Chief Information Officer Cites Technology Upgrades

The following was provided by Mike Jacks, Chief Information Officer for the University of the District of Columbia.

With the coming of the new academic year, now is a good time to outline some of the upgrades in technology implemented geared towards our students over the past two years. Highlights include:

1. Fully implemented web based registration for continuing students each term. Students can also see over the web their unofficial transcript, the amounts they owe on their account, review any holds on their account, and their financial aid awards.

2. Implemented the ability for students to report their health insurance information over the web while registering, thus removing the need for the student to come to campus and show proof to get the fee waived.

3. Implemented web based faculty grading, which makes the grade (once posted by the faculty member) immediately available for the student to see their grade. There is no need for the student to wait for their grades to be mailed.

4. Did away with paper vouchers to buy books for students receiving financial aid. The bookstore can now see exactly what the student has been awarded for books in SIS+.

5. On August 24, continuing students registering late will be able to pay tuition and fees by credit card over the web as soon as they finish registering for classes over the web. We are also completing testing of the check payment feature (ACH payment) which we also expect to have available for students.

With the upgrade of the student system to Banner over the next two years, it will continue to get better and better for the students.
UDC Delegation Celebrates 10th Anniversary of UDC-MAM in Cairo

Drs. Bertha D. Minus (Associate Provost), Melanie A. Anderson (Acting Dean, SBPA), and Ben O. Latigo (Dean, SEAS) traveled to Cairo, Egypt August 2-7, 2006 for the annual site visit and graduation ceremony at the UDC-MAM Program in Cairo, Egypt. During the visit, the UDC delegation members met with university officials, toured the expansive classroom, laboratory and office facilities, and interacted with current and former students. One of the many highlights of the visit was that the UDC delegation awarded academic degrees to twenty-three students during a very festive and jubilant Sunday evening graduation ceremony at which Dr. Bertha D. Minus delivered the Commencement Address and Dr. Ben O. Latigo later led the graduates in a recitation of the UDC Alumni Pledge. The 2006 Class valedictorian was a female American (electrical engineering) student from New York; and a father-son pair graduated together in electrical engineering with the son already employed in London, England.

The UDC-MAM Program began in 1996 and represents an academic partnership agreement between the Modern Academy in Maadi (MAM) and the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). Founded in 1993, MAM is a Cairo-based private, fast-growing institution of higher learning in Egypt, and offers high quality educational experiences via the integration of learning and high technology. The UDC-MAM program, housed on the campus of the Modern Academy in Maadi, is a premier international program with the mission of encouraging and developing academic programs that will enhance the intellectual, social, and economic growth of students, faculty, and staff of both institutions. Currently, the UDC-MAM Program offers UDC Baccalaureate degrees in Accounting, Business Management, Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. However, discussions were begun during the recent site visit to expand educational offerings to include graduate degree programs in Business Administration and in Computer Science.

Since its inception, the UDC-MAM Program has grown steadily and has attracted many new students. That precedent continues and the UDC delegation returned from Egypt with applications for admission from approximately 400 new students who plan to enroll in the UDC-MAM Program!

UDC to Co-Sponsor Global Conference on Sustainable Peace

University of the District of Columbia, along with Lehman College, CUNY, Penn State University at Abington, International Health Awareness Network and number of other NGO and UN Organizations, is sponsoring a Global Conference on Sustainable Peace in Hiroshima, Japan, August 31 thru September 3, 2006. Following the conference meetings with local Universities and organizations are expected to take place for net working purposes. A number of UDC staff and students will be participating in the conference. They are: Provost Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke, Dr. Bobby Austin, Dr. Janice Borlandoe, Dr. Vijaya L. Melnick,
Mr. William Kellibrew and Mr. Selvon Waldron. Dr. Melnick is the Head of the UDC Delegation and serves on the conference Organizing Committee. She is presenting a paper on ‘Health as an Imperative for Global Peace & Security’ as well as providing Recommendations and Plan of Action for future activities.

Dr. Austin is presenting a paper on ‘Education: A Necessary Tool for the Eradication of Poverty’. Provost Reuben-Cooke will introduce Peace Nobelists Jody Williams, and Dr. Borlandoe, Mr. Waldron & Mr. Kellibrew will be serving on the Education, Human Rights and the Health & Environment panels respectively.

The Conference has a stellar set of Key Note speakers, and presenters, including Peace Nobelists Shirin Ebadi & Jodi Williams, UN Under-Secretary General Ambassador Chowdhury, Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima and other diplomats from Japan, South Korea, Philippines, etc. Distinguished speakers at the conference include those from the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and other parts of the world.

Oh, oh, oh – UDC Returns to the Tom Joyner Morning Show

August of 2004 was a landmark month for the University of the District of Columbia. It marked the University’s designation as “School of the Month” by the Tom Joyner Foundation. For many years the Tom Joyner Foundation has administered a Scholarship Fund for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that raised and gave millions of dollars in scholarships for students attending HBCUs. As “School of the Month,” students of the University of the District of Columbia received significant benefit from this program, as 100% of all funds raised by the Tom Joyner Foundation during August of 2004 went to scholarships here at UDC. During UDC’s time as School of the Month, students, faculty and staff journeyed to the Blumenthal Center in Charlotte, North Carolina and the Tower Theater in Philadelphia to be part of the Sky Show experience honoring the University. (Tom Joyner is shown at right greeting Dr. Pollard at the Philadelphia Sky Show while Vice President Clemmie Solomon looks on) Now, two years later, the Tom Joyner Foundation will commemorate its support of the University in an upcoming Tom Joyner Sky Show to be held Friday, August 18 at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC. Make plans today to attend the unique experience of the Sky Show, and cheer Dr. Pollard has he accepts a presentation from Tom Joyner marking the special support. If you’d like to be part of the fun of the Sky Show, plan to be at Constitution Hall (1776 D Street NW) before the doors open early Friday morning. Crowds are large, so plan to get there early.
University of the District of Columbia
National Alumni Society (UDCNAS)
presents its
Fourth Annual Golf Tournament
Friday, October 6, 2006
at the
Glenn Dale Golf Club
11501 Old Prospect Hill Road
Glenn Dale, MD 20769
(303) 262-1166
Shot-gun Start: 9:00 a.m.
Tournament Fee: $125 per player
Early Bird Special: $100
*(must be received by August 15)*

