The UDC Spark
The Community Newspaper of the University of the District of Columbia

Vol. V, Issue 3
February 9, 2007

Founders Day 2007 – Celebrating 30 Years

The University of the District of Columbia will begin a year-long celebration of thirty years of distinctive service to the citizens of the District of Columbia at the UDC Founder’s Day Convocation. The Convocation, which will be held in the University’s Auditorium, is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 22, 2007. All students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University are encouraged to attend. As part of the convocation, the University will also present four awards to honor excellence in educational leadership and service, as well as a lifetime achievement award for sustained and exceptional commitment to the University’s mission.

The theme for this year’s Founder’s Day Convocation will be “Celebrating 30 Years – Reclaiming our Alumni,” commemorating thirty years. The University’s first Board of Trustees publicly announced on August 1, 1977 the consolidation of the District of Columbia Teachers College, the Federal City College, and the Washington Technical Institute into the University of the District of Columbia under a single management system. Founder’s Day 2007 will mark the kick-off of a University campaign to attract graduates of UDC and all her predecessor institutions to return to their alma mater.

Prominent civil rights leader Thomas N. Todd will deliver the keynote address for this year’s convocation. An activist attorney widely known as “TNT” for his oratorical skills, Thomas N. Todd, who will be 68 when he addresses the UDC Opening Convocation, served as a lawyer in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1967 and joined the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago in 1967. In this capacity, Todd made history when he developed the first criminal case against a Chicago policeman for deprivation of an individual's civil rights in 1968. Todd organized and established the first Civil Rights Office in a local U.S. Attorney's Office in 1969. United States v. Gorman, the first federal criminal case against a Chicago police officer ended in a hung jury in 1971. Todd was the first full-time black law professor at Northwestern University, where he taught from 1970 to 1974. Todd has been admitted to practice law before many courts, including the Louisiana Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Military Appeals, the Illinois Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. A powerful
spokesman for civil rights, Todd was president of the Chicago Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1971 and president of Operation PUSH from 1983 to 1984.

The seeds for higher education that grew into the University of the District of Columbia were first planted in 1851, when Myrtilla Miner founded Miner Normal School, a “school for colored girls.” In 1955, Miner - by then known as Miner Teachers College - united with Wilson Teachers College to become District of Columbia Teachers College. D.C. Teachers College merged with Washington Technical Institute and Federal City College in 1977 to form the new institution, the University of the District of Columbia.

Mayor Adrian Fenty, D.C. City Council Chairman Vincent Gray, and other members of the District Council, as well as Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, have all been invited to share in the University’s commemoration.

**Nikki Giovanni Featured in Literature Live Series**

The University is pleased to bring to the Van Ness Campus Auditorium (Building 46 East) the world renowned poet, writer and educator Ms. Nikki Giovanni. Ms. Giovanni’s 7:00 p.m. lecture on Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2007 will commemorate African American History Month and ignite the University’s current Literature-Live Reading Series, which promotes the culture of reading and writing across the curriculum and the academic community.

Ms. Giovanni has written more than a dozen books, received nineteen honorary doctorates, and remains a sought-after distinguished voice on civil rights and equality. Over the past thirty years, Ms Giovanni’s outspokenness, in her writing and in lectures, has brought the eyes of the world upon her. One of the most widely-read American poets, she prides herself on being "a Black American, a daughter, a mother, a professor of English." Giovanni remains as determined and committed as ever to the fight for civil rights and equality. Always insisting on presenting the truth as she sees it, she has maintained a prominent place as a strong voice of the Black community. Her focus is on the individual, specifically, on the power one has to make a difference in oneself, and thus, in the lives of others.

This celebrative event - free and open to the public - will culminate in a raffle of several of Ms. Giovanni’s books, a reception, and book sale/signing sponsored by Karibu Books.

