Dear Howard University Community:

We are in the midst of an exciting semester with signposts ahead, large and small, to mark the journey. This edition of Bison Beat will serve as your guide.

Foremost in our thoughts is the dual celebration planned for March 6, when the University will observe Charter Day and my inauguration as its 17th president. As you may recall, the Charter Day Convocation commemorates the day—148 years ago—when Congress granted a charter to establish Howard University.

The inauguration is a significant milestone in the history of the University and will fulfill a personal goal of mine as a proud son of Howard. It will also confer on me the challenge of a lifetime, one that I relish and embrace as a sacred trust. As we progress from the planning stage, we are pleased to report that preparations for the associated festivities are well underway. The weeklong schedule is tailored for the occasion with special events that are not to be missed! You can find a detailed itinerary at www.howard.edu/inauguration. Check often for updates.

There is great excitement in the air on campus about the upcoming celebrations. However, we have other thrilling news to report. As we work diligently to update some of the symbols that bind us together, we are energized by their potential to galvanize community spirit and increase alumni engagement. The Bison athletics logo is being refreshed and will be unveiled momentarily. The University’s website is also undergoing a transformation. If you have not visited Howard.edu recently, please check-in to see for yourself the website’s fresh, 21st century aesthetic. Not only are we proud of its “new look” but also pleased that the website is more navigable and user-friendly, yet dynamic and appealing. Please let us know what you think about the website, as well as the progress of the Bison Athletics logo project, by submitting your comments and observations at www.ournewbison.com. We will take your comments into consideration and make adjustments accordingly.

You can always count on Bison Beat to keep you abreast of Howard’s progress. At the same time, please know that I am firmly committed to maintaining close ties with you, our alumni network, especially our far-flung alumni whom I get a chance to meet with at regional alumni events. The University is also making it effortless to stay connected and up-to-date with the University’s latest facts, figures and statistics. “Alumni Highlights” is just one example, which you can find in this issue and expect as a regular feature.

Spring 2015 promises to be momentous. Let’s share in the excitement!

In Truth and Service,

Wayne A.I. Frederick, M.D., M.B.A.
President
EXCELLENCE AT HOWARD

SCHOOL OF DIVINITY AWARDED $500,000 LILLY ENDOWMENT GRANT

The Howard University School of Divinity (HUSD) received a $500,000 grant from The Lilly Endowment, Inc., to launch an innovative, more inclusive approach to fundraising within the School.

The grant is part of The Lilly Endowment’s nationwide initiative supporting historic African-American theological schools, which train most African-American pastors and prepare leaders who will nurture the theological traditions of the Black church in America.

“Increased fundraising is imperative to maintain current student enrollment as well as to plan for increased programming and enrollment,” said Alton B. Pollard III, Ph.D., HUSD Dean and Professor of Religion and Culture.

HOWARD GOSPEL CHOIR PERFORMS AT KENNEDY CENTER

The Howard Gospel Choir, a religious life organization under the auspices of the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, was featured on the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts Millennium Stage, on Friday, Feb. 13.

The choir, which includes students, alumni and community members, performed for one hour, singing songs ranging from spirituals to traditional and contemporary gospel music. The choir also shared some new music from its soon-to-be-released album Glorious God.

To view the performance, visit http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/.

For more information about the choir please email info@howardgospelchoir.com or visit www.howardgospelchoir.com.

NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE AT HOWARD

Howard University has announced the implementation of a new behavioral health diagnostic tool, M3 Clinician. The tool empowers primary care physicians by allowing them to conduct an online risk assessment that detects behavioral health conditions such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, PTSD and alcohol and substance abuse.

Several departments at the University are using the tool, including the Howard University Faculty Practice Plan, the Department of Community Health and Family Medicine, the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, the Mental Health Clinic and the Diabetes Treatment Center.

STAY CONNECTED

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A Moment at the Capstone

Distinguished scientist, Dr. George Washington Carver, visits the University. (L-R) President Mordecai W. Johnson, Dr. Carver, Emmett J. Scott (undated).

Save the Date

FOR THE INAUGURATION OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY’S 17TH PRESIDENT

Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick

INAUGURATION CEREMONY
MARCH 6, 2015

INAUGURATION CELEBRATION/CHARTER DAY GALA
MARCH 7, 2015

TO RECEIVE UPDATES, SEND AN EMAIL TO PRESIDENTIALTRANSITION@HOWARD.EDU

Courtesy of Howard University Archives
AROUND CAMPUS

“COMMITTED TO BREATHING—THE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT” A CAMPUS-WIDE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY DISCUSSION ON CITIZENSHIP

Earlier this month, the University hosted Committed to Breathing—The Reconstruction Project, a campus-wide, multidisciplinary discussion on citizenship, economic wellbeing, dignity and community, both within the framework of the U.S. political and economic system and in its global context. The discussion included dialogue on the University’s role and responsibility in giving meaning and substance to these concepts.

