

TRILOGY

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A University of the District of Columbia Student Media Production

December/January 2006-07

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UDC Students Meet NBA Legend, Magic Johnson

BY ADRIAN WILKINS

On Oct. 12, 2006, six students from the University of the District of Columbia met with National Basketball Association (NBA) legend, Earvin "Magic" Johnson in partnership with the Abbott Foundation, to urge students to be informed, to get tested and to get treatment if test positive for the HIV virus. The visit was part of Magic Johnson's 10-city tour to reach out to minority communities that are facing an escalating number of new HIV infection and AIDS cases.

Washington, D.C. has the highest annual rate of new AIDS cases in the U.S., and is seen as a "crisis in the African American community," according to Johnson. One of the reasons for meeting with the students from the University of the District of Columbia was to get suggestions, thoughts, and ideas to help educate, and stress the importance of getting tested and treated for HIV/AIDS.

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Earvin "Magic" Johnson talking with University students at a conference on HIV/AIDS

DEMOCRACY OR DIE: HYPOCRISY IN THE DISTRICT

BY SELVON M. WALDRON

Every year, millions of tourists from around the nation and around the world visit the District of Columbia to walk and sit amongst the relics and history of a nation that has always prized itself as the "leader of the free world." However, in the District – the pulse of democracy – its citizens and residents have been incessantly disenfranchised.

The population of the District of Columbia, according to the 2005 U.S. Census Bureau, stands at 582,049. For comparison, the State of Wyoming's population is about 494,000. In addition, the citizens of Washington, D.C. have defended this nation during times of war – even today. Yet, D.C. natives are obligated to pay federal taxes; taxes are levied at a per capita rate second only to Connecticut. Even more interesting...., on shores far away our soldiers fight to bring democracy to fruition. while just west of the Potomac, a hideous hypocrisy occurs. The citizens of the District of Columbia are refused representation – by voting privileges – in the House of Representative and Senate.

Isn't it time that we hold the nation accountable to the mantra that our founding fathers used to argue our Independence from England. It must be clear that we as D.C. citizen and residents will not lie idly and continue to endure

"taxation without representation."

DC Vote leads a national coalition of organizations dedicated to raising awareness of the denial of democracy in the District. A sarcastic spell plagues the nation ... "D.C. is already a State." According to a research, "78% of Americans are unaware that D.C. residents do not have full voting rights." Presently, Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC At-Large) sits on committees but she cannot vote. Calculate the consequences of this predicament. District of Columbia citizens and residents have limited influences on legislation affecting or involving taxes, gun regulation, and health, among others.

The University of the District of Columbia has joined the coalition. Paula Gibbs, a junior student at UDC, was recently appointed the official DC Vote Campus Coordinator. Paula and her team are committed to organizing campaigns to heighten awareness of DC Vote's mission on campus and have plans to launch DC Vote on campus in the Spring 2007. UDC students should be energized to know that the University is among a select group of schools in Washington that appreciate the importance of democracy. More information on initiatives to end "taxation without representation," including contact information for UDC's Campus Coordinator can be found at www.dcvote.org.

From the Editor

New Year Resolutions?

BY MEMAR AYALEW

Students applauded the University's promising progress in a new and positive direction. Classes are renovated, libraries now have updated technology and are an appealing study environment. Students saw new professors who are energetic, creative, and challenging, and the University's sports teams are doing great. Students saw successful campus events that encouraged, entertained, informed, and motivated them; Homecoming, International Education Week, Speaker's Dialogue Series' just to name a few. At the close of 2006, students are excited to see the fruits of the University's efforts to satisfy students educational needs. However, on the eve of another new year, students are eager to see what will be on the University's list of New Year's resolutions. Here are some issues student's hope will not be overlooked.

Facing another freshman orientation and the ordeal of registration, students wonder about customer service. Would it be just a job description only to those at the front desks, or would it be a university-wide culture (staff, faculty, and administration bodies) that values and embraces its students at the heart? Would the newly admitted students be wowed with this effort, or would they be confused? Would the returning and readmitted students be proud, or still complain about being misinformed and going in circles to have something simple done? Will they wonder if they will be advised throughout the semester, or will they be frustrated at the office hours that are seldom met? Customer service plays a major role in the function of a university, and so students wonder...

They wonder if the library will be open for a few more hours during weekdays, and operate on weekends, especially during mid-terms and finals. They wonder if the cafeteria menu will have a rich variety of food. They wonder if the communication breakdown across the University will delay their progress. They wonder if each decision-making body at the University adheres to the policy of transparency to prevent overlapping. Students desperately wonder if some of departmental issues stream from lack of a single information-flow system. They wonder if our sports teams will continue topping the charts, and wonder if fans will cheer and chant louder than the opponent's section. They wonder if student activities will lure a bigger turnout. They wonder if more students will get involved in extracurricular activities and endeavors to make a difference. They wonder about students fees; they wonder why they should pay activity fees while University facilities, such as the swimming pool, are open to the public free of charge. While students are grateful for the computer lab upgrades, they still wonder how soon the science laboratories will be improved. They wonder how the University will take on these issues. But more so, they hope to see another fruitful university-wide effort usher in the New Year. Happy Holidays!

