UDC Students Meet with Magic Johnson

Six members of the University student population had a frank discussion with basketball great Earvin “Magic” Johnson (shown at right) on Thursday, October 12 as part of Johnson’s tour to refocus attention on living with HIV/AIDS in the United States.

It is estimated that African Americans account for half of all new HIV infections in the United States. In 2003, almost 80 percent of all new AIDS cases in Washington, D.C. were among African Americans, who make up only 61 percent of the population. This and other alarming statistics have inspired Johnson and Abbott Laboratories to join forces and visit Washington, D.C., as well as other cities as a part of a 10-city tour. UDC students, along with Howard University students, were able to join in, taking part in discussions on how to fight this growing epidemic and here from Johnson’s story of hope and survival of living with HIV for the past 15 years.

During the meeting, Johnson also discussed how to fight HIV/AIDS on the college campus and how to encourage more aspiring African American doctors to specialize in HIV/AIDS treatment.

UDC students who attended the Town Hall include (left to right) Rasheed Cole, Selvon M. Waldron, Whitney Cloud, Hortense Brent, David Nathaniel Gaston, Andre Barnett. (Photos courtesy Adrian Wilkins).
2006 School Board Candidates Forum at UDC

Candidates for the D.C. Board of Education will get an opportunity to outline their strategies for improvement and to hear from the major stakeholders, including students and parents, at a forum on Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 6-8 p.m. at the University auditorium. The forum is being sponsored by the DC Public Schools (DCPS), the DC Public Charter School Association (DCPCSA) and UDC.

The first hour of the program will focus on candidates running for president of the school board, while the second hour will be devoted to those candidates seeking school board district seats. The 2-hour forum will be moderated by WAMU-FM’s Kojo Nnamdi.

Questions from the audience will be accepted during the second hour of the program, and candidates for school board president are being asked to remain for the Q&A. Light refreshments will be served before the program, starting at 5:15 p.m.

The event, according to co-sponsors UDC and the D.C. Public Charter School Association (DCPCSA), aim to:

- Raise awareness of and interest in the election of the DC Board of Education members
- Focus the attention of the community on the goal to achieve a quality public school education for every child in the nation’s capital
- Get specific answers to the questions of stakeholder groups, so that candidates can be held accountable
- Launch a strategic communications campaign from the forum, to benefit all District voters

Ramona Edelin, Executive Director of DCPCSA and former UDC trustee, put her perspective on the record when she emphatically stated. “Authentically moving the needle of student academic achievement will require a serious and concerted effort. DCPCSA advocates creating a seamless, accountable, quality-focused collaboration among the institutions that are responsible for public education in the District: DCPS, UDC and the DC Public Charter School Association.”

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.
On April 18, 2006, President Bush issued an Executive Order creating the National Mathematics Advisory Panel. The second meeting of the National Math Panel was held at the MIT campus on September 13-14, 2006. Dr. Daryao S. Khatri, professor of Physics, along with Dr. Anne Hughes, UDC retired Professor of Sociology, presented a paper titled, "Closing the Gap In Mathematics" based on our Summer 2006 Summer Intervention with 12 DCPS graduates. The National Math Panel charge is to advise the president and the Secretary of Education of the best use of scientifically based research to advance the teaching and learning of mathematics.

USGA President William Kellibrew IV, who was featured on WUSA-TV Channel 9’s “J.C. & Friends” segment with J.C. Hayward in September, will return to tell his story as part of “J.C. & Friends Special.” This half-hour special will focus on several of Ms. Hayward’s special guests in recent weeks. If you missed the original airing of this inspiring profile, tune in this Saturday, October 21 at 8:30 p.m. on Channel 9.
UDC Student Hits the Stage in “Dreamgirls”

Keith Irby, a University of the District of Columbia student, is starring as Curtis Taylor, Jr. in Dreamgirls, a play produced by The Winters Lane Productions. This company has been adopted as the resident theatre company of Catonsville Community College of Baltimore. Irby was initiated into theatrical performance when he was cast in the UDC Theatre Company production of The Crucible as Reverend Parris. He subsequently appeared with the UDC Theatre Company as Reuben Tate in Zooman and the Sign. Remaining dates for Dreamgirls are October 20, 21, 27, 28 at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees October 22, and 29 at 3 p.m. playing at CCBC Catonsville Q Theatre, 800 Rolling Road, Catonsville, Md. 21228. For more info call 410 780 6369 or visit www.winterslaneproductions.org.

