Classes Cancelled for Opening Convocation

(Note: the following is the text of a memo which was released by the Office of the Provost on September 20, 2006) – “The University of the District of Columbia will hold its Twelfth Opening Convocation at 10:00am on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 in the University Auditorium. We are delighted that the dynamic orator and esteemed civil rights attorney, Thomas Todd, will be the guest speaker. In order to encourage the greatest participation in our Convocation, classes will be cancelled from 9:30am—12:20pm, and we are asking that faculty strongly encourage their students to attend the Convocation event and luncheon which follows. It is important that all faculty needing to rent their regalia do so immediately, if they have not already done so. I look forward to seeing all faculty and staff with earned degrees participating in the academic processional as well as other members of the University community in the audience. As always, thank you for your continued support and cooperation.”

Prominent civil rights leader Thomas N. Todd (shown above addressing the University’s 28th commencement convocation last May) will deliver the keynote address at the University’s Twelfth Annual Opening Academic Convocation on Tuesday, September 26, at 10:00 a.m. in the University’s auditorium. Mr. Todd was also the speaker at the University’s Founder’s Day Convocation in February, 2005.

The University’s theme for this convocation – “A New Day, A New Opportunity,” returns to an idea expressed by President Pollard throughout his presidency. The theme reflects the University’s mission as providing an affordable opportunity for a better education and an improved quality of life for all District residents.

Kellibrew on “J.C. & Friends”
USGA President William Kellibrew IV will be featured on WUSA-TV Channel 9’s “J.C. & Friends” segment with J.C. Hayward on TODAY, September 22 during the 5:00 p.m broadcast and again Monday, September 25 during the noon news.
**Dean Latigo Appears on Voice of America Program**

The Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Dr Ben O. Latigo, was the studio guest of the Voice of America (VOA) live worldwide television, radio and webcast program “Straight Talk Africa” hosted by Shaka Shali. The hour-long program explored the recent signing of cessation of hostilities between the Government of Uganda and the LRA (Lord’s Resistance Army) mediated by the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) in Juba. Dr. Latigo is a longtime peace advocate for Northern Uganda and is the co-founder and International Coordinator of Kacoke Madit, which has its Secretariat in London, England. Joining the program by live satellite phone from Juba was the Chief Mediator Dr. Riek Machar who is also the Vice President of the GOSS. The LRA’s Deputy Chief Vincent Otti also joined the program by live satellite phone from somewhere on the southwest Sudan – Democratic Republic of the Congo border. The U.S. Government, the United Nations, and others are backing the peace talks.

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**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
(301) 262-1166
**Shot-gun Start: 9:00 a.m.**
**Tournament Fee: $100 per player**

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.
Building Fire Alarm Activations – Know What to Do
(Reprinted at the Request of the Vice Pres., Public Safety & Emergency Management)

In accordance with the Building Officials Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA) National Fire Prevention Code, it is mandated that all occupants in a building exit upon a fire alarm activation (as evidenced by an audible alarm). Further, upon complete evacuation, and until such time that emergency responders identify the cause of the activation and render the building safe for re-entry, it must be assumed that an actual fire exists in the building. Finally, displays of disregard for the expeditious and orderly evacuation of a building during fire alarm activations may result in injury and/or loss of life. It is the expectation that all members of the University community treat all fire alarm activations as serious thus helping to ensure our emergency preparedness at all times.

What must I do when the emergency alarm sounds?—

♦ Immediately stop what they are doing.
♦ Immediately exit the building using the nearest stairway. Persons with disabilities should remain in the “safe area” at the stair landing, until emergency response personnel arrive to aid in their evacuation.
♦ Follow directions given by emergency personnel.
♦ Do not use elevators.
♦ Once you have exited the building report to the building’s designated evacuation assembly point as directed by emergency personnel.
♦ Only re-enter the building after being advised that it is safe to do so by emergency response personnel. A silenced alarm is not to be interpreted as an indicator that it is safe to re-enter the building.

Institute for Human Service Delivery to Host Conference

The School of Business and Public Administration’s Institute for Human Service Delivery will host a one-day conference at the University on Monday, September 25, 2006 for over 100 members of District community-based organizations that received funding from the Department of Human Services Income Maintenance Administration for the FY06 fiscal year. This is the second capacity-building conference hosted by the Institute this year. In addition to participation by Dr. Antonia Nowell, a member of the Management Department and Dr. Leslie Richards from the Sociology program, Drs. Janet Burton and Gertrude Jackson from the Social Work program and Professor Sylvia Benatti from the Non-Profit Leadership program will be making presentation. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ms. Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke is scheduled to bring greetings from the University.