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS**Conflicts Rising in the Horn of Africa****BY MEMAR AYALEW**

The Horn of Africa finds itself in another crisis that looks to trigger regional conflict as Somalia's internal instability now involves multiple countries. Ethiopia and Eritrea, who are still rivals, are currently taking opposing sides and sending armies in the hundreds of thousands.

Eritrea is backing the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), which now controls the capital of Somalia, Mogadishu and the most of southern Somalia. Ethiopia is supporting the ineffective Somali government has been in battle with the rebels for over a decade. Several weeks ago, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi assured that Ethiopia is ready

to protect its area of interest and fight against the UIC, who declared a holy war against the Ethiopian government. People have been fleeing to neighboring countries in significant numbers.

Another conflict is brewing that could also claim thousands of lives. Chad declared a "state of war" with Sudan, which is also on the Horn of Africa, after Sudan reportedly supported rebels that shot down Chadian government plane. Sudan, in return, is accusing the Chadian government of supporting Sudanese rebels. President Francois Bozize, President of the Republic of Central Africa, is finger pointing at Sudan, suspecting the rebels that control the capital are supported and sent by Sudan.

Internationalization of Education Workshop: International Week**BY ROBIN WILLIAMS**

Nov. 11, 2006 marked the beginning of the University's International Education Week. The week's activities included panel discussions and campus events aimed at celebrating the different countries represented here at the University, and the impact these students have on our university and community as a whole.

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, a panel discussion titled "Internationalization of Education: Problems, Challenges, and Solutions," was held in the lobby auditorium of building 44. The discussion addressed the importance of integrating international and cultural aspects into the University's curriculum, as well as some of the issues and problems facing international students when coming to the country to receive an education.

Moderated by our Undergraduate Student Government President William C. Kellibrew IV, the panel discussion was just one of many events aimed at informing students, faculty, and staff of the benefits and challenges of internationalization within the University. The panelists included Twyla Jones, the University's International Advisor, International student Adebisola Shabi, and Director of International Affairs Professor Paul Tennessee.

Speaking on behalf of the International student population, Shabi, a native of Nigeria, stated that although international students make up a large portion of the student population at the University,

they receive little to no financial assistance. "We [international students] need scholarships." She also went on to say that when compared to the currency of her native land, the amount of money paid in tuition is simply too much.

Admitting that the language barrier has been a challenge for her as a student, Shabi reflected on some of her experiences. "Sometimes we are made fun of in class," she said. Speaking on the issue, Ms. Twyla Jones, who spent time overseas involved in the international Peace Corps, said, "International education is important in promoting social change," and admits that "many overlook the importance of attracting international students." Pointing out that the University has students representing a total of 90 countries, she also stated that the University does not offer a major involving international affairs, for example International Business. She admits that this, "puts us [the U.S.] at a disadvantage as a country." Part of this problem of international globalization, Ms. Jones expresses, is due to America's lack of motivation to move beyond their own cultural and geographical boundaries.

The goal of this panel discussion, and the other events within International Week, was to get away from this idea of America is not concerned with international students or international affairs by informing and educating the University's students, faculty and staff about the tools and resources needed to work towards bridging the gap.

UDC Students to Launch Non-Profit Organization**BY GEORGES WILLIAMS**

Four students currently attending the University have founded a non-profit organization which is in the process of being incorporated in the District of Columbia. The organization, African International Student Union (AISU), is the brainchild of Georges Siegfried Felix Obame from Gabon, Jean Pierre Fodjoue, Roland Yannick Kamdem and Fabrice Kouam-Kamdem all from Cameroon. The students believe that AISU will effectively address the plight of many African students attending different colleges across the nation. They noted that many African students continue to suffer in silence; something that has made their life long dream of coming to America a nightmare.

This is largely due to their F1 visa status that requires their limited stay in the United States be solely academic. They are therefore ineligible for off campus employment, meaning their sponsors back home have to foot all their bills; a hard task for people from the poorest continent, who often have other obligations to meet. The goals of AISU will be to: help international students upon their arrival to the U.S., and to help them through the lengthy admissions process, as well as housing, medical insurance, orientation, document translation; establish a network among the international community by use of the internet and telephone; create a moral and social environment among African students; promote educational interests to African students; inform international students about internship opportunities, scholarships, employment on and off campus; to reach out to public and private organization for funding to support outstanding African students, and to work at changing some immigration and homeland security regulations that often times negatively effect the living conditions of African students presently in the United States. As with all immigrants in the U.S., African students come into the country, not only with their own dreams and high expectations, but also with those of their families back home. It takes the sacrifice of the students' families and friends to see them step into the 'land of opportunity,' and once they do, they realize that an easy life and a shortcut to success and riches is often just a facade.

Many F1 visa students are shocked to realize that their immigration status limits and prohibits them from many economic and academic incentives that US citizens and permanent residents enjoy.

At the University, for instance, there are few if any scholarships and funds that can be accessed by African international students. Most funding, fellowship and internship opportunities are only limited to citizens and permanent residents.

