



# Creating Connections

A Newsletter for First-Year University Students

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

WINTER/SPRING 2009



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### WELCOME FROM THE PROVOST

Graeme Baxter, J.D., *Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Dear First Year Students:  
**W**elcome to spring semester at UDC – and to the opportunities and challenges that await you.

As you may know, I am new myself to UDC. I joined our new president, Dr. Sessoms, and his leadership team on December 1 after 11 years at George Washington University. In

my first month here, I have been impressed by the quality of the students and faculty I have met, by the dedication to your welfare I have found, by the quality and range of programs open to you. You are fortunate to be a part of this learning community.

My intention is to learn more about your academic experiences, from you and

your faculty, and working with all, building on our strengths, to ensure that we continue to serve your futures and the needs of our community with high quality academic programs.

I look forward to meeting you around campus and at your events. I want to hear what you have to say.

Best wishes for a successful and rewarding semester.

### Matriculate and Graduate by Bertha D. Minus, Ph.D., ACE Fellow *Associate Provost for Student Retention and International Programs*

*“It is not your environment, it is you – the quality of your mind, the integrity of your soul, and the determination of your will – that will decide your future and shape your life.”*

These words, spoken by Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, are appropriate as I welcome you to the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) where excellence is the expectation for all students. Our goals for you are that you successfully *matriculate* and *graduate* from this University. We pledge to provide you with the highest quality academic preparation as you *matriculate*, and to ensure

that you are uniquely qualified for our global society when you *graduate* from UDC.

We will do all that we can to provide a rigorous and supportive learning environment, however, YOU are the most important factor that will determine your future here. I encourage you to earnestly pursue your dreams and aspirations, take an active role in your learning, and optimize the academic services available to you.

Moreover, I urge you to believe that you will succeed and to refuse to accept mediocrity!

Know that you are an emerging scholar and that you are the key to your success. Best wishes for an outstanding first year at the University of the District of Columbia and remember . . . *it is not your environment, it is YOU!*



**Ready to learn?**

# DATES TO REMEMBER



**2008-2009  
University-wide Retention  
Committee**

Ms. Donna Minor  
Ms. Ann Marie Waterman  
*Co-Chairpersons*

Ms. Sylvia Benatti  
Dr. Janice Borlando  
Ms. Susie Cato  
Dr. Alvin Darby  
Ms. Dollie Ellis  
Mrs. LaVerne Hill-Flanagan  
Mr. Sean Fuller  
Mr. Timothy Harrison  
Mr. Mike Jacks  
Ms. Twyla Jones  
Dr. April Massey  
Dr. Bertha Minus  
Mr. Ahmad Reed  
Mr. Morgan Renwick  
Mr. Charles Smith  
Ms. Marian Smith  
Dr. Daniel Soodjinda  
Dr. Vernise Steadman  
Ms. Godtheson Thomas  
Dr. Patricia Thorstenson  
Ms. Charlissa Watson  
Dr. Ernesta Williams  
Dr. Sandra Yates

## JANUARY

Martin Luther King , Jr. Holiday (University Closed)	19
Inauguration Day (University Closed)	20
Withdrawal Deadline for 100% Refund (Tuition)	22

## FEBRUARY

President’s Day (University Closed)	16
Founder’s Day	18

## MARCH

Mid-Term Week	11-17
Spring Break (Classes Suspended)	23-28
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes Without Academic Penalty	30
Continuing Students’ Advisement Period for Fall 2009	1-10

## APRIL

Continuing Student Registration for Fall 2009	4/13 - 5/1
Emancipation Day (University Closed)	16
Last Day of Classes	22

## MAY

Commencement	9
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### 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, Room 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

### *Words Worth Sharing*

*Watch your thoughts, they become words.*

*Watch your words, they become actions.*

*Watch your actions, they become habits.*

*Watch your habits, they become character.*

*Watch your character, for it becomes...your destiny.*

*~ Frank Outlaw*



Van Ness - UDC

## FINDING SURE FOOTING DURING YOUR FIRST YEAR

*by Twyla L. Jones, International Student Advisor*

**S**tudent engagement in the 21st century university entails more than those activities historically limited to classroom interaction. Being an engaged student means reaping the benefits of the academic environment in its entirety. The academic environment has come to represent the social, cultural, and civic dimensions of the educational experience of our students. The responsiveness of the institutional environment influences student retention, and in response, the quality of effort expended on social activities by students heightens the college experience and makes it unique for each student.