Dean Latigo Presents Paper in Germany

Dr. Ben O. Latigo, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, made a poster presentation of a paper “Design of a Low-Cost Digital Controller for a Solar Tracking Photo-Voltaic (PV) Module and Wind Turbine Combination System” at the 21ST European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition, Dresden, Germany on September 5, 2006. The paper is co-authored by S. Lakeou, E. Ososanya, Ben O.
Nowell Keynote Speaker at Human Services Conference

Dr. Antonia Nowell, professor of Public Administration, School of Business and Public Administration will give the keynote address at the annual D.C. Department of Human Services Income Maintenance Administration’s conference entitled - Legends Ball Honoring our Legacy of Successes. Dr. Nowell’s remarks will focus on teaming as an important strategy for addressing agency challenges. The Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. on Friday, September 22, 2006.

Announcing Homecoming 2006 - October 22-28

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).

Small Business Development Center Undergoes Changes

The School of Business and Public Administration’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has experienced a number of changes since last semester. In addition to staffing changes and additions, they have also changed the look in the department to some extent, and have instituted a philosophical change in the way the Center will approach its mission in the small business community in 2007.

Kelvin Johnson (at right) has now officially assumed responsibility as Director of the SBDC; former Director, Ron Mitchell will continue to serve as a part-time counselor. The staff has also added a full-time administrative staff assistant (Ms. D. Mendoza) and a full-time counselor (Ms. T. McCoy).

Most importantly, SBDC has agreed to participate in a number of projects in partnership with others in our building interested in developing small business interests in this community.

The Community Resource and Economic Development Unit of Cooperative Extension Service has been approved by the SBA as a participant in the Community Express loan program as a technical assistance provider and has asked the SBDC to join the in the development and delivery of technical assistance and other training programs in completion of its mission.
Additionally, the Center will be working with Dr. Antonia Nowell’s group providing new business training to graduates of the Home Inspection Training Program, a “Contractor’s College.” This same concept will be applied to the Center’s portion of a bid proposal to WSSC we are participating in as a subcontractor. The Center has also been asked to participate in Dr. Nick Rajpara’s Sustainability project aimed at promoting socially responsible entrepreneurship in community development. Finally, the Center will be working along with Prof. Poole in his DC Economic Development Initiative Project.

Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Delta Mu Delta Tapped as Star Chapter

The School of Business and Public Administration's Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Delta Mu Delta (National Honor Society in Business Administration) was selected to receive the Star Chapter Award this year. The Star Chapter Award is presented to outstanding chapters of Delta Mu Delta, and chapters selected receive a Certificate of Achievement. An article will be published about our chapter in the fall edition of The Vision (the national publication), and we will be recognized at the next National Meeting. Visiting Professor Nick Rajpara is the faculty advisor to Delta Mu Delta and is responsible for getting the chapter re-instated after the death of Dr. Vincent Ashe, the former faculty advisor.

Urban Affairs Professor Presents Paper at APSA National Conference

Assistant Professor Dr. Suzan J. Harkness, Political Science, presented an invited paper for the Panel on New Technology and New Tools for the Classroom at the Annual National Conference of political scientists at the American Political Science Association (APSA) in Philadelphia, PA, August 31 – September 3, 2006. The paper, “Podcasting: A Pocket Full of Power and Intellectual Property Issues” was widely discussed in
the panel on Teaching with Technology. More than 7,000 political scientists, professionals, and students gathered in Philadelphia to engage in 47 Thematic Divisions and 730 Panel and Roundtable Presentations.

For the 2006 Annual Meeting, participants were invited to address the fundamental question of whether and how the concept of power informs political science. The birthplace of our nation was an apt setting to discuss the 2006 theme "Power Reconsidered." Hosted by the Philadelphia Marriott, the Loews Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Convention Center, the 2006 Annual Meeting featured compelling discussions on the theme as well as current issues in political science and the public sphere.

