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Message from Dean Mohamad Sepehri



While the chapter on the 2016 calendar is closed, we are looking forward to 2017 with great anticipation, aspiration, and hope. Reflecting back on 2016, by all accounts, SBPA had a very good and successful year that laid out the foundations for a bright and exciting future ahead of us. Our glass is definitely half-full and we have all the intentions to fill it up to the rim. Our achievements and accomplishments can be attributed to our teamwork and collaborative power. I could not have been more proud of faculty and staff for their commitments and dedication to make the School and the University a better place for students and for all of us.

SBPA faculty continued to engage in professional development and scholarship. The faculty participated in academic and professional forums, presented papers and topics, published books, and prepared groups of students for various national contests and competitions. Three top-notch faculty in accounting and finance joined the team, boosting the quality and diversity of our faculty. Both undergraduate and graduate core curriculums were reviewed and revised to reflect the modern business management practices and requirements. SBPA received a competitive scholarship award from Presidential Round Table (PRT). We also honored other scholarship award recipients and recognized the sponsors for each award. Thanks to our TEDD (Technology Enhanced Development & Delivery) specialists, we updated our classroom and office technology to be at par with the best and most advanced in the nation. The faculty and SBPA continued to receive several grants, including the PATH and POWER grants to exceed \$3,000,000. Last, but not least, I am thankful for the strong support and dedication of the Executive Advisory Board (EAB) for their care, counseling, and guidance. We updated some of the policy and strategic initiatives and we created a succession plan to safeguard the continuity of the Board. I am also excited about two new prominent members joining the EAB in January 2017.

SBPA has achieved incredible milestones and we envision a thriving landscape and exciting road to progress ahead of us. Together, we are building the momentum to superior program offerings, exceptional faculty, first-rate staff, and the finest students graduating from our programs.

Happy New Year,
Dean Mo

Dean Sepehri's (Dean Mo) Town Hall Meeting



To kick off the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester on September 22nd, the School of Business and Public Administration hosted a successful Dean's Town Hall Meeting. The town hall meeting included a dialogue between the Dean, students, and the Dean's executive team. In attendance were other administrative staff and faculty members. The SBPA team addressed inquiries and enlightened students of the many services and professional workshops available to make their journey here at UDC smoother. Dean Mo inquired from the students a list of things they deemed necessary to change and a promise was made to fulfill them. A central topic of discussion was SBPA's renewed commitment in gaining AACSB accreditation – an elite accreditation for business schools. The new SBPA's assigned Career

Counselor, Ms. Takisha Wilson, was invited to the town hall meeting where she discussed internships and jobs opportunities for our students. The SBPA made it a duty to sound accolades for students who had secured internships and employment.

The highlight for the evening was Accounting Senior, Alexander Venzor. After over coming adversity, he has maintained a 4.0 GPA. He is the President of the University's most active organization, the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA), and one of the most sought after recruits of the country's top accounting firms. As such, in January, Alexander will be joining one of the top accounting firms in the country, Price Water House Cooper as an accountant. Alexander has reminded us once again that from the ashes, the firebird will rise.



ACBSP Region 2 Conference



SBPA HOSTED THE 25TH ANNUAL EASTERN COUNCIL OF BUSINESS SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS (ECBSP) REGION 2 MEETING on November 4 and 5. There were over 65 participants from universities from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and DC. The conference was kicked off with a panel discussion on "Preparing Students for Career Success" discussing several universities and community colleges' professional development programs. In addition to the ECBSP business meeting, 6 workshops were presented by faculty and students. Dr. Malva Reid was elected to serve on the new ECSP Advisory Board for a 3-year term.



Distinguished Speaker Series

Tamon George



The School of Business and Public Administration welcomed alumnus Tamon George, Co-Founder and Director of Content Strategy at The Creative Theory, as the Fall Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series in October. Tamon George, originally from Canada, graduated from the MBA program in 2015. With no offers on the table, despite being a finalist for many Fortune 500 companies, Tamon decided to focus on his passion for photography. When most small businesses fail within the first five years, he became a co-founder of a successful content marketing firm, *Creative Theory*, securing clients such as Nike, H&M, REI, GQ, Grey Goose, Frank and Oak, Hennessey, Hugh and Crye, Kit and Ace, Costal, EyeBuyDirect, among others. To kick off his presentation, he asked participants to text “Why not me?” to someone who was dear to them.

