Dr. Pollard Bids Farewell to the University Community

Editor’s Note: Dr. William L. Pollard announced his resignation as president of the University effective June 30, 2007. Following is an open letter from Dr. Pollard to the UDC Community.

My arrival in Washington, DC in late June, 2002 was unmarked by fanfare. It was a typical hot day in the District of Columbia that greeted my wife Merriette and me as we prepared for service at the University of the District of Columbia. Today, much as it was nearly five years ago, it is hot and humid in Washington DC and Merriette and I are preparing for another transition. Where the service leads us is a matter yet to be determined.

Regardless of the circumstances of my departure, these past five years have come and gone in a whirlwind of activity. The activity has been both good and, at times, difficult as my faith and stamina have been challenged by circumstances surrounding the presidency of the University of the District of Columbia. Through it all, however, I will take with me fond memories of a University community that has grown and continues to grow. Merriette and I have also grown and will continue to grow from our experiences with the wonderful and loving students, faculty and staff of the University of the District of Columbia.

We take comfort in the fact that the University is in a better place than it was when we arrived five years ago. The knowledge that in February the University will celebrate Founders Day as a continuing hallmark makes me proud. The knowledge that we are now recognized as the fully-accredited source for quality public education in the District of Columbia makes me feel we’ve accomplished something very important. The knowledge that our Honda Campus Challenge All-Star Team has leapt to the elite among 64 HBCU Honda
Bowl participants will remind me that our students are extraordinary by any measure. The knowledge that we’ve built an image as a Forum for extraordinary events, peoples and world views gives me great pride. The knowledge that we are now in compliance with all federal and state mandates regarding public safety and environmental concerns is a special source of pride. Above all, I’m proud of the manner in which our students, under the leadership of Will Kellibrew, responded to the crisis in the Gulf Coast two years ago. With little fanfare and a lot of pride, they made a difference in the lives of others. Merriette and I will greatly miss the students and as we leave, we continue to challenge them to be the best, both in academics and in life.

Merriette and I will take away the academic advances represented by Dr. Suzan Harkness and her innovative use of the I-Pod as a teaching tool. We’ll fondly recall Dr. Phillip Brach and his work with “Math Counts” as a University activity. And of course Dr. Daryao Khatri’s efforts along with so many other faculty members to teach our students to believe in themselves will be remembered as a central theme in my effort to create a student-centered University. There are so many quality educators here that have devoted themselves to the institution and the students. It’s been a privilege working with them as they have built the academic reputation of the University while developing new ways to improve the quality of life of the citizens of the District.

We will also leave the University with a student counseling center. No, there is not yet a building in which to house it, but the student counseling center has already served hundreds of students facing myriad challenges not only as students but as citizens. We’ve been able to help students with handicaps, those facing the challenges of parenting, as well as those simply facing the challenges of transitioning to college life. I’m proud of the fact that we have made students central to our efforts at the University of the District of Columbia.

The record of my tenure here at the University is outlined in a report “Reinvention of an Urban Institution” recently compiled and submitted to the Board of Trustees, but it is my hope that the record goes beyond a recounting of deeds. In the words of the old spiritual, “may the words I’ve done speak for me.” Merriette and I believe that the legacy we leave is one of hope. It is a legacy we believe that reflects the University as a place where a new day is a new opportunity.

So my friends, colleagues and co-workers, thank you for five years of support. Your support and your belief in what we have done can be best exemplified in the manner in which you quickly align yourselves with the new administration and build for the University and the District a bigger and brighter future.

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**Renovations Close Van Ness Parking Garage Entrance**

The Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management announces renovations on the parking booth and main entrance to the Van Ness garage will begin tomorrow morning, June 29, 2007. As a result, the entrance and exit from Van Ness Parking Garage will be closed (7 – 15 Days). You may enter and exit the garage thru the rear gate (loading dock area), which can be accessed from Connecticut Avenue by way of Veazey Terrace. We thank you for your cooperation and will update you accordingly.
Speech & Language Pathology Earns Dept. of Education Grant

UDC’s Allied Health Program in Speech and Language Pathology, Department of Languages and Communication Disorders, is the recipient of a Four-Year U.S. Department of Education Grant to Provide Specialized Training to Graduate Students.

