Building Fire Alarm Activations – Know What to Do
(From the Office of the Vice President, 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.

UDC Community Day - Another Big Hit

The doors of the University were flung open to approximately 800 District high school freshmen and sophomores students flooded the university grounds to participate in University of the District of Columbia Community Day. The event is becoming an annual tradition at the University made possible by a dedicated planning and operations committee spearheaded by Marian Smith and Mari Tekle. Many thanks to all those tireless volunteers who made this community outreach and recruiting initiative a great success.
The University of the District of Columbia, The InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, and the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) present a panel discussion: Crossing the Line? Freedom of Speech and Religious Sensibilities on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Reception with refreshments will precede the panel discussion and a Question and Answer period will follow.

Panelists include: Caryle Murphy, Pulitzer Prize winner, Washington Post; Jamin Raskin, Professor of First Amendment Law, American University Washington College of Law; Imam Mohamed Magid, Executive Director, All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center; Rabbi Dr. Marc Gopin, Director Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution George Mason University; Reverend Dr. Clark Lobenstine, Executive Director, Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington; and Father George Clements, Founder and Director, One Church, One Child.

The Panel will be moderated by: S. Suzan J. Harkness, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Political Science, Department of Urban Affairs, Social Sciences and Social Work, College of Arts and Sciences, University of the District of Columbia.

Please RSVP by April 1, 2006, to Dr. Sandra Lawson at slawson@udc.edu or 202 274-6272.
UDC CABLE TV PRESENTS
A SPECIAL TELEVISION PRESENTATION

UDC Cable Television, the UDC Jazz Studies Program and the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives announce the special television cablecast of the Calvin Jones BIG BAND Jazz Festival, recorded live on Monday, April 25, 2005. The festival was renamed in memory of the great Calvin Jones, director of the university’s Jazz Studies Program and a legendary figure in the Washington, D.C. community. The jazz ensembles from the University of the District of Columbia (directed by Allyn Johnson), Howard University (directed by Fred Irby III), and the University of Maryland (directed by Chris Vadala) offer a special tribute to Calvin Jones. UDC Cable Television is proud to present this special television production to the DC community during Jazz Appreciation Month. The Calvin Jones Big Band Jazz Festival 2005 Special will air Monday, Wednesday and Friday during April from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

UDC Small Jazz Ensembles Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 12:30 p.m. - Jazz ensembles under the direction of Allyn Johnson perform original arrangements of jazz standards, as well as new jazz compositions. 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.wrcl.org/events.html.

Save the Date - Calvin Jones BIG BAND Jazz Festival

Make sure to mark your calendar for the big celebration. On Monday, April 24, 2006, at 8:00 P.M., the BIG BAND sound will return to UDC for the 20th year. Save the date and join us again for what has become one of the most anticipated events on D.C.’s jazz calendar as the powerhouse jazz ensembles of the University of the District of Columbia (directed by Allyn Johnson), Howard University (directed by Fred Irby III), and the University of Maryland (directed by Chris Vadala) celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month and a remarkable 20th anniversary. Produced by UDC’s Jazz Studies Program and the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives, the festival began in 1987 as part of a citywide tribute to Duke Ellington, and it remains one of the most
anticipated events on Washington, D.C.'s jazz calendar. For more information on the 2006 festival, contact Judith Korey at (202) 274-5803 or JazzAlive@udc.edu.

Firebird Ranks 16th in Nation in Scoring

Jumaane Sorrells, a University of the District of Columbia men's basketball player, finished his college basketball career this past season, averaged 21.6 points in scoring per game placing him among the elite basketball players in Division II this season.

Jumaane was also ranked highly in three-point field goals per game, averaging 3.0 per game and ranked 22nd in the nation. He was also ranked 82nd in the nation in three-point field goal percentage averaging 29.4 for the season.

Sorrells' emergence as team scoring leader came after the UDC team's 2004-05 season was canceled, and after having only 11 minutes of playing time and averaging just 2 points per game coming off the bench during the 2003-04 season. Sorrells is no stranger to high scoring though. As a high school student-athlete, he helped Springbrook High School (MD) reach the 4A semi-finals two years in a row before losing to opponent schools.

A senior, Sorrells will graduate in May 2006 with a bachelor's degree in studio art. He plans to work in the field of graphic design and television animation.

Professors Present at Alternative Certification Conference

Dr. Patricia M. Myers, Interim Chairperson of the Department of Education; Dr. Sandra G. Yates, Professor of Business; and Dr. John L. Murphy, Assistant Professor of Urban Affairs, Social Sciences, and Social Work, attended the 16th Annual Conference of the National Association for Alternative Certification that was held in Chicago, Illinois, on March 27 - 29, 2006. Drs. Myers, Yates, and Murphy made a presentation on the District of Columbia Teacher Institute Program (DC-TIP), a 5-year Transition to Teaching Program funded by the United States Department of Education.

The DC-TIP Program is designed to recruit, train, and support recent college graduates, highly qualified paraprofessionals, and mid-career professionals to meet certification requirements to teach in selected District of Columbia Public Charter Schools that meet the high-need school criteria. It is designed as a one-year accelerated alternative teacher certification program with an intense 5-week Summer Institute; year-long professional development seminars; and support from a
mentor and University supervisor. UDC's Program is entering its 2nd year, with a cohort of participants who will begin the Summer Institute in June, 2006.

ATTENTION !!!!
The University of the District of Columbia’s Commencement Ceremonies will be held Saturday, May 13, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the Verizon Center (formerly MCI Center)

Guest Speaker – Anthony A. (Tony) Lewis, President of Verizon Washington DC

Orders for Purchasing Regalia
Academic regalia purchases can be done through the UDC bookstore. If you desire to purchase your regalia, please secure the order form from Mrs. Josephine Whitehead, accounting clerk in the bookstore. These are time sensitive orders that require immediate action.