If that was any indication as to how profound the session was going to be, they would have sent the text to themselves. For many, Tamon brought to light the concept that we are all deserving of any good thing that comes our way. We are all deserving of opportunities that will allow us to change the landscape of our lives and those in our communities. We owe it to ourselves to be bold, daring and unapologetic in being who we are and sharing our gifts with others. It is in that boldness that the universe will be forced to pay



attention and bend to our very desires. His desired was to transform lives through visual art. That energy created a magnetic force that attracted others to his gifts. Now, Fortune 500 companies pay his firm to do what he was destined to do – live life to the fullest through the business of art. Mr. George has been featured in Articles of Style, DCityStyle, Washingtonian Magazine, and on a Mercedes Benz Commercial for the platform he created on Instagram revolutionizing the way we see business.



Learn more Creative Theory at www.creativetheory.agency

MPA Journey to NASPAA Accreditation

The School of Business and Public Administration submitted its Self-Study Report on August 15, 2016 to the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). NASPAA is the recognized global accreditor of master's degree programs in these fields. They are the global standard for public service education with more than 300 members in the U.S. and in 14 countries. The NASPAA Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA) Committee reviewed 38 self-study reports this year during the NASPAA Conference in October. SBPA MADE THE CUT!!!! SBPA has been invited to proceed with the Site-Visit, which will happen March 27 - 29 2017. We will keep you posted of any updates.

Presidential Round Table Entrepreneur Scholarship Award

On behalf of the School of Business and Public Administration, Dean Mohamad (Mo) Sepehri was presented with the Osborne A. Payne 2016 PRT (President's RoundTable) Entrepreneur Scholarship Award for \$5,000 on Saturday, November 5, 2016. The PRT was founded in 1983 for the purpose of advancing Black business growth in the region. It is a committed and a result-driven organization that consists of 19 African American entrepreneurs who oversee and control assets exceeding \$1.1 billion and employ more than 1,750 workers in the Metropolitan area. The School of Business and Public Administration has been a recipient of this award for the past three years.

SBPA Goes International

Keynotes in London



Dean Mo Sepehri was the invited keynote speaker at the Economics, Finance & International Business Conference in London in July. The conference is a forum for international researchers and scholars as well as economic and financial institutions. Dean Mo delivered a speech on **Globalization, Economic Integration, and the Nation State**.

The focus of the speech was on the shift towards a more integrated and interdependent world economies and moving away from self-contained national economies. He addressed the issues and concerns regarding continued effect of the internationalization of the world framework, challenging the “sovereignty”, and, fundamentally altering the nation-states by the process of globalization. The topic was especially timely, as the presentation coincided with the outcome of the BREXIT vote in Great Britain.

Also, Dean Mo was the “Distinguished” scholar at the conference and he presented a research paper on: **Analytics for Investment Decision: An Empirical Study of Less Diversified Portfolios**. The objective of the study was to utilize the maximization method to construct an optimal portfolio for small business investors who may be holding less-diversified portfolios due to high transaction costs. The empirical results and the efficient frontier both show that the performance of the constructed portfolio outperforms the three major U.S. indices.



Panelist in Columbia



Assistant Dean of Students, Racquel Brown Gaston, Esq., was invited by the *Congreso Internacional de la Diáspora Africana de Habla Hispana* (COINDAH) to speak at their Higher Education, Leadership, and Transformation for Progress conference in November. COINDAH is a non-governmental organization in the city of Santiago de Cali, Colombia. Their mission seeks to make the entire Spanish-speaking African diaspora visible and to contribute in a committed way to show the new face of Africa, carrying out a serious of work.

Her presentation during a panel session on Education and Opportunities in the Form of Leaders, inspired Afro-Colombian students from in and around Cali to seriously consider the possibility of learning a new language and studying abroad and the potential impact for their future, their families, and their communities. Her visit opened the door for a potential UDC/SBPA partnership with three universities from Colombia



SBPA Welcomes New Members to the Executive Board of Advisors

John Darvish



A man who literally has the automobile business in his blood, John Darvish is a second generation automotive executive who started working in his father's first dealership, Glenmont Chrysler Plymouth in Wheaton, MD at age 6 in the parts department. There was no question that this was going to be John's life's work. In 1993, after graduating from high school, John enrolled in Northwood University's Automotive Marketing Program. Immediately upon completion of Northwood's Automotive Marketing Program, John put what he learned in college to work by selling cars for his father at DARCARS where he conceived the DARCARS Selling System. Proven to work, the DARCARS Selling System was implemented across the entire organization and is still followed today. John has a keen understanding for people and what they want.

John is a graduate of the NADA Dealer Academy. He has been asked to speak at many industry conferences in the US and overseas.

An advocate of lifelong-learning, John has obtained a boat captain's license, a pilot's license, and recently completed testing and training for his commercial license to fly jet aircrafts. John has three children and lives in Washington, DC.

