

THE FIREBIRD FAMILY

SEPTEMBER 2007 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2



The Garden City University College (GCUC) at Kenyase near Kumasi in Ashanti was inaugurated and 250 freshmen were initiated at a colorful matriculation ceremony. The students took their first step on a journey to pursue higher academic laurels as they swore the traditional matriculation oath to the applause of a large crowd of invited guests, parents, eminent Ashanti chiefs, government officials, educationists and staff of the college. The University, which is the private initiative of Mr. Albert Acquah, a Ghanaian who once resided in the United States of America, has become one of the torch-bearers among similar private universities in the country.



Attending the inauguration, and representing the United States and the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), was Dr. Bobby W. Austin, Vice President for University Relations and Communications.



PICTURES and STORY:
Carly Ahiabile, TNG Accra



UNIVERSITY OF
THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA



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PROMINENT AUTHOR AND POET NIKKI GIOVANNI TO SPEAK AT UNIVERSITY'S FALL CONVOCATION

Renowned poet Nikki Giovanni will deliver the keynote address at the University's Thirteenth Annual Opening Academic Convocation on Tuesday, Sept. 25, at 10 a.m. in the University's auditorium.

Ms. Giovanni's appearance at UDC follows two previously postponed engagements earlier this year. Her February 14 visit to UDC was postponed due to inclement weather. Her rescheduled visit to the campus of April 23 was also postponed, as Ms. Giovanni, Distinguished Professor of English at Virginia Tech, desired to remain on the Virginia Tech campus in the aftermath of the campus massacre. Her tribute poem to the campus community, read aloud at the campus memorial service, inspired the nation.

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FELICIA H. ALLENDER BRANT, MAKING A MATCH

Felicia H. Allender Brant is ready to make connections, with a simple purpose in mind. "The goal is to raise money," she explained as she took over her UDC Director of Development post earlier this year.

She's no stranger to the region. A former teenage prodigy who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Morgan State University at 19, she fundraised for a phalanx of organizations over the last 30 years or so—including United Way of Central Maryland, the YWCA of Greater Baltimore, the Mental Health Association of Maryland,

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FIREBIRDS HAPPY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ELLISON



The Firebirds now have a new offensive weapon: Timothy W. Ellison, the standout Edison High School shooting guard, point guard and small forward.

Coming off a 20-9 season, the team's management expects to start him immediately as a shooting guard and offensive threat.

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UDC ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to our valued alumni!



community to continue to build momentum for this important institution.

With every transition comes a period of uncertainty -- a sense of "what will happen next?" I can tell you with full confidence that the University of the District of Columbia is still on a path of ascendancy. In his "State of the University" memorandum to the faculty and staff, James Dyke, the Chairman of our Board of Trustees, shared some of the goals for the University this year. I think these provide important guideposts for us to follow:

- Enhancing our entire academic program offerings to assure excellence at all levels, from community college through graduate school. This recognizes that while we've come a long way, there is always room for improvement. We'll continue to expand our degree offerings at all levels, and to enhance the quality of upper-level degree programs.

- Overhauling our operational infrastructure so that our human resources, procurement, maintenance, data collection and analysis, finances and other core operational functions employ best practices and support our academic mission. Frankly speaking, we have a lot to do, and it will require some changes in the way we think. But it can -- and will -- be done.

- Developing new schools focused on allied health professions and hospitality, enhancing our efforts in existing schools and implementing our Campus Master Plan. We'll continue to be about providing job skills to District citizens, particularly east of the river.

It is indeed with great pleasure that I extend my best greetings to the alumni of the University of the District of Columbia as we begin the 2007-2008 academic year. As you may have read, we've had a busy summer -- lots of changes have taken place -- and I'd like to share with you my thoughts as we embark on a new year.

As I'm sure you know by now, Dr. Pollard resigned as UDC's president effective the end of June. The Pollards provided five years of strong service to the University, and to the citizens of the District of Columbia. Under his leadership, we attained re-accreditation for our overall academic programs from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and achieved accreditation for the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law. Dr. Pollard led a period of stability and worked tirelessly to solidify the University's standing as a leader in public education. He's left a lasting mark on the 30-year history of this University.

