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BREAKING NEWS

The University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees has selected Ronald Mason, Jr. as its new president. Mr. Mason will succeed Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr., who has served as Interim President of UDC since March, 2013. Mr. Mason assumes the presidency of UDC on July 1, 2015. Mr. Mason currently serves as President of Southern University and A & M College System. He previously served as the president of Jackson State University and in a number of leadership positions at Tulane University. Mr. Mason has BA and JD degrees from Columbia University and is a graduate of the Harvard Institute of Educational Management.

LEAD STORIES

Famous industrialists, Cabinet Officials, entrepreneurs and authors are delivering Commencement Addresses this spring on Consortium member campuses. Among the highlights:

- Apple CEO Tim Cook will deliver George Washington University Commencement Address before graduates on May 17th. He will be awarded an honorary doctorate of public service from the university. In addition to Mr. Cook, Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and Carole M. Watson, Ph.D. ’78, former acting chair of the National Endowment of the Humanities, will receive honorary degrees at GW’s Commencement;

- Department of Homeland Security Director (DHS) Jeh Johnson addressed the University of the District of Columbia Commencement on May 9th. Director Johnson oversees a 240,000-employee agency, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and the U.S. Coast Guard. He is a graduate of Morehouse College, and HBCU and Columbia University Law School;

- Best-selling author and suspense novelist Mary Higgins Clark is delivering Commencement remarks on May 16th to Catholic University of America’s Commencement on the east steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. She is a devoted Catholic, who was made a Dame of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by the Pope. The Order of St. Gregory is the highest honor that can be offered to a layperson by the Pope. Also addressing CUA graduates is Michael J. Bidwill, president of the Arizona Cardinals football team, who will address the Catholic University School of Law on May 22nd; and
Among American University’s many commencement speakers are Sheila C. Johnson, entrepreneur and philanthropist, addressing the School of Communication and Kathryn D. Sullivan, scientist and astronaut, who will address the College of Arts and Sciences. All of the commencement speakers as well as Gary A. Abramson, Partner, Tower Companies and former chair, AU Board of Trustees, will receive honorary degrees and American University President Neil Kerwin will present the President’s Award to the graduating senior who has displayed commitment to building community and promoting AU’s ideals of academic achievement, integrity, selflessness, leadership and service.

For more on Spring Commencement 2015, please see attached chart;

NEW THIS SPRING

The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum officially opened to the public on March 21st with three inaugural exhibitions:

- The Textile Museum will debut “Unraveling Identity: Our Textiles, Our Stories,” its largest exhibition to date, which will unite textiles from across cultures to explore expressions of individual, cultural, political and social identity through the ages; and

Georgetown University’s School of Continuing Studies will be the academic home for the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children’s Health and the Environment, a regional Pediatric Environment Health Specialty Unit under the auspices of the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The Center will cover the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware and will provide information and consultation about environmental risks facing children and assist with response capacity to a regional event such as a natural disaster or an incident exposing children to toxins. Laura Anderko, Ph.D., RN, the Robert and Kathleen Scanlon Chair in Values Based Health Care at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, will direct the Center.

On March 11th at Howard University, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser announced a partnership with Howard to establish DC’s first Technology and Innovation Hub which will expand the District’s growing technology and innovation ecosystem. Mayor Bowser was joined at the announcement by Howard University President Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick. The new partnership will focus on leveraging university resources for venture capital firms to support medium to late-stage technology and innovation startups. Mayor Bowser committed to investing in the new project which will be housed in office space offered by Howard University.

On March 4th, the George Washington University formally opened its new Science and Engineering Hall, a $275 million, 500-00 square-foot building. The Science and Engineering Hall state-of-the-art research facilities and programs are designed to educate the next generation of innovators and support faculty as they develop knowledge that will improve the lives of millions worldwide and help solve global problems. GW also received a $30 million in-kind grant of
software licenses from Siemens to enhance programs in the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) and strengthen a long-standing partnership between the technology company and the university. GW President Steven Knapp, National Academy of Sciences President Ralph J. Cicerone, GW Board of Trustees Chair Nelson Carbonell and students gave remarks at the opening ceremony.

Linked to the GW Science and Engineering Hall opening, the Washington Post surveyed other D.C. colleges and universities in the region to determine their largest science or academic buildings. Included in the article was:

- **Georgetown University**’s preclinical science building, 290,000 square feet which opened in the early ‘70’s;
- The **University of Maryland**’s chemistry building that has nearly 400,000 square feet and was built in the ‘50’s. It has expanded several times;
- **Catholic University**’s Hannan Hall which is slightly larger than 100,000 square feet and opened in 1987. It houses the university’s Vitreous State Laboratory, Department of Physics, and a physics library;
- **George Mason University**’s Long and Kimmy Nguyen Engineering Building which opened in 2009 and has about 180,000 square feet;
- **American University**’s science departments which are spread over several buildings. AU plans to consolidate its computer science, math, statistics and physics programs in the Don Myers Innovation and Technology Building in 2016 at nearly 70,000 square feet; and
- **Howard University**’s Numa P. Adams Complex which houses its College of Medicine East and West, has more than 213,000 square feet and opened in 1935.

**SPOTLIGHT: PRESIDENTS**

On March 6th, **Howard University** inaugurated Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick, MD, MBA, as its 17th president during a ceremony at the university’s historic campus that coincided with the annual Charter Day Convocation, commemorating **Howard’s** founding. In his inaugural address, President Frederick outlined his vision for the university and stressed a future guided by and rooted in excellence, truth, and service. As part of inaugural festivities, **Howard University** and **Howard University Hospital** hosted a free health fair for the LeDroit Park community on March 2nd entitled the **Howard Health Fair @ LeDroit Park**.

**Trinity Washington University** and TWU President Pat McGuire were featured in a major video profile produced by The Chronicle of Higher Education and posted on March 25th. The video tracks the transformation of **Trinity** over the past 25 years under the leadership of **President McGuire** and shows the many ways in which **Trinity** is thriving today as a mission-driven university—especially in its women’s college, which has had significant enrollment growth and now enrolls more than 1,000 students. Through interviews with **President McGuire**, faculty, students and graduates, including Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (’62), the video feature shows the many ways in which **Trinity** made strategic changes and many gutsy moves, to become a vibrant university that ensures access to higher education for a largely local student population that is mostly low-income, first-generation and is predominantly African America and Latina.
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar’s Amir, visited Georgetown University during his first U.S. trip as leader of the Middle Eastern country for a conversation with Georgetown President John. J. DeGioia in Georgetown’s historic Gaston Hall.

The search for the 11th president of Gallaudet University continues as the deadline for applications was March 2nd. The search firm involved, Bridge Partners, met with potential candidates through the month of February and through the first half of March. During the second half of March, the search committee members gathered as a group and began video interviews. The committee has asked each campus community to submit critical questions that they would like to ask the candidates.

Trinity Washington University President Pat McGuire was quoted in articles in the Washington Post and Chronicle of Higher Education and other publications in the wake of the recent announcement that Sweet Briar, a women’s college in rural Virginia, is closing this year. As a counterpoint to Sweet Briar’s closing, the articles highlighted Trinity’s growth and success in recent years. Trinity’s positive growth was also featured on the news site DC Inno, “The Sweet Briar Story Could Have Been Trinity’s. On her HuffingtonPost blog, President McGuire reflected on the closing of Sweet Briar and the need for and relevance of women’s colleges today and in the future “Disrupting the Daisy Chain: What Modern Women’s Colleges Really Do.”

**Campus News**

U.S. President Barack Obama and senior congressional members paid tribute to Georgetown University’s 200th anniversary of its charter, signed into law on March 1, 1815. “A lot’s happened in Washington over two centuries and Hoyas have been at the center of the action,” the President said in his tribute. “Simply put, this country and this world benefit from your commitment to Jesuit principles, to being men and women for others. Here’s to the next 200 years. Happy Birthday and Hoya Saxa.” House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), Sen Patrick Leahy (D-VT) (Law ’64), and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) sent their congratulations as well.

George Washington University President Steven Knapp announced on February 6th that “Making History: The Campaign for GW” had reached a significant milestone in funds raised. Since the campaign launched in July 2011, GW has raised more than $700 million towards its $1 billion goal. The announcement was accompanied by a visibility campaign across GW’s campuses including an announcement at the GW vs. Dayton men’s basketball game; and events throughout the month, including student and alumni celebrations of George Washington’s birthday.