Calvin Rice



Calvin Rice is a Sr. Operations Manager with General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), a trusted systems integrator providing information technology (IT), systems engineering and professional services to customers in the defense, federal civilian government, health, homeland security, intelligence, state and local government and commercial sectors. Calvin serves as a catalyst for communications, leadership, risk management, and business development within the Defense community. With 20 years of experience in the IT industry, he is responsible for the successful completion of all tasks in his assigned program area including technical work, reporting, staff supervision, financial, and business development activities.

In 2014, Calvin was selected to work on a cross-functional project team with the Estonia's Cyber Defense League, which is a collaborative partnership between the public and private sector. The project examined how the public and private sectors worked together to defend against cyber-attacks.

Calvin graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Procurement and Public Contracting. He also holds an Executive MBA from the George Washington University.

Calvin is a lifetime member of the UDC National Alumni Society. As an undergraduate student, he participated in multiple activities and is an active champion for UDC throughout the community. On campus, Calvin was a member of Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, the Honda All-Star Team (academic challenge). He is a champion for the School of Business and Public Administration and now actively mentors UDC students. In addition to Calvin's service to UDC, he is also an avid champion of social justice. He volunteers and supports community organizations such as Martha's Table, We Feed Our People and Project Give Back, to name a few.

Calvin is also a proud veteran of the United States Coast Guard.

Beyond The Classroom - Experiential Learning!

A Trip to the Federal Reserve Board



Dr. Alex Tan, Associate Professor of Finance from the School of Business and Public Administration, led a group of fourteen students to explore the Federal Reserve.

The group began the tour with an introduction of the history of the building and of the Federal Reserve as they walked across the various hallways of the historic building. The students were fascinated by how majestic it felt inside the building. A few stops were made along the way in the rooms, two of which warrant special mention. The first was a mini-library where the Board of Governors would use during their breaks at the meetings. This room was the original meeting venue for the Board of Governors meetings.

The tour concluded in the second room, a boardroom where the current Board of Governor meetings are held. A video was shown to introduce the Federal Reserve System, which includes the twelve Federal Reserve Banks and its functions. Their visit ended with every one receiving a parting gift: a pack of shredded currency worth approximately \$364. Dr. Tan added, I believe everybody learned something that day. Dr. Tan did!



Net Impact 2016 National Conference



Net Impact 2016 conference was held from November 3-5 2016, in Philadelphia, PA. Nearly 2,500 students and professionals attended the conference. The goals of the workshops were to meet with recruiters, build skills, and to help assist students and professionals find careers with impact. These objectives largely coincided with Net Impact's organizational mission, which is to mobilize future generations to use their skills and careers to facilitate transformational social and environmental change.

Participation at the conference was primarily accomplished by engaging in conversations about the current trends in sustainability and the role young professors play into changing the socioeconomic environment as well as green technology. The officers of the UDC chapter that attended focused predominantly on conversations and workshops regarding racial equity. This included an HBCU roundtable discussion, where UDC has made connections with other chapters such as Howard University and Spelman College.

Key Note Speakers included ground-breaking entrepreneurs, corporate leaders,, and non-profit visionaries transforming the world in inspiring ways. Among these were the CEO of Walmart, Doug McMillion, CEO of Etsy, Chad Dickerson, CEO and Founder of the Hult Prize Foundation, Ahmad Ashkar, and the Special Assistant to the President, Michael Smith.

Additionally, students had the opportunity to network with Fortune 500 recruiters at the Career Expo. Featured firms included KPMG, Toyota, Southwest Airlines, Johnson & Johnson, Monsanto, Unilever, IBM, Intel, Symantec, The Walt Disney Company, 3M, Dell, Hewlett Packard, General Mills, Exxon Mobil, and Wal Mart.

"We believe that the vision of the University of the District of Columbia, *"to empower its graduates to be critical and creative thinkers, problem solvers, effective communicators, and engaged, service-driven leaders in the workforce and beyond,"* parallels that of Net Impact.

As student leaders on our campus, we see the value of attending the national conference each year, and hope that the university continues to sponsor students in the future.



College Fed Challenge



On October 28, 2016, Dr. Hurwitz students participated in the 2016 College Fed Challenge Academic Competition at Towson University. The SBPA team was composed of the following students: Ayesha Bilal, Yen Phung Vo, Ann-Sophie Kouadio-IV, Alexander Murillo Merino and Alexander Venzor. The competition is intended for students to learn about the U.S. Economy, the functions of the Federal Reserve, and the implementation of the monetary policy. For twenty minutes our team presented in front of Federal Reserve judges about inflation, debt, treasury interest rates and labor market. Along with other domestic indicators such as 30-year mortgage rates, fuel prices, VIX index, and consumer sentiment index of other Universities.

