Founders’ Day 2006 – a Thank You

(Note: The following is note was forwarded from Dr. Bobby Austin, Vice President for University Relations and Communications and Chairman, Founders’ Day Committee)

As we have come to the conclusion of our University’s Founders’ Day Convocation, I would like to, as chairman of the Founder’s Day Committee, take this opportunity to publicly thank the members of the Founders Day Committee. From the overall planning to the smallest detail, committee members gave their personal expertise and dedicated effort to this important observance. Additionally, the committee’s work as a team was critical to the overall success of Founders’ Day. While the contribution of each member was important, I would particularly like to thank Jean Catchings for taking the leadership role in the committees planning and execution. As always, Jean worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every contingency was considered and all loose ends were neatly tied up. Founders’ Day is becoming a great tradition for the University of the District of Columbia, and we should thank each member of the Founders’ Day Committee for their dedicated efforts.

(photocaption – Dr. Pollard is shown presenting the Dr. Marjorie Holloman Parker Distinguished Educational Leadership Award to Founders’ Day Keynote speaker, Dr. Portia Holmes Shields. At right is D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, who introduced her sister as speaker – photo by Cliff Young)

President Slated for NBC-4’s Viewpoint

University President Dr. William L. Pollard is scheduled to appear on the public affairs program Viewpoint, scheduled to air Sunday morning, March 5. Viewpoint is part of WRC Channel 4’s news program News 4 Today, which airs between 6:00 and 10:00 a.m. Dr. Pollard will be discussing his view on the state of the university.
Partnership with UDC Allows Agency to Offer New Workshops to Homeowners

Under the University of the District of Columbia’s Cooperative Extension Service, the District’s Housing and Finance Agency (HFA) is extending new workshop options to homeowners in Washington.

While the HFA’s Home Resource Centers offers weekly workshops to help residents become homeowners, the partnership with the University allows residents who are already homeowners to learn ways to maintain their homes and save money. The Cooperative Extension Service and the HFA have partnered to provide homeowners with a Basic Home Maintenance Workshop and an Energy Conservation Workshop. Through the partnership, homeowners can learn how to conduct home maintenance audits as well as perform simple repairs such as patching holes in walls, fixing faulty toilet tanks and faucets and troubleshooting basic electrical problems. In addition, the energy conservation tips allow homeowners to cut down costs by changing habits or making repairs around their homes.

Gwen Adams, Director of the HFA’s Home Resource Center, helped spearhead this partnership. She plans to introduce the new workshops to graduates of HFA’s Homebuyer Clubs in Henson Ridge, Wheeler Creek and other D.C. Housing Authority properties that received HOPE VI grants to fuel their redevelopment. All workshops will be offered at no cost to attendees, and participants will be eligible to tap into other Cooperative Extension Service programs, including nutrition, basic financial planning, tax tips, lawn and garden care, water quality issues and home pest management.

In 1997, the HFA began providing counseling for residents who live in housing developments that are being transformed from rental properties to for-sale developments. The clubs are established for residents who are temporarily relocated and are designed to provide them with free pre-purchase housing counseling that prepares them to buy properties at rehabilitated housing developments. The Home Resource Center recently established Homebuyer Clubs for several housing developments, including Wheeler Creek Estates, Henson Ridge, George Washington Carver Apartments, East Gate Arthur Capper Carrollsburg and Capitol Gateway.
For general information about the new workshops, please call the Cooperative Extension Service at (202) 274-7115 or the Home Resource Center at (202) 777-HOME.

The HFA holds two free weekly homeownership workshops at its headquarters, which is located at 815 Florida Avenue, NW. Workshops are held every Wednesday at 10 am and Friday at 11:30 am. No appointment is necessary to attend. For more information, log onto www.dchfa.org or (202) 777-HOME.

Save the Date - Calvin Jones BIG BAND Jazz Festival

Make sure to mark your calendar for the big celebration. On Monday, April 24, 2006, at 8:00 P.M., the BIG BAND sound will return to UDC for the 20th year. Save the date and join us again for what has become one of the most anticipated events on D.C.’s jazz calendar as the powerhouse jazz ensembles of the University of the District of Columbia (directed by Allyn Johnson), Howard University (directed by Fred Irby III), and the University of Maryland (directed by Chris Vadala) celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month and a remarkable 20th anniversary. Produced by UDC’s Jazz Studies Program and the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives, the festival began in 1987 as part of a citywide tribute to Duke Ellington, and it remains one of the most anticipated events on Washington, D.C.’s jazz calendar. For more information on the 2006 festival, contact Judith Korey at (202) 274-5803 or JazzAlive@udc.edu.