The Gallaudet University Office of Campus Design and Planning hosted an open house focused on the ongoing redesign of all science lab facilities. Construction work will continue in phases through December 2015. The project provides significant improvements and expansion of Gallaudet’s outdated science lab facilities in order to meet the future enrollment, instructional and research needs of the Department of Science, Technology and Math (STM). In addition, the science building will host a new collaboration/meeting facility open to the campus community.
The Rodney L. Johnson Parents Helping Fund at George Washington University has been named in honor of Rodney L. Johnson, Executive Director and founder of GW’s Office of Parent Services, who will retire in July following 30 years of service. The fund will be used to support parents who need funds during family and other emergencies.

The Howard University Board of Trustees unanimously approved a plan to freeze undergraduate and select graduate tuition rates for 2015-2016 school year and to offer rebates to students who graduate early or on time. The rebate will be 50 percent off the final semester’s tuition and will be offered on direct payments and available to May 2016 graduates on or after May 2015 graduation.

The George Washington University has been showing up on a lot of Top 10 lists:

- GW was recognized as No. 1 for best internships in the 2015 edition of the Princeton Review’s “Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Best Value Colleges and What it Takes to Get In,” which was released on February 3rd; and
- Foreign Policy Magazine published its list of best international relations schools also on February 3rd, naming GW’s Elliott School of International Affairs in the top 10 for its undergraduate and master’s programs;

GREEN CAMPUS

The College of Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia will host a “Beginners and Builders Biogas Workshop” on April 18th to 19th at the university’s Muirkirk Research Farm in Beltsville, MD. David House, author of The Complete Biogas Handbook will facilitate the workshop presenting a new design for a fully insulated, US-ready small biogas digester capable of producing several cubic yards of biogas from moderate amounts of food waste. Biogas is a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide that can be used as a fuel in any application where ordinary natural gas might be used. Interested members of the public are invited to attend.

Four hundred sixty one colleges and universities across the nation went head to head in the annual RecycleMania competition from February 1st to March 28th. During the competition, colleges report the amount of recycling and trash collected each week and are ranked based on which schools recycled the most on a per capita basis, which schools have the best recycling rate and which schools generate the least amount of combined trash and recycling. Howard University competed for the fifth consecutive year in the competition’s Game Day celebration held March 2nd. Game Day was held during the Howard-Norfolk State men’s basketball game.

The Water Resources Institute of the University of the District of Columbia hosted the 2015 National Capital Region Water Resources Symposium on April 10th. The symposium, themed Urban Water Management and Resilience in Uncertain Times, brought together experts from governmental agencies, academia, the private sector and nonprofits to discuss challenges and opportunities for sustainable management of water resources and infrastructure in the region, as well as nationally and internationally. Featured speakers included:

- Daniel Zarrilli, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency for the City of New York (keynote address);
• Carolyn Kousky, Resources for the Future (panelist);
• Vicki Arroyo, The Georgetown Climate Center (panelist);
• Mary M. Cheh, Chair, Committee on Transportation and the Environment, Council of the District of Columbia (panelist); and
• Ronald C. Steiner (moderator).

In addition to the moderated discussion, 25 papers were presented at four concurrent sessions and poster exhibits.

CLASS NOTES

Several Consortium members appeared on the Peace Corps’ list of colleges and universities that produced the most Peace Corps volunteers in 2014. They included:

• Howard University which was named the Peace Corps’ 2015 top producer of volunteers among Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for the fourth consecutive year. Howard has made history in the previous year’s rankings as the first-ever HBCU to appear on the agency’s list of top volunteer-producing colleges and universities. There are 13 alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers and the total number of Howard alumni to have served has risen to 221;

• American and Georgetown Universities which were ranked 2nd, and 10th respectively on the list of Medium Colleges and Universities producing the most Peace Corps Volunteers in 2014;

• George Washington University which tied for the No. 3 spot among medium-sized schools. This is the fifth consecutive year GW has been among the top five; and

• University of Maryland which was ranked as 18 on the list of large colleges and universities providing Peace Corps volunteers.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Val G. Hemming Simulation Center at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) has been providing healthcare simulation activities to students, residents, fellows and staff since 1999. It is part of the National Capital Simulation Consortium (NCSC) which also includes the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. The NCSC has recently been reaccredited by two oversight board including:

• The American College of Surgeons (ACS) which accredits comprehensive institutes addressing the educational needs of a broad spectrum of learners and advances the science of simulation-based surgical education has recognized the NCSC as a Comprehensive Accredited Education Institute (AEI). The AEI accreditation process is a voluntary peer-review process and provides for three-year accreditation periods; and

• The Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) has granted the NCSC a five-year accreditation for the NCSC’s Assessment, Research, Teaching/Education, System Integration and Patient Safety programs. This is the first accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to the NCSC. The accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization.
Just two years after it began, Marymount University’s MS in Cybersecurity is getting strong reviews. In its “Best Online Programs” edition, U.S. News & World Report ranked Marymount’s program 53rd in the “Graduate Business Programs (Excluding MBA)” category. Marymount’s Master’s Degree in Cybersecurity can be earned entirely online.

The George Washington School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) hosted its ninth annual Student Research Development Showcase on February 18th-19th, with more than 120 undergraduate and graduate students presenting their research and competing for $35,000 in prize money. The Showcase is a venue for SEAS students to present cutting-edge research and for investors and researchers to learn about opportunities for investing or collaborating on the state-of-the-art research conducted at SEAS. The showcase also included a panel discussion on U.S. cybersecurity preparedness by CIOs and information officers from the World Bank, NASA, and Hewlett-Packard, as well as a keynote speech by DARPA Director Arathi Prabhakar.

George Mason University’s new Bachelor of Science in CyberSecurity Engineering is one more example of George Mason taking the lead,” said recently at the program’s official kick-off on March 16th. “If you’re in this program, you’re very smart. You will have careers as long as you need them.” Senator Warner pointed out that industry and federal government are facing mission-critical skills gaps and looking to universities to find the solution.

The NEXT Thesis Exhibition is George Washington University Corcoran School of the Arts and Design’s annual celebration of the brilliance and promise of its students. Each degree program at the Corcoran requires students to successfully complete a thesis project. The exhibition opened on April 8th and will run through May 17th in the Corcoran School. For more information, visit http://corcoran.gwu.edu/next.

Colleges and universities across the country have begun to incorporate race case studies into the classroom as discussions about race relations flared around the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri. Among the schools exploring such academic offerings are Hampton University, San Francisco State University, Washington University in St. Louis, Catholic University of America Law School, and Morgan State University. At the University of Maryland, the play “Collidescope: Adventures in Pre- and Post-Racial America” ran in November and explored the Treyvon Martin case. A student who participated in the staging of the play encouraged his classmates to reassemble and discuss the issues raised by the play.

**Research and Technology**

To discover new and better ways of fighting off bacteria, George Mason University researchers have been studying the American alligator which dines on carrion and lives in germ-ridden, stagnant water, yet rarely gets sick. That’s because, as the researchers discovered, alligator blood, is full of natural germ fighters that take the form of antimicrobial peptides. These very small proteins are part of the innate immunity of humans too, keeping people from falling ill before they can make antibodies to bacterial infections. The project has just started its fourth year and has received $6 million in funding to date from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). If fully funded over five years, the project will be worth $7.57 million.
Melissa Napolitano, Associate Professor in George Washington University’s Milken Institute School of Public Health, received a $3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct a study on whether Healthy Body Healthy U, a weight loss program that uses Facebook and texting to deliver health-related messages to participants, can translate to campus communities for an extended period of time.

A joint effort by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. (HJF) to license assays that allow for the rapid detection of Shiga toxin has received the 2015 Federal Laboratory Consortium Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer. This marks the third consecutive award for USU, which is aided in its technology transfer efforts by HJF through the USU-HJF Joint Office of Technology Transfer. The award is for the work on Shiga-producing Escherichia coli (E-coli) by Alison O’Brien, Ph.D., professor and chair of USU’s Microbiology and Immunology Department, and her colleagues. Two strains of the Shiga toxin are responsible for approximately 265,000 intestinal infections each year in the U.S.