The student's participation in the College Fed Challenge competition was an educationally challenging and rewarding experience.

ARNOVA Conference

Dr. Sylvia Benatti attended the 45th Association for Research in Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Annual Conference from November 17-19, 2016 in Washington, DC. Four of our MPA students, Mahesh Nepal, Ashley Lipps, Mark Wills, and Alyce McFarland, who are pursuing the Certified Nonprofit Profession (CNP) credential volunteered for the ARNOVA conference. In return, they were able to attend the conference complimentary. It was a great learning experience for our students.

Dr. Benatti attended workshops and sessions focused on the role of Big Data in the Nonprofit Sector, attending sessions such as Big Data in Nonprofit Research and New Approaches to Nonprofit Measurement and Impact. Dr. Benatti also served as a facilitator for the pre-conference joint forum of ARNOVA and the Alliance for Nonprofit Management. The goal of the forum was to integrate research to practice and practice to research. Dr. Benatti is a past Chair of the ARNOVA Pracademics Section dedicated on encouraging researchers to translate their findings to enable nonprofit organizations to apply the outcomes and improve the capacity of the nonprofit sector.

SBPA Student Spotlight

Meet Alexander Venzor Q & A



Note from the Editor:

Alexander Venzor finished his accounting degree with a 4.0 GPA in December 2016. Alexander was the President of the NABA UDC Chapter and has been on the NABA board for 3 years. Alexander received several scholarships including the NABA GWSCPA scholarship and The Carlyle Group Scholarship. He is a member of Delta Mu Delta and National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He has accepted a full time offer from PwC, one of the BIG 4 Accounting Firms.

Q. Tell me a little bit about yourself.

A. My name is Alexander Venzor. I am senior accounting major and I will be graduat[ing] in December 2016. I came to UDC as a returning student like many students here at the university. I actually went to Howard in 2000...16 years ago but after a year I had to drop out to work full time. My mother got sick so I had to start working. I started working at Häagen-Dazs for a franchised owner and I moved all the way up to regional manager and was running 8 stores. I got to the point where I knew I wanted something else for myself and at the moment I decided to return back to school. I looked up different schools and UDC made the most sense because they had the classes I wanted and the times I wanted so I came to UDC the spring of 2013. I been here at UDC School of Business and Public Administration and still working with the same company and now I am about to graduate and finally do what I want to do which is accounting.

Q. What did you want to be or aspired to be when you were growing up?

A. I think it changes for me every month (chuckles), when I was a kid at one point I wanted to be an actor, a doctor, a lawyer I think the last thing I thought I was going to be doing is being an accountant. I don't even think I knew what it was at that point. I think it was all the things you saw on TV: a doctor, lawyer, or an actor but definitely not an accountant. It is always those big titles you see as a kid.

Q. Describe the School of Business and Public Administration in one word.

A. Flexible.

Q. Why?

A. I just think the staff, the professors they can work with you with your schedule. They are used to seeing students who work full time especially here at UDC. I believe my time here everyone has been super flexible they been able to work around my schedule. [For example], Dr. Reid (Associate Dean) would even come on Saturday when we had something for NABA. The professors are very flexible and make it possible for students who work and have other life responsibilities and still succeed in school and be very active because of that flexibility.

Q. So, what inspires you?

A. There are several things that inspire me. I think one of the things is that neither of my parents graduated. They didn't even graduate from high school. My dad has a first grade education and my mom has like a six grade education. Knowing that they came here...my dad came from Mexico and my mom came from the Dominican Republic. Just knowing that they came here for a better life for themselves and their kids and knowing that their biggest thing was education. They always wanted us to get educated. When I originally stop going to school to work it really broke my mom's heart even though she knew it was something I had to do at that point. So just coming back and finishing and getting my education is largely a great inspiration from my parents. My parents are my biggest inspiration.

Q. Anything or anyone else you would like to add?

A. Another thing I think is really self-motivation. I want to be the best I can be at anything I do. I want to be able to

compete with the best. So, that has been another driving force. Since I been at SBPA I have always been super competitive in all my classes to be the best you know? Even if that means sleeping one or two hours so I may be able to study. Yeah. Definitely. The self-motivation, is part of inspiration the whole notion of being the best you could be.