While AISU recognizes the US government and non-government agencies help to Africa by way of aid and grants, it also reckons that another way of helping Africa help herself, is by helping the African students who are struggling to finish their studies.

Knowing Your Credit**BY ANDREA LOGIE-BROWN**

"Start building your credit today." That's the catch phrase used by most credit card companies as they lure an increasing number of college and even high school students into the trap of 'buy now, pay later.' Many students hurriedly sign up for credit cards and begin swiping away at the registers of their favorite stores without even asking the obvious question, "How am I going to pay for this?" Caught up in the whirlwind of instant gratification, the reality of payments on the card is only realized when the bill arrives.

A study by Sallie Mae, the leading provider of federal loans for college students, found that 83 percent of undergraduate students have at least one credit card, and their average balance was \$2,327. The study further indicated that college students will double their credit card debt and triple the number of cards they have between the time they arrive on campus and graduation.

The University of the District of Columbia's Office of Community Outreach and Involvement sought to address the issue of student debt by hosting a lunch and dialogue titled "Getting Wise About Your Credit" to educate students about proper credit management.

"Students are targeted by credit card companies, and we want to inform our students about the importance of keeping their credit in order. Credit cards are easy to get, but students must know that they are not easy to repay, especially without a job," said Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness, director of the outreach program and coordinator of the event.

Jennifer Merrill, a member of the Coalition for Christian Outreach and a facilitator at

These students will become the benefactors of their countries when they go back home armed with the knowledge and expertise to change their

FROM THE TRILOGY TEAM

EVALUATE THE TRILOGY THIS PAST FALL SEMESTER. TELL US WHAT YOU WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ IN THE UPCOMING ISSUES. LET US HEAR YOUR VOICE AT TRILOGY@UDC.EDU THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND SEE YOU IN THE SPRING.

the lunch and dialogue said it is also important that students not only find out their credit scores, but also know what is on their credit report. Merrill deemed the event a success and was impressed by the keen interest students had about the topic. She said there would be future discussions on the topic of credit with more emphasis on identity theft.

The myth that ownership and use of a credit card is the sole avenue towards establishing credit was addressed at the meeting. Students learned that signing up for phone, utility and retail accounts in their own names, not their parents', and paying those accounts in a timely manner would help develop good credit.

Corey Montgomery, student, found the information from the event extremely valuable, and stated that he does not have a credit card. But when he acquires one, he would put the principles he learned at the event into practice and be responsible.

- Three out of five students with credit cards max them out during their freshman year.
- Three out of five freshmen with multiple credit cards used bank cards to pay for other revolving credit accounts.
- Nearly three-fourths of students use their student loans to pay credit card bills, says Robert D. Manning, author of "Credit Card Nation: The Consequences of America's Addiction to Credit."

What Creditors Look for on Credit Reports

- Bill paying history
- How many accounts you have and what kind
- Late payments
- Longevity of accounts
- Unused portions of line of credit
- Collection actions
- Outstanding debt

CAMPUS NEWS

HBCU BRIEFS

BY NERRISA PETERSON-PAUL

Coppin State University Teams up with NASA

Coppin State University students will work with NASA during a geographical research mission called the Middle Passage Project. Dr. Douglas Reardon, a history professor will work on the project which will use NASA satellites to document the influence of the trans-Atlantic slave trade on current environmental issues.

The NASA Applied Sciences Program supported the group of six students by granting \$186,000. Reardon believes that African-American history has been neglected and boxed in for the month of February. Students will research historic landscapes, rain forests, the coast of West Africa, and in the Caribbean searching specifically for areas linked in the slave trade through the Middle Passage.

Students were selected based on grades, prerequisite courses and interest. Using NASA satellites, students will visit countries like St. Kitts, Ghana, and Barbados to document important cultural sites, examine sugar plantations and study landscape transformations. The goal of the project will be to prevent the loss of tropical forests, conserve the ecosystems, and encourage a better management of our resources and to promote African-American heritage and tourism.

Study: HBCUs and Gender

A new study done by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) suggests that faculty at HBCUs seem to fare better in terms of salaries, ratings, and tenure numbers when the president or chief academic officers are females.

Dr. Shirley Geiger, the principal investigator of the study and chairperson of the Department of Political Science, Public Administration and Urban Studies at Savannah State University in Georgia says that these findings suggest there is a strong need for a Joint HBCU Center for Gender Studies.

According to the study, the majority of students enrolled at TMCF's 45 public HBCUs are female, but females hold a minority of the faculty positions at those institutions. Salary gaps between male and female faculty exist throughout all professorship ranks.

The report also reveals that 61 percent of male and female faculty saw a need for a women's center at their institution. Dwayne Ashley, the president and CEO of TMCF believes that the study can serve as a guidepost for leading changes to improve the environment of education at HBCUs.

LGBTSA Holds Event on Equal Justice

BY NERRISA PETERSON-PAUL

The University of the District of Columbia's LGBTSA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Support Association) held an event titled "Justice for All, The Courts and Equal Rights," on November 3, 2006, that touched on civil and equal rights and the LGBT community.

Topics ranging from recent court cases about marriage civil unions, and the Constitution were openly discussed by 25 students and staff. Issues such as co-parenting, adoption and child support were also on the agenda.

