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Honorary Degrees to be conferred on Gary, Gilliam at Commencement Convocation

The Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia will confer honorary degrees on two leaders in law and art as part of the University’s 29th Commencement Convocation, scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Saturday May 13th, 2006 at the Verizon Center. Mr. Anthony A. (Tony) Lewis, President of Verizon Washington DC, will be the keynote speaker for Commencement, which will be presided over by University President William L. Pollard.

As a part of the graduation activities for the nation capital’s only public university, honorary doctoral degrees will be conferred on Willie E. Gary (Doctor of Laws) and Sam Gilliam, Jr. (Doctor of Humane Letters).

Attorney Willie E. Gary is living the American Dream. Once a migrant worker, now a multi-millionaire attorney, Gary earned his reputation as “The Giant Killer” by representing little-known clients against major corporations. Along the way he has handled some of the largest jury awards and settlements in U.S. history, winning more than 150 cases valued in excess of $1 million each.

Mr Gary’s amazing success has earned him national recognition as a leading trial attorney. In May 2002, he was featured in Ebony magazine as one of the “100 Most Influential Black Americans.” Forbes Magazine has listed him as one of the “Top 50 attorneys in the U.S.” Mr. Gary has been featured in national media publications, such as The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Boston Globe, Ebony, Jet, People, Black Enterprise, Fortune, The New Yorker and The National Law Journal.

Since the early sixties, Sam Gilliam has been recognized as an original and innovative color field painter. He has advanced the inventions associated with the Washington Color School and Abstract Expressionism to a new level. Mr. Gilliam has redefined the techniques of these traditions and he continues to reinvent his ideas about making art. To his early works in the 60's and 70's on stretched, then draped, and more recently wrapped canvas, Mr. Gilliam added sculptural elements as extensions of his surface, thereby making uniquely shaped works. By 1980, he was applying sculptural elements to the surface, making three-dimensional sculptural paintings. Currently, he creates multimedia installations and employs brightly stained polypropylene, dozens of layers of painted and printed color, computer generated imaging, metallic and iridescent acrylics, hand-made paper, aluminum, steel, and plastic: Mr. Gilliam’s art is an example of evolution through aesthetic exploration.
Bill Cosby is coming to the University of the District of Columbia as part of his nationwide effort to bring a message of empowerment and hope to America’s lower income communities. “A CALL OUT WITH BILL COSBY” will be held on May 16, 2006, at the University Auditorium (Bldg 46 East). This event is a nationwide tour with Dr. Cosby and the community, a panel of local leaders to talk about parenting, education and social responsibility. This event is sponsored by the University of the District of Columbia and the Washington Association of Black Journalists.

Cosby will moderate a session dedicated to foster parents/children and grandparents raising children from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. A general session for the general community will be held at 7 p.m.

The Call Outs serve to remind people that the keys to improving their lives and those of their families, neighbors and community are within their group. The event showcases inspiring stories of personal transformation told by people in the local communities that provide a motivational roadmap for change. Most important, the Call Out presents solutions by encouraging collaboration and putting people in touch with resources and pathways to find answers to address challenges they face.

Dr. Cosby has appeared in over eighteen (18) cities over the past year and a half, including Atlanta, New York, Detroit, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Newark, Houston,
Dallas, St. Louis, Cincinnati and Baltimore among others. He has also stressed the importance of community colleges for equipping young people with great opportunities for job and career advancement.

The “Call Out will have two parts, an afternoon and evening meeting. The moderator of both sessions will be Arthur Fennell, the managing editor and anchor of CN8 news, which airs daily on the Comcast cable network. Fennell is a former president of the National Association of Black journalists.

The panel of experts who will be on stage will include a range of experts in the field, including clinicians, administrators, and citizens. The audience will be comprised of various representatives of community organizations, public school systems.

After the panelists speak, Dr. Cosby will address the gathering. He will ask people in the audience who have stories to share that will empower the audience and community. He will conduct a question and answer session with the audience.

The Call Out is free to the public but tickets are required. There are a limited number of tickets available on a first come, first served basis to faculty and staff. For further information regarding this event and tickets, please contact Dr. Sandra Lawson, University Relations and Communications, 202 274-6272 or email slawson@udc.edu.