Q. Where do you see yourself in 5-years from now?

A. So five years from now... I have two scenario options, that I already calculated... scenario one: I am going to start working at Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) in January. In five years, I would like to become a manager which, is a pretty fast track for a manager it's usually about seven years so that's scenario one seeing myself as a manager at PwC. Scenario two: if I see public accounting is not for me in 2-3 years I definitely want to go and get my Ph.D and become an accounting professor. So, in five years if I am not a manager I will enroll in a Ph.D program.

Q. What is your most fond memory here at the School of Business and Public Administration?

A. I have so many. I have a couple that really stand out but one that stood out the most was the first time that I was trying to get an internship at PwC. I was super nervous. I don't ever think I had a super professional interview and I didn't know what to expect. The professors here were just amazing. The Associate Dean Dr. Reid would literally schedule mock interviews with me... I did 5 with her! She would make me come dress up and make it feel as if it was a real interview and it definitely did prepared me. Within that same scope other professors were doing the same things for me. Professor Darien Green, Professor Foster, Professor Salmon with give me advice such in the interview they will ask you this and this is the way you could answer it and present yourself. They will give me pep talks and remind me that I was more than qualify and know that I could do it. At that point, I was really doubting myself, they gave me that extra push... "like you know you can do it!"

Another one that really stands out is the time I was offered the internship with PwC something came up that I had to have letters from professors. When I was younger... there was something in my background check that needed explaining. Two of my professors wrote a letter for me literally when I read the letters tears came down my eyes. I didn't know that they thought so highly of me which, also made me believe in myself even more.

Q. Any advice you would like to give to current and future SBPA students?

A. Yes. One of the main advice I will give current and future SBPA students is to be active in school activities. I remember the first time I went for an interview for an internship and I didn't get it and one of the feedbacks I received was that I wasn't really active in the school. At that point, I was working so much that I couldn't be active so what I actually did I reduced my schedule at work and I became active and took future internships. Definitely join different clubs and organizations, Delta Mu Delta, of course NABA, the Entrepreneurship Club anything you can get yourself involved in but not only join the clubs but get a leadership position in the club that's a big deal. We just went to NABA Eastern Region Conference and almost everyone that was an officer got interviews. Leadership opportunities are important.

Another thing is to keep your grades up. They say grades aren't that important but if your GPA is lower that a certain number a lot of companies won't look at you. So you have to keep your grades up. Also, the resources here, classes are small you can actually develop real relationships with your professors and classmates. You get to network. Hold conversations with professionals and develop that one-on-one with professors who have so much experience. I said previously, a lot of these professors got to know me one-on-one. Go to office hours. I walk around and I see professors in their office and it's empty and then you have students complaining but don't take that initiative to talk to their professors. I would go to office hours even if I knew the material I just wanted to develop those one-on-one relationships with professors.

The last advice, the majority of our students work. It is understandable and a lot of times they say they can't do stuff because of work but why are they in school then? Is it because they want to get a better job? Do they want to move to a different position? So, sometimes you have to take that risk now if the job you have now is not what you want and you want something else you should concentrate more in school. You have to set your priorities. That is what I did in my job. I took a pay cut worked less hours and I was struggling for a couple of years in terms of finance but in the long run it put me in the position that I am in now. You really have to evaluate your situation and see what you want and if you a better job or different job than maybe concentrating in school will get you there.

Q. What are you known for?



A. *[One thing comes to mind], I am known for is showing up. If I say I am going to do something I'll do it. If there is an event and I say I am going to be there I am going to be there. So, I am definitely known for being consistent and being a person of their word. It takes you a long way. And being the same person everywhere if I am silly around you I will be silly around a professional. Be the same person everywhere, showing up, keeping my word, and being a top achiever being my best that's what I am known for no matter where I came from.*

Q. *What's the most interesting thing about you that we wouldn't learn from your resume alone?*

A. *There are a couple of things. One thing that a lot of people don't know about me even though this year I sort of slack off is that I am a big runner. I've done about 3-4 full marathons and about 8-9 half marathons especially when I first came to UDC I was at my peak. I was running every day like 50 miles a week because I was training for a marathon. Another thing, on my spare time I love playing board games. My brothers and I play all the time. We are all super competitive. Oh, especially during Monopoly. I am a big chess player too.*

Q. *If you could meet any person dead or alive, who would it be?*

A. *When you first asked me the question so many names flashed across my head. I don't know why but the first name that came up was Edgar Allan Poe. I used to read a lot of his poems and I did a couple of papers on him. I think he would be an interesting person to talk to. He is kind of my type of guy a little crazy but super smart and creative. I would also like to hear him actually read "The Raven". Of course, other names that I thought about was MLK, Che Guevara, and Cesar Chavez.*

Q. *Those are all the questions I have for you, anything else you would like to add to the conversation?*

A. *The only thing I would add that I missed before was the great experience I had being part of the UDC Honda Campus All Stars Challenge and that experience was great. We competed with students from the whole country we went to nationals. We were a new team other teams have been practicing all year round, they have classes dedicated to that and recruit from High School. We just made the team last minute but we really study hard, long nights, on the weekends and we did really well in the local challenge that UDC hosted. We got to nationals we did good but our nerves got the best of us but it was a great experience we were able to compete with other great HBCU teams.*

There are many opportunities at UDC that students don't know of and most of the time is because they rush and leave right after class and they miss these opportunities.

