UDC Extension Agent Wins Cafritz Foundation Award

The George Washington University Center for Excellence in Public Leadership recently announced that Ms. Sandra Farber (shown at right), an extension agent and instructor in the University of the District of Columbia’s Home Lawn and Gardening program, has been selected as one of the five winners for the 7th Annual Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Awards for Distinguished DC Government Employees.

Ms. Farber is an environment and natural resources extension agent for the University’s Home Lawn and Gardening program, part of the Environmental and Natural Resources branch of the Cooperative Extension Service in the Community Outreach and Extension Service (COES). The program provides direct technical assistance to District of Columbia homeowners and renters, as well to neighborhood associations seeking advice on the beautification of the public spaces within their neighborhoods.

“We couldn’t be more proud of Sandy’s accomplishments, but at the same time, we aren’t necessarily surprised,” said Dr. Gloria Wyche-Moore, Dean of the University’s COES. “She’s a great example of the dedicated service provided by UDC in support of our urban land-grant mission of meeting the unique educational and training needs of the residents of the District of Columbia.”

Hired in June 2001 as the Environmental and Natural Resources Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator at the University, Ms. Farber focused significant attention to revitalizing the Master Gardener Program, an international flagship program of the COES Network of Land Grant Universities. The program has the mission of educating the D.C. residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

Ms. Farber’s selection was made from over 100 applications and 20 finalists. Each winner will receive a $7,500 cash prize and an engraved award at the awards ceremony to honor the winners and finalists.
We Have a Winner!

A winner has been selected in the branding contest for naming the University of the District of Columbia’s major multi-year project to upgrade our student information system to SunGard Higher Education’s Banner system - the winner is Gwendolyn Bush-Hodge (shown at right flanked by Mike Jacks and Lahugh Bankston, who administered the competition), a Career Service Officer in the School of Business and Public Administration.

The winning entry is “Firebird Connections…. Connecting you to the data that you need!” The selection committee felt that Ms. Bush-Hodge’s entry best described the scope of the project, which includes but is not limited to upgrading our administrative technology, including enhanced portal access, 24x7 access for students, faculty and staff via the Internet, automation of processes to enhance the University’s community experience, real time reporting of data, and elimination of paper documents by including an imaging solution.

The Project Management Team would like to thank everyone who participated in this contest. Congratulations go out to Ms. Bush-Hodge who receives dinner for two at a local restaurant.

Counseling and Career Development Center Awarded Suicide Prevention Grant

Congratulations are in order for the Counseling and Career Development Center. The Center was recently awarded a $5,000 grant to support suicide prevention efforts from Morehouse School of Medicine. The grant is funded through a cooperative agreement with SMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). Grant funds will be used to provide training in suicide prevention to front-line staff and student outreach efforts in Spring, 2007.

University Closure - Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday

The University will be closed Monday, January 15, 2007 in commemoration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

All essential employees who are required to work will receive compensation in accordance with applicable polices and union contract. For more information, contact the Office of Human Resources at 202-274-5020.
Call for Papers on Women’s Studies

The Women's Studies Committee is issuing a call for papers for UDC's first one-day conference on women's studies on March 30, 2007, at UDC's Van Ness Campus. The general theme is transnational feminism, and the Committee is interested in current inquiries regarding ideas of nation, race/ethnicity, socio-economics, sexual orientation, and gender. The purpose is to bring feminist scholars together to discuss the many challenges of global politics, economy, and cultural clashes and exchanges. These challenges often encompass migration and exile, sex industry and sex slavery, racism and ethnic intolerance, economic exploitation, and gendered violence. Any topic is welcome, but the following areas of exploration are specifically sought:

- cross-cultural & international adoption
- health care disparities by race/gender/class
- welfare, wage disparities/pay equity, labor movements
- feminist/womanist ethics, spiritualities, and religions
- family planning, reproductive technology and abortion rights
- childcare, eldercare, and the disabled
- representations of women in art, literature and the media
- nationhood, diasporas, ethnic identity
- the politics of war, the use of torture, and the exiled
- defining transnational feminism, global priorities for feminists
- immigration; citizenship as a commodity
- global warming, environmental impact of gender bias
- economic development, economic exploitation, sex industry
- domestic violence, state-sponsored violence, religious violence

Faculty and undergraduate/graduate students are invited to submit proposals of no more than 250 words along with a single paragraph bio to Dr. Cherie Ann Turpin, Chair of the Women's Studies Committee, cherieannturpin@mac.com. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2007.

