John Tyler Elementary Students – Future Firebirds

When the University of the District of Columbia established the tradition of Founder’s Day, it was with the intent of honoring not only current students, but also alumni of UDC and all nine predecessor institutions. The University’s Office of Recruitment and Admissions have now effectively used Founders Day to establish a link between the UDC of today and the students of tomorrow.

Approximately 20 fifth and sixth graders from John Tyler Elementary School, located in DC’s Ward 6 (shown on the next page), were among those who attended UDC’s Founders Day on February 22, 2007. Students heard the words of guest speaker Thomas Todd (at right), and watched as the University honored distinguished members of the UDC family through the presentation of awards of excellence. They also had the opportunity to visit UDC campus classrooms and participate in a discussion with UDC students and Mr. Todd.

The visit apparently made a big impression on the young scholars. Last week, a package of letters received by Marian D. Smith, Lead Recruitment Specialist and Admission Officer gave measure of the impact. Following are excerpts of some of these letters.

Dear UDC – Thank you for giving us a tour of your campus. My perception of UDC has changed. I never really heard of UDC before, but now I think that the whole world needs to know about it. UDC inspires me to want to grow up and go to college. My college goals are to dream big. I want to be a lawyer to defend our rights. UDC has taught me that and for that I would like to say thank you.

Another student was struck by the message delivered by Thomas Todd. I enjoyed having a talk with Thomas Todd. He taught me that grades come first and sports come last. From spending a day in college, I know what college I want to go to – I would like to go to UDC.
One student directed gratitude to President Pollard. Dear President of UDC – Thank you for taking the time to talk to John Tyler Elementary 5th and 6th graders. It was a great influence for the kids that are thinking about going to your college. I was thinking about applying to your college because they say it’s a good school.

Another student was impressed not only by Founders Day, but also what she saw in a UDC classroom. I will tell you what I liked most about the trip. When I visited a class room and was sitting beside a (UDC) student, I saw her just taking notes. I was like “wow.” She wrote one page and it looked like every word that man said she had taken it down. At first when I went to UDC, I thought everybody was going to run wild, but they proved me wrong. It turned out to be a good college that I might consider when I get older.

The University’s Office of Recruitment and Admissions have adopted John Tyler Elementary as part of their “Seeds of Promise” Adoption Outreach Project. Recruiters visit the school on a monthly basis and plan to attend the school’s graduation June 8. Ms Smith views this as “taking care of our own DC residents, District youth and future University of the District of Columbia students. We intend to follow these students through their middle and junior high school careers.”

UDC family members participating with the John Tyler Elementary School University “Seeds of Promise” Adoption Outreach Project includes:

- Marian Smith, Admission Officer, Lead Recruitment Specialist
- Mari Tekle, Admission Officer, Bi-lingual Recruitment Specialist (Amharic)
- Eric Broussard- Bueno, Admission Officer, Bi-lingual Recruitment Specialist (Spanish)
- Eric Broussard- Bueno, Admission Officer, Bi-lingual Recruitment Specialist (Spanish)
- MS University of the District of Columbia- Ms. OSA
- Mr. Lorenzo Saunders- University Student - Book Drive
- Dr. Virginia Howard and Elementary Education student majors- Book Drive
- LaVerne Hill-Flanagan Director of Recruitment and Admissions
- Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs

Gerontology Plans Health Fair

The Institute of Gerontology invites you to attend a free Health Fair to be held on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Gymnasium of Building 47. A wide variety of free screening and other services will be available such as cholesterol, kidney, and dental screening and information on sleep systems, cardiovascular and reflexology. There will also be demonstrations on Bodywise exercises, yoga, tai Chi, Tae Kwon Do, and line dancing all designed to keep one healthy and fit on a daily basis. This year’s co-sponsors are DC Office of Aging, DC Department of Parks and Recreation, IONA Senior Services, and Safeway Inc. For more information, call (202) 274-6592.

UDC Gala Highlights

Comcast Cable TV coverage of this year’s UDC Gala is being aired on CNN Headline News in the District (Channel 35). The coverage can be viewed online at http://www.wdycomcast.com/RC_UDC_01
Men’s Basketball Team Shows Great Academic Results

The University’s Men’s Basketball team has proven to be not only winner on the court, but also in the classroom. The Firebirds, who surged to an impressive 20-9 record this year, has accumulated a team grade point average of 2.86 for the spring of 2007 semester.

Coach Julius Smith views this level of attainment by student athletes with understandable pride. “I’m extremely excited about this,” said Coach Smith. “Our fall GPA was a 2.7. We were able to maintain our academic standards, while competing at a high level on the basketball court.”

