POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY AND STUDENTS ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK POLITICAL SCIENTISTS, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Dr. Shiela Harmon Martin, faculty members-Drs. Guy Shroyer, Jerome Hunt and Yeisha Thompson and Political Science students-Mustafa Allahraka, Quiana Ballard, Leslie Benjamin, Tessy Dunoboh, Adrienne Gaither, Jordan Martin, and Maria Thompson attended the 45th annual meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) held March 12-15, 2014 in Wilmington, Delaware. NCOBPS is the professional association representing political scientists of African descent in the United States and throughout the world. It promotes scholarly research and critical analysis of issues related to the challenges of race relations.

The UDC delegation was actively involved in conference activities. Six (6) of the seven (7) students presented their scholarly research conducted in Senior Seminar, the capstone course of the Political Science program, under the guidance of adjunct professor, Dr. Yeisha Thompson. Participating on panel sessions with undergraduate, graduate and faculty from universities throughout the United States, UDC students addressed the following issues:

Mustafa Allahraka, “A Qualitative Assessment of Violence among Specific Muslim Sects”
Jordan Martin, “Food Deserts in Urban Communities”
Quiana Ballard, “An Exploratory Analysis of the Prison to Pipeline: What are Options for Uneducated Black Men?”
Leslie Benjamin, “Understanding International Organizations through Model Simulations: Model Arab League & Organization of American States”
Maria Thompson, “Congressional Internship Program: Pathway to a Political Science Career”

Faculty member, Dr. Jerome Hunt participated on the NCOBPS Professional Development Panel: “Making Strides as an Undergraduate: Graduate School and Beyond”. He also presented his scholarly research on ”Land Banking, Globalization, and Low Income & Working Class Blacks: A Case Study of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania”. Dr. Harmon-Martin, who serves on the NCOBPS Executive Council as Historian/Archivist, and the University of the District of Columbia were honored at the NCOBPS Awards banquet as the recipient of the first annual “Pipeline Award”, for bringing the largest number of undergraduate students to the annual meeting. “This award recognizes the commitment demonstrated to introducing the next generation of scholars to NCOBPS’s rich tradition of scholarship, teaching, mentorship, and community engagement.”

Both faculty and students enjoyed an engaging conference that provided the opportunity to interact with both scholars and practitioners of politics. Notables attending the conference included Mayor Dennis P. Williams (Wilmington), Governor Jack Markell, U.S. Senators Thomas R. Carper and Christopher Coons, U.S. Representative John C. Carney (Delaware), U.S. Representative Chaka Fattah (Pennsylvania), John Aldrich, President of the American Political Science Association, and MSNBC news personalities -Ms. Joy Reid (The Reid Report) and Dr. James Petersen (Contributing Commentator), just to name a few.

On behalf of the faculty and students, we express our appreciation to Dr. April Massey, College of Arts & Sciences and Dr. Valerie Epps, UDC -Division of Students Affairs for their support.