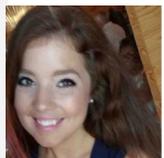
Congratulations!



Minowa Melvin is a self-driven Senior Accounting Major with a 3.75 GPA. She is very active on campus in organization like NABA, and is the receipt of several scholarships including AICPA and GWSCPA. She recently accepted an offer to start her career at Clifton Larson Allen in Fall 2017.



Ronel Fokou is a Senior Accounting Major with a 3.68 GPA and serves as SCREP Reporter for the NABA UDC Chapter. Ronel received the CPA Examination Preparation Software from Wiley, a \$2,500 value. He recently accepted an offer from KPMG, one of the BIG 4 Accounting Firms.



Angela Stroupe, a December 2016 SBPA graduate, was a Senior Accounting Major who served as Vice-President of the NABA UDC Chapter. Angela was also on the board of the Entrepreneurship Club and Net Impact. After several offers, Angela has recently accepted an offer with Baker Tilly starting in spring 2017.

2016 Scholarship Award Recognition Ceremony



On September 16, SBPA hosted its annual Scholarship Award Ceremony and dinner with Assistant Dean Gaston as Mistress of Ceremonies. SBPA honored 18 students for six scholarships categories, which ranged from \$1000 to \$5000. The scholarship donors came to celebrate the students and were joined by family and other honored guests. The School reminded its students of the importance of their courage and dedication exemplified through these scholarships. Melissa Israel from the College of Arts and Sciences could not have expressed it any better when she serenaded the room with "I rise," by Andra Day and "Hero," by Mariah Carey.



KPMG On Campus: Session on Professional Branding and Networking



The National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) UDC Chapter had the pleasure of hosting KPMG, one of the nation's Big 4 Public Accounting Firms, for an on campus session focused on professional branding and networking. The purpose of the session was to introduce business students to a BIG 4 Public Accounting Firm.

The event was held on Monday, October 24th at the UDC School of Business and Public and Administration, it attracted over 60 business students, both at the graduate and undergraduate level. Students also learned what firms look for in a candidate and the do's and don'ts when it comes to personal branding. This is the second consecutive year that the NABA UDC Chapter has welcomed KPMG, and look forward to future events with the firm. KPMG went over interview tips, dressing for success, soft skills, and networking. Students participated in a networking role-play, which showed the importance of networking.



UDC NBA - Ernst & Young (EY) Panel Discussion



On November 9, 2016, the UDC National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Chapter hosted a panel discussion event with Ernst & Young, one of the BIG 4 Accounting Firms. The Panel included: Moji Akinbolajo – Manager in the Advisory Services Practice; Desmond Ellis – Senior Manager in the Assurance Practice; and Kevin McFarlane – Senior Associate in the Government and Public Sector Practice. NABA President Alexander Venzor and Vice President Angela Stroupe asked preselected questions by accounting and business students to the panelists. The panel's purpose was to allow students to hear firsthand experiences from minority professionals ranging from senior managers and associates in their professional careers. The panelists talked about different topics from their personal journeys, transition from school to the work place, working in public accounting, and much more. Students learned about successes and challenges professionals in the accounting industry face. Students expanded their network by meeting Managers from EY, which will be monumental in opening doors to jobs in the future.



Capital One Grant

For the third consecutive year, the Entrepreneurship Club (E-Club) of SBPA was successful in obtaining a grant from Capital One for its community participation and outreach initiatives to pursue the advancement of entrepreneurship ideals. In the past, the grant has supported a successful business plan competition and thought leader workshops with expert panelists discussing topics such as raising capital, growing your idea to scale, and challenges confronting female entrepreneurs. The Entrepreneurship Club is arranging on- and off-campus thought leader workshops especially in Wards 7 & 8 this upcoming year.