Women of Achievement Honored at Fifth Annual Gala

The University of the District of Columbia’s president, Dr. William L. Pollard and his wife Merriette Pollard (at left) presented the first annual UDC Women of Achievement awards at the 5th Annual UDC Gala to (from left to right) Wilhelmina Cole Holladay, founder of The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Michele V. Hagans, President of Fort Lincoln New Town Corp. and former Chairman of the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees, Barbara J. KrumSiek, President & CEO of the Calvert Group, a District of Columbia based asset management firm, Denise Lloyd, President & CEO of D.H. Lloyd & Associates, Inc., a District of Columbia minority certified insurance agency and Barbara Lang, President of the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce. The UDC Women of Achievement awards are a tribute to the contributions of Myrtilla Miner, who founded the University’s oldest predecessor institution in 1851. This is the fifth year that the University of the District of Columbia Foundation has hosted the fund-raising gala, which is not only as a celebration of the University, but as a way for the corporate and other private citizens of the District to show their support for the good work being done at the only public university in the nation’s capital.
**Myrtilla Miner Professional Development Academy Poster Session Results**

On April 27, 2006, the Myrtilla Miner Professional Development Academy (MMPDA) held its First Annual Faculty-Student Poster Session in the University Auditorium Lobby, demonstrating Best Practices in Teaching and Learning. President Pollard and Provost Reuben-Cooke greeted the audience, and a panel of judges evaluated the posters. The following winners were announced:

**First Place**
Class - Introduction to the Education of Exceptional Children (Section 01) “Innovative Education Class Promotes Learning for All”, Dr. Arlene King-Berry, Professor

**Second Place (Tied) “UDC History Club: Exploring the African Diaspora”**
Adama Conteh, Mica Harrison, Matthew Whittaker
Dr. Sandra Jowers-Barber, Faculty Advisor

**Second Place (Tied)**
Class – Introduction to the Education of Exceptional Children (Section 02) “Effective Teaching Techniques for Disabled Students” (Dr. Arlene King-Berry, Professor)

**Third Place**
Hadiarratou Diaby “International Students in U.S. Colleges”

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**UDC Reps to Attend Institutes on General Education Reform and Campus Leadership for Student Engagement, Inclusion, and Achievement**

Seven representatives of the University of the District of Columbia will join the selection of teams from more than 60 institutions for the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) 2006 summer institutes. Thirty-one teams, including the University of the District of Columbia’s team, will attend AAC&U’s Institute on General Education from June 9 to 14. This year's institute will be held on the campus of Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Teams from 29 campuses will participate in the 2006 Greater Expectations Institute on Campus Leadership for Student Engagement, Inclusion, and Achievement in Snowbird, Utah, which will be held from June 21 to 25. This institute builds on the work of AAC&U's national initiative on the aims of a twenty-first-century liberal education, Greater Expectations: The Commitment to Quality as a Nation Goes to College.

Representing the University will be:
Rachel Petty, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Sylvia Hill, Professor, Criminal Justice
T. Lavonne Manning, Associate Professor, Computer Science
Katie Inmon, Associate Professor, Learning Resources Division
Jeffrey Fleming, Assistant Professor, Mathematics

There are two other members of the team that have yet to be named, according to AAC&U.
“Colleges and universities across the country are responding to new challenges by strengthening their undergraduate programs and working to ensure that all students get the benefits of a strong liberal education,” said AAC&U President Carol Geary Schneider. “The colleges and universities sending teams to this year’s summer institutes represent the best of current reform efforts, and these team members are committed to preparing all students to succeed and thrive in a volatile economy and globally interdependent world. Their campus work will be strengthened by their participation.”

Teams attending AAC&U’s Institute on General Education will examine current trends in general education, discuss strategies for implementing curricular reforms, and refine their own general education reform plans in the context of their campus missions. Participants will attend sessions on such topics as writing clear goals, faculty development, integrative learning, diversity, and assessment.

“We are very pleased with the sophistication of the general education reform efforts represented by those coming to this year’s Institute,” said Institute Co-Director Ross Miller. “Their plans are driven by important questions about linking goals to institutional mission, fostering high levels of achievement, and assessment for improvement and accountability.”

Teams come to AAC&U’s Greater Expectations Institute to advance a specific educational change project. The Institute will help teams align their project to their institution’s mission, clarify outcomes, refine planning and processes, and build a culture of organizational learning.

“We are excited about the variety of educational change projects that selected campus teams will develop at this year’s Institute and the wealth of expertise that our faculty offer,” said AAC&U Vice President Alma Clayton-Pedersen. “We look forward to working with teams to achieve Greater Expectations for all campus constituents and to helping teams ‘make excellence inclusive’ by linking their diversity and inclusion efforts with their academic quality and assessment initiatives.”

For additional information about the institutes or AAC&U programs and initiatives, visit www.aacu.org.

Urban Affairs Professor Presents Paper on Podcasting at the Midwest Political Science Association National Annual Conference

Assistant Professor Dr. S. Suzan J. Harkness (left), Political Science, presented an invited paper for the Panel on New Technology and New Tools for the Classroom at the National Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) in Chicago, Illinois, April 20-23, 2006. The paper, “Podcasting: Enhancing Media and Its Utility for Teaching and Learning” was widely discussed. More than 5,000 political scientists, professionals, and students attended the conference where 4000 presenters discussed their latest research in 720 panels.
Business Students Participate in Responsible Business Plan Competition

A team of business students (Nathalie Carey, Miriam Mbugua and William Holliman) have participated in the William James Foundation’s 2006 Socially Responsible Business Plan Competition. Of 60 entrants from Cornell, Howard, Maryland, Yale, Stanford, NYU, and other universities, UDC’s team was among the top 19 that were invited to present their complete plans as semi-finalists. In the final round, the UDC team was ranked third among the Washington area universities, ahead of Howard and American University. The reward received included one-year technical assistance to further develop the proposed business and a cash award of $200. The name of the UDC team’s proposed business was the International Link Exchange (ILE).