Orders for Rental of Regalia
The UDC bookstore will be taking orders for rental of regalia beginning Monday, April 3, 2006 through Friday, April 28, 2006. Please place your orders early to avoid the rush or delay in receipt of your order. for more information, contact Mrs. Whitehead in the bookstore in Bldg 38, Level A or call 274-5110

University Faculty & Staff attend Annual NIS/BKX Meeting

Five faculty members, Drs. Carolyn Cousin, Freddie Dixon, Rosie Sneed, Deepak Kumar and Nithya Raghavan and three staff members Ms Anazette Andrews, Ms Kim Fenwick-Mbow and Mrs. Anita Curtis-Taylor and twenty four students from the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences and the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Center attended the 63rd Joint Annual Meeting of the National Institute of Science (NIS) and the Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society (BKX). All of the students attending this meeting were either members of the NIS or BKX. The meeting was held from March 22 to March 26, 2006 in Montgomery, Alabama and was hosted jointly by Alabama State University of Montgomery, AL and Tuskegee University of Tuskegee, AL. Students from approximately twenty-five HBCUs were in attendance and presented their scientific research to fellow meeting attendees. UDC students Nkechi Ukeekwe, Angela Biaou, Sylvester Osayi, and Samuel Areh gave platform presentations while Moses Mosoke presented a poster. Mr. Osayi was awarded both second place in the Biology Division and an invitation to the American Cancer Society meeting for his presentation, “Vitamin E Succinate Induces Apoptosis in MDA-MB 231 Breast Cancer Cells”. Dr. Cousin is the national president of the NIS and Dr. Dixon is the regional eastern regional director for the organization. Two UDC students hold a national office in the NIS: Francisco Saenz (student vice president) and Georges Obame (student regional director). Dr. Cousin is the principal investigator on a 1.7 million grant that she obtained from the National Institute of Health to provide travel awards, distinguished scientific lecturers and hand-on workshops for the meeting participants.
Jones to Deliver Keynote to Empowerment Conference

Dwayne A. Jones, Sr., Director of COES Office of Apprenticeship Technical and Industrial Trades (OATIT), has been asked to deliver the keynote address at the Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) Job Fair Empowerment Conference scheduled Friday, April 21, 2006 at the Gallaudet University’s Kellogg Conference Center, 800 Florida Avenue NE Washington, DC.

The FSET program has a diverse group of participants. Some are homeless, dislocated employees as a result of riffs, some have limited employment and or education, some may already have a degree or need to obtain one to fulfill their dream, some need a second chance in life, and some with the help of this program and UDC for the first time or in a long time now have support and encouragement from others.

Annual Student Art Show has “ARTitude”

The annual student art show --"ARTitude"-- will open with a reception on Wednesday, April 12th, from 5-7 p.m. in Gallery 42, Building 42, A Level. The exhibit will display work done by students in the Art Program during the course of this academic year, and includes paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, and graphic design. The gallery will be open for viewing on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2-5 p.m. For further information, contact Meredith Rode at 274-5548 or mrode@udc.edu.
Students, Faculty and Staff Slated to Attend IMF Meeting

The Department of University Relations has facilitated the participation of 32 students, professors and staff at the Special High Level Meeting of the Economic & Social Council, IMF, World Bank, WTO and UNCTAD at the United Nations Headquarters New York on April 24, 2006.

Initiation Ceremony for Honor Society in Education Held

On Wednesday, April 5, 2006, ten initiates were inducted into the Theta Sigma Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. Kappa Delta Pi is dedicated to scholarship and excellence in education. This year’s program not only paid tribute to the newest members of the honor society but also included the awarding of the Paul Phillips Cooke scholarship to two teacher education majors and the Educator-of-the-Year Award to one of the faculty members in the Department of Education.

Dr. Patricia M. Myers, Interim Chairperson of the Department of Education, brought greetings and welcomed the following initiates into the Honor Society: Judy L. Bowers, Katie S. Cushman, Beaulah M. Griffith, Damien K. Harris, Phillip A. Haughton, Roberto Lopez, Erin N. Rodden, Anitra N. Stewart, Aisha L. Tyehimba, and Selma B. White. Dr. Myers was joined by the Theta Sigma Chapter Counselors Dr. Elma Redfern-Moore, Dr. Lena J. Walton, and Dr. Sandra G. Yates.

Two of this year’s initiates – Aisha Tyehimba (Early Childhood Education) and Anitra Stewart (Elementary Education) received the Paul Phillips Cooke scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. Dr. Lena J. Walton, Assistant Professor of Education, received the Educator-of-the-Year Award in recognition of her role in exemplifying the ideals of the honor society. A special award was given to Dr. Elma Redfern-Moore in recognition of outstanding and continuous service to Kappa Delta Pi and to the Department of Education at the University of the District of Columbia.

Joining in the festivities this year were Dr. Paul Phillips Cooke, members of the Cooke Scholarship Board, generous donors and former Cooke scholars, as well as UDC administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

UDC Sophomore Selected to Sit for Firefighter Exam

Mr. Roman Tanner a sophomore here at UDC majoring in Public Health, also a participant in the COES Office of Apprenticeship Technical and Industrial Training Emergency Services Advisory Board has been selected by the DC Fire and EMS Department to sit for the entry-level firefighter written examination.

Mr. Tanner came to the University in August 2005, with a passion, vision, and determination to assist others. Since the completion of his formal EMT training he has taken major steps too attain his goal of become a Firefighter EMT in the District of Columbia.
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.

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.