Dear Howard University Community:

As the semester and school year end and the excitement of Commencement builds, we are preparing to present the class of 2015 to the global community. Those graduates will be armed with the academic acumen of their discipline, heartfelt memories of their Howard experience, and inspiration from their matriculation that was built upon “Veritas et Utilitas.”

During this time of the year I also think about the financial obligation of a college education, and the level of financial burden that members of the class of 2015 will take with them as they leave the Capstone. The Howard University family can make a major difference in the lives of our incoming students and outgoing graduates.

To help in this cause, I announced the University’s new Tuition Freeze and Rebate program, which will help to offset academic costs for students. Also, I had the pleasure of accepting a $111,000 check from Susan Carter, daughter of alumni Gloria Edmonds Carter and Herman Carter. I was touched by her memories of her mother and her family’s love for Howard University. To the Carter family, the Howard University family and I thank you for your continuous generosity. The Carter family is an example of the greatness that can be achieved when we help to bridge the gap for our rising scholars. Together, we all can answer the call.

You can make a difference through the Bridging the Gap campaign. To learn more, visit http://www.howard.edu/bridgingthegap/

In this edition of the Bison Beat, you will see highlights of our new partnerships with the District of Columbia, descriptions of our newest initiatives to increase college affordability and improve graduation rates, Charter Day festivities, a recap of this year’s Alternative Spring Break, and updates on excellence at Howard.

Finally, I want to again express my sincere gratitude to every one of you for all that you did to celebrate my inauguration as the 17th president of Howard University and create a memorable 148th Charter Day Convocation. The week spotlighted our students, faculty, staff and community in ways that made all of us proud.

Again, my sincere thanks!

In Truth and Service,

Wayne A.I. Frederick, M.D., M.B.A.
President
In March, Howard inaugurated Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick, M.D., M.B.A., as its 17th president during a ceremony on the University’s historic campus that coincided with the annual Charter Day Convocation, commemorating Howard’s founding.

President Frederick emphasized five distinct priorities for his administration: building a culture of academic excellence and rigor; revitalizing the manner in which higher education institutions meet the needs of both students and the world today; infusing service into the University culture; increasing the philanthropic efforts of the University community; and engaging in scholarship and research grounded in solving contemporary problems.

The inauguration and Charter Day festivities culminated a week-long series of events that included public service activities; a faculty art show; and a symposium on diversity and technology, featuring leaders from Facebook, Yahoo and Google, who discussed strategies for diversifying Silicon Valley.

To view the video and recap page, visit https://www2.howard.edu/events/inauguration/inauguration-recap
Howard hosted the largest Charter Day gala in its history on March 7, when 1,900 guests gathered at the Washington Hilton Hotel to celebrate the 148th anniversary of the University’s founding.

Newly inaugurated President Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick joined family, alumni and friends to celebrate at the annual fund-raiser. Award-winning actress Phylicia Rashad, a Howard alumna, served as the mistress of ceremonies. Entertainment was provided by harpist Jeff Majors and R&B singer Brian McKnight.

The evening’s honorees included the Honorable Rushern L. Baker, III, county executive of Prince George’s County, Maryland, in the Politics and Public Service category; Minnie V. Baylor-Henry, J.D., in Pharmaceutical Research and Development; Danette Howard, Ph.D., in Education and Policy; and J. Weldon Norris, D.Mus., in Music and Fine Arts Education. Evans E. Crawford, Ph.D., a scholar and Dean Emeritus of the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, was presented with the Capstone Distinguished Service Award for his 48-year tenure as dean and member of the faculty of Howard University.
The Howard University School of Education (HUSOE) has partnered with the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) to create and launch the Urban Superintendents Academy.

The academy was established to increase ethnic diversity among U.S. school district superintendents. It will offer current and aspiring superintendents a new approach to ensure success in urban schools as well as recruit a new generation of minority educators to the superintendent rank.

For the first time, more than 50 percent of the nation’s public school children represent African-American, Hispanic, Latino, Asian or other ethnic minority groups. Yet less than 5 percent of the nation’s 14,000 school districts are led by minority superintendents.

AASA is a 13,000-member organization of U.S. school district superintendents.

**INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF SCIENTISTS LAUNCHES FOSSIL DATABASE**

More than 20 paleontologists, molecular biologists and computer programmers from five countries have contributed to the design and implementation of The Fossil Calibration Database, a free, open-access resource that stores carefully-vetted fossil data. The database was launched Feb. 24. The database is a result of more than five years of work by an international team including Nathan Smith Ph.D., in the Department of Biology at Howard University, Daniel Ksepka Ph.D., curator of science at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut, and James Parham, Ph.D., curator at the John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center in Orange County, California.

**TEDxHOWARDUNIVERSITY “DISCOVERIES” VIDEOS NOW ON YOUTUBE**

Howard University’s first TEDxHowardUniversity event, themed, “Discoveries,” is now available for viewing on YouTube by clicking the following:

1. Dr. Carr: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQzjIXqBpzY
2. Dr. Harris: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xR3R6gpZEc&list=PLsRNoUx8w3rO7UJU4sY1l0psf8TBT9E7y&spfreload=10
3. Dr. Lindesay: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1Ab2vzuM2Q
4. Malcolm X Drummers and Dancers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsGaeuVCxyk
7. Jones Haywood Dance School: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-8yjeK6oRk

The event was sponsored by the Office of the Provost and hosted in January in the College of Medicine.
ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK ADDS FERGUSON, NEWARK AND WEST VIRGINIA SITES

Some 500 Howard University students participated in 2015 Alternative Spring Break, the largest group in 21 years of the program.

Three new sites were added -- Ferguson, Mo.; Newark, NJ.; and Alderson, WV. After raising a record funds through the Helping Hands Campaign, with the WHUR radio network, Howard students were afforded a once-in-a-lifetime experience in community service.

While in Missouri, students worked in Ferguson, which has been the center of protests in a quest for justice since the shooting death of an unarmed black man by a police officer in August 2014. Howard students worked with high school students to help them promote entrepreneurial ambitions.

Students in Newark worked to fight gun violence, while students in Alderson helped facilitate a parenting program for female inmates and their children.

In Detroit, students held resume workshops for adults. In Port Au Prince, Haiti, students assisted local children with dental health and worked with them illustrating their goals and aspirations. They also met the president of Haiti and visited the U.S. embassy. Other students were able to serve in Baltimore, Chicago and in Washington.

To learn more, visit the Alternative Spring Break Blog at howarduasb.wordpress.com.
AROUND CAMPUS

MAJOR BOWSER AND HOWARD ANNOUNCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser announced a partnership to establish DC’s first Technology and Innovation Hub, which will expand the District’s growing technology and innovation ecosystem. Mayor Bowser was joined by President Frederick in making the announcement.

The District’s partnership with Howard will focus on leveraging University resources for venture capital firms to support medium to late-stage technology and innovation startups.

“Today, we are taking a major step towards building an ecosystem that will make DC a world-wide hub for technology and innovation,” said Mayor Bowser. “This plan will bolster efforts to support our growing technology and innovation sectors by addressing the needs of startups and entrepreneurs in the District. I look forward to working with Howard University to foster more innovation, inclusion and equity throughout the community.”

The partnership will include an economic investment from the District to Howard to finance the agreement. Howard will offer up to 10,000 sq. ft. of office space on its campus in Northwest DC to house the tech hub. Occupancy is targeted for this year.

Federal City Council CEO and former DC Mayor Anthony Williams added, “With this announcement, Mayor Bowser is taking a major step forward in supporting the District’s tech and innovative sector. We recognize that access to capital is one of the biggest hurdles for the growth of DC startups. This innovative partnership with Howard University addresses that vital need while promoting DC’s fastest growing industry and providing greater job opportunities for DC residents.”

To further demonstrate the District’s commitment to the tech sector, Mayor Bowser also announced that the Connect.DC Digital Inclusion Initiative is partnering with Code for Progress to provide training and mentorship to young residents of Wards 5, 7, and 8. Code for Progress fellowships are year-long programs, where participants are trained in coding and human centered design, and are coached by local professionals.