Now, with the opening of a new academic year, the University of the District of Columbia moves forward. I'm honored to have been entrusted with the role of acting president, and am excited with the prospect of working together with the University

- Establishing an effective development vehicle to raise funds from the private sector to supplement District and federal funding. We need to develop new revenue streams that will help provide the margin of excellence needed to help us advance to the next level.

I believe that these goals speak to our University's obligation to seek out ways to effectively bridge the gap of opportunity for those citizens who, but for what we do, would not have the opportunity to build upon their own educational experience. We are here to help others to help themselves. My commitment to you as acting president is to continue to build on our considerable strengths and strive to eliminate our weaknesses -- it's as simple as that. We must continue to not only provide high-quality educational opportunities, but to also measure the effectiveness of what we do with respect to our community.

It is often said that alumni graduate from the university, but the university never graduates from its alumni. You are our history. My promise to you is that we will strive to improve our ways of reaching out to you. I invite you to stay engaged and be a part of the growing legacy of the University of the District of Columbia as we work together to make 2007-2008 the best in our history.

Stanley T. Jackson,

UDC Acting President

A promotional poster for the JazzAlive event at the University of the District of Columbia. The background is a close-up, artistic photograph of a saxophone, with the keys and body of the instrument visible. The text is overlaid on this background. At the top right, it says "UDC JAZZ STUDIES PROGRAM" and "FELIX E. GRANT JAZZ ARCHIVES". Below that, "A Showcase of the UDC Jazz Studies Program". The main title "JAZZAlive" is written vertically in large, white, stylized letters on the left side. To its right, "UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA" is written vertically in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. On the right side, the event details are listed: "MONDAY", "OCTOBER 29 - 2007", and "8PM". Below that, "THE LEGACY CONTINUES" is written in a large, white, serif font. Underneath, it says "FEATURING UDC JAZZ ENSEMBLE" and "CALVIN JONES LEGACY ENSEMBLE". At the bottom right, it says "Scholarship Benefit Series" and "Donation: \$15". The venue information is "University Auditorium", "Bldg. 46-East - 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW". Ticket information is "Tickets: Music Program - Bldg. 46-West" and "Info: 202.274.5803 E-mail: JazzAlive@udc.edu".

UDC JAZZ STUDIES PROGRAM
FELIX E. GRANT JAZZ ARCHIVES

A Showcase of the UDC Jazz Studies Program

JAZZAlive

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MONDAY

OCTOBER 29 - 2007

8PM

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

FEATURING

UDC JAZZ ENSEMBLE
CALVIN JONES LEGACY ENSEMBLE

Scholarship Benefit Series

Donation: \$15

University Auditorium

Bldg. 46-East - 4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Tickets: Music Program - Bldg. 46-West

Info: 202.274.5803 **E-mail:** JazzAlive@udc.edu

UDC RECEIVES SOFTWARE DONATION FROM MICROSOFT

The University of the District of Columbia is one of 45 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) selected to receive \$385,000 in free software from Microsoft as part of a grant provided through the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund (TMSF). The software will provide desktop and server software licenses for the campus. The University's Vice President for Information Technology Mike Jacks, and Program Analyst Hakeem Fahm, have been working to secure the grant since 2005.

The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund commissioned a comprehensive study of technology usage at HBCUs in April 2000. From that study, they were able to identify specific needs and opportunities to upgrade the technology at the member colleges and universities.

TMSF officials say they are determined to eliminate the "digital divide" that separate students at HBCUs from their counterparts at better funded colleges and universities around the nation. Upgrading technology at HBCUs will help ensure that these institutions remain equally competitive in preparing their young men and women for the global marketplace.

The study also revealed the need to develop what would be the first technology initiative on behalf of HBCUs. Based on this need, the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Technology Initiative was created. Its goal was to address long-term technology needs of the selected schools, and to identify funding sources to support technology upgrades. This is a \$100 million dollar, 3-year initiative.

TMSF is the only national organization providing programmatic and capacity building support to the 45 public HBCUs, which enroll 77 percent of the students attending HBCUs.