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.

SEA Implementation of PLATO at UDC is “Best in Country”

The State Education Agency (SEA) at UDC recently received wonderful news. When it comes to the Implementation of PLATO (adult literacy software used to help adults improve their literacy skills and obtain goals like getting the GED, jobs, learning English, helping their children with school work and just brushing up on literacy skills), the District Implementation under the SEA at UDC has been rated as “The Best in the Country.” Following is an excerpt from a letter written by PLATO Learning Management to the State Education Agency.

“It is my honor to inform you that the University of the District of Columbia State Education Agency’s implementation of PLATO is being recognized by PLATO Learning’s management team as the best in the country. PLATO has several post secondary clients who are implementing solutions for the adult education marketplace; however, none are doing it as well as or serving as many learners as the SEA.”
The SEA has a unique model that PLATO hopes to be able to share with other urban cities across the country. We believe that the essential difference between your implementation and others is your vision and the dedication of SEA staff and provider sites........”

Far exceeding an initial modest goal of reaching 300-500, enrollment of adult learners has continued to grow, recently topping 2,150 learners in nine months. The SEA has many stakeholders who support this work, including private partners (Comcast, Fannie Mae, Verizon), many government agencies and all SEA-funded adult literacy programs where adults can get on PLATO and learn to work independently from home, recreation centers and anywhere that they can access the internet. For more information, contact the SEA 202-274-7181.

**Documentary Film Series Continues on UDC TV**

UDC Cable TV (Channel 98 on Comcast and Channel 19 on RCN Cable) in continuing with its airing of *Globally Local*, a new series of documentary films running through Christmas. The films explore the edges, borders and cross-currents where the global meets the local and voices discuss, compete, control and share. Upcoming *Globally Local* film offerings include:

**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.

**October 30, Nov. 1, 3 - Global Villages: The Globalization of Ethnic Display**
(2004; 61 mins.) A film by Tamar Gordon. A film about ethnic theme parks in China and Japan and the politics of theme park representation. While having fun together, tourists and performers also collaborate in the production of heritage, nation and world. Moving between five sites in two countries — weaving together performances, interviews and interactions—*Global Villages* captures the different narratives of globalization and identity that shape the experiences of ethnic minorities and foreign nationals as they perform for tourists.

**November 6, 8, 10 - Tumaini Letu (200 20 mins.)** A film by Natalie Halpern. Tumaini Letu (Our Hope) is a film about the lives, struggles, and indomitable spirit of three women left to care for Kenyan AIDS orphans. Rasoa Kivairu is raising ten grandchildren; Anna Khautu is a single mother of five who lost her husband to AIDS; and Anna Aredo has taken in four nephews. With limited resources but great resolve they must overcome many challenges to ensure these orphans grow up healthy and have a chance at a better future.

for themselves, recreating family and community in the context of this disease. Their poignant and revealing stories offer heartfelt reflections on societal fears and aversions to sickness, bodily differences, and death. Educational and film resources at: www.brunofilms.com/resources.html

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.