**DC Council Retreats to UDC**

University President Dr. William L. Pollard chats with D.C. Council Member Carol Schwartz (R- at large) following the Council’s recent planning retreat held in the Board Room in Building 39. (photo by Clifton Young)
Learning Resource Center Tapped for Digitization

NOTE: The following is the text of a letter of congratulations from Ira Revels, Project Manager, CUL- HBCU Digitization Initiative at Cornell University.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the ten institutions selected to participate in the second phase of the "HBCU-Cornell University Library Digitization Initiative". The selected institutions are: Lincoln University at Missouri, Miles College, Morehouse School of Medicine, North Carolina Central University, Paine College, Saint Augustine College, South Carolina State University, Southern University at Shreveport, Texas Southern University, and the University of the District of Columbia.

The two-year digital image production and training initiative began in June 2005 with a $400,000 grant award from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Library professionals and staff persons at the following HBCU institutions: Alabama State University, Bennett College, Fisk University, Grambling State University, Hampton University, Southern University at Baton Rouge, The Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center, Tuskegee University, Tennessee State University, and Virginia State University have created online digital records, which document the history of their institutions. Other partners in the project include Cornell University Library, the HBCU Library Alliance and SOLINET. The ten HBCU institutions have added over 500 digital images and metadata to an online database containing historical materials documenting the founding of historically black colleges and universities.

Once again, congratulations for an outstanding application and a demonstrated commitment to building HBCU digital collections!

UDC Host Site to DC Independent Film Festival

In a move that will bring an expanding audience to the campus of the Hometown University of the Nation’s Capital, the University of the District of Columbia has entered into an agreement through which UDC will be the host site of the 9th Annual Washington DC Independent Film Festival (DCIFF). The DCIFF will be held March 1 – 11, 2007 in the University Auditorium (Building 46 East).

The festival will be held for the first time at the University campus, which is the temporary site of the new DC Moving Image Center (DC MIC). The DC MIC will be the new landmark

Dr. Bobby W. Austin addressed a recent press conference on campus where the University’s support of the DCIFF was announced.
for independent film, where audiences can experience a festival, seminars, tradeshows, film markets, music festival and receptions, all in one location.

The University’s involvement in this important cultural opportunity evolved as the result of close cooperation between DCIFF and Dr. Deirdre Evans-Pritchard, who has undertaken numerous film-related initiatives for the University’s Office of University Relations and Communications.

"We are very grateful to (Vice President for University Relations and Communications) Dr. Bobby Austin, Dr. Evans-Pritchard, and all of the faculty and students at UDC for providing a new home for DC Independent Film Festival,” said Carol Bidault, Executive Director and Founder of the DCIFF. “The location is beautiful, centrally located, Metro accessible. UDC has long been an advocate for filmmaking, and has invested in upgraded equipment and facilities. Due to their support, I think this may well be our best festival ever!"

More information on the DCIFF may be found at www.dciff.org or www.myspace.com/dcindependentfilmfestival.

Lucille Hester elected President of Pigskin Club

Congratulations to Mrs. Lucille Hester, Director of the NCAA-Summer National Youth Sports Program here at the University of the District of Columbia has become the first woman to hold the position of President for the Pigskin Club.

The Pigskin Club, the oldest African American sports organization in the country, recognizes and provides opportunities for youth in the field of sports. It also recognizes the contributions of business, educators, civic leaders and philanthropist in the field of sports and in the community at-large. The club offers outreach programs, resources and a network of youth and young adults interested in sports. Mrs. Hester became the first female member of the Pigskin Club when she joined six years ago. Mrs. Hester said she joined to enjoy the benefits and to offer the club another benefit.