According to Project Director Mr. M. Eugene Wiggins, Acting Program Director, Speech-Language Pathology Program, the U.S. Department of Education grant will fund a project designed to provide specialized training to sixteen graduate students that will qualify them to become certified school-based speech-language pathologists (SLPs). Upon the successful completion of the training, the graduate students will be capable of providing screening, diagnostic evaluation, and treatment services to economically and/or educationally disadvantaged school-aged children in District public schools (and their families), with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds who have speech-language and/or hearing disorders.

The highly regarded project is also designed to increase the number of speech-language pathology (SLP) professionals in urban schools, such as the District of Columbia, who will provide service to the target population, as well as address the shortage of SLPs in the public schools. As such, the project will also address the adverse effect such shortages of SLPs in the public schools have on addressing the mandate of federal legislation such as The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) and The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

Beginning fall 2007, eight graduate students will be recruited and admitted to the University of the District of Columbia’s SLP Program every two years of the project for a total of sixteen students across a four-year period. These students will be provided information on the linguistic and cultural differences of children and youth with communicative disabilities, and their families, who reside primarily in urban areas. In that connection, they will participate in an expanded academic and clinical curriculum specifically designed to train them to serve the target school-age population of children in the District.

Participating students will be awarded scholarships that will cover the costs for tuition and fees across three semesters each year, and a monthly stipend during their entire enrollment in the program.

Mr. Wiggins will be joined on the exciting project by his colleagues, Ms. Darla Glears, Clinical Supervisor and Ms. Natalie Ottey, Assistant Professor, both speech-language pathologists who earned their Master’s Degrees at the University of the District of Columbia. Mr. Wiggins is also the recipient of two other grant awards for undergraduate and graduate SLP majors issued through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Human Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) Program. He is also the project director for a fourth grant awarded through HRSA to the Allied Health Program in Nutrition and Food Science, which is housed in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. Dr. Prema Ganganna and Dr. Michelle Harris, Professors in the Nutrition and Food Science Program, assist Mr. Wiggins in managing that award.

For further information about the programs, please contact Mr. M. Eugene Wiggins at 202-274-6162 or email: ewiggins@udc.edu.
The University of the District of Columbia’s TEAM 100 is seeking mentor for an incoming freshman this fall. Students participating in a special retention initiative are in need of committed faculty and staff members who would like to personally reach out to one or a few of them. Mentors will share their time, gems of wisdom, and support. Mentors will meet with students once a month or so and serve as their on-campus resource for advice and encouragement. TEAM 100 will work to find a good mentor-mentee match, based upon the student’s academic/career focus and your areas of interest.

Faculty and staff mentors from all departments and divisions are needed. Please contact Mr. Jamal Reed at ajreed@udc.edu or (202) 274-6152 or Dr. Serena Butler at sbutler@udc.edu or (202) 274-5670. For more information about TEAM 100, please contact:

Counseling & Career Development Center
University of the District of Columbia
Building 39, Suite 120
4200 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington D.C. 2008
(202) 274-6000
http://www.udc.edu/ccdc

Kellibrew Selected for Sister City Scholarship

A Sister City Agreement Scholarship Award Reception will be held on July 26, 2007, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Windows Lounge, University of the District of Columbia to launch the partnership activities by offering one University of the District of Columbia student an open scholarship at either undergraduate or postgraduate level for the 2007-2008 academic year. The University of the District of Columbia will award two one-semester scholarships. William Killebrew IV, former President of the Undergraduate Student Government Association, will be honored as the first recipient of this award and will attend University of Sunderland.