The project was launched in light of the recent events in Ferguson and Staten Island, but its scope expanded far beyond these cities’ two notorious incidents and explored the historical context that is forcing our nation to have an honest conversation about the definition of citizenship in America and the “recognition of personhood.” Students and faculty gathered for a round table discussion that highlighted the current state of citizenship and socio-economic disparities in the United States. After the discussion, participants joined various focus groups, holding sessions to discuss strategies, in the tradition of Howard’s social justice advocacy and resulting legacy. At these sessions, the groups worked towards redefining the word “citizen” in the United States, advancing the recognition of citizenship and improvement in economic security. The Reconstruction project will continue during the year with additional events and publications.

COMING SOON! NEW BISON LOGO, SYMBOL OF OUR PRIDE AND STRENGTH!

A new Howard University Bison logo will be charging onto campus in 2015! We’re excited about the unveiling later this year and want you to savor the feeling of Bison pride. Go to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and use #ournewbison to share your thoughts or nostalgic memories about what the Howard Bison means to you. Or you can email your thoughts to ournewbison@howard.com and they will be included at www.ournewbison.com.

Visit www.ournewbison.com to see what your fellow Bison are saying.

THE CENTER ON RACE AND WEALTH SPOTLIGHTS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PAYDAY LENDING

Payday lending practices in four southern states worsen economic conditions in vulnerable communities and cause financial distress to the states that permit them, according to a new report by analysts at Howard University’s Center on Race and Wealth. The Economic Impact of Payday Lending in Economically Vulnerable Communities report states that while they generate hundreds of millions of dollars for the lending firms, payday loans substantially depress community economic activity. The study was conducted by Haydar Kurban, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Economics, Adji Fatou Diagne and Charlotte Otabor.

To read the report, visit http://www.coas.howard.edu/centeronraceandwealth.

Also, listen the WHUR interview with Dr. Kurban and Ms. Diagne here.

WHAT MAKES YOU A BISON?

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Visit www.ournewbison.com to see what your fellow Bison are saying.
Tony Bansal, former chief administrative officer at Northern Virginia Community College, has been named as the University's new chief operating officer. Bansal has been a leader at a variety of midmarket and Fortune 500 enterprises. He comes to Howard with more than 25 years of results-oriented experience in assisting companies and institutions of higher education to improve operational efficiencies.

Shelley Davis was recently selected to serve as interim director of intercollegiate athletics. Davis joined Howard University in July 2011 as the senior associate athletic director and senior woman administrator. Prior to joining Howard, Davis served as assistant commissioner for championships and senior woman administrator at the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC), director of education and professional development at the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA) and assistant athletic director at North Carolina A&T State University.

Carlos De La Rosa has been appointed to the role of chief information officer. De La Rosa recently served as a technology leader and consultant at Logi Analytics. He comes to Howard with more than 20 years of experience working in various positions in technologies and analytics for major corporations, including The Walt Disney Company’s Disney/ABC Cable Networks Group.

California Attorney Kamala Harris (B.A. '86) recently announced her run for Senator. In January 2011, Harris was sworn in as the first woman as well as first African-American and Indian-American, to be elected as California Attorney General. (Read More)

A. Eugene Washington, M.D., (B.S. ’72), an internationally renowned clinical investigator, health policy scholar and executive at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), was named Duke University’s next chancellor for health affairs and the president and chief executive officer of the Duke University Health System. (Read More)

Howard University School of Law alumna, the Honorable Loretta Copeland Biggs (J.D. ’79) was recently confirmed as the first African American female appointed to the federal bench in North Carolina as a U.S. District Court judge. (Read More)

Alumna Danielle Conway (J.D. ’92) made history in her appointment as the new dean of the University of Maine School of Law, the first African American to serve in this position. (Read More)

Congratulations to alumnus Bradford Young (B.A. ’99; M.F.A. ’04), award-winning cinematographer, for his notable work in the feature film “Selma.” He recently shared his thoughts on diversity in Hollywood with the Huffington Post. (Read More)

I wish to make or pledge the following gift to the Howard University Bridging the Gap Student Aid Campaign.

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