University of the District of Columbia
Alumni Class Reunions 2006
Dinner/Reception & Program

Sustaining and Celebrating Our Legacy

Thursday, May 11, 2006
6:30 P.M.

UDC Auditorium, Building 46 East
4200 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Cost: $50.00 Per Person or $400 Per Table

RSVP the Office of Alumni Relations at (202) 274-5206—TODAY!

Special Recognition will be given to the Jubilee Class of 1931 (75th Anniversary), Class of 1956 (50th Anniversary), Class of 1981 (25th Anniversary), & all who graduated in class years ending in 6 and 1, and all those who graduated before 1956.
Institute Coordinating Requests for Applications

Dr. Antonia Nowell, Director of the School of Business and Public Administration Institute for Human Service Delivery reports that the Institute is coordinating two different Requests for Applications (RFA) for the D.C. Department of Human Services Income Maintenance Administration during the months of May and June. The first is the FY06 Mini-Subgrants to Small Non-Profit Community-Based Organizations RFA#0421-06. A variety of services, interventions and service providers are necessary to achieve program goals and small community-based organizations directly supplement the services provided to children and their families. Hence, the District has grant funds available for eligible organizations to provide community-based services. The deadline for application submission is May 10, 2006 by 3:00p.m., EST.

The second RFA is the FY 2006 Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Social Marketing Campaign RFA#0531-06. Since Fiscal Year 2003, the DHS/IMA has invested over $6 million in community-based efforts that address teen pregnancy and promote positive outcomes for youth through early intervention and prevention of risky behaviors associated with sexual activity. This current solicitation will fund the development and implementation of teen pregnancy prevention and social marketing programs. The deadline for submission of the application is Wednesday, May 31, 2006 at 3:00p.m.

The Institute for Human Service Delivery is located in Building 52, Room 301A and the telephone number is 202-274-7156.

UDC Student Delegates, Leading Wherever They Go-
Anacostia Economic Summit

On Wednesday, May 3, 2006, fourteen (14) student leaders served as student delegates to the Anacostia Economic Summit held in celebration of the year anniversary of the HOPE Center, Washington, DC. As an Operation HOPE student delegate, our students were assigned as recorders for twelve concurrent sessions that focused on civil rights to silver rights in the areas of wealth building, homeownership, education, jobs, financial literacy, faith and dignity, volunteerism and service. The program participants included the following: Mr. John Hope Bryant, Chair, Mayor Anthony Williams, Councilman Marion Barry, The Honorable Paul Wolfowitz, President, World Bank, The Honorable Ben Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Ambassador Andrew Young, Chairman, Good Works International, Dr. Dorothy Height, Chairwoman Emeritus, National Council of Negro Women, Frederick Douglass, IV

Accolades are extended to following student leaders and staff members for a job well done: Daniel Mercelina, Kay Ann Willis, JoAnn Forbes, Khalilah Woodland, Ian Adams, David Gaston Shanese Watts, Daniel Ephrem, Juanejo C. Harrington, Chiquita Long, Adama Conteh, Oscar J. Pendleton, Precious Porter-Gardner, Lethea Graham, Dr. Joan Jackson (Counselor, Office of Counseling and Career Services, Student Affairs) and Mr. Donald Nunley (Counselor, Office of Student Support Services, Student Affairs).

Thanks again to the student delegates who represented the University of the District of Columbia with pride and excellence.
Melnick to Attend Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting

Dr. Vijaya L. Melnick, Director/OSRP will be attending the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Meeting in Seattle, WA. The meeting is will take place May 21-24 at the Seattle Renaissance Hotel. More than 200 university and Federal agency representatives will be at the meeting to discuss issues related to federal grant polices and regulations. Dr. Melnick serves on the Strategic Planning Committee, the Membership Committee and on the Advisory Committee of Emerging Research Institutions of the FDP.

TIAA-CREF
FINANCIAL EDUCATION SESSIONS
University of the District of Columbia Employees

The Office of Human Resources has invited Glenn Collins, Financial Consultant for TIAA-CREF; to the University in an effort to provide individualized financial counseling sessions for employees under TIAA-CREF. Employees will have the opportunity to discuss their investment strategy, asset allocation, and potential retirement options. Sessions will be held in the Office of Human Resources, Building 38, Room 301 on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006  9:00 AM – 3:15 PM
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006  9:00 AM – 3:15 PM

To schedule your appointment with Glenn Collins, please visit www.tiaa-cref.org/moc or contact Mrs. Elzaida Smith at (202) 637-8926.

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.

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.