Guest speaker Christopher P. Edelson, lawyer and member of the Justice for All Program at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), talked about LGBT rights and the Bush Administration, and encouraged students to get involved in a healthy dialogue on the matter.

"It's important for people to get involved," said Edelson, and encouraged students to participate in grass-roots organizations that deal with civil and human rights. "When I was in high school there was no gay alliance, now they are all over the place."

President of the LGBTSA Antonio Marin-Dietens, a sophomore majoring in Sociology, is an international student from Spain. He put the event together to help make people aware of LGBT issues on campuses in the United

States, and hopes that dialogue can resolve issues pertaining to prejudice and bigotry.

"The reason why I organized this event was to make people understand that every citizen is entitled to their human rights. Right now almost every state in the country has a ban on gay marriage as well as many other benefits. It's discriminatory, and action must be taken to eliminate discriminatory policies," he said.

The LGBTSA, which was formed in September 2006, already has over 30 members, making it one of the largest organizations on campus. "I'm pleased that so many people have showed interest in the organization. Some of our members are heterosexual, and the organization is very happy to have their support. And I'm thankful that Christopher [Edelson] was able to contribute." Marin-Dietens added.

Edelson, who champions LGBT rights, promoted HRC's new documentary that focuses on the courts and LGBT rights, and hopes that students will remain politically active. "Voting, having conversations and getting involved in student groups is vital," he added.

To find out more about the HRC's new DVD, visit www.hrc.org. For more information about the LGBTSA, contact lgbt_udc@yahoo.com.

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"I got some very powerful messages and ideas and thoughts from the students from UDC," Johnson said. "One student in particular stated that we need to get students not only in college, but junior high and high school focused on school, because if they're not focused on school then they get focused on things that can lead to them getting infected with HIV."

Among the six students that were invited to meet Magic Johnson for a luncheon at Ritz-Carolton were Rasheed Cole, a native of Sierra Leone located on the west coast of Africa and majoring in Marketing and Communications; Andre Barnett, a third year law student at the UDC David A. Clark School of Law; Selvon M. Waldron, a native of Trinidad and Tobago and the student member on the Board of Trustees; David Gaston, a senior majoring in Television Production and the writer of Gaston's Corner in the University of the District of Columbia TrilogY Newspaper; Hortense Brent, a sophomore who is part of the Student Leadership Institute and mentor of the TEAM 100 pilot program, and Whitney Cloud, a freshman student-athlete from Fort Worth, Texas, majoring in Biology.

"Everyday there are more and more people who are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, but more alarming is the fact that these people may be unknowingly infecting others because many of them do not know that they have the virus. We need to take it upon ourselves to bring the number of new infections down by arming ourselves with information," said Johnson. "Getting tested for HIV can be an intimidating step for many people. I hope by talking openly to at-risk populations, people in these communities will have the courage to be tested, the first step to managing HIV."

As part of his 10-city tour, Magic Johnson also stopped at Anacostia High School and Metropolitan Baptist Church. "I feel that it is very important to get our churches involved in the education of HIV."

Magic Johnson has been an advocate for educating people about HIV since he was diagnosed with the virus 15 years ago. At the time of his diagnoses, Magic Johnson was the NBA All-Time Assist leader with 10,141 assists.

To find out more about HIV/AIDS testing centers in your area call 1-800-809-9252. Please know that the University of the District of Columbia gives free testing for University students. Contact the University Health Services at 202-274-5030.

WRITERS NEEDED

- **Do you like to be informed? Do you like to inform others? Most of all, would you like to be a part of creative and energetic team? Then UDC TrilogY is a perfect place for you.**
- **The following positions are available:**

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- > **Copy Editors**
- > **Comic strip (cartoonists)**
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- > **Creative writing (poetry/short story)**

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Racism Forum at UDC

BY JAY BELMORE

The Latino Law Student Association (LLSA) and the Black Law Student Association held a panel discussion titled "Perceptions of Racism" on November 9, 2006, at the David A. Clarke School of Law.

The forum was well received by over 70 guests and speakers, and focused on racism on college campuses, and highlighted the need for more positive interaction between students from different cultures and ethnicities.

The panel, which represented black, white, Latino, and Asian students, addressed their own experiences regarding racism, and hoped that holding the event would shed light on the prevalence of racism on campuses and in society at large.

Panelist Debra Toper, representing the Jewish minority stated, "Jews make up less than one-percent of the world's population," and acknowledged that Jewish people are often victims of racially motivated attacks. However, "The word minority is becoming more and more ambiguous," which could be seen as progress, she added.

The panel all agreed that discussions on matters of race are important to fixing the problem, and noted that panelist and IL student Ibidun Salaam, had recently been the subject of racially insensitive remarks made by a professor on campus. "I was accused of being in the 'black girls crew...we need to have this discussion,'" she said.

Law student Arthur Yarborough said that racism often starts in schools, and that more attention must be paid to what children are being taught. "Until we change the books, the wrong information will be encoded in young people. This crafts the debate about racism, and then goes out to the masses."