Alumni Homecoming Scholarship Social
Saturday, October 28, 2006

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
University of the District of Columbia  
Division of Student Affairs  
Undergraduate Student Government Association  
presents  
Homecoming 2006  
“Déjà Vu”  
Remembering A Rich Legacy  
October 23 – 29, 2006  

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, October 23rd
Class Kings and Queens Showcase  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Bldg. 38, 2nd Floor-Firebird Inn  
FREE ADMISSION

Jazz Alive  
The Legacy Continues: A Showcase of the UDC Jazz Studies Program  
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
UDC Auditorium  
Tickets: $15 general - $10 senior - $5 student

Tuesday, October 24th
Afternoon Movie  
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm  
Bldg. 44, Room A-03  
FREE ADMISSION

Chess Tournament  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Bldg. 38, Game Room  
FREE ADMISSION

Power Hour-Alumni/Student Networking  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Epicurean Restaurant  
1250 Connecticut Ave. NW  
FREE ADMISSION

Artists and Poets Showcase  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Bldg. 38, Firebird Inn  
FREE ADMISSION

Wednesday, October 25th
Spirit Day - “Behold the Red and Gold”  
All Day Event  
UDC Van Ness Campus  
(Wear red and gold)

Table Tennis Tournament  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Bldg. 38, Game Room  
FREE ADMISSION

“Globalize Me”  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Bldg. 42, Room A-06  
FREE ADMISSION

Student Trustee Reception  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Bldg. 38, Student Lounge  
FREE ADMISSION
Thursday, October 26th
Afternoon Movie Double-feature
12:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Bldg. 38, Room A-22
FREE ADMISSION

Pool Tournament
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Bldg. 38, Game Room
FREE ADMISSION

“The Rent Party”
70s vs. 80s Theme Party
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Bldg. 38, Firebird Inn
FREE ADMISSION
(Wear your 70s and 80s gear)

Friday, October 27th
Pep Rally / Red and White Basketball Scrimmage
12 noon – 2:15 pm / 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm
Amphitheatre / UDC Gymnasium
FREE ADMISSION

Volleyball Game/Senior Night
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
UDC Gymnasium
FREE ADMISSION

“Ring the Alarm”
Homecoming Step Show sponsored by USGA
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
UDC Auditorium
Tickets: $12.00 student – $15.00 general
**Purchase will call tickets in UDC Cashier’s Office,
Bldg. 39, 2nd floor, or purchase tickets at the door on day of the event.

Saturday, October 28th
Homecoming Parade
10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Step off: Davenport & Connecticut Ave.
(Yardfest on Dennard Plaza immediately following)
FREE ADMISSION

UDC Alumni Scholarship Social
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Bldg. 38, Firebird Inn
Tickets: $25.00

Sunday, October 29th
LeToya Luckett-R&B Concert
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
UDC Auditorium
Tickets: $15.00 student - $20.00 General
**Purchase will call tickets in UDC Cashier’s Office,
Bldg. 39, 2nd floor, or purchase tickets at the door on day of the event.

For more information, visit www.udc.edu/hc2006.htm
University Hosts D.C. Environmental Conference

The University will host a District of Columbia Environmental Conference beginning today, Friday, October 20, 2006 through Sunday, October 22, 2006. Come out and learn about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and how to get involved to help protect this natural resource. The 2006 D.C. Environmental Conference is hosted by Wholeness for Humanity, the U.S. Equal Protection Agency and the University of the District of Columbia. Conference events will take place on the University.

Conference participants will:

- Engage in intergenerational networking
- Learn about stewardship and its application
- Learn about clean transportation
- Explore environmental landscaping
- Discover new energy conservation technology
- Be informed about environmental career opportunities with government, industry and public interest groups

Attendees will also be able to purchase products and services from environment-friendly and holistically conscious businesses, at the Wise Women FestivALL that will take place on site at the Conference. Conference registration is minimal at $66.00 for general admission and $15.00 for seniors and students. To register on-line simply go to www.wholenessforhumanity.com and click on the “Conference” link. For additional information contact Greg Drury, of Wholeness for Humanity, at gd-wfh@earthlink.net, or at 202-686-9813, or you may visit www.wholenessforhumanity.com.

Organizing co-sponsors include:

- Wholeness for Humanity
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed EcoTour
- Wise Women Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- University of the District of Columbia

Join the fun and be part of something meaningful.

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.