A “UDC Miracle” in Organic Chemistry

The following was enthusiastically submitted by Dr. Daryao Khatri, Professor of Physics. Based on an email, dated 5/31/07, from Dr. Mehdi Hajiyani, titled, “Phenomenal success in Organic Chemistry I – Spring 2007 Semester”, I call this success a UDC Miracle. Dr. Hajiyani, Professor of Chemistry who taught Organic Chemistry I during the Spring Semester of 2007, has been teaching at the university for over 30 years. In his email, he reports classroom retention doubled (from 50% to 97%) and student success tripled (from 30% to 90%). As reported by Dr. Hajiyani, 31 students who enrolled in Organic Chemistry I during the Spring Semester 2007. One student never showed up and another student withdrew from the course after about seven weeks, leaving 29 students who were present until the end of the semester. Student demography of the class was 45% African Americans, 25% whites, 10% Hispanics, and 20% other.

Dr. Hajiyani attributes this success to his using many of the teaching techniques that he has been exposed to lately and mentoring provided by Dr. Khatri. He also reports spending enormous amount of time during the weeks as well as over the weekends in preparing new handouts, quizzes, take-home examinations, tests, and exams. In this regard, Dr. Khatri has also been reporting 100% classroom retention in his college physics courses over a period of several years. I have been dreaming to duplicate this success in other courses at the university, Dr. Khatri states. It has now happened. Dr. Hajiyani, now, reports similar success in retention rates in Organic Chemistry.

Dr. Hajiyani is so encouraged by this experience that he, now, plans to teach the same course during the fall 2007 and beyond in a transposed fashion from what is presented in most of the organic textbooks; transpose chapters and the topics contained in them. In addition, he will consider writing a book in Organic Chemistry that would include the pedagogy he employed for the spring 2007 semester.
Tennesse Addresses BPIA Biennial Conference

Dr. Paul Tennessee, Director of International Affairs, was guest speaker at a youth session of the 8th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA) this past March. In a letter to Tennessee (shown above addressing the conference), the BPIA lauded his presentation, saying he "inspired many attending the conference, particularly our youth, to pursue careers in international affairs and have inspired one young man to return to school."

The BPIA was launched at the University of the District of Columbia over a decade ago. The theme of the conference was "We the People - Global Citizenship, Global Perspective." Tennessee’s session was entitled “Youth in Globalization.” He shared the platform with Youth Leaders: Dario Arnoux, African Futures Forum; William Kellibrew, UDC; Odine Johnson, Representative, DC Youth Advisory Council and Ayogu Chioma., Georgetown Society of Global Professionals, Georgetown University.

Veterans Upward Bound Program Recognizes Vet Students

The UDC Veterans Upward Bound Program held its Annual Awards Program and Luncheon in April. The guest speaker for the occasion was Lt. Colonel (Ret., USAF) C. Girard Johnson, Director of UDC Campus Services. Colonel Johnson (shown at right) is a graduate of North Carolina A&T University (BA), where he earned his commission and of Troy State University (MA). Colonel Johnson has a wealth of experience, both within the military and in Law Enforcement (former Assistant Sheriff, Prince Georges County). Colonel Johnson’s speech provided inspiration to the men and women veterans, as he encouraged them to stay the course as they pursue higher education. He also provided each veteran with a reference booklet of inspirational writings.

In addition to acknowledging and awarding certificates of excellence to the participating veterans, the program also honored our first UDC graduate, Mr. Sylvester Felton. Mr. Felton commuted to UDC each day from Baltimore and, in addition to being active in VUB, has also been very active in Student Activities. As a result of his various participations and services, he received a gift and acknowledgement from Dr. Janice Borlandoe, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. Mr. Felton earned his BA in Business Administration ’07, and is planning to attend graduate school at UDC. The purpose of the Veterans Upward Bound Program is to provide academic support and guidance to honorably discharged military veterans who seriously desire to attend and to graduate from college. The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and is located within the Division of Student Affairs, Office for TRIO and College Preparatory Programs.
Faculty & Staff Learn iPod Use in Teaching

Nineteen faculty, administrators, and staff came together on Thursday May 17th for a full day of training in Teaching and Learning Using the iPod. Faculty came from a diversity of disciplines and each gained the skills to produce audio MP3 recordings, upload MP3s into Blackboard, or host MP3s or Podcasts on a website. Participants in the full-day podcasting symposium included: Sylvia Benatti (Non-Profit Leadership); Giselle Datz (Political Science); Stacey Downey (State Education Agency); Gloria Green-Ridley (Nursing); William Hanff (Mass Media, Visual & Performing Arts); Katie Inmom (Learning Resources); Robert Jackson (State Education Agency); Sinclair Jeter (Administration of Justice); Ed Jones (Learning Resources); Sandra Jowers-Barber (History); Ben Latigo (Dean); Lynne McGuire (Mortuary Science); Bertha Minus (Associate Provost for Retention); Marie Racine (Administration); Leslie Richards (Sociology); Meredith Rode (Art); Duane Shie (Computer Science); Bill Tuohy (Learning Resources); Cherie Ann Turpin (English); and Ahmet Zeytinci (Engineering). The symposium was facilitated by Suzan Harkness, Jay Morrow, Melvin Witten & Mark Lecke.