Li Chen Publishes Paper in Discrete Mathematics Journal

University of the District of Columbia Computer Science professor Li Chen George Mason Math and Professor G. Agnarsson published a paper in the new issue of Discrete Mathematics Journal (G. Agnarsson and L. Chen, On the extension of vertex maps to graph homomorphisms, Discrete Mathematics, Sept.6, 2006). This paper built a link from the gradually varied surfaces proposed by Chen in 1989 to the absolute retracts, a deep concept in Graph Theory. "Discrete Mathematics" published by Elsevier is one of the leading journals in discrete math and related areas. This is the first time Professor Chen demonstrates his work in pure math journal. He always believes that his gradually varied surfaces not only important in theory but also important in real World applications. This published paper provides a considerable support to his thought. More information can be found in his book "Discrete Surfaces and Manifolds." (http://www.spclab.com/publisher/dsm.html)

COES to Host 4H Training

University of the District of Columbia Cooperative Extension Service 4-H & Youth Development Program is now offering Training for 4H Adult Volunteers Thursday, September 28, 2006 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Volunteers are encourage to bring a bag lunch. Training will include:

- How to establish a 4H Club or Program
- Review the new 4H curriculums, activities, awards and fundraisers
- How to use 4H in the Classroom K-12 (public, charter, private)
- Creating Portfolios of Achievement Through Participation in 4H
- Establishing 4H in your After School Program (all ages)
- Why the 4H Experiential Learning Model works
- How to Charter your 4H Club
- “4H Friday” for every Public, Charter, Private & Home School K-12
- 4H Summer Camp “07”

Training will be conducted on the 3rd floor of Building 52 (4340 Connecticut Ave) in Room 318. If interested in attending, please contact the 4H office to confirm your attendance and to reserve printed material (Phone: 202-274-7081, Fax: 202-274-7130 or via email to rbankhead@udc.edu). More information on 4H at UDC can be found at http://www.udc.edu/ces/4h.
CUBA-VENEZUELA-BOLIVIA

Poverty Eradication Policies and Relations with USA

UDC

Presents an Open Forum

CUBA-VENEZUELA-BOLIVIA

Poverty Eradication Policies and Relations with USA

Panelists

H. E. BERNARDO ALVAREZ HERRERA
Ambassador of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

H. E. GUSTAVO GUZMAN
Ambassador of the Republic of Bolivia

H.E. DAGOBERTO RODRIGUEZ BARRERA
Chief of Cuban Interest Section

MARK WEISBROT
Co-Director CEPR

GEOFF THALE
Director of Programs - WOLA

KEVIN HEALY
Professor-Elliot School of International Affairs-GWU

Moderator: Bobby Austin, Vice President University Relations & Communications
Welcome by: Fransisco Saenz, President UDC Latin Students Association

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (UDC)
Main Auditorium, Building 46
4200 Connecticut Avenue NW/Van Ness-UDC Red Metro Line

Wednesday, September 27, 2006
5:15 pm-8:00 pm
Please RSVP To:
Perita: Pbaxter@udc.edu | Paul: Ptennassee@udc.edu
202-274-6246 202-274-6277
Future City Competition to Return to UDC

For most people, the promise of fuel cells is only that, a complicated technology closer to a pipe dream than reality. For tens of thousands of seventh- and eighth-graders across the United States participating in the 2007 National Engineers Week Future City Competition™, however, fuel cells are the key component of urban energy strategies that may serve as real world examples.

Future City, sponsored by the nation’s professional engineering community, each year asks students, working in teams and under the guidance of a teacher and a volunteer engineer mentor, to design and build a city of tomorrow. Students must also research and write an essay on a pressing social need. This year, the focus is on fuel cells and Washington, D.C. area middle school students will tackle the challenge full force.

The Washington, D.C. Future City Competition will be held on Saturday, January 20th at the Firebird Inn, University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC. First place winners there will join teams from 38 other regions for an all-expense-paid trip to the Future City National Finals in Washington, D.C., February 19-21, 2007 during Engineers Week. Grand prize is a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. More than 30,000 students from 1,100 middle schools are expected to participate in Future City this year as it celebrates its 15th anniversary.

Registration deadline for the 2007 Future City Competition is October 15, 2006. For more information on entering or volunteering in the Washington, D.C. regional competition, contact regional coordinator Dr. Stanley Onye at 274-6318 or sonye@udc.edu, visit their website (www.futurecity.org) or call 1-877-636-9578.

The National Engineers Week Future City Competition is sponsored in part by the National Engineers Week Foundation, a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations, co-chaired in 2007 by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and Tyco Electronics Corporation.

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.