The panel also discussed recent incidents of racially-themed parties at the University of Chicago, and Johns Hopkins University, where a "Halloween in the Hood" party was thrown by the Sigma Chi fraternity.

Yesenia Polanco, law student and panelist representing the LLSA voiced concern about the recent events and hoped that the discussion would serve as a reminder that racism is still alive on college campuses around the country.

"These parties are implying racism with a derogatory theme. Racist acts have been committed."

However, Polanco was hopeful that positive discussion could help reduce bigotry, and hopes that more students become involved in the debate.



Panelists discuss ways to improve race relations on college campuses

"We need to embrace cultural differences, and acknowledge the need for change. We should focus on discriminatory practices, overt racism, and institutionalized discrimination," she added.

Workforce Development Workshop

BY ROBIN WILLIAMS

Recently, on Thursday, November 9th, "The Summit" workforce development workshop was held here in UDC's window's lounge. Along with discussing workforce development, the workshop also addressed the current issues in education and research. During this workshop, several successful and accomplished business men and women, career development leaders, educators, government representatives, and other influential individuals gathered to discuss the challenges facing the workforce on a local and national level. Also discussed, were possible ways of improving the development of young adults throughout our campus and community in order to prepare them for their transition into working adults.

The Summit urged the promotion of community and campus involvement in order to achieve one common goal. Which is to strengthen the workforce by increasing the quality of students, and new employees venturing out into careers through new research techniques and improved education. With keynote speakers Barbara B. Lang, President and CEO of the DC Chamber of Commerce, and Charles M. Greene, Executive Director for the White House Initiative on HBCU's- Biography, these points were brought up and discussed throughout the day-long workshop. Lastly, the panel discussed the importance of establishing and maintaining funding and networking and it's affect on reaching the desired outcome. This workshop was beneficial to our university and community as a whole, demonstrating the steps UDC is taking towards the growth and development of its current students, prospective students, staff, and surrounding community.

BY VERSELL BROWN

On a day where the red, white and blue waved proudly, UDC held its first annual Veterans Day Observance program in front of a crowd of proud Americans which ranged from students and fellow Veterans alike. Earl Webster, a student and Army Vet delivered the welcoming that jump started this amazing event which took place on Thursday November 9, 2006 in building 44 A-03. Before the proceedings began there was presentation of colors done by The Honor Guard from the DC department of Corrections followed by the National Anthem performed by our own President of the student government, William C. Kellibrew.

There after retired Colonel Vandy Miller of the USA Air Force kept it going with the in-

vocation followed with a few words from Dr. Pollard (University of the District of Columbia President). Army Veteran William Matthews who is also a student here at UDC really set the tone for the observance when he came up to the podium. Matthews referred to the Veterans Upward Bound program as "A department that performs miracles". That heart felt comment let the audience know how much this miraculous program has changed his life on so many levels. He ended his speech with some words that I couldn't agree with more. Matthews uttered "Veterans, they deserve our support, they deserve our respect". Denise Askew, also a product of UDC's Veterans Upward Bound program explained to the many in attendance what the program meant

to her and she pretty much summed it up when she stated "Don't let nothing or no one stop you from reaching your goals in life".

Executive Vice President of the University, Mr. Ernest Joy kept the inspirational ball rolling as he introduced his good friend and guest speaker Attorney Kerwin Miller. Miller, a key component to the DC office of Veterans Affairs and currently a United States Naval Reserve gave a truly inspiring speech as he notion "We give hope", referring to Veterans. Division of Students Affairs Vice President Dr. Clemmie Solomon closed this special program by leaving us with some food for thought. "We all should have an attitude of gratitude on this most special day."

Author, Rev. Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness Promotes Book "Lessons in Truth"

BY SANDRA FELDER

On October 26, 2006, author, Rev. Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness graced students, faculty and staff with her presence, as she introduced her new book, "Lessons In Truth," which was recently published. All those who attended the book signing waited in sometimes long lines, to have their book signed, ask questions, and to purchase the newly released book. Dr. Holness' book signing was held in the campus bookstore where she also delighted her visitors with a light fare-menu. Her book "Lessons in Truth," is based on selected sermons which

were collected throughout her life, which helped her develop and enrich her life as a Christian woman.

Dr. Holness grew up in the South and was always attentive to her church. Her grandfather, brother and several uncles were all Baptist pastors. "It's ten of us and I'm the baby girl," said Holness. "My oldest brother was my confidant. However, he died in a car accident. I began pastoring when I was 39. I was a manuscript preacher, I'd write down all my sermons. A year later my mother came in and handed me two notebooks of my sermons she had been collecting. I couldn't believe it.

Since then, I continued collecting. I knew then the ministry was my calling."

At the age of 16, Dr. Holness was the youngest to be seated on the NAACP's National Board. At the age of 24, she earned her B.A. of Arts, at Clark Atlanta University. Determined to further her education, she enrolled at Howard University where she earned her doctorate. Within months of her graduation she became the youngest member of the defense team of a well known trial, the State of Georgia vs. Wayne B. Williams. This was the case of the "Atlanta Missing & Murdered Children."

When asked to name famous person who impacted her life her response was W.E. DuBois.