Located in northern England, Sunderland is a dynamic, modern university and the quality of the courses is underpinned by excellent teacher ratings. The Sir Tom Cowie Campus at St Peter’s has been cited as one of the top five in the United Kingdom and the Media Centre is helping to put Sunderland at the forefront of UK teaching and research in TV, radio, video and news media production.

The City of Washington, D. C. and the City of Sunderland have mutually agreed to enter into a Protocol Agreement that will create closer friendship and cooperation between both cities with historic ties to develop programs and relationships mutually beneficial to the citizens of both cities. Under this Agreement, Councilor Robert Symonds, Leader of Sunderland City Council and Adrian Fenty, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, have agreed to further the mutual interests and goals of both cities to benefit the people of
Sunderland that the District of Columbia. Both cities will exchange information and cooperate on activities of historic ties based on the ancestral home of George Washington being located in Sunderland, economic development with a focus on tourism protection, cultural and educational institutions, social inclusion and e-government initiatives to promote citizen participation. During the next few years, the University of Sunderland will work on a range of projects to take forward the mission of the project.

**Political Science Students Destined for Graduate School**

Five Political Science graduates head off to graduate programs in the fall and one former student is patiently waiting to hear which school he will attend.

- **Mahdi Ayatollahi** was accepted into each of the three schools of which he applied (George Mason Univ., Univ. of MD Baltimore County and Univ. of MD at Towson). He has decided to enter the International Commerce and Policy Program of George Mason University.
- **Nanette Bowles** Accepted at both U Maryland and Trinity University, will seek a Masters degree at Trinity University.
- **Jitka Jerabkova** has been accepted to seek a Master’s degree in Latin American Studies at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.
- **Michael Richardson** was accepted into the Paralegal program at Georgetown University.
- **Jameka Roberts** will enter the Department of Political Science at George Washington University seeking a dual Master of Public Policy and a PhD in Political Science.
- **Darren Greene** has applied to study Law at David A. Clarke School of Law and at Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, KS. He is currently waiting to receive his admissions testing results and acceptance notification.

**Khatri’s Perspective of Physics Education in China**

Dr. Daryao Khatri, Professor of Physics, was part of a two-week U.S. delegation in physics education sponsored by People to People Ambassador Programs. The delegation arrived in Beijing, China on June 6, 2007 and departed from Shanghai on June 15, 2006. As part of this delegation, Dr. Khatri made several presentations and had extensive discussions with representatives form the Commission on Physics Education of the Chinese Physical Society in Beijing. Also, as part of the delegation, Dr. Khatri had meetings with Chinese officials at the: Physics Department of Beijing Normal University; Nanjing Normal University and Nanjing Aeronautics & Astronautics University in Nanjing; East China Normal University and Shanghai Nanyang High School in Shanghai.

During these discussions and meetings, it became clear that the problems the Chinese universities are having with their physics education programs are very similar to what we have in the United States; the problem is the
way we teach physics at both the high school or college levels and the way physics teachers receive training in colleges of education. The Chinese students still depend on rote memorization and do not develop sufficient analytical and critical skills during their school and college years that are necessary for teaching and research in physics. Also, the number of students entering the physics discipline in China is declining every year.

Diversity Business Magazine Issues Call for Papers

Colleagues in higher education are invited to submit a paper for the fall edition of DiversityBusiness.com's magazine. The magazine theme is "Taking Diversity to New Heights." The main thrust will be to focus on diversity and small business topics that will be of interest to readers in the areas of Procurement, Human Resource Management, Education, Health, Multicultural Advertising/Marketing and Small Business. This will be an opportunity for you to share your knowledge, experience, and expertise with others in higher education.