Melnick to Address Advanced Grant Development Workshop

Dr. Vijaya Melnick, Director/OSRP, will be one of the lecturers in the George Washington University Advanced Grant Development Workshop scheduled for January 17 - 19, 2007. Dr. Melnick’s topic is Research Ethics and Proposal Preparation. Her lecture is scheduled for January 18. This program is a three-day advanced workshop for the experienced grant writers who wish to expand their knowledge to interact further with federal, private and foundation grant sources. The workshop will focus on new trends in grant making and discussion on what makes proposals attractive to funding agencies. Other lecturers include: NIH Review process, representatives from Mitsubishi Corporation, US Dept of Health & Human Services, Ernst & Young, US Dept of State and GW University Office of Research & Training.
PATHS Program Wraps Up Another Success

The PATHS Program hosted a completion ceremony for nearly 50 program participants on Monday, December 18, 2006. Participating students from the TANF and the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program celebrated completion of training in the following areas: Office Skills/Microsoft Word, Certified Nursing Assistants, Home Health Care, Construction Apprenticeships and Home improvement, and Cosmetology. About five students expressed interest in entering the University of the District of Columbia regular Academic Programs either in January 2007 or in August.

Khatri Selected For AAPT Committee

Dr. Daryao Khatri, Professor of Physics was nominated and subsequently selected as a member of a committee, "Committee on Minorities in Physics" of the American Association of Physics Teachers for a three year term. He attended his first meeting of the committee in Seattle on January 8, 2007. The Winter meeting of AAPT was held in Seattle, Washington, on January 5-10, 2007.

Writer in Residence has full Slate of Activities

Marita Golden, the University’s Writer in Residence, is pleased to announce the following Literature Live programs for next semester activities for the Spring 2007 Semester

- **Friday, January 26th 7pm** University of the District of Columbia Bldg 44 Room A03 UDC’s Writer in Residence Marita Golden reads from her most recent novel AFTER, reception and book sale to follow program
- **Wednesday February 14th** University of the District of Columbia Poet Nikki Giovanni reads from her work 7 pm Building 46 Auditorium reception and book sale to follow program
- **Wednesday March 14th 7pm** University of the District of Columbia Building 44 Room A03 Lecture by UDC’s Writer in Residence on “Why Writing Matters” book sale and reception to follow program
- **Wednesday March 21st 7pm** University of the District of Columbia Building 44 Room A03 Poets Kenny Carroll, Brian Gilmore and saxophonist Marshall Keys present an evening of poetry and jazz
- **Saturday March 24th 10 am to 3 pm** University of the District of Columbia UDC’s Writer in Residence Marita Golden presents a workshop for faculty and staff, “I Want to Write But” Bldg, 39 room 208 to register email Marita Golden at mgolden@udc.edu
DC READS Seeks Paid Tutors

The DC Reads program at UDC is growing and needs up to 60 new tutors to assist youth in grades K-6 with reading and homework. Tutors earn a stipend of $10.00 per hour and receive metro passes. UDC students are placed in local schools and after-school programs. Tutors are assigned to assist youth Monday – Friday, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., and; class schedules considered. For more information contact: Mr. Richard Baker or Mr. Hugo Tovar, DC Reads Site Coordinators, on campus at: 274-7115 or pick up an application in Building 52; 3rd Floor – Room 322 between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Tutor training is mandatory and begins Monday, January 29, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. All tutors must be finger printed (free) and must have a current TB test (UDC Health Clinic).

If you or someone you know is looking for something positive to do with today’s youth in grades 9 – 12, the UDC 4H program sponsors the “LifeSmarts” Challenge. For more information about “LifeSmarts”, visit: www.lifesmarts.org and then come to the “LifeSmarts” Coaches Conference on Thursday, January 19, 2007 at 1:00 p.m., Building 52, Room 322 and receive strategies and materials for starting and leading a successful “LifeSmarts” challenge program. The Coaches Conference is free and open to the public and participation in “LifeSmarts” is free. To register for the “LifeSmarts” Coaches Conference, contact Mr. Richard Baker, 4H and Youth Development, Project Assistant at 202-274-7115

When you see the DOVE this semester…

(note: The following is present by Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness, Director, COI) I hope that you have at least glanced at the posters with the dove on them last semester. If you did not know the Office of Community Outreach and Involvement (COI) under the Directorship of Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness puts together the monthly Lunch and Dialogue series and Speaker series in which the dove helps to promote. In the fall of 2006, speakers and topics included Mr. John Wesley Davis, Esquire, who spoke on “Does the United States Constitution allow access to justice for people of color?”, Dr. Julia Hare, who spoke on “Keeping you mind on education”, Mr. William R. Spaulding, who spoke on “The History of UDC”, Ms. Rhonda Chatmon from the American Heart Association who spoke on “A Healthy Life Leads to Success”, and Rev. Sterling Morse from Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church spoke on “The Real Reason for the Season.” Other topics that were discussed were “A New Year-A New Beginning, Staying Focused”, “Remembering 9/11”, and “Getting wise
about Credit.” Both series were held in building 44 room A-03, with the Speaker series on Tuesdays and Lunch and Dialogue on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. We are looking forward to a full compliment of speakers and topics to discuss in the spring semester. Keep an eye watchful for the dove to let you know when the next program will be happening.