Who is Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness? Some may say she's a lawyer. Others may say she's a minister. However, this phenomenal native of Columbia, South Carolina is not only a ordained minister, chaplain, columnist, lawyer, human rights activist, lecturer and businesswoman, she also found time to be a mother. Dr. Holness has one beautiful daughter Ali Gail Charmé Anderson Holness, who is the apple of her eye.

Dr. Gail Anderson currently is a shining member of the University of the District of Columbia faculty team where she is the Director of the Community Outreach Involvement Program. The University is honored to have such a phenomenal person to work with us and share with us spiritual guidance. "Lessons in Truth" is available at the campus bookstore for \$20, or visit www.egailanderson-holness.com.



Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness signing books for students, faculty and staff in the University bookstore

AROUND CAMPUS



Student Leaders at the University International Week



Taiysha Adams explains the importance of celebrating diversity on college campuses



PI Sigma Alpha holding a fundraiser in Bldg. 38



Paul Tennessee and Trevia Daniels attending a Homecoming party at Epicurean Restaurant



William Spaulding gives a University history lesson



Alejandro Soto-Vigil at the David A. Clarke School of Law's forum on Racism on Campus



Dr. Julia Hare meets with University students



Adetola Babatunde Shabi being honored for all his work while sitting on the Board of Trustee's

BRIGHT INKS

Stuck on Stupid!

Liking a woman who loves
Another is bitter sweet
Whata cliché to say
But true
I'll do
What I always do and fantasize
About me tastin the sweet effervescent
Of her skin, then lyin myself in-side
Those thighs as her legs rest on mine
I quickly comeback 2 my senses
And realize its senseless cuz
She won't b mine
Only physically if I had her
Well, c I want dis 1 in totality
Heart, Mind, Body, Soul
Our Destiny 2gether God would control
Like I told myself b4, she ova dere wit him
And u here by yourself alone.

BY WILLIAM BELL

Troubled Water

There is a tide in the ocean this beautiful morning
Why is America's justice system at an all time low?
You ignore the warning signs, the yells, the clues
left before your
Very feet and yet another person is left to suffer
When is it all going to end? In my eyes there's no
justification
For someone who is a mere murder.
America wake up to more bloodshed for there is
something
Wrong with the minds that walk this very earth
If you are not careful you too like many will be the
victim
Of unsolved cases and maybe even a little discrimi-
nation against
Your gender, race, or creed. There is something
more to this
But it will never be explained by the human mind or
even acceptable
To conceive such a thought
There's a tide in the ocean this beautiful morning for
there is no justice
For a life taken!

BY TYISSHA SMITH

GASTON'S CORNER



Introducing "The 4.0 Lounge"

BY DAVID GASTON

I became a student at the University of the District of Columbia in 2001, and my first job was in the game room. I am committed to making positive changes at the University and this has led me to help establish a more mature/academic atmosphere from a room with so much to offer than just games for recreation.

Passion is a hard thing to explain to some people and if they don't share your same vision or have your creative energy, it can be hard to work with them. However, when people don't respond to my passion, I stick to the hard facts. The number one fact being, this is an academic environment above all things. So, someone's record of wins at air-hockey should never be higher than the amount of exams they pass in their classes. Unfortunately, there are many students who find it easier to escape to the game room to relieve their stress and begin a game of pool but never seek out additional support, like tutoring for instance.

Finding a way to provide my fellow students with the appropriate academic stimulus while respecting their right to enjoy whatever activity the game room had to offer when open, has been my greatest challenge. Fortunately, I have a great team who decided on a solid academic design, which consisted mainly of signs (e.g. Math, English, and Project Empowerment). The goal is simple. We use these signs to provide support in all subjects by highlighting key formulas in mathematics, and helpful tips on writing an essay. It also promotes strategies for success by dedicating a wall to powerful leaders who have

empowered us all to be winners in life.

In order to enhance the academic environment, we renamed the 'Game room' to "The 4.0 Lounge." Having a 4.0 is the highest GPA one can receive academically, and I didn't want that goal to be lost when spending time in the game room. I ran it by a few friends and each one of them looked back at me with the face of a person who just took a shot of tequila. It was a bit funny to watch their initial reaction. However, nothing discourages me, and by talking to one person at a time, "The 4.0 Lounge" began to sound better and will soon be one of the most happening places on our campus. Look out for weekly activities like academic trivia challenge, movie night, and theme parties. Enjoy the walls that are designed to provide helpful information to all students. There is even a sports section dedicated to our student athletes, who I hope will help out with the project.

There is still much work to be done but feel free to come and visit

The 4.0 Lounge is where you'll find more than just games to play.

If you are interested in helping with this project contact me via thegastongroup@yahoo.com.

ON THE SPOT

Monica D. Williams

BY RINA T. DANIELS

"Good afternoon, Psychology and Counseling, Monica at your service." The voice is that of Monica D. Williams, secretary for the Department of Psychology and Counseling at the University; the spirit is of service and dedication.

Monica, a Washingtonian, is scheduled to complete her bachelor's degree in office administration in December 2006. She finds that what she likes best at the University is its affordability, coupled with a great education. After graduation, she plans to move to North Carolina and pursue her MBA.