AMERICAN BALLET THEATER SOLOIST MISTY COPELAND VISITS HOWARD

The Department of Theatre Arts hosted internationally acclaimed ballet soloist and best-selling author Misty Copeland to Howard University for a book signing and open dialogue event. Nearly 200 audience members listened to Ms. Copeland share her experiences, trials and triumphs to becoming the first African-American soloist ballerina for the American Ballet Theater (ABT) in more than 20 years. The audience ranged from students from area dance schools to adults inspired by the ballerina’s success. There was also a viewing of Ms. Copeland’s Under Armour commercial with the tagline “I Will What I Want”.

Ms. Copeland signed copies of her two books, Life In Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina and Firebird. The event was free and open to the general public.
ACCEPTED STUDENT DAY 2015

More than 1000 students attended the first of two “Accepted Student Day” events on April 10. A second event was held on April 17. A total of 2,500 attendees, including students, parents, friends, guardians, and siblings visited campus for the celebration in Cramton Auditorium and tours around campus.

UNIVERSITY TO FREEZE TUITION, INCENTIVIZE COMPLETION WITH TUITION REBATES

Howard has moved to freeze tuition for all undergraduate and certain graduate programs for the 2015-2016 academic year. Howard also will offer tuition rebates as incentives to graduates who earn their degrees early or on-time.

The innovative tuition rebate establishes Howard as one of the leading private-research universities committed to college affordability and on-time degree completion. The rebate – 50% off of the final semester’s tuition – will be offered on direct payments (cash, credit card or installment plan) made by any on-time or early graduate. The rebate, applicable to direct payments toward the final semester’s tuition, will be payable to eligible May, 2016 graduates on or after the May graduation. The changes were announced in March after winning unanimous support from the University Board of Trustees.

On April 2, 2015 Ms. Susan Carter-Fowler and Mr. Clayborne E. Chavers, Sr. Esq., present President Wayne A.I. Frederick and Howard University with a $111,000 check from the Trust of Gloria Carter. The donation was made in honor of Ms. Carter-Fowler’s late mother, alumna Gloria Edmunds Carter (BS ’49, MSW ’51). “Attending Howard was a family tradition,” said Carter-Fowler. “Mom attended homecoming and anniversaries, and she was extremely proud of having been awarded an excellent education at her beloved Howard University.”
Tiffin University’s Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Curtis B. Charles, Ph.D., as the successor to Dr. Paul Marion as university president. Dr. Charles will be the fifth president of Tiffin University, which was founded in 1888.

Alumna and Interim Dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture and Computer Sciences, Lorraine Fleming, Ph.D., was honored by President Obama with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring.

Alumna and Iowa State Rep. Helen Miller, D-Fort Dodge, was honored at the Iowa Capitol as a 2015 recipient of the eighth annual Herbert Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award.

Alumna Tiffany Smith-Anoa’i was promoted to senior vice president of entertainment diversity for CBS Entertainment. Smith-Anoa’i will expand the division’s current diversity initiatives, as well as develop new programs that recruit, nurture and hire diverse talent to work in front of and behind the camera. In addition, she will serve as the entertainment liaison to multi-cultural coalition groups.

Before beginning her academic career, Crewe spent more than 20 years as an administrator and social worker in the fields of housing and community development in Maryland and developed programs focusing on resident services and leadership. Crewe is a professor of social work and director of the Howard University Multidisciplinary Gerontology Center.

Bridging the Gap
PLEDGE CARD
A $25 MILLION STUDENT AID CAMPAIGN

I wish to make as: □ Campaign Gift □ Campaign Pledge
I am pleased to make/pledge the following gift to the Howard University Bridging the Gap Student Aid Campaign.
(Please make checks payable to Howard University.)
Enclosed is my gift of $ ____________________________
________________________
Name
________________________
Title
________________________
Company/Organization
________________________
Address □ If new address, please check
________________________
City/State/Zip
________________________
Home Phone
________________________
Office Phone
________________________
Mobile Phone
________________________
E-mail
________________________
Class Year
________________________
College/Program
□ Visa □ Master Card □ American Express □ Discover
________________________
Account# ____________________________
________________________
Expiration Date Security Code
________________________
Signature
________________________
Date
□ My and/or my spouse’s employer will match my/our gift.
□ For online giving, visit http://www.howard.edu/bridgingthegap/

Division of Development & Alumni Relations
Howard University
2225 Georgia Avenue NW, Room 901
Washington, DC 20059

Will You Answer the Call?