As the initial corporate partner in this initiative, Microsoft has awarded TMSF the fund's largest donation to date -- a \$15 million dollar software grant to launch the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Technology Initiative. This initial donation enables TMSF to provide software to member institutions, so that they may upgrade institutional computers and technology infrastructure -- as well as add software on campus computers that support teaching and learning.

The software will be made available to TMSF member institutions through a review process, which will be managed by the TMSF. The review process will be designed to identify those schools best prepared to effectively use and implement software and solutions for the benefit of their students, faculty and the administration. TMSF member schools selected to receive software from this grant will then be able to implement technology solutions to help their schools become more competitive. In addition, they will be able to address key long-term technology needs and opportunities, and also benefit students, faculty and administrative staffs.

According to administrator Jacks, "the Microsoft grant is the second grant we have received through the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund." In 2004, the University of the District of Columbia received two Hewlett-Packard servers to support student e-mails. The value of that grant was \$12,400.



SPOTLIGHT ON UDC ALUMNUS

Cathy L. Lanier

UDC alumni Cathy L. Lanier is the city's first female top cop. She has served as chief of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPDC) since being appointed by Mayor Adrian Fenty this past January.

Chief Lanier has spent her entire law enforcement career with the Metropolitan Police Department, beginning in 1990. She is proud of the fact that most of her career has been in uniformed patrol, where she served as commander of Washington, D.C.'s Fourth District, one of the largest and most diverse residential patrol districts in the city. During her career, she also served as the commanding officer of the department's Major Narcotics Branch and Vehicular Homicide Units.

More recently, Lanier has served as commander of the Special Operations Division (SOD) for four years, where she managed the Emergency Response Team, Aviation and

Harbor Units, Horse Mounted and Canine Units, Special Events/Dignitary Protection Branch, and Civil Disturbance Units. During her tenure as SOD commander, she established the agency's first Homeland Security/Counter-Terrorism Branch and created an agency-wide chemical, biological, radiological response unit known as the Special Threat Action Team.

In 2006, the MPDC's Office of Homeland Security and Counter-Terrorism (OHSCT) was created, and Chief Lanier was tapped to be its first commanding officer. A highly respected professional in the areas of homeland security and community policing, she took the lead role in developing and implementing coordinated counter-terrorism strategies for all units within the MPDC and launched Operation TIPP (Terrorist Incident Prevention Program).

Chief Lanier is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's Drug Unit Commanders Academy. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Management from Johns Hopkins University, and a master's degree in National Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif. She is certified at the technician level in Hazardous Materials Operations.

FROM Page 1 - FIREBIRDS HAPPY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ELLISON

"Timothy Ellison will be a great addition to our men's basketball program," said UDC Athletic Director Harold M. Merritt. "His ability to score will increase the odds of our being able to increase our season victories over last year's twenty wins."

Ellison, a 6'5" swing man who can play several positions, including shooting guard, point guard and small forward, received Edison's Most Valuable Player Award following the 2006-07 season during which they compiled a record of 18-3, to win their first regular season district championship since 1970. Ellison scored 20 points in the Springfield, Virginia high school's win over Wakefield High to give them the 2007 National District Championship.



His high school career stats average were 15.7 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 steals per game.

UDC STUDENT OVERCOMES ADVERSITY TO BECOME A RECOGNIZED CAMPUS LEADER



Senior Class President William Kellibrew, IV sang the National Anthem prior to the September 4th game between the Milwaukee Brewers and the Houston Astros at Miller Park in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

“It went well,” he remembers the day after the event. “The feedback I got was very positive.” But perhaps his best musical accomplishment is out “woo-woo”ing crooner Jeffrey Osborne. The event was a black-tie Greater Milwaukee Urban League dinner sponsored by the Miller Brewing Co., where Kellibrew had worked as an intern. Osborne gave members of the crowd a chance to sing his smash 1986 hit “You Should Be Mine (The Woo-Woo Song),” and the R&B star found Kellibrew. “I took the mike and made the song mine,” he recalls, laughing.