Reese Helps Organize Leadership Cruise for Students, Young Professionals

Dr. La Tanya Reese from the UDC Department of English has assisted MA’AT Enterprises, LLC in designing a leadership seminar sure to please all participants. The seminar, which takes place on board a Carnival cruise ship from Friday, March 16, 2007 to Monday, March 19, 2007, offers all students and young professionals the opportunity to receive insider information on homeownership, community organizing, employment strategies, and wealth building. Student affairs administrators, professors, and young professionals all agree that this leadership cruise (which sails from Miami, FL to Nassau, Bahamas) is the perfect combination for personal development, networking, and spring break sunshine.

On board the Carnival Fascination, all MA'AT seminar cruisers will enjoy complimentary breakfast, lunch, and dinner buffets; entertainment and comedy shows; spa treatments; access to the indoor and outdoor pools; endless passes to the gym; and a stateroom (luxury cabin) for two people. Best of all, all cruisers can sight see, shop, or relax when the ship docks on the sandy beaches of Nassau, Bahamas!

Mr. Dennis B. Rogers, a doctoral student and the founder of MA'AT Enterprises, LLC, recognizes that "Leadership is one of the skills most often requested by employers and professional organizations. Here is a $399.00 opportunity for cruisers to sharpen that important skill.” Dr. Reese, a proponent of critical thinking, commends MAAT Enterprises for having found “a creative and inexpensive way to use the sunshine of Spring Break to train young professionals in the critical skill of leadership.”

The deadline for enrollment is January 25, 2007, but space is going fast. For details, contact Mr. Dennis B. Rogers, at dbrogers@maat-enter.com or 202-498-9800. Or contact Dr. La Tanya Reese at lreese@udc.edu. To register, log onto: www.maat-enter.com/cruise.
CALL FOR POSTERS
The Myrtilla Miner Professional Development Academy

FACULTY-STUDENT POSTER SESSION
BEST PRACTICES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING
April 12, 2007

WHAT BEST PRACTICES ARE WE IMPLEMENTING AT UDC TO PROMOTE STUDENT LEARNING?

Faculty and students are invited to learn, celebrate success, and share ideas on a variety of topics including interdisciplinary teaching, innovative instructional techniques, research on teaching and learning, self-directed student learning, the scholarship of teaching, service learning, learning communities, effective teaching strategies, student perspectives on effective teaching and learning strategies, curricular materials, learning-centered classrooms, assessment of student learning outcomes and other issues related to student learning. Details regarding specific poster criteria will be forthcoming.

AWARDS
♦ Certificate of Participation
♦ Prizes*
  First Place   $ 500
  Second Place $ 300
  Third Place  $ 200
♦ Announcement of winners on the UDC web page and in University print publications

REGISTRATION PROCESS
The Registration Form may be downloaded from the Blackboard website (udc.blackboard.com) or obtained from the Office of the Dean in each College or School, and must be submitted no later than March 29, 2007 either electronically to bminus@udc.edu or by delivery to the Office of the Provost – Building 39, Room 301M.

*Prizes will be in the form of Book Stipends to the UDC Bookstore for students and Support for Teaching-related Conference Travel for faculty.

For more information, contact Dr. Bertha D. Minus at (202) 274-5557 or bminus@udc.edu.
Invitation to UDC Africa Initiative Committee Meeting

The Office of International Affairs wishes to extend to any faculty, student and staff interested in developing relations between the University and Africa an invitation to attend the UDC Africa Initiative Committee meeting scheduled to be held at the Board Room, Building 39 on January 23 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Among the subjects on the Agenda is a UDC Open Forum that will be held on April 5th from 5:15 to 8:30 p.m. in the UDC Auditorium. The theme is: Africa in Globalization: Marginalization and/or Development? The committee will also provide updates on MOUs with three African Universities as well as an upcoming Women’s Conference to be held in Kenya later this year. Garden City University of Ghana has agreed to be one of the co-sponsors of the Open Forum and proposes to conduct a joint event with UDC in Ghana this June in the context of the Bicentennial of the Legal End of the Slave Trade and Fifty Years since the independence of Ghana.

TIAA-CREF FINANCIAL EDUCATION SEMINARS

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

- Thursday, January 18, 2007             9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Tuesday, January 30, 2007             9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Friday, February 16, 2007            9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

To schedule an appointment with Mr. Collins, please visit www.tiaa-cref.org/moc or call him at (202) 637-8926. For questions, please call the Office of Human Resources at (202) 274-5020.

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.