DC Meets Delhi at UDC Film Festival

The DC Meets Delhi Festival of Film, Arts and Debate, hosted by the University of the District of Columbia and organized by the Division of University Relations and Communications, is set to unfold from September 6-12, 2007. A fusion of feature films, documentaries, dance, discussions, filmmakers and thinkers... the festival celebrates the arts and cultures that shape urban life in two capital cities. The festival is a means of: deepening the educational experience for all DC residents; strengthening outreach to our community, neighbors, potential students and alumnae; and re-positioning UDC as a center for media studies and media workforce development.

Program segments include: Family Day of Dance and Arts: DC and Indian dances wrapped around by food, crafts and education; Indian Film Series: Classic to Bollywood to Art House; Best of DC Films; A transnational videoconferenced high school debate on water issues in Washington DC and Delhi (with the DC Urban Debate League and UDC's own Water Resources Research Institute); a French feature film screening about India presented by The French Embassy; a Metro DC Student Film Competition and a series of films, an exhibition and a panel discussion on Mahatma Gandhi: Popularity and Relevance, 2007.

You can follow the development of the festival at: www.udc.edu/dcmd . We would like to integrate as much of this as possible into existing curriculae and programs so that students can be involved as they are being educated (e.g. political science, sociology, history, urban studies, media studies, art, dance, music, environmental studies and engineering) and we are always looking for volunteers!!! Do please get in touch. Dr Deirdre Evans-Pritchard, Festival Director, DC Meets Delhi, University Relations and Communications, Tel. 202-274-6256, Email: devans-pritchard@udc.edu.
Beginning this summer, the entire UDC telephone system will be upgraded from its 20-year-old technology to a new Avaya phone system. The upgrade will move the university to the District’s DC-Net fiber optic telephone system. With the upgrade, all UDC faculty and staff will be provided new Avaya digital telephones with displays, caller ID, speaker phones and a second phone line for use when you receive a second call while using the phone.

The upgrade will allow UDC to keep all existing telephone numbers, including those staff and faculty who will be relocated to the Intelsat building. A new voicemail system is included. The telephone upgrade will continue into the beginning of the fall term, with disruptions in service to be kept to a minimum.

In preparation, all faculty and staff should monitor their voicemail boxes over the summer, retrieving and deleting voicemails at least weekly. When the upgrade occurs, old voicemails will not be transferred or accessible after the upgrade. To help you with planning, you will be provided time schedule updates by voicemail and email as the upgrade progresses.
The Embassy of Turkey and the American Friends of Turkey cordially invite you to

“Turkish Carpets in Italian Renaissance Paintings: Art Objects & Status Symbols”

A Lecture by Dr. Rosamond E. Mack

June 4, 2007 at 6:30 pm
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
2525 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC, 20008

Italian Renaissance paintings provide important information on the history of carpet-making, illustrating the range of early carpet patterns and variations, and helping to date them. From the early fourteenth century into the 1450s these representations are quite consistent. During the second half of the fifteenth century, however, there were striking changes in the kinds of carpets that Italians imported, and how they regarded and used them. The rising status of oriental carpets in Italian material culture influenced their commercial production in Anatolia and the expanding Ottoman Empire, and discouraged local imitations—a significant exception to the practice among Italy’s highly competitive craft industries.

Dr. Rosamond Mack, a Washington-based art historian, will explore these trends and the importance of cross-cultural artistic exchange during the late middle ages and the Renaissance, when Italy dominated long-distance trade between Europe and the Islamic world. Having received a Ph.D. in Italian Renaissance art from Harvard University in 1972, Dr. Mack spent decades living and traveling in the Middle East, North Africa and the Persian Gulf. Active internationally as a researcher, writer, and speaker, she has served as a consultant and research assistant at the National Gallery of Art, and has taught at Georgetown University. She is the author of the groundbreaking book, Bazaar to Piazza: Islamic Trade and Italian Art, 1300-1600.

(The event will be followed by a reception)

Please RSVP with name, title and affiliation to:
(202) 387-3200 or events@turkishembassy.org

ID required at entrance
An Open Invitation from the Parents of UDC Alumni

We, the proud parents of

Halcyane Dardaine, MD
UDC Alumni 2001, Biology, Summa Cum Laude

would like to announce her graduation from

Harvard Medical School

We request the honor of your presence at the following Commencement festivities
as we celebrate her achievement

Thanksgiving Service
June 3, 2007, 10:30am - 12noon
National Church of the Nazarene
4401 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Celebration Reception
June 3, 2007, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
9820 Green Apple Turn
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Commencement Ceremony
June 7, 2007, 2:00pm
25 Shattuck Street
Boston, MA 02115
(No Tickets Required, First Come Basis)

Please RSVP by May 20, 2007 to (202) 562-4778 or chapbun@aol.com

Final Thoughts

The UDC Spark is your publication. It can only be effective if you make contributions. If there is something happening in your department that everyone else should know about, then tell us. As always, we ask that you please submit items of interest in text format by e-mail only to mandrews@udc.edu by noon on every other Thursday. PLEASE – NO FLIERS – text paragraphs in Times Roman 12 (black) only. We always welcome photos and appropriate clip art.