

# CAUSES MONTHLY

VOL.1 NO.1

Welcome to the first edition of the **CAUSES FOCUS**, a newsletter from the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Science (CAUSES) at UDC. We are launching this monthly newsletter to let our readers know what CAUSES is doing in the community and in the classroom, and to learn about your activities, interests and needs.

The theme of this first issue is "Focus on Learning." We at CAUSES understand the challenges students face to navigate choices, opportunities and costs in higher education. Students seek relevant, meaningful careers with a future and an educational institution that will support them in that endeavor. The five academic programs within CAUSES – architecture, environmental science, health education, nursing, and nutrition and dietetics - are in a fortunate position. Job growth in all five areas is well above the projected average through 2020. Health education leads the way with 35%, followed by nursing (25%), architecture (24%), dietetics & nutrition science (20%), and environmental scientists (20%). These projections do not include the indirect job growth in the energy sector, construction and recreation and sustainable practices, environmental analysis and impact assessments are becoming standard in virtually every sector of the economy.

Today's most desired jobs require more education than ever before, as well as a focus on lifelong learning, improving skills, and on learning how to learn. At CAUSES, we have structured our courses and programs to deliver these benefits to students and to all District of Columbia residents. We offer caring, qualified faculty; small class sizes to ensure personalized learning; varied and innovative research and fieldwork opportunities; and the many advantages of a location in the nation's capital.

As a land-grant university, UDC is committed to serving and promoting the well being of the residents and communities of the District of Columbia. The five land-grant centers of CAUSES also provide students with hands-on learning opportunities to succeed not only today, but also in the future.

I invite you to visit CAUSES. Sit in on a class, and meet our world-class educators. I think you will see why the programs of CAUSES offer so much value for you to fulfill your aspirations, not only for today, but also for tomorrow. We look forward to hearing from you and to meeting you in person through our many learning opportunities in the community and in the classroom.



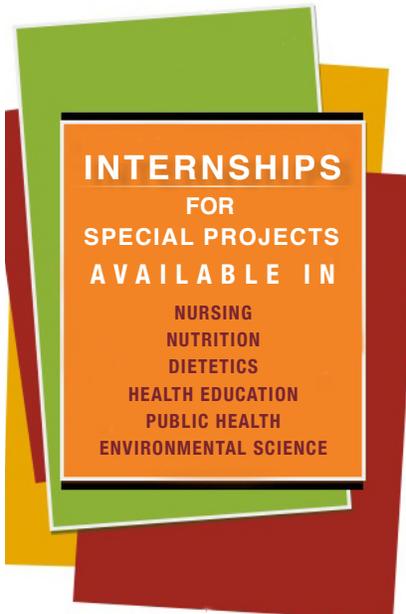
Best wishes,  
Sabine O'Hara  
Dean, CAUSES

CAUSES offers internships to students in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Under the direction of faculty and staff, students experience a reality-based "preview" of practices and issues in their chosen fields. "CAUSES internships are great learning experiences because they are embedded into the student's course of study," said **Elgloria Harrison**, Assistant to the Dean for Academic Programs. "Students get to apply their abilities to think critically about challenges facing the residents of the District of Columbia, practice cultural competency in diverse environments, and develop excellent written and oral communication skills."

Complete details about the individual internships are available on the CAUSES website at <http://www.udc.edu/doc/causes/internships.pdf>

**CAUSES** invites you to apply for **SUMMER SEMESTER INTERNSHIPS** through the **CAUSES Land-Grant Programs Division**

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED: **April 1-May 10, 2013** BEGINS: **May 20, 2013**



**The Institute of Gerontology** offers two special projects for four students in any major

**Contact: Ms. Laurie Thompson**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
Ph: 202-274-6659  
Email: [lbthompson@udc.edu](mailto:lbthompson@udc.edu)

**Center for Nutrition, Diet and Health** offers 10 Special Projects in any major

**Contact: Dr. Lillie Monroe-Lord**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
Ph: 202-274-7125  
Email: [lmunroelord@udc.edu](mailto:lmunroelord@udc.edu)

**4-H & the Center for Youth Development** offers eight special projects for students in any major

**Contact: Ms. Rebecca Bankhead**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
Ph: 202-274-7081  
Email: [rbankhead@udc.edu](mailto:rbankhead@udc.edu)

Complete Internship Descriptions at: <http://www.udc.edu/doc/causes/internships.pdf>

**APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER 2013**

GAIN EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD  
BUILD YOUR RESUME  
NETWORK WITH PROFESSIONALS

## STUDENT PROFILE **Jake Simms**

Senior **Jacob “Jake” Simms** transferred from California State University - Sacramento in 2011. He chose to major in Environmental Science in CAUSES because it provided him with an education in a growing field. Affordability, a centralized campus in DC, and professors dedicated to ensuring student opportunities beyond the campus were additional pl benefits.