For more information on sponsorships or for more details on the tournament, contact Jacquelynn Thompson at (202) 274-5206, jthompson@udc.edu; Ben O. Latigo at (202) 274-5027, blatigo@udc.edu; or Evelyn Anderson at (202) 274-6455, eanderson@udc.edu.

Go to [www.glenndalegolfclub.com](http://www.glenndalegolfclub.com) for more about the Glenn Dale Golf Club.
TRIO and College Prep Programs Host Youth Programs

The Office for TRIO and College Preparatory Programs in the Division of Student Affairs sponsored/hosted three youth programs this summer: Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and The GEAR UP Summer Institute. Most of the 80 participating youth were also enrolled in the Mayor’s Passport-to-Work Program.

All programs began June 20 with a trip to Hemlock Overlook at George Mason University. The full academic program began on June 27th with classes in English, math, Spanish, lab science, journalism, creative writing and life skills, as well as several educational field trips. Several UDC students and faculty served as counselors and instructors for all programs. As a demonstration project, The GEARUP/Talent Search students published a newspaper, and concluded the Institute with an open house program on July 28.

The Upward Bound program ended August 5, following the college tour highlight, a visit to Cheney State and Syracuse Universities with a side trip to Ontario, Canada and Niagara Falls.

Institute for Human Service Delivery Youth Employment Program Graduates 43

Dr. Antonia Nowell, Director of the SBPA Institute for Human Service Delivery reports that the Institute partnered with Ms. Marjorie Booker for the DC Department of Human Services to host the DHS Summer Youth Employment Program Graduation Ceremony on Friday June 4, 2006. There were 43 D.C. youths and 14 supervisors who participated. Some who were seniors expressed intention to enter UDC. Dr. Nowell delivered greetings and remarks along with Ms. Kate Jesberg, DHS Interim Director. Graduating Youth Employment Program Committee members are shown in the photo.
The University’s Engineering and Applied Sciences undergraduate student research team comprised of Pidenam Bodjona (Civil Engineering), Ebrima S. Danso (Civil Engineering) and Mohammed Mamoun (Mechanical Engineering) won 3rd Place in Engineering Poster Presentation at the Washington Baltimore Hampton Roads – Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (WBHR-LSAMP) Research Symposium held at Norfolk State University, Virginia, on July 20, 2006. There were 32 teams for the Poster Presentation from Virginia State, Morgan State, Howard, Bowie State, Hampton, UDC and Norfolk State University. They presented the research paper entitled “Climate Change Analysis of Metropolitan Washington DC Area” and prepared the research work under the guidance of Dr. Pradeep Behera from the Department of Engineering, Architecture, and Aerospace Technology. The website is http://sst.nsu.edu/wbhr-lsamp/.

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

The Office of Human Resources has invited Glenn Collins, Financial Consultant for TIAA-CREF, to the University to provide individualized financial counseling sessions 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, Rm. 301 on the following dates:

Thursday, August 17, 2006  9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Thursday, September 7, 2006  9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

To schedule an appointment with Mr. Collins, please visit www.tiaa-cref.org/ or call him at (202) 637-8939. For questions, please call the office of Human Resources at (202) 274-5442.
ASSISTANTS WANTED

DO YOU HAVE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OR THE DESIRE TO WORK IN SPORTS INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION?

If your answer to this is yes, then you should consider working as a student or faculty/staff assistant with the UDC Sports Information Office this coming school year (2006-07). Previous experience is preferred, but we will train serious applicants. The following positions are available for part-time assistants:

- Clock Operators
- Firebird Mascot
- Game Attendants
- Game Announcers
- Linesmen
- Scorekeepers
- Spotters
- Statisticians
- Writer/Editor

For additional information Contact:
Bernard S. Payton, Sports Information Director
University of the District of Columbia
Department of Intercollegiate Athletics
Building 47, Room A-04A, 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008
Telephone: (202) 274-5064 (O); (202) 498-9400 (C); FAX: (202) 274-5065
E-mail: bpayton@udc.edu

Announcing Homecoming 2006 - October 22-28

(Submitted by the Homecoming Committee) It’s the time of year for our annual homecoming festivities in celebration of our great university again! Remember to keep these important dates open: October 22 through October 28, 2006 for “Homecoming.” During that week, a full schedule of activities presented and produced through the auspices of the Office of Student Life and Activities in conjunction with the USGA, will take place on and around the University campus. You are invited to support, assist and participate in the planning for any of the various events and related activities.

Plans are in the works for a parade on Saturday October 28, 2006. Make plans to come join our parade and festivities and
make a day of it. Volunteer to work on one of our dedicated committees. Send us your suggestions for new and novel events. You may contact Ms. Mary Roberts (274-5350) or Ms. Jacquelynn Thompson (274-5206). Go Firebirds!!!!

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.