Mchezaji “Che” Axum is the Director of the Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education in the College of Agriculture Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) at the University of the District of Columbia and is focused on urban farming—feeding the largest numbers of people possible from limited space. Much of the food grown at UDC’s 143-acre farm goes to nonprofits including Bread for the City, DC Central Kitchen as well as UDC’s campus cafeteria and its farmers market. Among the farm’s projects—dry-land rice growing; intensive weed management; and aquaponics.

George Washington University’s Graduate School of Education and Human Development (GSEHD) and Columbian College of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) hosted an event in the Jack Morton Auditorium on March 4th launching GWTeach, its version of the UTeach science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teacher preparation program. GW received a $1.45 million grant from the National Math and Science Initiative to implement the program. Provost Steven Lehrman, GSEHD Dean Michael Feuer and CCAS Dean Ben Vinson gave remarks.

Developed by American University sociology professor Michael Bader and colleagues, new web app called Computer Assisted Neighborhood Visual Assessment System (CANVAS), eliminates the costly and time-consuming aspects of conducting research. The app harnesses Google Street View technology, the street recognition program that links together images to create panoramic views of cities and rural areas. “Before Google Street View, sociologists had to cover hundreds of square miles in a neighborhood and painstakingly record visual details to answer research questions about gentrification, elders and healthy aging and more,” said Professor Michael Bader. “CANVAS takes Good Street View a step further by marrying its image data collection with Django software, providing a reliable, efficient and comprehensive tool for conducting sociological research on a large scale.”

Georgetown University’s Center for Social Justice and community partners, Central American Resource Center and Trabajadores Unidos de Washington, DC have been awarded a grant by the Sociological Initiatives Foundation to study the challenges faced by undocumented
immigrants as they apply for DC’s new Limited Purpose driver’s license, a license for undocumented immigrants.

David Broniatowski, assistant professor in George Washington University’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), received a prestigious R01 grant by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences in the National Institutes of Health for his research “Supplemental Survey-Based Analyses of Group Vaccination Narratives and Behaviors Using Social Media.” This five-year, multi-institute grant includes subcontracts to the University of Georgia and Johns Hopkins University. GW is the lead site, and Professor Broniatowski is the lead principal investigator, along with his co-PI Karen Hilyard (University of Georgia). The total amount of the grant is $1.55 million.

Marymount University Assistant Professor in Information Technology, Dr. Tom Narock, is helping explore the world’s oceans. Working with researchers at places like Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, Narock and other computer scientists from around the country are developing a smarter academic search engine and creating the next generation of the Internet. Last fall, he was awarded a $144,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to collaborate with other universities, institutions, and nonprofits to explore “the Semantic Web,” a set of new technologies and methods that enable computers to reason and understand how data are related. In 2013, he helped create a prototype search engine called OceanLink. The group’s current project is called GeoLink and includes ecological and other data that compliments the ocean data.

Georgetown University’s Master’s in Urban & Regional Planning (URP) has formally established a partnership with the DowntownDC Business Improvement District (BID) to coordinate research into diversifying the local economy. The new program is located at Georgetown’s downtown DC campus at the School of Continuing Studies at 640 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. The agreement will promote the Georgetown University-Downtown BID collaboration around interdisciplinary research, coordination of faculty and student research projects and joint promotion and distribution of research findings.

On March 11, Gallaudet University announced it had been awarded a three-year, $900,000 grant by the W. M. Keck Foundation for a research team led by Dr. Laura-Ann Petito, a Developmental Cognitive Neuroscientist widely known for her discoveries about the biological foundations of language. The team will conduct basic science to address the early learning needs of vast numbers of children through the nation who are impacted by the devastating consequences of minimal or delayed language exposure, particularly for deaf children.

Gustavo Hormiga, the Ruth Weintraub Professor of Biology at George Washington University’s Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, was awarded a $487,536 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to research the phylogeny and diversification of orb weaving spiders.

While a casual rider of Washington’s Metro system will have little idea of the area’s history, there is a hidden story about slavery and survival beyond the system’s rail lines, escalators and surrounding neighborhoods. During the Civil War there were forts all over Washington, DC. Union forces provided refuge to runaway slaves in fortifications like Fort Totten--now a park and
neighborhood of the same name—Fort Bunker Hill in modern-day Brookland, and Fort Stevens in the Brightwood NW neighborhood. Sue Taylor, a public anthropologist in residence at American University, is studying the riveting, sometimes arcane, history of the nation’s capital during the mid-19th century in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) on the African American Civil War Descendants Project. As principal investigator, she is expecting to complete a report by this fall, for NPS which may then use this information for educational programming in D.C. neighborhoods. Taylor is specifically looking at eight forts that are managed by NPS, covering the period from 1861-1877—from the outset of the Civil War through Reconstruction.

An interdisciplinary group of researchers from the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) and Children’s National Health System has been awarded a program project grant (PPG) for $6.2 million from The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to solve pediatric dysphagia—a chronic difficulty with feeding and swallowing in children. Anthony-Samuel LaMantia, director of the GW Institute for Neurosciences and professor of pharmacology and physiology at SMHS, will direct the PPG and Sally Moody, professor of anatomy and regenerative biology, will serve as associate director.

On February 6th, Dr. Keith Cagle led a presentation entitled “Are Some American Sign Language (ASL) Lexical Signs Thousands of Years Old?” at Gallaudet University. Before the emergence of French Sign Language (LSF) in the 18th century and American Sign Language in the 19th century, Cistercian Sign Language (CSL) had been extensively used by monks for centuries in Europe. In the lecture, Cagle explored the possible roots of ASL prior to LSF, demonstrating numerous identical and similar signs between CSL and Early LSF and proving his thesis about how translation between the three languages functioned in multi-lingual comparative works.

On April 21st, Clinical and basic science experts from around the world will convene for the 10th Annual Amygdala Stress and PTSD Conference, sponsored by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, in collaboration with the USU Departments of Psychiatry and Family Medicine, the USU Neurosciences Program, and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Department of Psychiatry. This year’s conference theme is “Of Mice and Man” and will focus on the biological basis of stress, fear and post-traumatic stress disorder. Featured speakers include:

- Dwight Berles, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, discussing “Dynamic Behavior of Oligodendrocytes and the Progenitors in the Adult Brain;”
- Harvey Pollard, MD, Ph.D., USU, discussing “Big Data Meets the Brain;”
- Abigail Marsh, Ph.D., Georgetown University, discussing “Empathy on a Sliding Scale: Is Altruism the Inverse of Psychopathy?;”
- Jackie Debiec, MD, Ph.D., University of Michigan, presenting on “The Neurobiology of the Intergenerational Social Transmission of Emotional Trauma;” and
- Daniel Stein, MD, Ph.D., University of Cape Town, South Africa on “Trauma and PSTD in South Africa.”

The event is free and open to the public but registration is required by April 14th at the website www.amygdalaptsdconference.org.

More than two dozen students, faculty and staff members of the Howard University community met at the Moorland Spingarn Research Center to update a Wikipedia entries on Black history and
African diaspora topics. This “Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon” event focused on entries that included classical African civilizations, Trinidadian intellectuals and a number of notable Black scholars and professionals. The edit-a-thon is part of Moorland Spingarn Research Center’s Black History Month Initiative. Wikimedia DC sponsored the event.

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Human Performance Resource Center (HPRC), working in conjunction with the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center and the United States Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine in Natick, Massachusetts, has launched the Combat Rations Database, or ComRaD (http://hprc-online.org/comrad/) which provides nutritional information on individual combat ration meals and their food components. This interactive website features standard nutrition facts, including calories, fat, vitamins and minerals of the MRE, First Strike Ration ® (FSR), and Meal, Cold Weather/Long Range Patrol (MCW/LRP) from their most recent production years. MRE’s are used by all military services to meet nutritional requirements for up to 21 days. Each meal includes an entrée, side dish, bakery item, condiments, snacks and a beverage mix.