Scheduled to graduate from UDC in May with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, Kellibrew (who’s known to sing the National Anthem at some Firebird games) does not rest. He’s a campus Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) Scholar who’s on his way to the United Kingdom. The 33-year-old was recently selected as the initial recipient of a one-semester scholarship granted for a UDC student to attend the University of Sunderland in Sunderland, England, part of a “Friendship Agreement” between the two sister cities (*See Box.*)

He’s a former two-term president of the Undergraduate Student Government Association and a member of the UDC men’s tennis team. The native Washingtonian has completed his second summer as a Multicultural Relations intern at the Miller headquarters.

“William can only be described as a student leader’s leader,” says Dr. Janice M. Borlandoe, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, in a statement. “He is an extraordinarily well-rounded young man who is blessed with gifts and the ability to use them to the fullest. Not only does William lead by example, but he has an uncanny ability to relate to others. He has epitomized community involvement.”

Kellibrew’s academic career has been marked by activism and leadership. He took a role of leadership at the national level among Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in mobilizing relief efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and was a member of a UDC delegation that participated in a global peace conference in Hiroshima, Japan in 2006.

“William has demonstrated a unique mix of business acumen that has been coupled with the talent to reach people through music,” according to his boss, Larry Waters, Miller Brewing senior director of Multicultural Relations, in a statement. “He has a rich voice that has been shared at work and in the Milwaukee community where he has volunteered to showcase his vocal abilities.” Waters leveraged his relationship with the Milwaukee Brewers to gain an opportunity for Kellibrew to get his big break.

But behind all the accolades and

accomplishments is more than just hard work. Kellibrew’s story is one of survival and triumph.

As he says, it’s among the first things you read when you “Google” him: that tragic day — July 2, 1984. He was just 10 years old, and his mother’s separated boyfriend held his whole family hostage. He was able to call the police. In spite of that, the deranged man shot and killed Kellibrew’s mother and 10-year-old brother in cold blood. He then put the gun to young Killebrew’s head, but after some extended conversation, the man let the boy go and placed the weapon to his own head — committing suicide.

He doesn’t mind talking about it, but, of course, it is not an easy thing to discuss. Instead of cowering, he went to work. There was a lot of counseling, months and years of work and then more counseling. There was his loving grandmother, and still more counseling.

He didn’t arrive at UDC until he was 28 or 29 years of age, because he had spent his 20s working in the restaurant business. He went from busboy to manager, learning his way through the restaurant worlds of Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles. But it was time for new dreams, even though he misses those experiences. “I do, I do,” he emphasizes, “but if I’m ever in the restaurant business again, I’ll be owning one.”

So, with both tragic and good times behind him, and great things ahead of him — the latter thanks to the passion he applies to his goals and a “great support network,” he is moving forward. “Even though I may only be able to do it step by step.”

Indeed!

UDC CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM FINISHES 2ND IN VUU MEET



The University of the District of Columbia Men's and Women's Cross-Country Teams finished in 2nd place at the Virginia Union University Invitational in Richmond, Virginia. The 4-college Meet included the host school, UDC, Virginia State University and St. Paul's College from Richmond.

Virginia State University won the Meet, but UDC Lady Firebird sophomore Stella Sang (Kapsabet, Kenya) came in first place in a time of 18:53 minutes, a new course record for the women's event.

UDC Senior Anene Wynn, a native of Durham, NC, finished 2nd in a time of 20:47 minutes, and UDC junior Maurisa Williams came in 3rd.

In the men’s events, UDC sophomore James Kichwen, a native of Kapsabet, Kenya, beat the defending CIAA champion.

UDC will compete next on September 22, in the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Cappy Anderson Invitational in Princess Anne, Maryland.

UDC UP AND DOWN SO FAR IN SPORTS

The University of the District of Columbia fall sports teams had a mixed bag of outcomes overall, while winning and losing some highly competitive contests. The UDC Lady Firebirds Volleyball Team took a three match winning streak into the Millersville (Pennsylvania) Tournament by defeating the Virginia Union Lady Panthers 3-0.

Unfortunately, their streak came to an end when Dowling (Germantown, Maryland) College and Adelphi University swept them by identical scores of 3-0. Later, the Wilmington (Delaware) College Lady Wildcats team defeated the UDC Lady Firebirds 3-0 in the Tournament -- leaving them with three consecutive losses and much to think about.