“Every sports legend had come through the Pigskins club, and I wanted the history of those legends and the organization to be presented by them so the story would be accurate,” Mrs. Hester said. “I really wanted history to treat them with so much respect, because every opportunity today had to come from someone making that history years ago.” (Portions of this article were reprinted with permission of the Washington Informer)

Felicia Brant joins UDC as Director of Development

Felicia H. Allender Brant has joined the University Community as Director of Development. A native of Portland, Oregon, Ms Brant graduated Magna Cum Laude from Morgan State University at the age of nineteen, the youngest graduate from Morgan. She has been a teacher in Dade County, Florida public schools and hosted a Miami television program on educational outreach. She has worked in many capacities in Baltimore in the late 70’s where she began working as a fundraiser/educator in human service organizations such as the United Way of Central Maryland and several United Way agencies including, The Hearing
& Speech School of Baltimore, YWCA of Greater Baltimore, the Mental Health Association of Maryland, and Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. Ms Brant served as President and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland where her major role was the overall direction of the organization and to revive the organization’s reputation and stabilize the agency financially. She also worked in Washington, DC at the Chamber of Commerce in the area of marketing and public relations as well as telemarketing.

For eight years, as the Associate Executive Director of the Council on Economic Education in Maryland, Felicia was the chief development staff member responsible for fundraising, in addition to personnel, finance, public relations, and the coordination of specific economic education programs with the Federal Reserve Bank. She was also a fundraising consultant to Baltimore/Washington charities, an (EEO) Equal Employment Opportunity Investigator (U.S. Department of Education, The Smithsonian Institute, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Agency for International Development), and a Principal Investigator and Researcher with NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center Programs.

Ms. Brant (at right) has accomplished over 30 years of successful, comprehensive fund development and administrative experience and has earned and maintained the national designation of a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) for close to 20 years. She comes to the University after serving at the Executive Director of Sabin Community Development Corporation in Portland, Oregon where she was responsible for the overall operations of this non profit housing development organization. She has been recognized for her tenacity in establishing major partnerships, developing unique programs and her passion for problem solving and helping people to become empowered and self-sufficient. She also served as Executive Director of Committed Partners for Youth in Southeast Portland (1998-1999) where the lives of troubled youth were reformed.
Summit Presentation Leads to ONR Research Opportunity

Submitted by Jovita Wells, University Relations & Communications - Dr. Ester Ososanya is a rarity at UDC and the academy: a female, professor of Electrical Engineering whose expertise is in the area of Hydrogen Fuel Cell development. Dr. Ososanya (shown with student and fuel cell research team member Sisay A Beru) came to the attention of Dr. Walter Dixon, of the Office of Naval Research when he heard Dr. Osasanya’s presentation on her and her student’s work on Hydrogen Fuel Cells at the November Summit, hosted by the Office of University Relations and Communications. Dr. Dixon represented the Office of Naval Research on a panel of agency representatives interested in developing research expertise at UDC and other HBUCs.

Dr. Ososanya’s Summit presentation was entitled the “Design of an Experimental Power Source using Hydrogen Fuel Cells”. The Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cell is a device that converts electrochemical energy to electricity at high efficiency without combustion. Fuel cell can provide clean and efficient energy; low temperature operation; safe and quiet performance; ease of operation and low maintenance. In Dr. Ososanya’s study an experimental prototype fuel cell system was designed for undergraduate students. The objective of her study are to i) exploit and advertise the benefits of fuel cell technology, ii) to compare and contrast different types of fuel cells, and iii) to build a prototype fuel cell generator and demonstrate its operation. UDC students are involved in the lab building and testing a 10V hydrogen fuel cell. UDC Students are shown in the lab building the fuel cell. Fuel Cells have applications in large scale building systems; they can reduce facility energy service costs; can be used in residential settings to provide hot water or space heating for homes; they can be used in automobiles, buses, locomotives, airplanes, scooters and golf carts; landfill/waste water treatment and as portable power. The benefits of fuel-cell usage include energy security, loss prevention during computer failures; offer fuel flexibility; and as an energy source hydrogen may be obtained from a variety of fuel sources; hydrocarbon, alcohol fuel, ammonia, borohydride or even from water.

Dr. Ososanya and her students are now at work building a 5kW fuel cell generator. She will present her research finding to the Office of Naval Research in February and national conference on energy in Hawaii. Dr. Ososanya will be funded by and working at the U. S. Navy Office of Naval Research in the summer of 2007 to build a prototype Hydrogen Fuel Cell for the Office of Naval Research.