The Maryland Industrial Partnerships Program (MIPS) at the University of Maryland is offering matching grants for businesses in Maryland to develop innovative technology products and solutions in cooperation with university faculty. Up to $100,000 per year is available for each MIPS project. Grant applications are due by May 1, 2015. Among the projects that have previously been funded are new running technologies at Baltimore-based sports company Under Armour; protocols for high-speed satellite internet service developed by Germantown-based Hughes Network Systems; mobile health detection systems for adults with type-2 diabetes developed by Baltimore-based WellDoc; and five separate poultry manure to energy project started in August 2014 in partnership between MIPS and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

A new clinical trial to obtain safety and efficacy data on the investigational drug, ZMapp as a treatment for the Ebola virus was launched on February 27th by the National Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in partnership with the Liberian government. Scientists from USU played a role in the evaluation. Dr. Mark Kortepeter, USU’s Associate Dean for Research, and Dr. Scott Miller, Director of the Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program (IDCRP) in USU’s F. Edward Herbert School of Medicine, are associate investigators for the study, which partners with IDCRP and NIAID, U.S. Ebola treatment units, and now sites in Liberia to conduct randomized, controlled trial to evaluate potentially beneficial Ebola therapeutics. The FDA-regulated research protocol for the study is currently under ethical review at the infectious disease Institutional Review Board (IRB) at USU.

**ON THE BOOKSHELF**

With the help of a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, Catholic University Assistant Professor of Media Studies Martin Johnson is writing a book about the work of filmmakers whose movies were created to draw people into small-town theaters. These local films first started appearing in the early 1900s, when exhibitors used them to draw crowds to see themselves in the movies.

*The New Yorker* reviewed American University professor W. Joseph Campbell’s new book, *1995: The Year the Future Began*. The magazine called it a “worthy, informative, and sporting attempt to convince us that the world we live in was crucially shaped by things that happened in 1995.” Professor Campbell’s specialty is the history of journalism. His previous book, *Getting it Wrong: Ten of the Greatest Misreported Stories in American Journalism* is a thorough debunking of some of the most exaggerated or fallacious stories in history including William Randolph Hearst’s promise to “furnish the war” with Spain, the Jessica Lynch story in 2003 and the coverage of Hurricane Katrina.

**P-20**

George Washington University President Steven Knapp hand-delivered acceptance letters with full-ride Stephen Joel Trachtenberg scholarships to nine DC high school seniors on March 18th. Throughout the day, the GW delegation—consisting of President Knapp, George the mascot, and admissions staff—visited high school across the city, first greeting each student’s family members so that they could also witness the special moments.

**International Relations**

American University junior Charlotte Bergmann is not just studying abroad. She’s living out her dream, one that germinated during childhood. Bergmann has had a longtime fascination with Spain, and how she’s spending this semester in Madrid. Bergmann is the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Maria del Carmen Caballeoro Scholarship for Study Abroad in Spain. As part of her program, she’ll travel throughout Spain, as well as take a trip to neighboring Portugal. “I actually knew I wanted to study abroad in Spain in Madrid in sixth grade. And I was one of those kids, the second I started taking Spanish language in kindergarten, I knew that that was my language,” she recalls. So far, the country has completely lived up to her expectations. “It totally blew me away. Everybody is so friendly, so accommodating, and very curious,” she says. “That feeling of trying something new is incredible, and I wish that for everybody. I’m so lucky that I have the opportunity to do this.”

Dr. Laura-Ann Petitto, co-principal investigator and science director of the National Science Foundation’s Science of Learning Center, Visual Language and Visual Learning Center (VL2) at Gallaudet University and scientific director of Gallaudet’s Brain and Language Laboratory of Neuroimaging (BL2), was awarded the Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities at University of Hong Kong (UHK). During her month-long stay at HKU, Dr. Petitto established partnerships with HKU faculty and served as a resource for the establishment of Science of Learning
and Educational Neuroscience disciplines in China. She also delivered a series of public lectures including:

- “How Babies Discover Language: Insights from a Research Journey Spanning Chimpanzees to Children, and from Co-Founding the New Discipline of Educational Neuroscience;”
- “Humanities and the Science of Learning: Revealing the Essence of Human Thought;” and
- “The Science of Learning—Why it Matters to Schools and Families and All Interested in the Future of Society.”

On March 9th, George Washington University’s Global Women’s Institute cohosted the “Preventing and Responding to Violence” with the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. The event was based on The Lancet series on violence against women and girls (VAWG) released in November and was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York. It focused on evidence from rigorously evaluated interventions that would reduce violence against women and girls internationally, a proposed health care response to VAWG and calls to action based on the main findings and action points from the series.

**Campus Support**

George Washington University announced on February 27th that it had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to establish the Richard M. Milanovich Fellowship to provide funding for Native American students who are members of federally recognized California tribes to study, live and work in Washington, DC through GW’s Native American Political Leadership Program.

**Campus Movers and Shakers**

Howard University has named Carrolyn J. Bostick as Vice President of Human Resources and Organizational Effectiveness. In her new position, she will seek to optimize and streamline organizational effectiveness to reinforce the university’s movement toward a more strategic HR function. Bostick joins Howard from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) where she was the Assistant Administrator for Human Resource Management. She is also a graduate of Howard University with an MA in Organizational Management from HU as well.

Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) joined Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service (SFS) faculty as a Distinguished Fellow on March 1st. Shah has championed USAID’s mission to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies. He led President Obama’s landmark “Feed the Future” and “Power Africa” initiatives and has refocused America’s global health partnerships to end preventable child death. He also managed the U.S. government’s response to humanitarian crises including the Haiti earthquake and the Ebola outbreak.

Aristide Collins was announced as the new Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at the George Washington University on February 6th.
Former Chief Nurse Officer for the United States Public Health Service Carol Romano, Ph.D., RN, BC, NEA, FAAN, FACMI, was recently selected as the new Dean of the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). She succeeds Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw who retired in August 2014. Among her other previous positions, this former admiral (retired) served as the acting Deputy Surgeon General of the United States; acting Chief of Staff in the Office of the Surgeon General of the United States; and director of the Office of Reserve Affairs for the US Public Health Service (USPHS). She is a recognized pioneer in nursing informatics and developed the world’s first graduate curriculum in nursing informatics at the University of Maryland School of Nursing where she recently was named one of the school’s Inaugural Pioneer Visionary Award recipients.

Eric Arnesen, Professor of History in George Washington University’s Columbian College of Arts and Sciences (CCAS), was installed as the James R. Hoffa Teamsters Professor of American Labor History in a February 10th ceremony with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in the Gelman Library. GW President Steven Knapp and CCAS Dean Ben Vinson gave remarks.

Who is the first African American to win two Academy Awards in any category? Sidney Poitier? No. Morgan Freeman? Nope. Denzel Washington? Wrong again. The correct answer is American University’s own Russell Williams. In back-to-back years, he won Oscars for his sound work on Glory (1989) and Dances with Wolves (1990). Williams, now a professor of film and media arts in All’s School of Communications, recently donated his two Academy Awards to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is slated to open in 2016. He is also donating two Emmy awards, photographs and some of his film-related equipment to the museum.

The Honorable Charles N. Brower, one of the world’s leading lawyers in international arbitration, will join George Washington University Law School’s International and Comparative Law Program beginning in July as a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law. He comes to GW Law with more than 50 years of experience in public international law and international dispute resolution gained across six continents.

On February 10th, Gallaudet University’s Dr. Christian Vogler was appointed to serve as a representative member on the Federal Communication Commission’s Disability Advisory Committee (DAC). The DAC is the Commission’s inaugural advisory committee established to advise the agency on communications access for individuals with disabilities. Dr. Vogler is the director of Gallaudet’s Technology Access Program (TAP) and principal investigator, within the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) on Technology for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. As a DAC member, Dr. Vogler will serve a two-year term and attend at least three one-day plenary committee meetings each year. The DAC also includes many members who are Gallaudet alumni or who attended Gallaudet including: Suzy Rosen Singleton (E ’88) (Alternative Designated Federal Officer); Andrew Phillips (’06), Chair; Eddie Martinez (’05 & ’12); Al Sonnenstrahl (E ’87); Nancy Rarus (’62); Bryen Yunashko (E ’89); and Claude Stout, ’78 & ’80).

Victor Weedn, Chair of the Forensic Sciences Department at George Washington University, was inaugurated as the President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences
The American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) at its annual business meeting. The AAFS is the most prestigious forensic science professional association in the world, with 7,000 members, including members from most countries of the world.

