, Room 101, 202/274-6050
Health Services	Building 44, Room A33, 202/274-5030
Office of the Registrar	Building 39, Room A08, 202/274-6200
Student Accounts	Building 39, Room A09, 202/274-5168
Student Affairs	Building 38, Room A10, 202/274-5210

"To avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing."

-Elbert Hubbard

Incomplete Grades

If you receive a grade of I (Incomplete) for the Fall Semester, it is your responsibility to meet with your professor and make arrangements to complete the unfinished work as soon as possible. All incomplete work must be completed and a grade change submitted to the

Office of the Registrar no later than April 28, 2008 for grades submitted during the Fall 2007 semester. Any "I" grades not made up by this date will be converted to a grade of "F." Any requests for an extension must be submitted well in advance for review by your academic Dean.



Source: UDC Course Catalog 2006-2008

ACADEMIC ADVISING IN A NUTSHELL

Dr. Ray Whitman, Associate Dean, School of Business and Public Administration

If you want to move your college career along smoothly, get to know your academic advisor. He or she is the key to your success. Once you have decided on a major, your department will assign you a professor from your major department to serve as your academic advisor. Even if you haven't yet decided on a major, you will have an advisor.

He or she will be able to help you plan your program so that you take only the courses that you need to graduate. Toward the end of your first semester, there will be a two-week period during which you can meet with your advisor to make plans for the next semester. After the two of you have met and worked out your program, your advisor will

give you a (Personal Identification Number) PIN, which you will need to register for the next semester. This process will be repeated every semester. Hopefully, you will be able to consult the same advisor until you graduate from UDC. Think of your advisor as a special friend who is there to help you graduate as quickly and as easily as

"Students learn and develop when they become active in the collegiate experience"
Astin (1985)

I'll Find a Way or Make One: A Tribute to Historically Black Colleges and Universities

HBCUs have graduated such illustrious leaders as Oprah Winfrey, Thurgood Marshall, Spike Lee, W. E. B. DuBois, Debbie Allen, Alain Locke, Samuel L. Jackson, and Nikki Giovanni. This commemorative illustrated gift book is filled with photographs, historical narrative, personal memoir, archival and contemporary material, and anecdotal and resource information. It is the first of its kind -- a groundbreaking retrospective that explores the dramatic development and history of America's historically black colleges and universities.

By Dwayne Ashley, Juan Williams and Adrienne Ingram
Harper Collins Publishing Co.

Stories abound about the abolition of slavery. However, lesser known are the efforts -- both prior to and after the Civil War -- of African American and white abolitionists banding together to formally educate newly freed slaves. Through the tireless work of government organizations, black churches, missionary groups, and philanthropists, HBCUs were established. The tales of how these schools were created and of the individuals who are linked to the schools' histories are extraordinarily rich -- and sometimes controversial. In an unprecedented salute to America's 107 historically black colleges and universities, *I'll Find a Way or Make One* chronicles the formation of the black middle class, the history of education in the African American community, and some of the most important events of African Americana and American history. (Source: Harper Collins)



BOOK WORM CORNER



FYE (First-Year Experience)

*For submission information, please contact,
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Fax: 202/274-6341
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Ode to the First-Year Student

You are a unique person,
You have the talents and skills yet to be known.
Your legacy will continue long after you've reached
your peak at UDC.

You will always have a place in these hallowed
halls; come in and leave your mark.
Endeavor to end as you start;
With power, strength, and perseverance of mind,
Seek answers to trying questions.

Quell the naysayer and move up;
Toward a new day to define what is yours,
And accept a new opportunity to be your best.

By design you are encouraged to create;
And be brilliant about your life's path.
Be extraordinary, dream, and make your way
Toward a seat of greatness that awaits the future.

FYE (First-Year Experience)

Connecting YOU to a New World!

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