DiversityBusiness promises to have a wide variety of subjects while staying within the magazine's theme. The format provides an excellent opportunity for sharing information and experiences among readers who have the responsibility for developing and operating the processes to achieve diversity goals and the small business owners who subscribe to our magazine. Submissions should be forwarded to Odetta Rogers-Clarke, Director of Communications at Odetta@ccaai.com or by calling (203) 255 – 2972. The magazine can be viewed at www.DiversityBusiness.com.

Papers should be approximately 1,200-2,000 words in length. They should be written as continuous expository narrative in a chapter or article style - not as lists of points or a PowerPoint presentation.

Please remember that the papers are to be published in magazine or website. This means that the style and structure of your text should be relatively formal. For instance, you should not submit a verbatim transcript of an oral presentation, such as 'Today I want to speak to you about ...'

You may use any referencing style you choose, as long as you use it consistently and to the appropriate standards. Spelling can vary according to national usage, but should be internally consistent. Papers should be thoroughly checked and proof-read before submission, both by the author and a critical editorial friend.

The Submission Process - how and where to submit your completed paper. Completed papers should be emailed as an attachment to papers@ccaai.com. The deadline for submission for the fall edition of the magazine is July 31, 2007.

Once your paper has been received and checked to ensure that attached files open, you will be sent an official receipt notice via email. This receipt notice will include the administration number allocated to your paper. If you do not receive an official receipt confirmation within five working days of submission please contact the conference manager immediately at papers@ccaai.com. The publication process is as follows:

- Submit an article before the next call for papers deadline.
- Papers are published in print and electronic formats.
Submission may be made at any time. The deadline for publication into a particular edition of the magazine is two months before the publication date. The timeline for the all is as follows:

- June 30, 2007: First date full papers can be submitted for 2007 fall edition of the magazine.
- July 31, 2007: Deadline for call-for-papers

**ING FINANCIAL ADVISORS, LLC**

**FINANCIAL PLANNING SESSIONS**

The Office of Human Resources has invited Donald Walters, Certified Financial Planner, from ING Financial Advisors LLC, to the university to provide individualized financial counseling for all District Service employees enrolled in the 401 (a) Defined Contribution Pension Plan. Employees will have the opportunity to discuss their investment strategy, asset allocations and potential retirement options. The next session will be held in the Office of Human Resources, Building 38, Room 301 on:

**Tuesday, July 10, 2007**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

**DC Meets Delhi at UDC Film Festival**

The DC Meets Delhi Festival of Film, Arts and Debate, hosted by the University of the District of Columbia and organized by the Division of University Relations and Communications, is set to unfold from September 6-12, 2007. A fusion of feature films, documentaries, dance, discussions, filmmakers and thinkers… the festival celebrates the arts and cultures that shape urban life in two capital cities. The festival is a means of: deepening the educational experience for all DC residents; strengthening outreach to our community, neighbors, potential students and alumnae; and re-positioning UDC as a center for media studies and media workforce development.

Program segments include: Family Day of Dance and Arts: DC and Indian dances wrapped around by food, crafts and education; Indian Film Series: Classic to Bollywood to Art House; Best of DC Films; A transnational videoconferenced high school debate on water issues in Washington DC and Delhi (with the DC Urban Debate League and UDC’s own Water Resources Research Institute); a French feature film screening about India presented by The French Embassy; a Metro DC Student Film Competition and a series of films, an exhibition and a panel discussion on Mahatma Gandhi: Popularity and Relevance, 2007.

You can follow the development of the festival at: www.udc.edu/dcmd. We would like to integrate as much of this as possible into existing curriculae and programs so that students can be involved as they are being educated (e.g. political science, sociology,
history, urban studies, media studies, art, dance, music, environmental studies and engineering) and we are always looking for volunteers!!! Do please get in touch. Dr Deirdre Evans-Pritchard, Festival Director, DC Meets Delhi, University Relations and Communications, Tel. 202-274-6256, Email: devans-pritchard@udc.edu.

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**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 FLYERS – text paragraphs in Times Roman 12 (black) only**. We always welcome photos and appropriate clip art.