Here at the University, Monica has been active in student life, via different activities including being the founder and president of Professional Women United (formerly Black Women United) from 2002-2004; chapter president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. from 2003-2005; and chairperson for the USGA Awards Gala in April 2006.

As a final semester senior, Williams advises fellow and future students that

the key in balancing her personal, academic and business lives has been prioritizing. More advice includes: "Love and respect your university. Participate in your USGA. Keep control of your destiny."

At age 37, Monica wants to prove that a more youthful age doesn't make for a more dedicated student. "Regardless of my age, I am a student working just as hard as other students. So, I really want to encourage people that are older to press forward. Forget these 'typical' student issues that people have and do what you have to do." Currently, Monica is Miss Senior 2006-2007 and a national officer for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She has also recently been inducted as an honorary member to Delta Mu Delta Honor Society in Business Administration.

For her, there was an easy answer to what her biggest accomplishment in life has been: "Raising a respectable, well-mannered young lady while going to school and working full-time." Such a gift can be attributed to hard-work and commitment.

Okolo Thomas-Toure

BY RINA T. DANIELS

For some, a fresh cup of coffee can be a motivating factor when contemplating a long day at work. Okolo Thomas-Toure often decides that giving people more than expected goes a long way towards making a long day seem a bit shorter.

A development assistant for the Office of Development at the University, Okolo has been known to brighten many days by adding treats to the daily menu of coffee. Visitors frequent her office due to an open-door policy, because of Okolo's special-blend coffee and her bubbly, bright personality.

In the office across from her, Dr. Ernesta Pendleton attests to the energy Okolo brings to the third floor. Another neighbor, LaChanda Wooten, finds Okolo to be inspiring. "I look forward to seeing her in the morning. She makes my smile in the morning. She boosts my morale a lot...gives me good advice."

In addition to the quality people she works with, Okolo believes in the

University's mission to educate. "I believe in public education; I believe in education for all. Higher education is especially important."

Before coming to the University, Okolo was a consultant working with special events, corporate and community partnerships. Her duties included festival management, vendor management, conferences, and large-scale volunteer management.

I think it's being able to contribute to the reopening of the Office of Development. "When you invest in yourself, it means a lot. You have buy-in, you've got ownership." It's an investment. I believe in supporting public education.

"You must be flexible and open because we already operate in a very rigid structure as a public institution. You must be bendable, mercurial almost, in order to get a lot of things done. Otherwise you can come off looking pretty inept and incompetent because of the long time it takes you to get things moving through the...bureaucracy."

Trilogy celebrates Okolo's positive influence on her colleagues and surrounding environment and a personality that always hits the spot.

SPORTS

Tradition Reborn: UDC Basketball Thanksgiving Classic

BY ADRIAN WILKINS

On November 24, 2006, for the first time in many years the University of the District of Columbia will host the Thanksgiving Basketball Classic which is being sponsored by The Days Inn Hotel. The two day event will feature the University of the District of Columbia Firebirds hosting the Columbia Union College "Pioneers", Kutztown University "Golden Bears" and the Davis & Elkins College "Senators".

The first game of the Classic will feature Kutztown playing Columbia Union on Friday, November 24, at 2 p.m. The second contest will feature

UDC playing Davis & Elkins at 5 p.m. On Saturday, November 25, UDC will play Kutztown at 5 p.m. Then Davis & Elkins will take on Columbia Union at 7:30 p.m.

The UDC Firebirds are reinstating a tradition of hosting the Thanksgiving Classic from years ago. The Classic has always been a favorite of Washington fans who looked forward to spending some of the holiday weekend with the UDC family, while enjoying serious basketball competition. This year's Classic should be no different, with four good teams prepared to take the court and entertain the fans with solid basketball play.

This will be a turn around

year for the UDC Firebirds, as they take begin their first season in two years with a full complement of players. Last year the Firebirds were handicapped by having only 7 players during the season that yielded them one season win. They were returning to play after having their 2004-05 season cancelled, and losing most of their players. This year will be different as they will play with 12 players.

UDC Men's Head Basketball Coach Julius L. Smith, Jr., says, "Generally, I just want to win more games than last year, which was one. More importantly, I just want the kids to play as hard as last year's team of mostly seven players. I like

that this year's team has the numbers. We are 6'5" across the board an extremely athletic. If they play hard, the wins will take care of themselves."

While Coach Smith would like at least a .500 season, he understands that it would be a heck of a jump in one season. He believes that his returning floor leader, junior Frank Peterson, along with sophomore forward Jamaal Freeman, will provide the spark to move this team to more wins.

The Men's Basketball team will travel to Johnstown, Pennsylvania to participate in the Pitt-Johnstown Basketball Classic on November 17, 2006, to open up their 2006-2007 Basketball season.

Lady Firebirds Finish Season On High Note

BY ADRIAN WILKINS

On Oct. 31, 2006, the Lady Firebird Volleyball team traveled to Murfreesboro, North Carolina, and got a big treat in defeating the Lady Hawks of Chowan University 3-0. The victory closed what many would call a very successful season. In Coach Jude's first year at the University of the District of Columbia as head coach, the volleyball team amassed a 14-7 record and the team shows a lot of promise for next season.

