Bill Cosby “Calls Out” at UDC

Bill Cosby took the University onto center stage when he brought his call out of the community to the UDC Auditorium Tuesday night. Dr. Pollard offered greetings from the University to the audience of parents, grandparents, care providers and concerned citizens at the beginning of each session. Cosby’s outreach attracted Dorothy Height and 1,500 other guests to two sessions in the auditorium.

With the help of distinguished panelists, Dr. Cosby emphasized the importance of social responsibility and urged his audience to keep a vigilant eye on their children. The event drew favorable worldwide media attention to the University. (Photos courtesy of Charles Butler)
UDC Cable to Air 29th Commencement Convocation

UDC Cable, the University of the District of Columbia’s own television operation, will be airing the 29th Annual Commencement Convocation, which was conducted last Saturday, May 13, 2006 at the Verizon Center in downtown Washington DC. It is permissible to record the event for private use. The program will air only in the District on Comcast Cable Channel 98 and RCN Cable Channel 19 at the following times:

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Hester to Enter National Youth Sports Hall of Fame

The Agricultural Experiment Station is proud to announce that Mrs. Lucille Hester, Director for the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) here at the University, will be inducted into the “National Youth Sports Hall of Fame” on Friday, May 12, 2006, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Other inductees are Arthur Ashe, Jr., the Honorable Birch Bayh and Melvin Gray, Jr.

The National Youth Sports Program annually provides, for economically disadvantaged youth, an opportunity to benefit from resources made available by local colleges and universities. NYSP is an instructional program that uses sports instruction and competition as a vehicle for self-esteem and respect.

Mrs. Hester, Director of our NYSP, has provided our youth with opportunities that help them develop and strengthen relationships with both peers and adults; enhance their self-esteem through organized sports; and increase their academic and personal skills through the educational components of the NYSP. This program has also provided many of the youth with their first instruction in substance abuse prevention, career education, as well as a comprehensive medical examination. Additionally, many of the youth receive their first introduction to a college or university campus from the inside.

We’d like to commend Mrs. Hester for her tireless efforts, devotion and commitment to providing programming to the underserved youth in our community.
An Open Letter of Appreciation to UDC Faculty & Staff

We in the Office of Development offer sincere thanks for all of your support, participation and partnership over the past year. We could not have made it this far without you and we look forward to and encourage your continuing participation with us. Our successes are the university’s – and our students’ – successes.

Under the leadership of Dr. Bobby Austin, Vice President, University Relations & Communications, we met a number of milestones. With your help, the Office of Development was produced memorable events and reached out to many current and new UDC supporters. Our efforts included:

- Faculty & Staff Appreciation Reception
- Back to School BBQ
- Thank-a-Thon
- Coffee Break/Meet n Greet
- UDC Neighbor
- Development Street Team

This fall, we look forward to celebrating your gifts and generosity as we did in the past and plan to hold our Appreciation Reception in September. In the meantime, feel free to drop by, send us a note, or phone us. If you or someone you know would like to make a gift to the UDC Foundation, please contact us. We are especially eager to learn about potential alumni donors. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Susan A. Rosenbaum  
Consultant, Office of Development  
Edna King, Advancement Services Specialist  
Office of Development/UDC Foundation, Inc.  
Okolo Thomas-Toure, Development Assistant  
Office of Development

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Assessment Scholars Academy

An Assessment Scholars Academy took place May 15th and May 16th, 2006, in the E-Lab, Library Building 41, Room 104. Twenty-eight faculty and administrators were accepted to attend and participate in this professional development opportunity. The academy drew faculty from various disciplines and colleges within the UDC institution. Lively discussion and presentations of best practices and the scholarship of teaching and learning ensued. Participants worked to develop and expand their assessment activities which included assessment of courses, programs, pedagogy, and services. The attending scholars will serve
Professor Harkness and Student Hosted at the Danish Embassy

On May 1, 2006, the Danish Embassy hosted representatives from Fairfax County’s Department of Systems Management and Interfaith Liaison Office and from the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, including Imam Muhammad Magid, a student of Political Science here at the University, and his professor Dr. Suzan J. Harkness. The representatives offered their insight on promoting integration and dealing with civil and social issues through strengthening and facilitating community and interfaith partnerships. The briefing was offered to visiting members of the Danish Union of Municipal Social Directors and The Central Board of Children and Culture Organization in Denmark. The visitors were on a study tour to Washington D.C. and New York with a view to comparing issues facing local level governments.

Visiting the Embassy were (from left) Ahman M. Khatis (ADAMS), Maggie Scott and Sandra Chisholm (Interfaith Liaison Office), The Reverend Ronald F. Christian (Chairman of Fairfax County Faith Communities in Action), Imam Muhammad Magid (ADAMS), Margo Keiley and David Ellis (Dept. of Systems Management) and Suzan Harkness (Dept. of Urban Affairs, Social Sciences & Social Work).