During this period the UDC men’s Firebirds Soccer Team continued its losing streak, by falling to the Dowling College Golden Lions 7-0 in Germantown, Maryland. The Firebirds are now 0-3 for the 2007 season.

Due to the condition of the UDC soccer field, home matches will be played at Trinity, the Germantown SoccerPlex and at George Washington University.

UDC Features International High School Debate in their First Annual Film Festival Event

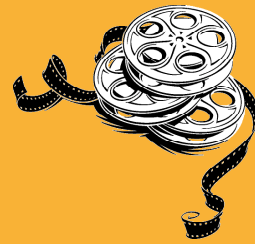
It was a fast moving, exciting week that heralded the University of the District of Columbia's (UDC) first international Film Festival, which is planned as an annual event. This year's festival theme was "DC MEETS DELHI," and featured an array of diverse Indian films.

Although the lead-off film classic shown was DC filmmaker Haile Gerima's classic film about Maafa -- "Sankofa." The film is the unique story of the African holocaust, from an African/African-American perspective. However, the rest of the films and documentaries were Indian productions, and dealt with issues peculiar to that area of the world.

In addition to the numerous screenings, there were also a number of cultural programs, presented around dance and other performances -- and a weekend of free entertainment devoted to family groups. There were also discussion panels on issues the organizers felt would stimulate the intellectual curiosity of festival visitors.

One of several such programs included a video-conference debate between students from Washington, DC's Roosevelt and Hyde Senior High Schools, and the Sanskriti and Shri Ram High Schools in Delhi, India. The debate entitled, "Water is the New Oil," took place on the Monday following the official opening of the UDC Film Festival, and was followed by an Indian documentary -- "Running Dry." Film Festival Director and Coordinator Deidre Evans-Pritchard

organized the project, with a substantial amount of help from Colin Touhey, Executive Director of the DC Urban Debate League, and UDC's The Water Resources Research Institute. Deidre Evans-Pritchard added that a "huge amount of credit for their support, should also go to organizations such as Serve DC and IDEA."



The Washington, DC program was broadcast from the Luke Moore Academy Senior High School Auditorium, while the Delhi students broadcast from the Sanskriti High School in Delhi. Debate rules and standards were set by The DC Urban Debate League. Also participating with input to the program were:

- Pradeep K. Behera, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Engineering, Architecture and Aerospace Technology, University of the District of Columbia (Panel Coordinator)
- Greg Drury, Executive Director of Wholeness for Humanity, Washington D.C.
- Richard Giana, Water Quality Director, DC Water and Sewage Authority
- William Hare, Ph.D., Director, Water Resources Research Institute, University of the District of Columbia.

- Ben O. Latigo, Ph.D., Dean, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, University of the District of Columbia
- Ashbindu Singh, Ph.D., Regional Director, United Nations Environmental Programme .

The film "Running Dry," screened later in the afternoon at the UDC main auditorium, was produced by noted filmmaker Jim Thebault. It is given credit for helping to generate the late U. S. Senator Paul Simon's Water for the Poor Act law, after it was shown in Congress in 2005. The aim of the documentary was to help build popular sentiment, and to create the political will to solve the U. S. water crisis through public policy.

The debate panel was set up to highlight the topic of urban water issues, both present and future, and "What can DC learn from Delhi?" The discussion ranged around water management in DC and Delhi, future challenges and opportunities for water sustainability and the roles and responsibilities of institutions, administrations and civil society in developed and developing countries. Participants focused on how the younger generation, who must carry the responsibility of managing water resources, can learn from transnational ideas and technology transfer.

For those interested in learning more on these issues, they may go to www.runningdry.org

FROM Page 1 - FELICIA H. ALLENDER BRANT, MAKING A MATCH

Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. and the Hearing & Speech School of Baltimore. A capable administrator and consultant here and in her native Portland, Oregon her employment opportunities have spanned from the Smithsonian Institute to the NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

She has now turned her considerable skills in the fields of education, marketing, public relations and administration. Her department is under the auspices of University Relations and Communication Division, which makes her part of UDC's public face.

