"....a new day,
a new opportunity"

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University of the District of Columbia Professor Launches University's First "Podcast"

Washington, D.C. —   Dr. Suzan Harkness, Assistant Professor of Political Science, in the Department of Urban Affairs, Social Sciences, and Social Work, launched the University of the District of Columbia's first podcast on August 2, 2005. This is cutting edge work in emerging technology and new media fields and holds vast potential for use at colleges around the world. Podcasting has the ability to impact both how and when students learn. The technology also effects how colleges and universities are able to communicate with both current and potential students. Only a handful of institutions of higher education around the world have ventured into this emerging technology and the University of the District of Columbia is at the forefront in this region.

The term "podcasting" emerged in 2004 when people linked together the words "iPod" and "broadcasting." Podcasts are audio files that can be incorporated into classroom and web-based instruction to

keep students abreast of the latest technology, course information, or university news. Podcasts keep students excited and engaged with learning and facilitate new pedagogy for faculty. In fact, podcasting is growing faster than blogging and offers greater potential for reaching students in compelling and entertaining ways.

One of the unique features of this type of technology is that as people subscribe to the host site, audio files can be automatically delivered and stored on a listener's device and played at any time. In essence students will have the ability to take these audio course support files with them and listen to them where ever, when ever, and as often as they like.

In fact, anyone who can use the internet can download podcasts. The potential use of podcasting on and for college and college bound students is enormous.

What is a podcast? A podcast is audio that someone creates in the MP3 format and makes available on a website for downloading. It is the audio version of the blog. The audio file can contain the spoken word as well as music. Podcasts can be created for and on computers with both PC and MacIntosh operating systems, and can be retrieved by using any web-connected computer that can link to a webpage. Podcasts can be stored on an iPod or MP3 player. Currently, most of the podcast content available to listeners is free and generally includes talk radio, music shows, interviews, speeches, and news. With the launch of this podcast, Dr. Harkness is demonstrating a wider range of application for academic use.

With the rise of technology and web-based instruction on college campuses, greater opportunities exist to bring cutting edge technology into the classroom to lift students up to the competitive edge. University of the District of Columbia students will be exposed to this cutting edge technology starting in the fall 2005 semester. Most of today's young students embrace technological change and are eager to learn how to use the most advanced technologies and media. It is estimated that there are six to seven million Americans over the age of 18 who have currently downloaded internet broadcasts on to portable listening devices. This media will be a new means to attract and retain students and hold students attention as they construct knowledge.

Dr. Harkness was able to complete this project with the help of a summer research grant provided by the University of the District of Columbia Center for Academic Technology Support (CATS) in the Learning Resources Division.

If you would like to access this podcast, visit http://podcast.udc.edu/sharkness.

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The University of the District of Columbia is the sole public source for accessible, inclusive, affordable, and comprehensive public higher education in the District of Columbia and provides additional life-long learning opportunities. The University delivers quality instruction and uses student-centered approaches to empower and benefit both individuals and its local communities. The University, an urban land grant institution, is a very diverse community, a gateway to the world, and a significant investment engine for the District of Columbia. The University is located at 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, and is conveniently located at the Van Ness/UDC stop on the Red Line of Metro. For more information on other University activities, contact Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications and University Spokesman at (202) 274-5685 or visit the University's web site at **www.udc.edu.**

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