UDC Jazz Ensembles - Jazz ensembles under the direction of Allyn Johnson celebrate Black History Month on February 28, 2006 at 12:30 PM in the Recital Hall, Bldg. 46-West.

Contact Judith Korey at (202) 274-5803 or JazzAlive@udc.edu for more information. For a listing of confirmed events for this year, visit JazzAlive at www.lrdudc.wrlc.org/events.html.

If You Didn’t Write It You Must Cite It: How to Write and Cite Like a Scholar

A seminar on how to avoid plagiarism will be offered Tuesday, February 28, 5:30-6:50 p.m. and again Wednesday, March 1, 2:00–3:20 p.m. Both sessions held in Building 41/A03. These seminars are being team taught by three professors to educate students on writing skills, with the main emphasis on how to avoid plagiarism. While students often commit unintentional plagiarism, these seminars will teach student the skills of how to write like a scholar and avoid charges of dishonesty. Each seminar will contain the same information and students need only attend one.

For more information, please contact:
- Dr. Harkness—sharkness@udc.edu
- Dr. Jowers—sjowers@udc.edu
- Professor Moore—mmoore@udc.edu
Fellowship Funds Available for Graduate Students

Would you or someone you know like to go to grad school for free? Graduate school fellowship money is available now from the Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT). Interested students are invited to come and interview informally with an IRT recruiter for graduate school on March 1, 2006, Building 44/A-03 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Food and drink will be served. Marla Love, a recruiter from the IRT in Andover, Massachusetts, will be visiting the University to give a group informational session and then to follow-up with individual interviews. Please pass the word to all students of this unique opportunity to apply to top-notch universities for graduate school in the United States. All faculty who advise students, and all students, American and international, who are majoring in mathematics, social sciences, humanities, education or computer science are invited to come and hear about walking through the graduate school application process without paying application fees, taking advantage of workshops to prepare for graduate school, and meeting with individual recruiters from U.S. research universities who want to see people of all social classes, races/ethnicities, and genders diversify our classrooms in K-12 schools and higher education institutions. RSVP and contact: Dr. Cherie Ann Turpin, English Department, by e-mail at cturpin@udc.edu or by phone at 274-5625.

Personal Research Story: a Click needs Twenty Years Waiting
(Note: the following is the personal observations of Li Chen, Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science)

I was assigned to teach Computer Architecture this semester. We are using Stallings' Computer Organization and Architecture, a very popular text book. I just touched the material in coding theory last Monday for Memory Error Correction. "I was so surprised that the most popular code for error correction of Memory is still SEC-DED code (single error correction and double error detection)."

I was clicked immediately. If SEC-DED code is still used, then Hsiao's Codes is the best in SEC-DED codes. Thus, my work on generating the checker that tells a code is valid or not is still useful. I solved the problem when I was a college student while I was learning the Computer Memory too. The instructor, H-G Zhang, announced that: "Here is an unsolved question. Find a good algorithm to find the Check Matrix for the Optimal SEC-DED code (now called Hsiao's Codes)." What is a good algorithm? We were not very clear that time. We know today that must be a polynomial time algorithm.

I spent the winter holidays to get a solution in 1980. I was so excited. The paper received a student research award from Wuhan University. It was published five years later in 1986. This paper is still the best in my knowledge for the World well-known code because it is simple and elegant. More importantly, I knew today that it may be still useful.

When we teach students in up-division courses, to bring some state of the art unsolved problems may result an absolute research achievement. I would like to say many thanks to my professor H-G Zhang, he is still a professor in Wuhan University. I hope some days later, not need another twenty years, my student at UDC can call me and say thanks to me.
Acclaimed D.C. Writers Featured in Reading Series

The University of the District of Columbia’s English Department will host “Literature Live! A Reading Series” on Friday nights in February and March on campus (4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW). All sessions with authors start at 7 p.m. and take place in Building 44, Room A-03.

The series kicked off last Friday, February 17th, with Novelist Patricia Elam, author of the novel *Breathing Room*. Ms. Elam's fiction has appeared in the anthologies, *New Stories from the South*, and *Gumbo*; her articles have also been published in many newspapers and journals including the Washington Post, Essence, and Newsday. Ms. Elam has also worked as a commentator for National Public Radio. *Breathing Room* was a finalist for the 2001 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in Debut Fiction.