George Mason University professor David Weisburd has been awarded the Israel Prize in Social Work and Criminological Research by the Israeli Education Ministry. Weisburd is Executive Director of George Mason’s Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy and Distinguished Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society. He is also the Walter E. Meyer Professor of Law and Criminal Justice at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In his groundbreaking research, Weisburd examined the effect of focusing enforcement efforts in troubled spots and showed through extensive empirical studies that the focus of enforcement in one place does not necessarily lead to the migration of crime to another place but rather greatly improves the fight against crime. Professor Weisburd has also won the Stockholm Prize in Criminology (2010), considered the highest achievement in the field and the Sutherland Award, presented by the American Society of Criminology (2014), the highest achievement in the field in the United States.

Christopher L. Cahill, George Washington University Professor Chemistry and International Affairs, was selected as the American Institute of Physics State Department Science Fellow for 2015-2016, and was the GW student-athletes’ choice for 2014 Professor of the Year.

On February 3rd, the Gallaudet Staff Council Staff Development and Welfare Committee hosted its inaugural professional development workshop for staff entitled “Leadership for Change” with Dr. Francis M. Duffy, professor and program director of the Master of Public Administration program in Gallaudet’s Department of Government and Public Affairs. The workshop incorporated a presentation by Dr. Duffy, including lively group discussions about initiating and supporting whole-system change in campus units. Additionally, the workshop touched on the role of interpersonal communication during times of change, understanding work units as systems, the process of large-scale change, and key change leadership competencies.

George Washington University’s Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM) Director Mark Kennedy has been elected to the nonpartisan think tank Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Kennedy, who has served as GSPM director since 2012, is a former three-term U.S. congressman from Minnesota. A longtime business executive with expertise in trade and U.S. foreign policy, immigration and global affairs, Mr. Kennedy also is a faculty member of the Elliot School of International Affairs’ Institute for International Economic Policy.

Howard University has named Carlos De La Rosa at its new Chief Information Officer with responsibility for managing university technology services, infrastructure and operations. In the past four years, De La Rosa formed and led an analytics application and technical operations specialist’s team at Logi Analytics. He has more than 20 years of experience working in various technologies and in analytics for major corporations, including The Walt Disney Company’s Disney/ABC Cable Networks Group.

Associate Professor Kehbuma Langima of the Howard University Department of Strategic, Legal and Management Communications, has been selected to be a Fulbright Scholar. He
will travel to the University of Buea in Cameroon, West Africa to assist in the development of the graduate program in the Journalism and Mass Communication Department.

Jaimie Smith, a metadata and catalog librarian at Gallaudet University, was one of 50 people selected by the American Library Association (ALA) to participate in its 2015 class of Emerging Leaders (EL). The program is designed to enable library staff and information workers to participate in project planning workgroups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers. The program will kick off with a day-long session during the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting followed by an online learning and networking environment for six months, culminating with a poster session at the ALA 2015 Annual Conference.

In December, President Barack Obama tapped George Mason University professor Laurie Robinson to co-chair the Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The formation of the group was spurred by police-involved deaths of black men in Ferguson, MO and New York City. Robinson is a former assistant attorney general who is now the Clarence J. Robinson Professor Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason. She and co-chair Charles Ramsey, Police Commissioner for Philadelphia, led a team of community and law enforcement leaders, academics, civil rights advocates, and conflict practitioners to study police/race relations in the United States and provide recommendations for positive change. They held hearings around the country and interviewed countless experts, law enforcement officials and citizens.

The Howard University Department of English has named poet and photographer Thomas Sayers Ellis as the Sterling Allen Brown Professor of English and Humanities for the spring 2015 semester. Ellis is the author of The Maverick Room and Skin, Inc.: Identity Repair Poems and has taught at Sarah Lawrence College, the University of San Francisco and Wesleyan University. The Sterling A. Brown Professor English and the Humanities is funded by a Challenge Grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and is a part of an ongoing effort to endow a chair in honor of Professor Brown.

Consortium member faculty were recognized for artistic performance during the April 6th Helen Hayes Award Ceremonies. The Helen Hayes Awards, named for the legendary First Lady of the American Theatre, are bestowed on those artists and companies that best exhibit excellence on the 80+ local stages. A member of the Catholic University faculty as well as Ethan Sinnott, a Gallaudet University Theater and Dance Program director were nominated for awards. Sinnott was the set designer for Imagination Stage’s Cinderella: The Remix which was nominated for Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences. (For more on Helen Hayes Awards see Life After College and Spotlight: Students.)

On February 24th, Yale University named Helon Habila, associate professor in George Mason University’s Creative Writing Program one of the nine recipients of the 2015 Windham Campbelle Prizes. These prizes, established by writer Donald Windham and first awarded in 2013, highlight literary achievement in the genres of fiction, nonfiction and drama, and are designed to give the recipients an opportunity to practice their work without regard to financial concern. Each prize includes an unrestricted grant of $150,000. Habila writes novels and short stories which have won many awards and he has received scholarships and fellowships in the United States and around the world.
Big Men (and Women) on Campus

George Washington University’s Black Heritage Celebration this year featured keynote speaker Judy Smith, the inspiration behind the hit television show “Scandal.” The February 2nd event was hosted by award-winning journalist Caroline Clarke in GW’s Marvin Center’s Betts Theatre.

Lukman Faily, Iraqi ambassador to the United States, spoke at George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs on February 3rd. Mr. Faily discussed current challenges facing Iraq, the Iraqi-U.S. relationship and what the future holds in terms of the Islamic State group.

On February 4th, the George Washington University Parenting Initiative hosted a conversation with Deborah L. Tillman, (MA ’01), star of the Lifetime Television program “America’s Supernanny.” The discussion, “Parenting on Purpose: Tools and Techniques for Effective Parenting,” included advice on raising children in today’s society. Ms. Tillman also answered questions from the audience. Following the conversation, the GW Parenting Initiative hosted a tour of its new space in the Colonial Health Center, which also includes co-located services, mental health services, and health promotion and prevention services for GW students. GW Provost Steven Lerman and Director of the Executive Board of the GW Parenting Initiative Lori Lerman attended the event.

On February 4th, WETA hosted a screening for “The Italian Americans,” a new two-part, four-hour documentary series about the Italian experience in America, which premiered on PBS on February 17th and 24th. The screening was held in George Washington University’s Jack Morton Auditorium and included a panel conversation with film maker John Maggio and journalist Maria Laurino. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) attended as a special guest. Frank Sesno, Director of GW’s School of Media and Public Affairs, gave opening remarks.

The George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM) hosted a student social media watch party for NBC’s “Meet the Press” on February 8th. GSPM students tweeted about the show’s host Chuck Todd, who attended GW from 1990 to 1994 and interacted with students via Twitter.

World Bank Chief Economist and Senior Vice President Kaushik Basu discussed the challenges of global economic development as part of Georgetown University’s Global Future series on February 10th. The semester long conversation entitled “The Global Future of Development” was organized by the university’s Global Futures Initiative. Mr. Basu’s remarks were the second lecture in the series.

National Public Radio hosts and writers gathered on February 11th to discuss the future of radio and podcasting at an event presented by George Washington University’s School of Media and Public Affairs, which examined how the shift to digital media changes the ways audio entertainment is produced and consumed. A panel of veteran audio journalists discussed the
direction of the industry in terms of broadcast radio, podcasts, streaming, on-demand subscriptions and smartphone applications, and why it matters to journalism overall.

Law enforcement must acknowledge a tainted past in terms of racial bias, and police and those they serve must learn to see each other as well-intentioned but complicated human beings, FBI Director James Comey told a Georgetown University audience on February 12th in an unusually frank and personal speech. Entitled “Hard Truths: Law Enforcement and Race,” Comey’s speech said the recent killings of unarmed young black men by law enforcement, protests about the deaths, and the avenge murders of two New York Police Department officers, has put America “at a crossroads.” The speech received national attention and was one of the first instances of an FBI director discussing race in America.

Entrepreneur Scott Nash, founder and CEO of MOM’s Organic Market, spoke about entrepreneurship and running a socially responsible corporation on February 12th at Gallaudet University. MOM’s recently opened a store near Gallaudet University on New York Avenue adding to the 12 stores it operates in the Mid-Atlantic region with approximately 800 employees. Also functioning as a recycling center and a community center for green initiatives. MOM’s has also taken on issues such as banning advertising to children, raising the minimum wage, and helping homeless children.

