Join in a Celebration of Collaborative Research

Celebrate the national recognition of a collaborative research project between the University’s Department of Education and the State Education Agency, Adult Education & Family Literacy. Three UDC professors -- Maigenet Shifferraw, Janet Burton, and George Spicely -- are guest participants along with DC adult educators trained in action research here at the University.

October 2 -9, 2006, the UDC and SEA joint project on action research is being featured in a discussion the National Institute for Literacy’s Professional Development national listserv. The online discussion includes streaming video of a documentary, “Action Research” at http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/discussions/professionaldevelopment/webcast_action.html

Participants are invited to tune in to the discussion at any time. The dialogue thus far has been dynamic and insightful.

To Participate: Subscribe by visiting: http://www.nifl.gov/mailman/listinfo/Professionaldevelopment

To Prepare: View this short streaming video for background about action research in the District of Columbia: http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/discussions/professionaldevelopment/webcast_action.html (or try: http://tinyurl.com/krah5 )

General Overview: Join guests from the University of the District of Columbia and teacher researchers on the Adult Literacy Professional Development Discussion List to discuss a broad range of topics related to action research in adult literacy professional development (PD), including:

- Defining action research
- Problems/questions from instruction that could become action research
- Teachers’ experiences with action research
- Action Research in Adult Basic Education in the District of Columbia, nationally, and internationally
- Using practitioner inquiry as professional development
- Ancillary support systems for action research
- Tools that give teachers different modes for examining their practice and to build a PD community
- Role of action research in “evidence-based practice”
- Action research as a transformative professional development

University of the District of Columbia National Alumni Society (UDCNAS) presents its

Fourth Annual Golf Tournament

Rescheduled Due to Inclement Weather

New Date - Friday, October 20, 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 for more about the Glenn Dale Golf Club.
Meet UDC’s Writer in Residence Marita Golden

Come as meet Professor Marita Golden, the University of the District of Columbia’s Writer in Residence on Thursday, October 26th 12:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall Building 46 (Music Department). Professor Golden, author of 12 works of fiction and nonfiction, including Migrations of the Heart, Saving Our Sons and the novel AFTER., will host this afternoon question and answer session during which she will discuss her writing career and answer questions about how to get published, the writing life, and current trends in the publishing world. For more information, contact mgolden@udc.edu.

Closing the Gaps in Mathematics

(Note: The following is submitted by Professor Brenda Brown, Professor of Mathematics and Dr. Daryao S. Khatri, Professor of Physics and discussed a recent program they conducted concerning teaching methods conducted during the summer of 2006. Should you have any questions, please contact Dr. Khatri at dkhatri@udc.edu) The problem for this exploratory research study was to ascertain if a short, intensive six-week project in basic math and introductory algebra would
produce a recognizable improvement in the math performance of entering UDC freshmen students as measured by the UDC math placement test.

The students were admitted on a first-come, first-served basis with no prior screening and carried a stipend of $500 to be paid in two installments. Students also received $100 as a bonus for perfect attendance, barring any medical emergency and/or any prior medical appointments.

On the pre-test for basic math (005), the mean score for the group (N=10) was 35.6, with the passing score being 70. On the post-test, the mean increased to 63.4 showing an improvement of 78 percent. The results for 015, Introductory Algebra, the pre-test mean for the group (N=11) was 34.45 with a passing score of 86 on the university’s placement test. On the post-test, the mean increased to 49.1, and the median improved to 44.0 suggesting that the workshop profited some students more than others. While the difference between the means was not as great for the Introductory Algebra course as for the Basic Math course, the overall percent improvement was almost 43 percent.

Based on the UDC placement test, three students were able to skip the two remedial courses; three others were able to test out of the basic course, and the remaining six showed marked improvement in their readiness for the basic math course. Our own analysis and observations showed that two additional students could have been placed in math 015 (skip one course), but the team decided against it because the students themselves said they needed extra practice. One student, who had passed both the remedial courses placement tests, had many gaps in her math preparation and was grateful for the “refresher course”.

Instruction and extensive practice in math alone is insufficient. Ongoing attention must be given to study habits, individual responsibility, attitudes toward authority, organization, and classroom behavior.

We are convinced more than ever before that the students from the District Public High Schools can skip the below-college remedial math courses but more time is needed. We theorize that a period of eight-weeks will be sufficient.

**Delta Mu Delta Receives National Award**

The University of the District of Columbia Epsilon Sigma chapter of Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business Administration has been awarded the “2006 Star Chapter” award. This award is granted each year to DMD chapters for outstanding performance in chapter operations and administration from the Delta Mu Delta National Executive Council. The chapter was installed in 1991 and is the only chapter in Washington, D.C.

Along with nine other chapters, Epsilon Sigma received a certificate of recognition and will be further recognized in DMD’s publication, *The Vision*, and at the 2007 Triennial National Meeting. The chapter’s adviser, Professor Nick Rajpara was also previously honored by UDC’s Undergraduate Student Government Association with the “Professor of the
Year Award” this past April. For more information on Delta Mu Delta, contact Rina Daniels at 202-321-6240 or visit www.deltamudelta.org. Members of the Epsilon Sigma chapter are pictured below.

**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 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.
ING FINANCIAL ADVISORS, LLC
FINANCIAL EDUCATION SEMINARS
University of the District of Columbia Employees

The Office of Human Resources has invited Donald Byrd, Certified Financial Planner, from ING Financial Advisors, LLC to the university to provide individualized financial counseling sessions for all UDC employees. Employees will have the opportunity to discuss their investment strategy, asset allocations and potential retirement options. A Session will be held in the Office of Human Resources, Building 38, Room 301 on the following dates:

Wednesday, October 11, 2006  9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

No appointment necessary. For questions, please call the office of Human Resources at (202) 274-5020.