On Friday, March 10th, Poet/Memoirist E. Ethelbert Miller will take the stage. Mr. Miller is the author of numerous award-winning books of poetry including *How We Sleep On The Nights We Don't Make Love* and the anthology, *In Search of Color Everywhere*, as well as the memoir, *Fathering Words*. One of Washington D.C.'s major literary and cultural activists, Miller is director of the African American Resource Center at Howard University and chairperson of the board of the Institute for Policy Studies.

The final session will be Friday, March 31st, with Lynne Duke, a writer for the Washington Post, and author of *Mandela, Mobutu and Me*. During 18 years at the Washington Post, Lynne Duke has written local, national and international magazine articles and served as bureau chief for the Post in Johannesburg, South Africa for four years. *Mandela, Mobutu and Me*, inspired by her travels through Central and southern Africa, was a finalist for the 2004 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in Nonfiction.

University Reps to Attend UN Session on Status of Women

Six Professors and staff from the UDC will be attending the 50th Session on the Status of Women at the United Nations during February 27th-March 10th/06. Among the subjects on the agenda are: education, jobs, health etc. This is organized by the Department of University Relations & Communication.

Professor Rode Recognized for Role in Traveling Exhibit

Professor Meredith Rode, art faculty member in the Department of Mass Media, Visual and Performing Arts, was among those recognized at a reception and exhibit in the Rayburn Office Building on February 15th, 2006. The event was sponsored by the Embassy of Egypt and several members of Congress to honor artists who had participated in a traveling exhibit in Egypt, including the cities of Cairo and Luxor. Dr. Rode is also among 40 academics who have been invited to participate in the Oxford Round Table, hosted by Harris Manchester College of Oxford University in England. The discussion topic refers to C.P. Snow’s description of the “two cultures” and the disconnect between the humanities and the sciences. Dr. Rode’s presentation, “Missing Links, Making Connections” describes the ways in which the sciences can be integrated naturally into the teaching of art history and studio art. The round table will be held in July, 2006.
New Programming Joins Old on UDC Cable TV 98

Starting March 13, 2006, UDC Cable TV Channel 98 will begin to broadcast four independent film series, each of which will last for 4-6 months. These will be listed on the UDC website with links to educational materials, bibliographies and supporting information. We are also launching TALKUDCTV - a blog for discussion of films shown on UDC TV Channel 98 and a means to create feedback and evaluate audience interest and needs.

UDC TV will begin with In the Path of Conflict, a series of 10 programs on conflicts and rights (specific conflicts; the impacts of conflict; conflict resolution; methods of alleviating the fallout of conflicts; personal experiences; conflicts in their wider contexts). Programs will be air Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 pm. and include films about child soldiers, land mine victims, missing civilians, war poetry, Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees, the LA “Riots”, the Zapatistas and Women and war.

For four months from April, UDC TV will present films by Scenarios USA, a non-profit organization that uses filmmaking to foster youth leadership, advocacy and self-expression in teens. Scenarios USA asks teens to write stories about issues that shape their lives for the annual "What's the REAL DEAL?" writing contest, and thousands have responded with their raw and revealing insights. They have written about peer pressure, body image, pregnancy scares, HIV/AIDS, self-esteem, friendship and commitment. Twelve of these stories have been made into high-quality short films in partnership with the youth writers and some of Hollywood’s finest filmmakers.

In April, we will start an 8 part series of independent films called Coping and Caring. (Caring for the elderly, the sick, the disabled, the loved, the animals, the clinic, the patients..... Works that examine the stress, the rewards, the stories, the dramas, the strategies, the faith, the realities, the training and the aptitude needed to look after others when caring is needed. Works that look at how people deal with pain, loss and illness.).

UDC TV has also begun to air new programs of Sound Advice: Hosted by Dean Shelley Broderick is seen three times a week. The program features attorneys from various non-profit legal services, and our own legal clinic directors who offer the public legal advice that range from domestic violence to trademark, copyright and patent law.

Metro Notification of Upcoming Work

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) wishes to pass along that beginning on February 27, 2006, the modernization of Eisenhower Avenue platform elevators will begin. This work will take 10 weeks and is estimated to go back in service on May 2006. Additionally, Metro riders should know that some maintenance work might cause a slight paint-type odor around the Farragut West area next week; no cause for alarm. As Metro upgrades an electrical power substation near the Farragut West station, there is a chance that some customers may detect a slight paint odor while work is being performed next week. The odor is non-harmful, and is a byproduct of this kind of power upgrade work.
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 FLYERS – text paragraphs in Times Roman 12 (black) only.** We always welcome photos and appropriate clip art.