The Entrepreneurship Club advisors are Dr. Wayne Curtis and Dr. Malva Reid

SBPA in the Community



On Thanksgiving, current and alumni UDC SBPA NABA members volunteered at the Church of the Pilgrims in DC. Students cooked and served Thanksgiving dinner to 11 homeless shelter residents. Students had dinner with the residents and carried on engaging conversations. The volunteer experience was humbling and fulfilling. This service opportunity embodied NABA's slogan, "lifting as we climb"

NABA Eastern Region Conference



The University of the District of Columbia sponsored 14 SBPA NABA student members to attend the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Eastern Region Student Conference (ERSC) in Pittsburg, PA from September 29 through October 1, 2016. The conference included two and one-half days of workshops, seminars, networking events, on-site interviews which were all designed to prepare minority students in accounting and financial management disciplines. Students that attended the conference were able to learn how to prep for the CPA exam, participate in personal developmental workshops, and gained a better understanding of leadership and social responsibilities. Members were able to network with other NABA student members and professionals across the East Coast. Our students took advantage of the resume review and mock interview sessions which lead to multiple site interviews and several job offers.

SBPA Alumni Spotlight

Gabriel J. Christian, Esq.



Gabriel Christian, Esq., believes that the University of the District of Columbia was an excellent choice for his college education. Mr. Christian's business school education at UDC prepared him well for his law school studies at Georgetown where he graduate in less than 3 years. He highly recommends UDC as a school of choice for an undergraduate education.

Today, Gabriel J. Christian is the principal of the law firm Gabriel J. Christian & Associates, LLC, in Bowie, MD. A native of Dominica, Mr. Christian taught history at his alma maters, the Dominica Grammar School and Sixth Form College before attending the University of the District of Columbia School of Business and Public Management in Washington, DC where he graduated with a BBA in Procurement and Public Contracting in 1986. Mr. Christian studied law at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC, graduating with the degree of Juris Doctor in 1991. Mr. Christian was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1991 and is also a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

Mr. Christian has distinguished himself as a Caribbean community leader in the Washington DC metropolitan area and is an active civic leader in Maryland. In 2007, Gov. Martin O'Malley, governor of the State of Maryland, appointed Mr. Christian to the position of Judicial Commissioner, Maryland Court of Appeals.

Alongside his long time collaborator and co-founder of Pont Casse Press, Canadian Judge Irving W. Andre, Mr. Christian has authored and co-authored a number of books on Caribbean history, society and politics: *In Search of Eden: Dominica, The Travails of a Caribbean Mini-State* (1992); *Rain on a Tin Roof* (1999); *In Search of Eden: Essays on Dominican History* (2002). *Death by Fire: The Explosive Story of the 1963 Carnival Tragedy* (2007); *For King & Country: The Service & Sacrifice of the Dominican Soldier* (2008); *For King & Country: The Service & Sacrifice of the British West Indian Soldier* (2009); and *Mamo! The Life & Times of Dame Mary Eugenia Charles* (2010).

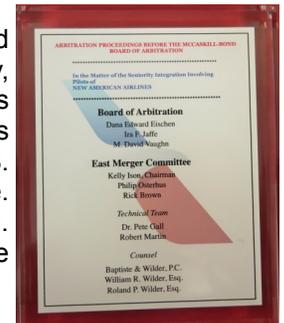
SBPA Faculty Spotlight

Michael Tannen



In the past two months, Dr. Tannen completed work as an expert witness and advisor to the (former) USAirways pilot group in their proposal to the American Airlines Arbitration panel regarding the appropriate placement in the integrated seniority list of pilots involved in the merger of USAirways, America West, and American Airlines. Dr. Tannen has been involved in these activities since the summer of 2015, and participated in the final arbitration proceedings held in Washington DC earlier this year. He presented quantitative evidence and oral testimony supporting, what he argued, was the most equitable integrated list of pilots from the three involved carriers. His oral and written testimony were based upon the use of concepts and techniques from courses taught in the School of Business and Public Administration, particularly those related to Decision Theory (probability and decision analysis under risk), and Statistics (particularly inferential statistics such as correlation analysis, financial spreadsheet modeling and analysis, and of course, collective bargaining).

This last activity was one of the last important steps to be completed before the entire merger could be consummated. Seniority placement determines a pilots bidding rights to what routes to fly, what type of plane to pilot (all of which affect pay), and where to domicile. Commercial airlines, as one of the most heavily unionized industry in America, have been characterized by numerous actual and failed mergers and acquisitions since passage of the Airline Deregulation Act in 1978. Agreement between the labor parties on seniority rights, particularly of critical employees – i.e. pilots, has been shown to be a key requirement of the success of any proposed merger/acquisition. Often, the parties cannot agree and the ultimate decision is determined by a single outside negotiator or in this case, an arbitration panel with 3 members.