New Documentary Film Series to Air on UDC TV

UDC Cable TV (Channel 98 on Comcast and Channel 19) will be airing Globally Local, a new series of documentary films running from now until Christmas. The films explore the edges, borders and cross-currents where the global meets the local and voices discuss, compete, control and share. Globally Local film offerings for October include:

October 2, 4, 6 - The Shaman’s Apprentice: The Search for Knowledge in the Amazon rainforest (2001; 54 mins.) Produced by Miranda Smith and Abigail Wright. Narrated by Susan Sarandon. Dr. Mark Plotkin, an ethnobotanist, races to document and preserve the ancient healing knowledge of Amazon Indians from extinction. The forest is disappearing and with it many medicines and the tribal shamans – healers and encyclopedias of rain forest botany. The story of one scientist’s quest to document and save this endangered life and culture. For information and resources: www.mirandaproductions.com.

October 9, 11, 13 - The Edge of America: Struggling for Health and Justice (2004; 56 mins.) A National Association of County and City Health Officials (NAACHO) production. This film explores how three rural communities in Arizona, Montana, and North Carolina struggle to survive injustices such as poverty, inadequate housing, discrimination, ineffective immigration policy and lack of public transportation and health care. It shows the challenges for rural life impacted by national trends and policies and offers a window into rural life and introduces people who make rural America their home.

October 16, 18, 20 - No Loitering (2001; 57 mins.) A film by Ellen Frankenstein. An intimate portrait of teenagers trying to find their way and make sense of the world around them. The film weaves together video shot by teens and by the filmmaker, as they work together to make a film and create expressive outlets for youth in the
community. Set in the town of Sitka, Alaska, home to a large Alaska Native population, the video chronicles the creativity, concerns and dreams of youth growing up today. For information and resources: http://www.efclicks.net/

**October 23, 25, 27 - Goodbye Baby**
(2005: 58 mins.) A film by Pat Goudvis. As the number of adoptions from Guatemala to the U.S. continues to rise dramatically, so does the controversy. What adoptive parents see as an act of love, others view with deep suspicion. Director Pat Goudvis, herself the mother of two children adopted from Guatemala examines the ramifications that money, private lawyers, media coverage and women’s rights have on the adoption process.

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**UDC Small Jazz Ensembles in Concert**
Tuesday, October 10, 2006 at 12:30 p.m.
Recital Hall–Bldg. 46 West. Take a break and join us for an afternoon of great music with the UDC Jazz Small Ensembles under the direction of Allyn Johnson. This program is free and open to the community. Recital Hall-Bldg. 46-West. For more information about this event, contact Judith Korey at 202-274-5803 or JazzAlive@udc.edu.

**SAVE THE DATE: JazzAlive– The Legacy Continues**
Monday, October 23, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in the University Auditorium – A Showcase of the UDC Jazz Studies Program – Join us for an evening of great jazz as the legacy continues with a showcase of the outstanding musicians and ensembles from the University of the District of Columbia Jazz Studies Program under the direction of Allyn Johnson.

The evening will feature the University’s powerhouse BIG BAND – the *UDC Jazz Ensemble*, and introduce DC jazz lovers to UDC’s exciting resident group – the *Calvin Jones Legacy Ensemble*. Produced by the Jazz Studies Program and the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives, the concert will kick off *UDC Homecoming 2006* and this year’s *Scholarship Benefit Series*. Tickets are $15-general, $10-senior, $5-student and can be purchased in advance at the Music Program, Building 46 West on the UDC Campus at 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW, . Tickets will also be available at the University Auditorium door on the night of the performance.

Contact Judith Korey at 202-274-5803 or JazzAlive@udc.edu for more information.

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**Calling all Alumni – Send Us Your News**

Do YOU have interesting news to share with your fellow alumni? Perhaps the good news is a job promotion, or, perhaps you’ve pursued further academic training. Whatever the cause for celebration, you can be sure that the University and your former classmates want to know what you’ve been doing, so please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at jthompson@udc.edu to submit your information. The Office also wants alumni updates (address changes) for those alumni who you may know that are not receiving alumni and/or University information. And don’t forget, for late-breaking University of the District of Columbia news, you may visit our web site at www.udc.edu. Keep in touch and stay involved! Send your updates to Jacquelynn V. Thompson at (202) 274-5206.
When graduates of the University gather for the **UDC Alumni Scholarship Social** on **Saturday, October 28, 2006**, at 7:00 p.m. in the **Firebird Inn**, they will note **Homecoming Week 2006** (October 23–October 28) in a special way. On this occasion, the University of the District of Columbia National Alumni Society (UDCNAS) will formally announce its scholarship program for enrolled and entering students in UDC’s College of Arts & Sciences, School of Business & Public Administration, and School of Engineering & Applied Sciences. UDCNAS decided that homecoming was the perfect time to show that the University’s alumni do give back and those alumni envision the very best for this institution and its students.

Call the University’s **Office of Alumni Relations** at (202) 274-5206 for more information on the **Alumni Homecoming Scholarship Social** on **October 28**, and do anticipate an evening of good music, good food, and good people!

**Cost:** $25.00 per person.

**Dress Attire:** **After-Five**

**RSVP the Office of Alumni Relations by October 20th**
The University of the District of Columbia
Division of Student Affairs
CAREER AWARENESS/JOB FAIR DAY
Wednesday, October 18, 2006
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
GYMNASIUM, BUILDING 47

"BE PREPARED"

- Resumes
- Make a contact
- Dress appropriately
- Speak clearly
- Personal notes/notes
**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.

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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.