The immediate goal for her four-person staff is to raise \$5 million, but ultimately she wants to establish a capital campaign for the long-term. But for now she's talking to students, deans and heads of UDC's departments and absorbing. And thinking about how the University compares with others around the world.

She's begun to experience the challenges—"Everybody needs something yesterday"—but she's been pleasantly surprised about UDC's advantages, most notably that it provides a "seamless" education from "a GED to a Ph.D. to a J.D. (Juris Doctorate). The breadth and the depth of the things that UDC provides in this community." The last part, she believes is an important fact that needs to get out in the public more—the reality, for instance, that District residents can take extension classes in music, for example.

She also was impressed with the level of devotion of UDC's faculty and staff. "I'm just in awe with all that gets done here," she said. That kind of commitment is very important to her as a former president and CEO of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Maryland, community service is her lifeblood.

But the awe of UDC has to transfer into the art of the sale. In Brant's case, the power of the connection—the partnership between the University and its potential sponsors.

The first key, she said, is that the sponsor wants to be told a story of how their contribution will make a real difference, a real impact. "That's what they want to hear. They want to hear outcomes. Stories are important." That's why gathering testimonials from alums is going to be an essential task for her job, she explained.

The second key is that the "uniqueness" of the sponsor must match the uniqueness of UDC; the match, she emphasized, has to be a solid one. "Everyone has needs, and we have to be able to communicate those needs clearly, as well as to be able to mark the institution in a way that people can grasp it and understand it," she added.

WASHINGTON, D.C.'S "SISTER CITY"

Washington, D.C. is not only the nation's capitol, but a sister to a city in England named Sunderland. The 26th largest city in England, it is virtually all-white. It is known for inspiring Lewis Carroll, the writer of "Alice in Wonderland," on his visits there when he was writing other stories, two of which, "Jabberwocky" and "The Walrus and the Carpenter," he wrote there. The two cities agreed to set up a scholarship program for students from the sister cities to become exchange students. William Kellibrew IV, a UDC student government leader, is among the first recipient. He and the other recipient, a student from George



Washington University, will be studying at the University of Sunderland this fall. Kellibrew's scholarship was awarded at a UDC ceremony in July. The speakers included UDC President Stanley Jackson (then Vice President, Chief of Staff) and Peter Fidler, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Sunderland. The award was presented to Kellibrew by Dr. Clemmie Solomon, UDC's Vice President of Academic Affairs.

UDC Team Overcomes D.C. Public Schools Math Limitations

Dr. Daryao Khatri, a UDC Physics professor, thinks—actually, knows—he has developed a program “that can change the country.”

He got funding earlier this year from UDC to fund an experimental project of an eight-week summer course for students who had applied and been accepted to the University and who were willing to spend eight weeks of summer vacation—four hours a day, five days a week—in the classroom, with not even time to go to the bathroom. The students needed that level of intensity: Almost without exception, public school students entering UDC had no competent skills or training in college level physics and basic mathematics.

Of the 42 students who applied to the Gateway Algebra Program, Khatri joined with Dr. Mehdi Hajiyani, an Organic Chemistry professor at the University, Anne Hughes, a retired UDC Education and Psychology professor, along and other colleagues. The team decided to select 17 of the “most academically challenged” students who in high school had shown no aptitude for learning basic math, much less geometry or trigonometry. The goal: to find the gaps in learning, fill them, and then speed up the learning.

The team saw some amazing results, including dramatic adjustments not only in students’ levels of comprehension, but phenomenal leaps in student class retention rates. When they were finished, the students were years ahead of many of their major university counterparts, mastering concepts they had only been exposed to prior to the UDC intellectual boot camp.

The students did not just walk away with knowledge; they received some funds for books and \$1,000 stipends. But it’s clear they do get the skills they need. Below are three examples of former student testimonies, submitted by email.

“I’m taking organic 2 at [institution name taken off] and getting more angry and frustrated by the day. I’m paying 10 times as much for a worse teacher with worse facilities and I basically have to teach myself organic two which is impossible, so I’ll probably get a worse grade. I think you may need to bring your knowledge of teaching across the city to [institution name taken off].”

“I have.... strengthened my problem solving skills in your class. Most importantly, to me personally, I have confidence in my ability to succeed in physics once again. This is a gift for which I cannot thank you enough.”