Jake has applied his skills acquired in the construction industry to his build an aquaponics farm in his own Washington, DC apartment. The materials were simple but effective.

“I used a fish tank, a pair of koi fish, a couple of water pumps, and a plastic bin. Then a week later, I made myself a salad and then another and another. Didn’t even need to go to the store,” Jake relates. Over five months, he has cultivated basil, tomatoes, buttercrunch lettuce and kale, with plans to expand to edible fish and larger growing area.

Jake feels his interest in urban farming has been well served by his CAUSES courses. “It has provided me with the inspiration and knowledge to create my own successes. I want to help people understand that they can grow food in the city and contribute to their own self-sufficiency,” he said.

His plans for the future? “A masters degree in Agriculture, maybe a Ph.D in Ecology. Eventually I see myself teaching at a university or working with nonprofits doing community outreach to low -income, food desert areas, who knows! CAUSES has provided me with more options than I know what to do with.”





American Water Resources Association

## National Capital Region Section

The National Capital Region Water Resources Symposium

**Friday, April 5, 2013**

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

University of the District of Columbia

4200 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington D.C.

The Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) at UDC is proud to host the National Capital Region section of the American Water Resources Association's Water Resources Symposium. The day-long event will offer a full range of topics and presentations emphasizing the challenges and opportunities for sustainable management of water resources and infrastructure for students, academics, and water industry professionals from the public and private sector. Symposium co-chair and WRRI Director **Dr. Tolessa Deksissa** and CAUSES Dean **Sabine O'Hara** will open the symposium and welcome attendees, and UDC faculty and graduate students will be participating as presenters and panel members. For more information and to register, visit <http://state.awra.org/natcap/events.html> or call (540) 687-8390

### CAUSES Television Programs for April 2013

"CAUSES TV" is a monthly series devoted to the College's sustainability courses and community outreach. Launched in 2012, it is produced in the studios of UDC-TV, a 24-hour educational cable program service operated by the University of the District of Columbia and serves as the District government's non-commercial, adult education program service.

UDC-TV's mission is to support the University in carrying out its land-grant function of teaching, research and public service through the innovative use of cable television technology and programming, UDC-TV is part of the Comcast, RCN, Verizon television cable systems, reaching approximately 187,000 residential households in the District of Columbia and every major hotel, federal and Congressional office and the White House.

In Washington, DC, UDC-TV can be viewed on Comcast Channel 98, RCN Channel 19, and Verizon Channels 19 and 21. The program schedule can be viewed [here](#).

#### "CAUSES TV," Hosted by Dean Sabine O'Hara

This month's topics are Green Jobs with Parks and People's **Steve Coleman** and **Rondell Poller** and UDC's **Che Axum**. Environmental Research with **Dr. Judy Fisher** and **Thomas Kakovitch** and a discussion of the book, **The Fifth Force** by Thomas S. Kakovitch.

#### "Health Matters," Hosted by Dr. Connie M. Webster, Nursing

This month's topic is "**Kidney disease and Transplants: How an empowered and educated community can make a difference**". This month's guest is **Dr. Clive Callender** of the Howard University Hospital System. Dr. Callender is on the surgical staff specializing in Kidney and Liver transplantation.

## CAUSES LAUNCHES STUDENT FLYER CAMPAIGN

Colorful flyers reflecting the learning opportunities available to students in CAUSES will soon be seen in community centers and neighborhood libraries in the District, and posted on the CAUSES website and Facebook. The flyers are part of an effort to emphasize the many ways that CAUSES courses prepare students for success in launching, or improving, their careers choices and in pursuing lifelong learning.

"I wanted the flyers to convey the variety of career fields that CAUSES programs encompass," said Gerri Williams, Communications Coordinator for CAUSES. "Whether you are interested in education, technical fields, or the creative arts, the experience of a CAUSES program of study or a course can give a learner an advantage in almost any workplace."

That was the experience of UDC College of Arts and Sciences student Anish Shrestha, who is a senior in Fine Arts in Graphic Design. As a graphic arts intern in CAUSES, he has had an opportunity to apply his creative skills to design, layout, and photography applied to environmental subjects, including experience for me to enhance my abilities in designing and building a work ethic here in CAUSES," Anish stated.