The co-curricular aspect of college life has come to be a foundation of the college experience in America. Whether students reside on campus or attend a commuter college, the benefits of engaging in out-of-class activities, clubs and organizations enriches and influences the overall educational experience for each student.

Commuter students constitute a very diverse population of students who are both traditional and non-traditional in age. They have diverse backgrounds and have complex objectives and goals specific to each of their unique situations. Concern about engaging this population has remained because of the number of external influences that demand the time and attention of these students; special attention by student affairs professionals has to be placed on their programming needs.

Research indicates the significance of student engagement in the development of students from their first year through completion of their program of study. The literature also suggests that the further away from campus a student lives the less likely they are to be involved in programs, groups, and organizations given their family and work-related responsibilities. A 2001 National Survey of Student Engagement found that while commuter students spent more than twenty hours per week working off campus, they also spent less time interacting with faculty and taking advantage of co-curricular activities available on their campuses.

If you take anything away from this brief article, please remember that the more involved you are the higher the probability that you will complete your degree. The Office of Student Affairs is the place to go to learn more about the seventy plus student clubs and organizations represented on campus. If you do not find an organization that you would like to join, start your own. The important thing is to **GET INVOLVED** and have a wonderful semester!

### *Freshman Orientation: A Course Designed with YOU in Mind*

Freshman Orientation is an comprehensive course designed to assist you with your transition to the college environment. A large body of literature suggests that students who enroll in first-year seminar courses earn higher grades and are less likely to be placed on academic probation. The course also has a positive impact on student academic and social integration. Freshman Orientation sections available for the spring semester are indicated below; you will also find these courses in your Spring 2009 Course Schedule.

GZ-170

01	MW	0800-0920AM STONEHILL H	30	5	LEC	41	RM424
02	MW	0930-1050AM STONEHILL H	30	7	LEC	41	RM424
03	MW	1100-1220PM WATERMAN A	30	3	LEC	41	RM424
<b>FRESHMAN ORT BUS MAJORS ONLY</b>							
04	MW	1230-0150PM SOODJINDA	30	5	LEC	41	RM424
07	MW	0530-0650PM WHITE A	30	4	LEC	41	RM424
08	MW	0700-0820PM WATERMAN	30	1	LEC	41	RM424
<b>FRESHMAN ORT BUS MAJORS ONLY</b>							
09	TR	0800-0920AM SIMPSON M	30	5	LEC	41	
10	TR	0930-1050AM SIMPSON M	30	7	LEC	41	RM424
11	TR	1100-1220PM COVINGTON	30	7	LEC	41	RM424
14	TR	0530-0650PM FLOOD F	30	1	LEC	41	RM424
15	TR	0700-0820PM FLOOD F	30	3	LEC	41	RM424
82	MW	0700-0820PM STAFF			LEC	TBA	PRS

2009

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n an effort to embrace the changing world of technology and to improve communication with first-year students, Esteban Olivares, Director of First-Year Experience Programs, has developed a FYE Facebook page.

facebook

Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>) is an online networking community that is extremely popular on many college campuses. It's a quick, informal way to communicate directly with everyone in the group as well as the Office of First-Year Experience. A Facebook link to the UDC website is under development. Until then, you can find us on Facebook by searching "Esteban Olivares FYE UDC" or searching the e-mail [evoli-vares@udc.edu](mailto:evoli-vares@udc.edu). Once you join our Facebook network, you will be able to get important FYE updates as well as send instant messages to other students on Facebook. We'll be waiting for you!



## PUTTING YOU IN THE KNOW

**Name two locations for general use computer laboratories.**

**How many general education courses are you required to take? Are any exceptions made for your major program?**

**What office do you visit to update residency, name change, address, and phone number information?**

**What is the purpose of the Repeated Course option? How is the process executed?**



### ***FYE (First-Year Experience)***

*For submission information, please contact,  
Twyla Jones, International Admission Advisor  
Phone: 202/274-5710  
Fax: 202/274-6341  
[tjones@udc.edu](mailto:tjones@udc.edu)*