U.S. Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia joined Nina Totenberg, NPR’s legal affairs correspondent, for an informal conversation at an event presented by the Smithsonian Associates in George Washington University’s Lisner Auditorium on February 12th. Justices Ginsburg and Scalia discussed their time on the Supreme Court, memorable and meaningful cases, their shared passion for opera and more in a lively and insightful discussion.

On February 23rd, Dr. John Gabrieli of MIT gave a lecture at Gallaudet University entitled “How Cognitive Neuroscience May Contribute to Helping People with Dyslexia.” Dr. Gabrieli is an expert on now neuroscience knowledge can be used to help individuals with dyslexia including the use of brain measures to predict the trajectory of reading difficulty (successful compensation versus persistent difficulty), to support appropriate diagnostic criteria (such as the use or misuse of discrepancy criteria for diagnosis), and to identify children at risk for reading failure prior to reading instruction (and thus justify early intervention).

Carrie Hessler-Radelet, Director of the Peace Corps, addressed students at Georgetown University on February 23rd saying that promoting cross-cultural understanding is key as the organization faces an increasing complex world. Hessler-Radelet spoke as part of a semester-long conversation on development convened by the Georgetown Global Futures Initiative. She also commended Georgetown for being such a valuable partner to the Peace Corps.

Longtime foreign correspondent Myron Belkind gave the McLaughlin Lectureship in Media Communications at Marymount University on February 24th. Mr. Belkind told the audience that immense opportunities remain in journalism but that opportunity comes with a focus on “accuracy coupled with responsibility and fairness.” The endowed lecture honors Marya McLaughlin, a well-known CBS News radio and television correspondent. The lecture is designed to provide students, faculty and the public with insights from journalists of national stature.
Most. Rev. Daniel E. Flores, Bishop of Brownsville, TX, gave a February 24th talk on the campus of Catholic University of America titled “Immigration as a Theological Paradigm for Faith and Social Justice” as part of the Third Annual Hispanic Innovators of the Faith Lecture at CUA. Bishop Flores is the sixth bishop of Brownsville. He also serves as chairman of the Committee on Cultural Diversity at the United States Conference of Bishops, overseeing the subcommittees responding to the various needs of African Americans, Native Americans and Latinos within the United States. He is a co-signatory of “Family Beyond Borders,” a Tex-Mex Border Bishops document on immigration.

U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne and former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin were among those who discussed the federal crime bill on its 20th anniversary at an event hosted by the Vera Institute of Justice at GW's Jack Morton Auditorium on March 10th.

Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, presented “Ebola: Past, Present and Future” as the 2015 David Packard Award Lecture at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) on March 11th. The annual lecture was established by USU's faculty senate in honor of Hewlett-Packard co-founder David Packard, who previously served as Deputy Secretary of Defense and USU’s second president in the 1970’s.

Professor Tyler Cowen is bringing thought leaders to George Mason University to engage in deep dialogues and expose the public to new ideas. Professor Cowen, Holbert L. Harris Chair in Economics, and General Director of the Mercatus Center at Mason, will host a series of discussions with economists, entrepreneurs, authors and innovators in a program called “Conversations with Tyler.” Professor Cowen and his guests will discuss some of the largest challenges the world faces as well as the future of the global economy. Cowen’s first conversation was on March 31st with venture capitals and entrepreneur Peter Thiel, cofounder of PayPal. Jeffrey Sachs, economist, author and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University joined Professor Cowen at April 7th. The first speaker of the fall academic year will be Luigi Zingales, a professor of entrepreneurship and finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and author of Saving Capitalism from Capitalists.

The American University Wonk of the Year Award was presented to former First Lady Laura Bush. She is the third person to receive the honor joining former President Bill Clinton and CNN journalist Anderson Cooper. She accepted the award and delivered remarks about it at AU on April 8th. The event was hosted by the Kennedy Political Union, the student-run lecture series on campus. Since its founding in 1968, KPU has brought a number of leaders and dignitaries to AU but this was the first “First Lady” (current or former). KPU Director Tyler Bowders says Mrs. Bush was selected as Wonk of the Year because of her work to create meaningful change in the world including “global outreach in addressing such issues as literacy, women’s education, and combating HIV/AIDS in Africa, and her domestic commitments to women’s health . . “.

**Spotlight: Students**

Trinity Washington University nursing senior Martece Yates is featured in a new documentary Southeast67, which tells the compelling story of 67 rising seventh graders, who,
growing up amidst violence and poverty in the late 1980’s in Southeast DC were provided support and encouragement to complete high school and go to college. The film premiered as part of the DC Filmfest in February, and Martece was on the post-screening panel. Martece was featured in a *McClatchy News* video and news article distributed nationwide, in which she talks about her journey from junior high to earning her nursing degree at *Trinity*.

**Consortium** member students are very talented. At least two were nominated for Helen Hayes Awards, the region’s highest honor for local theater. Students from both *Catholic University* and *Gallaudet University* were nominated for awards including Miranda Medugno (MA) who is pursuing her MA in Sign Language Education at *Gallaudet University*. She received her BA from *Gallaudet* in 2014. (For more on Helen Hayes Awards, see Movers and Shakers and Life After College.)

*Trinity Washington University* junior Paige Telesford (’16) delivered a superb rendition of an excerpt from the speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop.” Her outstanding oratory was part of a major event at the National Cathedral in Washington, “Civil Wars to Civil Rights, The Last Great Speeches of Abraham Lincoln and martin Luther King, Jr. Paige was introduced by *MSNBC* host Chris Matthews.

*George Washington University*’s student organization, Emergency Medical Response Group, received the Striving for Excellence in Campus EMS Award from the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation. A three-year recognition similar to an accreditation, the award recognizes campus emergency services for high quality of care, training and service to the community.

*Trinity Washington University* students were invited by *Trinity* graduate and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi to a special Women’s History Month event in the U.S. Capitol, at which the four women who have become U.S. Supreme Court justices were honored. The students personally met the three justices who attended—Justices Sotomayor, Kagan and Ginsburg. Notably, Leader Pelosi’s selfie with the justices appeared on the front page of the *Washington Post*. The students also had their photos taken with the justices.

**Campus Life**

In March, the MARC Camden Line added a new transit service between the *University of Maryland* and the University of Maryland Baltimore campuses. An additional eastbound train was added departing Union Station at 7:40 a.m. with a stop in College Park at 7:50 a.m. The 5:53 a.m. train from Union Station arrives at College Park at 6:04 a.m. The new trains will address what had previously been a 90-minute gap in service. “Shrinking the 30 miles that separates our campuses can only help us develop and maintain new research partnership” said *President Loh* about the new line.

In the wake of events in Ferguson, Missouri; New York City; Cleveland, OH; and elsewhere, the *Gallaudet University Office of Diversity and Equity for Students* planned a series of presentations and dialogues throughout the spring semester on the theme of “Black Lives Matter.” Local and national leaders in law enforcement, civil rights, community organizations, and higher
education were invited to present on the impact of these recent events at the individual, family, community, national and global levels. The goal was to create a space where historical implications and future aspirations can be discussed. Campus wide dialogues followed.

**Catholic University** students lined up outside the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center Great Room more than half an hour early to get seats for speaker Mike Domitrz’s February 23rd talk titled “Can I Kiss You?” which focused on respectful dating practices. Domitrz performed “Can I Kiss You? nationwide at universities, high schools, conferences and military bases.

**George Mason University** kicked off its six-week celebration of “Spring into Well-Being with Good Deeds Day” on March 19th, an event dedicated to highlighting the selfless acts of others. The celebration is designed to support and grow the interdisciplinary science of well-being and how it can improve the lives of the college’s community of employees, students and alumni. Well-being is also one of the university’s strategic goals.

In early February, **Gallaudet University’s Rainbow Society** and the **LGBTQA Resource Center** hosted a luncheon event to garner support for the newly created LGBTQA Scholarship named after founders and Gallaudet alumni, Chris Hoerr and Cesar Morata. The Chris R. Hoerr, IV, and Cesar P. Morata, LGBTQ Scholarship Fund was the focus of the luncheon whose purpose was to get the word out to the Gallaudet community and generate financial support for the fund. **President Hurwitz** and Board of Trustees Chair Heather Harker were in attendance.