Freshman Daniella Bezerra concluded her first year of play leading the Lady Firebirds with 17 kills, 34 offensive attacks, and 8 defensive digs. Bezerra has been nationally ranked for most of the season in several categories such as aces where she is ranked 8th in NCAA Division II and kills where she's ranked 13th in Division II.

Earlier in the day the Lady Firebirds took on the Lady Vikings of Elizabeth City State University for the second time this season and torched the Lady Vikings for the second time this season, defeating them 3-1.

Freshman Daniella Bezerra led the Lady Firebirds in the win with 21 kills, 58 offensive attacks, 4 service aces and 13 defensive digs. Freshman Ashonte Pryor added 13 kills, 38 offensive attacks, 1 service ace and 9 defensive digs. Junior setter Luisanna followed with 11 kills, 33 offensive attacks, 6 service aces and 7 defensive digs.

Lady Volleyball Firebirds Still Burning up the Competition

BY ADRIAN WILKINS

On November 4, 2006, Wilfred Chamallan represented the University of the District of Columbia at the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Cross Country meet in Wingate, North Carolina. The Nandi-Hills, Kenya, native placed 3rd in the meet thus making him eligible to participate in the NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championship in Pensacola, Florida, on November 18th.

Chemallan was among the 120 runners to compete in the Southeast Regional earlier this

month in North Carolina. The top 15 runners, including Wilfred Chemallan, were named to the All-Southeast Region Team. Chemallan finished the 10K course with a time of 32 minutes and 29 seconds in spite of the fact that he strained his left quadriceps during the race. Cross Country Head Coach, Marc Harrison said of the sophomore medical radiology major, "He is a gifted athlete who did not allow his injury to deter him from his goal of successfully competing in this event. I expect him to be ready for the Nationals later

this month in Florida."

Coach Marc J. Harrison said "I was highly impressed with this young man from the moment we met. He clicked right away with me. I found him to be very personable and with the support that I received from the University, I was fortunate to be able to get someone of his caliber. Harrison goes on to say, "he works harder than anyone I have ever trained in my 15 years of coaching experience. He gets better each week He has beaten the current CIAA Cross-Country Champion three times this

year alone."

The 23 year-old Chamallan began running as a teenager in his native Kenya, a country that has produced some of the world's greatest marathon runners such as Timothy Kiptanui, who came in 4th place in the 2004 Olympics and Hoesa Kogo another great Kenyan marathon winner both of which Wilfred has trained with in the past.

Wilfred Chamallan has had a very successful season as he won 5 straight cross-country meets and has broken every course record at each event.

Getting Personal With Dr. Harold H. Merritt

BY ANDREA LOGIE-BROWN

Standing at 6 feet 4 inches Dr. Harold H. Merritt is the new force within The University of the District of Columbia's Athletics Department. As the new Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Dr. Merritt came to the University after a seven year tenure as the Director of Athletics, Intramurals, and Athletic Facilities at the College of Staten Island (CSI) in New York City.

"He has the solid credentials and an impeccable record of service that make him well-suited to assume the leadership of our athletics program," University President Dr. William Pollard said.

This 17-year veteran coach steered men's basketball at several schools including, Northern Arizona University, California State College, Mor-

ris Brown College and University of New Orleans, and also served as Director/Assistant Director and Youth Sports Program Executive Director for the Department of Parks and Recreation in Houston.

At the helm of CSI's Athletic Department there was great success (23 City University of New York Championships, 13 East Coast Athletic Conference wins and six NCAA Tournament titles), yet he is quick to point out that none of the success was achieved overnight. He believes that as coaches and players are provided with tools they need, and the University's teams will improve across the board.

Dr. Merritt said he is happy to be here and appreciates the administration's commitment to steering the athletics department in the right direction. The new director admitted that restructuring the department

will be challenging, but he is embracing it wholeheartedly. "I would not have left my tenured position at CSI to come to the University if I did not believe I could make a difference," he said.

In his assessment of the Department's most immediate need he summed it up with one word, "Leadership." Sighting the lack of full time staff to oversee daily activities as a major problem, some part-time coaches will be upgraded to full-time status and more personnel will be hired. He believes such measures will provide the checks and balances needed to monitor intricate aspects of NCAA academic rules and regulations. "We will have to show everyone through our actions that we are willing to play by the rules like everyone else," he said.

Dr. Merritt emphasized that the University is an institution

of higher learning, not an athletic factory, and as a result, there will be major changes for student athletes to come. Mandatory tutoring and study halls will be established, and there will be greater accountability on the part of coaches for the students they recruit.

"There will be no patience for students who do not want to make the effort to improve academically, desiring only to perform on a court or field. If students do not want to learn, they cannot be a part of our athletic program. But for those who do, we will provide the services to help them along the way," Merritt said.

Stating confidently that he has never failed at any job, Dr. Merritt said he is committed to his new position and is in it for the long haul.

Please come out and support the winning UDC Sports teams.

We mean come and

ACTUALLY

cheer and chant

for the home team !!!

INFORMATION



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