Another student wrote: “Right now I am double major in MS/MSc in Biomolecular engineering and Biotechnology at the Johns Hopkins University. I’m very thankful to have attended UDC. I’ve met a lot of great people, friends, professors and more... Many of my new classmates at Hopkins approached me this semester, they were wondering how I could know so much and do so well with ease in class.”

So what’s Khatri’s secret? Nothing but the belief that all students can succeed, merged with very hard work and an active dedication to keep his students’ interest “every second of the way.” The co-author of two books, “American Education Apartheid—Again” and “Color-Blind Teaching: Excellence for Diverse Classrooms” explained: “We are using every technique available to us as teachers. If the students are learning, you’ve got (their attention).”

The style of teaching is Old School. No tech cheating is allowed, not even a cell phone calculator. Students are expected to memorize the multiplication tables and all other necessary intellectual tools.

Khatri believes that the District’s public school students are suffering because teachers are not fully qualified to teach their subjects and are not “masters of their content.” He also believes these public school teachers are lecturing instead of making sure that students understand the material. “They just don’t know. They do not reach these kids.”

Khatri doesn’t think what he’s doing is so unusual. “After all,” he said, “one of the University of the District of Columbia’s primary function was to be a training center for DC teachers, as well as a land-grant institution of higher education for DC students. It was why we were originally established.”

“We believe we are now ready to do a remedial course for DC teachers in how to teach high school math, as well as in the important subject of reading. And we are currently putting a proposal together, to implement such a plan.”



FROM Page 1 - PROMINENT AUTHOR POET NIKKI GIOVANNI...

“Nikki Giovanni is a writer without peer,” said Acting President Stanley Jackson. “She has long been recognized as a leader of her field, but she was catapulted onto the nation’s consciousness with her stirring remarks to a wounded Virginia Tech community. We are honored to bring Ms. Giovanni to our campus and look forward to having her help us get our new year started on the right note.”

While the Sept. 25th convocation is the University’s 13th, the legacy of the only public university in the District of Columbia and the nation’s only urban land grant university is far richer.

The seeds for higher education that grew into the University were first planted in 1851, when Myrtila Miner founded Normal School, a “school for colored girls.” In 1955, Miner Normal—by then known as Miner Teachers College—united with Wilson Teachers College to become District of Columbia Teachers College. D.C. Teachers College merged with Washington Technical Institute and Federal City College in 1977 to form a new institution, the University of the District of Columbia.

The University’s theme for this convocation, “Charting a Course of Excellence,” is reflective of the University’s mission as providing an affordable opportunity for a better education and an improved quality of life for all District residents.

JAY MORROW, ONLINE FOR UDC



Jay Morrow wants you to know the following: she’s not the University’s I-T person. “I make that distinction because people think I work in some computer lab, and I don’t.

What she is, just so you understand, is the University’s webmaster. Morrow emphasizes that she is not the campus Help Desk; instead, she’s the reason why the UDC website is easier to follow in the 20 to 30 seconds a surfer would take to find something. She’s also the University’s Acting Alumni Liaison.

When Morrow came to UDC two years ago, the old website needed help. “There were, like, three levels of menus,” she recalled. So Morrow “kept it simple” by lightening up the backgrounds, adding red and gold, and putting all of the main arteries to the left. They are called “arteries,” because “your website serves as the heart of the University. I developed the new look and feel of the website, and I developed the look and feel of what UDC looks like to the world,” Morrow declares.

An important thing to Morrow was to make sure that some of the University’s documents were online for its undergrads and grads. “Students shouldn’t have to come to campus to get a form,” she explains.

When Morrow’s not working that full-time gig, she does alumni work by trying to organize as many of the University of the District of Columbia’s 18,000 alumni as she can. She produces an online alumni newsletter every two weeks.

She volunteered for the alumni assignment, approaching Dr. Bobby Austin, UDC’s Vice President for University Relations and Communications, with the idea of doing double-duty. “I come from an HBCU, so I understand the importance of alumni relations to an HBCU. I want the students to feel the same way about what UDC is doing for them, as I did about what North Carolina Central University did for me.”