Students Participate in 18th African American Read-In

More than 60 UDC students enrolled in Professor Eugene Shiro's Reading Improvement classes in the Department of English participated in the 18th African-American Read-In on Monday, February 5. The Read-In, sponsored by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and held each year at the beginning of Black History Month, took place on Sunday and Monday and consisted of church groups, community organizations, book clubs, academic institutions, and private citizens interested in furthering literacy and encouraging reading in all age groups of the African-American community. Participants included groups from 48 states, Africa, East Asia, and Latin America. Students in Professor Shiro's classes brought to class...
favorite readings or quotes from novels, poems, children's books, and other readings, and Professor Shiro read from two short stories included in the anthology of African-American short stories, *Gumbo*, edited by E. Lynn Harris and Marita Golden, UDC's Writer-in-Residence. The Read-In ended with a reading of Maya Angelou's "Black Family Pledge." The Host Report sent to NCTE will record UDC in the permanent record of sponsors of the 18th year of the Read-In.

**Calling Poets and Writers...**

Interested and budding poets and writers are invited to an Informal Poetry, Fiction, and Nonfiction Workshop Friday afternoon, February 9, 2007 from 2:15 to 3:45 p.m. (and the second Friday of every subsequent month) in Room 403 of Building 41. Bring drafts of poetry and other creative writing to polish in an informal and supportive workshop with the help of other student writers, and facilitators Deborah Dessasso and Matthew Petti. Light refreshments served.

The Phoenix, UDC’s Literary Magazine, is looking for a few good writers to contribute stories, essays, and poetry for the upcoming issue. Contact Matthew Petti (Bldg. 41, Room 400-16; mpetti@udc.edu; (202) 274-5635).

**Art Program Hosting Opening Reception for Art Show**

The UDC Art Program is hosting an art opening reception on February 13th, 2007, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Gallery 42, Building 42, Room A-12. The exhibit is “Public Display of Affection,” an invitational art show on the theme of love. The artists included are a mix of locals, artists from across the United States, and abroad, making this a truly multicultural exhibit. The work features a variety of styles and media, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, bookmaking, and glass work. UDC artists featured in the show are Meredith Rode, George Smith, Daniel Venne, and Jack Martinelli. The show runs through March 9th. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

**Khatri Conduct Pedagogical Workshop in Seattle**

Dr. Daryao Khatri, Professor of Physics, conducted a four-hour workshop titled, "Experiencing the Pedagogical Process" on January 6, 2007 in Seattle, Washington. This was part of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) Winter 2007 meeting held in Seattle on January 5-10, 2007. Dr. Khatri received great reviews for the workshop. One participant commented, "I love the way that you show your students that you care about them and want them to be successful. Examples of this is the way you use people's names and the way you call on people."
Another participant commented, "Thank you for opening my mind to some new ideas. After this workshop I feel like I need to digest this information but I would seriously like to start incorporating some of these ideas. Part of me really wants to get rid of the textbook immediately as I feel held hostage by the publishers. A number of the suggestions you shared seem to center around making the student feel comfortable and welcome in the class. I am wondering if you have suggestions for getting a larger group of faculty doing this sort of thing or at least becoming more aware of its significance...as you said in the beginning these ideas are not exclusive to physics alone."

**Dessaso’s Essay on “Why We Write” Accepted**

Department of English Professor Deborah Dessaso’s critical essay, “Why We Write: Minority Women Writers Silence a Cacophony of Tongues,” has been accepted for presentation at the Sigma Tau Delta National Conference to be held in Pittsburg, PA in March. Her paper examines the writing experiences of Hispanic-American, African-American, and Asian-American women, and draws parallels between them.

---

**In Celebration of Black History Month**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 12:30 p.m. – Word-Beat –**

Charles Williams and Tom Teasley Word-Beat combines the artistry of singer/actor Charles Williams and global-jazz percussionist/composer Tom Teasley in a critically acclaimed presentation of spoken word accompanied by inventive percussive rhythms and melodies. Recital Hall (Bldg. 46-West).

**Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 12:30 p.m. – UDC Small Jazz Ensembles**

Jazz ensembles under the direction of Allyn Johnson celebrate Black History Month. 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.

---

**Jowers-Barber Presents at Cross-Cultural Collaborations Series**

Dr. Sandra Jowers-Barber was the first presenter in Swarthmore College’s 2007 Cross-Cultural Collaborations Lecture Series. Black Studies and the Intercultural Center at Swarthmore sponsored the lecture series. Dr. Jowers-Barber’s lecture, *We Refused to leave Our Children Behind: Miller v. Board of Education of the District of Columbia* was presented at the college’s Science Center on Thursday, February 1, 2007.


---

**National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc**

The BS Level of the Nursing Program February 13-15, 2007

An Open Forum for Public Comment will be held:

February 14, 2007 (Wednesday), 4:00 pm, Building 44, Room A03. Please plan to attend and dialogue with the visitors (Dr. Earlene Merrill, the Team Leader and Dr. Barbara Moyer).
University of the District of Columbia
Division of Student Affairs

“Dream the Possible Dream”

Monday, February 19th
UDC’s Women’s Basketball Game vs. Columbia Union
6:00 PM - UDC Gymnasium

Tuesday, February 20th
USGA Open House
9:00 AM - 11:00 PM
Building 38, Room A-22

Lunch & Dialogue
Marie Collins Johns
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Building 44, A-03

Chess Tournament
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Building 38, Game Room

International Reception
w/Abiodun Koya
Salvadorian Folklore Dancers
Traditional Bolivian Dancers
Traditional Afro-Cuban Dancers
Building 38, Windows Lounge, 2nd Floor
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 21st
Spirit Day
8:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Van Ness Campus
Wear Red & Gold - (Giveaways)

Globalization Forum
12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM
Building 44, A-03

Women’s Initiative
Chew & Chat
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Building 38, Windows Lounge, 2nd Floor

Poetry Slam
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Building 38, Windows Lounge, 2nd Floor
1st Prize $150 - 2nd Prize $100 - 3rd Prize $50

Thursday, February 22nd
Founder’s Day Celebration
10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
UDC Auditorium

Thomas Todd, Esquire
Civil Rights Attorney
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Large Board Room

Movie Series
“An Inconvenient Truth”
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Building 44, A-03

USGA Mardi Gras Dance
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Building 38, Windows Lounge, 2nd Floor
Dept of Urban Affairs, Social Sciences and Social work to Host
“From Freedom’s Shadow”

In celebration of Black History month, The Department of Urban Affairs, Social Sciences and Social Work, in partnership with the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, will host the exhibit, From Freedom’s Shadow: African Americans and the U.S. Capitol. The exhibit will be on display from February 22 -28, 2007 in the Learning Resources Division (LRD), building 41; Level A. The twelve-panel exhibition commemorates the African American experience at the U.S. Capitol. Among other issues, the exhibit highlights Benjamin Banneker’s contribution to surveying the Federal City, the enslaved labor used to construct the Capitol, segregation of the building’s facilities, and current African American Congressional representation. An opening reception will be held on February 22, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. on Level 2 of the LRD and will feature Ms. Felicia Bell, curator of the exhibit and Educational Director at the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, who will give a presentation on the historical significance of the exhibit.

Ogletree to Speak on Latest Book

The University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law invites you to join the School of Law community and Harvard Law Prof. Charles Ogletree, who will speak about his new book, From Lynch Mobs to the Killing State: Race and the Death Penalty in America. There will be a pre-talk reception at 5:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 27, 5:30 to 8 pm
UDC David A. Clarke School of Law
Window’s Lounge – Building 38, 2nd Floor
4200 Connecticut Ave., NW

Admission is free.

RSVP: JL Libertelli@Udc.edu
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.