We should not have to say it – but
DON’T LITTER!!!

Help keep our University community and surrounding neighborhoods beautiful by being litter free! We can minimize the cause and effect of littering by utilizing trash and recycling receptacles located throughout the campus. Please do not litter in our surrounding neighborhoods while studying in our parked cars or traversing.
Political Science Student tapped for Fairfax County Human Rights Award

Political Science Student, Imam Mohamed Magid will be honored at a banquet on May 18th for his efforts to strengthen community understanding and respect through promoting multi-cultural community dialogues by the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission. He helped increase interfaith participation and response to human service needs and challenges. The dialogues he established provide people of different cultural, ethnic and faith groups an opportunity to share and interact in a safe, facilitated setting as a way to promote deeper conversations and respect, and reduce community fear and bias in Fairfax County, Virginia. Nominees for this award are selected on the basis of their contributions and outstanding accomplishments in the area of human rights in Fairfax County. The Human Rights Commission was established in 1974 by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age or disability in the areas of housing, public accommodations, employment, private education and credit.

Good News from a Graduate

The following is the text of an email received by Dr. Daryao S. Khatri, Professor of Physics from Allison Zielinski, one of his former students:

Dr. Khatri - I just wanted to give you an update since I finally got some good news - I got into Georgetown Medical School on Friday! I still have 3 schools left to hear from (all of my interviews were in March, so, pretty late): Drexel, University of Maryland, and Loyola-Chicago (I was waitlisted so I still might get in), but it's really nice to know I am in somewhere. Thank you again for all of your help. I'll let you know my final decision!

Allison

Political Science Student Featured in Time Magazine

Political Science Student, Mohamed Magid was featured in a Time Magazine article: “An American Imam” on November 23, 2005. The article describes Imam Magid as a moderate cleric who tends to his faithful at the Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) while also assisting the FBI in fighting terrorism. ADAMS center serves over 1,700 families in the DC Metro area.

Political Science Undergraduate Students Engage in Research

Upper level undergraduate students majoring in Political Science are engaged in various research activities this summer while earning stipends. Four students, Nannette Bowles, Jameka Roberts, Soraia Ghani and Michael Richardson are serving as research assistants on the District of Columbia Annual Seat Belt Usage Survey. The four students are working under the Field Director Dr. Eugene Shiro (English) and the Project Director Dr. Vijaya Melnick. The students are data collectors at various locations in Washington, DC.

Students Mohamed Magid, Jameka Roberts, and Michael Richardson are engaged in research activities with Dr. S.Suzan J. Harkness (Political Science). Jameka and Michael are gathering and drafting a literature review for a journal article submission and Mohamed Magid has assisted in gathering qualitative data through face-to-face interviews.
and focus groups with Muslims in Denmark and the Danish ambassador for the article. The study is exploring the public sentiment resulting from the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed. The project came about after students in Dr. Harkness’ Research Methods class embarked upon a survey of public sentiment to the protests that erupted after the publication of twelve cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed. The article has been accepted for peer reviewed for publication in *PS: Political Science & Politics* (January 2007).

**Nowell Accepted to EMI Conference**

Dr. Antonia Nowell was accepted to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) 9th Annual By-Invitation Emergency Management & Homeland Security/Defense Higher Education Conference June 6-8, 2006, for representatives of colleges and universities which have existing emergency management programs in place or are attempting to develop and implement one on their campus as a degree program, or certificate, or minor or concentration. Dr. Nowell developed the Emergency Management course currently taught in the Master of Public Administration program and will be seeking to develop a concentration for the School of Business and Public Management. The conference will be held on the grounds of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg Maryland.

**Black Women Speaking Truth to Power to air on UDC Cable**

The symposium *Black Women Speaking Truth to Power*, presented by Dr. Sandra Jowers-Barber, will air on *UDC-TV 19 (RCN) and 98 (Comcast)* the following days and times:

- Wednesday, May 24, 2006 2:00 PM
- Saturday, May 27, 2006 9:00 AM, 4:00 PM, and 12:00 midnight
- Monday, May 29, 2006 2:00 PM
- Wednesday May 31, 2006 1:00 AM
- Saturday, June 3, 2006 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM

**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.

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*Items appearing in this publication are for the information of the readers, and as such are considered as internal working documents of the University of the District of Columbia. This newsletter is made available to members of the University Community, including faculty, staff, students, alumni and the Board of Trustees. A reminder to submit items to “the UDC Spark” is sent to its readership the Tuesday prior to publication of the newsletter. Please submit items for inclusion by e-mail to mandrews@udc.edu no later than 12:00 noon on the Thursday preceding publication.*