**George Washington University** celebrated the 283rd anniversary of George Washington’s birthday with a series of events that recognized his legacy of leadership. All events were free and open to GW students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. Among the events:

- On February 19th, Philip Morgan from Johns Hopkins University spoke at the Fourth Annual George Washington Lecture held in the Marvin Center Continental Ballroom;
- On February 22nd, a wreath-laying ceremony was held at Washington’s tomb at Mount Vernon Estate in Mount Vernon, VA; and
- Also on the 22nd, a birthday bonfire was lit to honor the father of our country and the university’s namesake.

GW alumni also celebrated George Washington’s birthday with events in more than 50 cities worldwide.

Hundreds of students cheered as Mike Thorsen, a junior psychology major from Edison, NJ, successfully lifted his dance partner above his head during their recreation of the final routine from the movie *Dirty Dancing*. Thorsen was named this year’s winner of Catholic University’s all-male pageant, **Mr. CUA**, the evening of February 13th. **Mr. CUA**, which began in 1996, features male students competing in evening wear, talent, interview portions, a lip sync battle, a donut eating contest, and a toilet paper dress-making competition. The event was featured in a February 19th *Washington Post* story.

**George Washington University** students, faculty and staff joined together to produce a weeklong series of events for National Eating Disorder Awareness Week from February 23rd through 27th, hosted by Students Promoting Eating Disorder Awareness and Knowledge. Brian Cuban, author of the best-selling book *Shattered Image: My Triumph Over Body Dysmorphic Disorder,*
gave the keynote speech on February 25th and led a discussion about living with and recovering from eating disorders, drug addiction and body dysmorphic disorder.

On January 24th and February 20th, Gallaudet University hosted Green Dot Bystander Intervention Training sessions which aimed to increase individual willingness and ability to recognize and intervene to preempt potential acts of sexual misconduct on campus. At these events, students have the opportunity to learn more about bystander intervention, explore obstacles, develop strategies for intervening, and to work together to make the school community a safer place. Last semester, Gallaudet hosted six of these Green Dot training sessions, and the January 24th and February 20th events were the first of four sessions scheduled for spring semester. Additional Green Dot trainings were held on March 28th with the last one scheduled for April 17th.

**Campus and Community**

Howard University Hospital recently hosted a list of activities to highlight American Health Month inviting the surrounding community was invited to attend the events. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women and for most racial and ethnic minorities in America. Events included:

- “Go Red for Women” in which participants were invited to wear red on Friday’s in February to support fighting heart disease in women;
- Free Health Screenings for blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol levels were offered on February 12th;
- Capital City Links hosted a “Heart Event” offering cardiology health information and screenings on February 13th; and
- “Love Your Heart Dinner” featuring Dr. Bryan Curry, MD as keynote speaker was held on February 20th.

Since 2008, George Mason University has been a designated a Changemaker Campus by AshokaU, an international network of higher education institutions that create and support innovative solutions to the world’s pressing social problems. George Mason reinforced this leadership role with its extensive participation in the 2015 AshokaU Exchange. The Exchange, held February 26-28 at the University of Maryland, brought together more than 650 university faculty members, staff, administrators and students, representing 150 institutions. Each came with the mission of sharing ideas and stories for incorporating social entrepreneurship within a higher learning environment.

Georgetown University’s Urban and Regional Planning program hosted a public speaker series this spring on “The City, Disrupted.” Building on last fall’s exploration of large urban investments, the spring lectures explored short-term transformations in cities driven by the impacts of new technologies, shifting economies, the environment, new social networks, or governance;

- The first panel on February 24th entitled “Friction-less Mobility: Killer Apps Coming to Get Me” focused on intermodal transportation and mobility. Panel presenters included Ellen Jones from the Downtown DC BID; Sam Zimbabwe from DDOT; and Gabe Klein, former director of DDOT. Shy Pahlevani, CEO of LiveSafe also participated;
- The second panel on March 4th was entitled, “Sleeping in Cities with Ease: Impact of the Sharing Economy on Lodging and Place and focused on the disruption of the hospitality industry. Panelists included Troy Flanagan, VP State and Local Affairs, AH&LA; Ellen
McCarthy, Adjunct Instructor, Georgetown Urban and Regional Planning Program; Nick Paps, Director of Public Affairs, Airbnb; and Gregg Rockett, Vice President, Corporate Hotel Development, Hilton Worldwide;

- The third panel on March 18th was entitled “Risk is Opportunity: Resilience and Preparedness As the Basis of Long-term Planning” which focused on unanticipated disasters and “black swan” events and how concepts of individual preparedness and community resilience is informing a new generation of professional practices to plan communities and shape urban environments. Randall Griffin, Owner and Principal Consultant for Safety Analytics as well as Visiting Assistant Professor, Georgetown Emergency and Disaster Management Program; David J. Kaufman, Vice President and Director, CAN Safety and Security Center; Trisha Miller, Senior Advisor, Office of Economic Resilience, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Josh Murphy, Senior Spatial Analyst, Coastal Services Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration participated;

- The fourth panel on April 1st surveyed ten years of baseball in Washington in a panel entitled "Ten Years After the First Pitch: How the Washington Nationals and Nationals Park have Scored in the Nation’s Capital" included as speakers Michael D. Lerner, Principal Owner, Washington Nationals; Michael Stevens, President, Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District; and the Hon. Anthony A. Williams, CEO, Federal City Council, former Mayor of Washington, DC; and

- The fifth panel focused on Detroit’s bankruptcy in a panel entitled “Planning on the Courthouse Steps: Inside Detroit’s Bankruptcy” and featured Calvin Gladney, Managing Partner, Mosaic Urban Partners and Adjunct Instructor, Georgetown Real Estate Program; and Kevyn Orr, Former Emergency Financial Manager for the City of Detroit.

All lectures were free and open to the public.

On March 13th and 14th, George Washington University’s Corcoran School of Arts and Design students, faculty, staff and alumni participated in a “bowl-a-thon,” creating ceramic bowls to donate to nonprofit organization So Others Might Eat for its annual Empty Bowls fundraiser.

The Howard University College of Dentistry opened its doors to 325 Washington public school children for “Give Kids a Smile Day,” an annual event that addresses critical oral health needs and breaks down barriers to dental care for families. The program is a collaborative effort involving the Howard University College of Dentistry, the District of Columbia Dental Society, the American Dental Association and the District of Columbia Public Schools.

**Arts and Culture**

Gallaudet University has been selected as a host site for the nationwide traveling exhibition of Shakespeare’s *First Folio*, one of the world’s most treasured books. The Folger Shakespeare Library, in partnership with the Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association, is touring the exhibition entitled *First Folio! The Book that Gave us Shakespeare*, throughout 2016 in all 50 states, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. *Gallaudet* was selected as a host site for Washington, DC where the theme of the exhibit will be “Eyes on Shakespeare.” Various programs will offer visitors a unique cross-cultural experience featuring classic English literature, theater, American Sign Language (ASL) and the deaf community.
Musical theatre students explored the material of one of today’s most well-known composers and lyricists as Unlimited: The Music and Lyrics of Stephen Schwarz made its premier February 20th at The Catholic University of America. The revue, which was co-presented by the Musical Theatre Division of CUA’s Benjamin T. Rome School of Music and No Rules Theatre Company in Arlington, Virginia, featured works by the Grammy and Academy Award-winning composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz who is best known for the Broadway hits Pippin, Godspell, and Wicked. Schwartz attended the opening night of the revue and spoke to the CUA students who performed. Unlimited was staged over two weeks.

Andy Warhol’s prints of Queen Elizabeth II and Mao Zedong hang alongside works by artists such as Fernando Botero and Barbara Morgan in a new exhibit at George Washington University’s Luther W. Brady Art Gallery titled “Luminaries: Portraits from the GW Permanent Collection.” The exhibition features six of Mr. Warhol’s prints, in addition to selected works from the gallery’s permanent collection that capture icons of dance, politics and film in prints, paintings and photographs. The opening reception was held February 11th and the exhibition will continue through April 24th.

The Howard Gospel Choir, a religious life organization performing under the auspices of the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, were featured on the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts Millennium Stage. The choir, made up of students, alumni and community members, performed spirituals, traditional and contemporary gospel music for one hour. The choir also shared music from its soon-to-be-released album Glorious G-d.