SBPA Welcomes New Faculty



Dr. Catalina Hurwitz

Dr. Catalina Hurwitz is an Assistant Professor of Finance at the University of the District of Columbia. She currently teaches Investments, Financial Institutions/ Capital Markets, and International Finance in the graduate and undergraduate curriculums. Dr. Hurwitz worked for nine years in a highly quantitative position in healthcare.

Catalina is a graduate of Florida International University with a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Finance. She also has a Master Degree in Computer Science from Northeastern Illinois University. Her teaching experience includes Commercial Bank Management, Securities Analysis, Financial Risk Management and Intermediate Finance. She has been inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma premier honor society recognizing business excellence.

Her current research focuses on corporate policies, corporate governance, and investments. Dr. Hurwitz has presented her papers at several academic meetings, including American Real Estate Society, Southern Finance Association and Global Finance Association.



Dr. Alex Tan

Dr. Tih Koon (Alex) Tan is an Associate Professor of Finance in the School of Business & Public Administration (SBPA). Prior to joining UDC, he was with John H. Sykes College of Business at The University of Tampa for six years. He has also taught at Shenzhen University in China.

Alex holds a B.A. in Finance and two Master's degrees in Economics and in Agribusiness from Washington State University (WSU). He earned his Ph.D. in Finance from the University of Central Florida in 2010. He has been inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma premier honor society recognizing business excellence.

Alex has extensive teaching experience in Finance-related courses, including Financial Management, Financial Models, and International Finance/Economics. His research interests include corporate finance, governance, executive compensation, international finance, and etc.

Alex has been active in scholarly research and forums. He has presented at the Southern Finance Association, the Southwestern Finance Association, the Eastern Finance Association, the Midwest Finance Association, and the Decision Sciences Institute. He has also published in the *Journal of Finance and Accountancy*, *The International Journal of Business and Finance Research*, the *Journal of International Business and Economics*. Two of his most recent articles will appear in the *Journal of Financial Education* and the *Review of Accounting and Finance*.



Dr. Young Park

Dr. Young Park is an associate professor of accounting, holding a Ph.D. degree in Accounting from University of Pittsburgh and an MBA degree from University of Iowa. He is also a private investor, a business consultant, and an auditor for small business entities.

He has taught undergraduate/graduate courses for financial accounting, intermediate accounting, advanced accounting, cost accounting, managerial accounting, strategic management accounting, financial statement analysis, international accounting, and auditing.

He has diverse research interest in financial accounting, managerial accounting, and auditing area. Specifically, his research interest lies in auditing, corporate governance, disclosure and capital markets, auditor litigation, incentive contracts & performance evaluation, and governmental accounting & not-profit accounting.

AIBSE Conference

In November, Dr. Tannen participated in the AIB Conference held in Tampa, Fl. He attended sessions on various aspects of International Business including new academic approaches to dealing with evolving issues and problems, and he also presented his own research paper dealing with the importance of the concept and measurement of multifactor productivity to organizations seeking to improve their efficiency and profitability. He believes his research shows, for the first time, a clear linkage between productivity so measured and several indicators of organizational efficiency and profitability in the short, intermediate and long runs. The paper was well received by the attendees in his session that the Assistant Editor of a journal approached him to submit his paper for likely publication.

He also addressed participants in the closing session of the Conference, welcoming them to attend next year's conference, which will be held at the **University of the District of Columbia**.

NASPAA Conference

Dr. Sylvia Benatti attended the NASPAA pre-conference Accreditation Institute, Advanced and the Conference on Grassroots Globalization: Teaching Good Governance and Values in a Connected World. Attending the Accreditation Institute, Advanced was critical and very

helpful in preparing for our MPA accreditation Site-Visit that will happen in Spring 2017. The sessions she attended are very relevant to our UDC MPA; "Research findings on Public and Nonprofit Management: How much do the sectors overlap" and "In digital a New Critical Competency for Public Affairs and Policy?" to name a few.

Faculty Publication

Anyu, Ndumbe Julius: "THE ROLE PLAYED BY DIPLOMACY IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE BAKASSI CONFLICT" was published in the *International Journal of Social Science and Economic Research* in the ISSN: 2455-8834 Volume:01, Issue:10 November 2016. www.ijsser.org Copyright © IJSSER 2016

Anyu, Ndumbe Julius: "SOLAR ENERGY FROM THE SAHARA SUN TO POWER EUROPE: THE DESERTEC PROJECT" has been accepted for publishing in the *International Journal of Organizational Innovation*. The article will be published in the issue of the journal due **January 1, 2017**.

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