I Want..... A Career with Growth Potential  
**CAUSES** Can Help!

Job Growth in CAUSES majors is booming!

State and federal governments, business, industry, and a wide range of institutions all need the skills that CAUSES courses provide. These fields include:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
AND URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

NUTRITION, DIETETICS AND  
FOOD SCIENCE

HEALTH EDUCATION  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH

ARCHITECTURE AND COMMUNITY  
PLANNING

NURSING

Contact **CAUSES**

CAUSES@udc.edu  
Tel: 202.274.7124  
Fax: 202.274.7113

for course selections, internships and work-study opportunities tailored to enhance YOUR future success!



<http://www.udc.edu/causes>

### PROVIDING A PATH FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENT

Are you thinking of enrolling in a program, or even trying out one course in CAUSES, but aren't sure how to proceed? What if you had filled out some enrollment paperwork once – do you have to start all over again now? What about work/study opportunities?

**Marshelle Hailstock**, the College's new Specialist for Outreach and Enrollment Services, will find the answers to these questions and more. Not merely a recruiter, she is a facilitator for students, providing timely and customized information. "I'm here to prevent or solve any bottlenecks a prospective student might encounter," she states.

Ms. Hailstock's previous work in community outreach as Project Coordinator and Nutrition Educator in UDC's Center for Nutrition Diet and Health has brought her into contact with public schools and community organizations in every ward in the District. She has also taught classes in UDC's Community College and the Institute of Gerontology. A gifted photographer and a DC native, she anticipates even more interaction in the community. "I believe that every individual is entitled to quality educational opportunities."

Schools, youth groups, and faith-based and other organizations can request Ms. Hailstock's presentations and Q&A sessions in their facilities. The contact information for a prompt response by phone is 202.274.7124 or 202.274.7113, or by email at CAUSES@udc.edu.

The outreach and enrollment initiative is an important part of CAUSES' commitment to continuous improvement in serving students and reaching out to DC residents.



## Hoop House in Food Desert

The University of the District of Columbia's College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) joined with **ReGeneration House of Praise** to install a small portable greenhouse, called a Hoop House, in South East Washington DC. The project is funded through a grant from Wells Fargo and expands the church's ability to grow food and host hands on education and job training events. "This simple moveable Hoop House, and the new growing techniques we will be able to showcase there, will dramatically increase our capacity to provide fresh, nutritious food to our neighbors." said Cheryl Gaines, Senior Pastor of ReGeneration.

And growing food is just the beginning. The vision that Pastor Gaines has for her Garden of Eden is that it serves as a centerpiece for economic empowerment. "Urban Agriculture is an important element of the new green economy," says Dr. Sabine O'Hara, Dean of CAUSES. "By adding food production a marginally successful food processing business can turn into a lucrative venture".



## Student Presentations

CAUSES students studying the fields of Environmental Science, Nutrition and Food Science, Architecture, Health Education, RN-BSN Nursing and the Professional Masters Program will present their semester research findings on **April 24, 2013** from 12pm to 9pm and on **April 25, 2013** from 8am to 5pm. Presentations on both days will be conducted in Building 44 in room A03 and all are welcomed.

## CAUSES Social Media

Like Us on



Follow Us on



Watch Us on



## Brown Bag

If you are “hungry for learning,” and want a free, informative introduction to CAUSES programs, join us for monthly Brown Bag sessions. Every month from noon to 1:00pm, CAUSES faculty and students demonstrate and discuss innovative research, projects, and the latest developments in professional fields. It’s an informal way to meet other students and educators, and discover the many learning opportunities offered in the College. Contact [CAUSES@udc.edu](mailto:CAUSES@udc.edu) for information on dates and topics.



**OUR VISION** CAUSES will be a world leader in designing and implementing top quality, research-based academic and community outreach programs that measurably improve the quality of life and economic prosperity of people and communities in the District of Columbia, the nation, and the world.

**OUR MISSION** The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences offers research-based academic and community outreach programs that improve the quality of life and economic opportunity of people and communities in the District of Columbia, the nation, and the world.

**OUR ASPIRATIONS** for CAUSES Graduates CAUSES graduates are exceptionally well-prepared to succeed in their chosen field of study. Our graduates stand out by having distinctive attributes and competencies. CAUSES graduates are:

- Global citizens committed to local relevance
- Adapt at solving urban problems
- Committed to health & wellness and food and water security
- Skilled at navigating diverse social, cultural, built and natural environments
- Independent thinkers and collaborative team players; and
- Adaptive lifelong learners.

## College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES)

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Van Ness-UDC Metro station

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