George Washington University music professor Kip Lornell, an ethnomusicologist and Grammy winner recognized in 1997 for a Smithsonian anthology on folk music, contributed his research to the Grammy Award-winning “The Rise and Fall of Paramount,” a comprehensive two-part collection chronicling the history of the label from 1917 to 1932. The collection required insights from several historians and music experts for a 255-paged booklet of album notes and was released by blues rocker label, Third Man Records, in collaboration with Revenant Records. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences nominated the album notes for a 2015 Grammy Award, making this the seventh Grammy-nominated project for Dr. Lornell.

Dr. Isaac Agboola, Interim Dean of the School of Education, Business and Human Services at Gallaudet University, gave a lecture to the campus community entitled “Andrew Jackson Foster: The Man, the Vision, the 30-Year Uphill Climb, and his Legacy” on February 4th. Foster was the first African American to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from Gallaudet. Foster went on to establish 32 schools for the deaf in 13 African nations. An exhibit within the university’s Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond Museum is dedicated to Foster.

On February 20th, the Composition Division of Catholic University’s Benjamin T. Rome School of Music premiered 14 original pieces of music inspired by the Stations of the Cross. The event followed the traditional Catholic devotion, in which a presider and group of worshippers move from station to station in a church, stopping to pray before each one. In this case, the service included 14 original miniature string quartets composed by members of the CUA community, including faculty, students, and alumni, each reflecting on the event portrayed. Held at the Church
of the Little Flower in Bethesda, MD, the event was part of the School of Music yearlong 50th anniversary celebration.

Daniel Handler was the featured author for the February 19th event in George Washington University’s Jewish Lit Live series. Under the name Lemony Snicket, Mr. Handler has written the best-selling series All the Wrong Questions as well as A Series of Unfortunate Events which has sold more than 60 million copies and was the basis of a feature film. Under the name Daniel Handler, he has written a variety of works including Why We Broke Up, illustrated by Maira Kalman.

SPORTS

The American University Women’s Basketball team had a successful season:

- The team won the Patriot League Tournament leading to its first conference title. As a result of their title, the Eagles earned a 14 seed in the NCAA Women’s Tournament, and faced off against number 3 seed Iowa (which eventually won). Patriot League Tournament MVP (and AU guard) Jen Dumiak finished with 24 points and six assists; and

- Though her season was done, accolades were only just beginning for Jen Dumiak:
  - She was selected for the Capital One All-America Division I women’s basketball team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Dumiak, who is currently pursuing her master’s degree in mathematics, was voted to the five-member first team open to all 349 NCAA Division I institution’s women’s basketball teams;
  - She was named Patriot League Player of the Year; and
  - She was named the Corvias Patriot League Women’s Basketball Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

The women’s basketball team was not the only AU team in the Patriot League Championship game. Despite entering the Patriot League Tournament as a No. 6 seed, the AU Men’s Basketball Team upset two consecutive opponents on the road to advance to the League final against No. 4 seed Lafayette. The AU team was edged out in the Title Game on March 11th as it played the seventh championship game in school history.

Imagine Bonnie Bishop’s disappointment when transferred from Randolph College in Lynchburg, VA, where she was captain of the women’s varsity basketball team, to George Mason University – only to discover there was no women’s basketball team. The junior athletic training major longed to play competitively against other school teams. So, she started her own team. It took nearly a semester, but in November, after narrowing the squad from the 26 who tried out, the first 12 George Mason Women’s Basketball Club players took the court for their debut game. In February, the team made it to the quarterfinals of a regional tournament at the University of Maryland.

George Washington University men’s basketball senior John Kopriva became the 10th Academic All-American in program history on February 26th as he was named to the CoSIDA/Capital One Academic All-America Men’s Basketball Third Team. A chemistry major, three-year team co-captain and aspiring orthopedic surgeon from Milwaukee, Mr. Kopriva has a
3.93 cumulative grade-point average. He has been named to the Atlantic 10 Commissioner’s Honor Roll and GW Athletics Dean’s List in each of his seven semesters, including three semesters with a perfect 4.0 GPA. He also was honored on the 2014 Atlantic 10 All-American Team and repeated as a CoSIDA/Capital One Academic All-District First Team selection in February.

In George Washington University women’s basketball news, the team won the Atlantic 10 Championship on March 8th for the first time since 2003.

In American University sports news—David Terao and John Boyle represented AU at the NCAA Wrestling Championships:

- Terao, who made his third straight appearance at nationals, fell short of a top-eight finish and All-America status. He set a school record for wins in a single season with a 39-7 mark; and
- Boyle finished his season with a 37-10 record, posting the second-most single-season victories in AU history behind Terao.

Life After College

Faculty and alumni from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences topped the list of recently announced Air Force Medical Service Award recipients in the areas of education, research, clinical care and leadership. Award winners included:

- Anthony Beutler, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine at USU, who was named Physician Educator of the Year;
- Maj. (Dr.) Nicholas Duvall, 81st Dental Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., USU Postgraduate Dental College Class of 2012, who was named Dental Educator of the Year;
- Lt. Col. (Dr.) Ryan Mihata, 88th Medical Operations Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, USU School of Medicine, Class of 2005, who given the USAF Clinical Excellence Award—Field Grade Category;
- Lt. Col. (Dr.) Lauren Wolf, 377th Medical Group, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, USU School of Medicine, Class of 2003 who was given the Chief of Medical Staff Commitment to Excellence Award;
- Capt. (Dr.) Jameson Voss, 711 Human Performance Wing, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, USU School of Medicine, Class of 2010 and USU Master of Public Health, class of 2013, who was given the USAF Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Research Award; and
- Col. (Dr.) Gianna Zeh, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla, USU School of Medicine, Class of 1993, who was given the USAF Surgeon General Award for Best Hospital of the Year.

George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management alumnnae Janelle Carter Brevard (MA ’01), and Traci Scott (MA ’96), were among the group of 60 diverse professionals invited to participate in the inaugural sessions of the Presidential Leadership Scholars program February 24th through 28th, kicking off an initiative that combines resources from four presidential libraries and features dozens of leaders in the private, public, non-profit, military and academic sectors.
Local college and university alumni were well represented at the April 6th Helen Hayes Awards Ceremony which celebrated performances and work in Washington-DC area theater productions. Over 80 professional theaters were recognized by the awards.

- **Catholic University**: seven alumni from CUA’s Benjamin T. Rome School of Music and the Department of Drama in the School of Arts and Sciences received nominations for the 2015 Helen Hayes Awards. In combination for nominations for one student and one instructor, CUA-affiliated people were up for 14 awards;
- Two **Gallaudet University** alumni were also nominated. Miranda Medugno (BA ’14) was nominated in the Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical for her role as Helen Keller in Visible Language; and Joe Caverly (’11) was nominated in the Robert Prosky Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play for his role as Billy in Tribes. Medugno has returned to Gallaudet where she is pursuing her MA in Sign Language Education. Caverly has also returned to Gallaudet directing the Department of Theater and Dance’s April production of Dr. Faustus. (For more on the Helen Hayes Awards, see Spotlight: Students and Movers and Shakers); and
- **George Washington University** alumi Kimberly Gilbert (MFA ’01), and Dawn Ursula (MFA ’07) were both nominated for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play category.

In March, Washington native and Howard University alumna Taraji P. Henson said she was planning to send her 20-year-old son Marcel to Howard after she says he was racially profiled when he visited the University of Southern California. Henson is an actress, currently starring in the Fox television show “Empire.” Henson majored in Theater Studies at Howard.

LivingSocial, founded by Georgetown University alumnus Tim O’Shaughnessy, has shrunk losing employees and business. But former LivingSocial employees have started a slew of new businesses, applying the lessons learned from their experience with LivingSocial. As evidenced in Silicon Valley, there is a tendency for start-ups to give rise to more start-ups in a self-sustaining cycle that can create a concentration of companies that generate well-paying jobs and attract skilled workers and well-heelied financiers. Such a trend is now underway in DC, thanks to LivingSocial.

**What’s Next?**

**Campus Calendar**

- **April 8 to May 17**: NEXT Thesis Exhibition, GW Corcoran School of Arts and Design
- **April 25-May 1**: Exam Period at Howard University
- **April 27-May 2**: Exam Period at Trinity Washington University
- **May 1-7**: Exam Period at the University of the District of Columbia
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<td>May 4-12</td>
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<td>Classes end at the <strong>University of Maryland</strong></td>
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