Dear Howard University Community:

The new academic year has begun and, as is our tradition, we celebrated the occasion with our highly-anticipated Opening Convocation on Friday, Sep. 25. There was no more fitting leader to set the tone and share valuable insight than our speaker, Congressman John R. Lewis, who represents Georgia’s Fifth Congressional District. To view highlights of the event and hear his inspiring address, visit here.

A respected torchbearer of the civil rights movement as well as a member of the Howard family, having received an honorary degree from Howard in 2002, Congressman Lewis continues to demonstrate his support of the Capstone. Congressman Lewis also holds a unique claim on the American conscience as the embodiment of a national movement that ushered in far-reaching changes, including significant protections for the right to vote. Even now, 50 years after passage of the Voting Rights Act, with voting rights under assault in the courts and some states, Congressman Lewis is a leading advocate in Congress for protecting those hard-won gains.

How fitting, then, that he should speak at Howard in September—National Voter Registration month. I am certain Congressman Lewis would urge you, as I do, to register to vote and to take advantage of that sacred privilege. For information about how to register, click here.

Voting is one right that we dare not take for granted. As the jockeying for party nominations by the presidential candidates demonstrates, Americans have important choices to make. The outcome at the polls will determine the kind of nation in which you will live and work when you leave your alma mater.

During the Opening Convocation, we also greeted and welcomed the class of 2019 to campus. We want our freshmen to appreciate and understand what it means to be a Bison. The quest for knowledge, professional development, and academic enrichment is accompanied by an abiding commitment to serving others and the responsibility to engage with the rest of the world.

This edition of Bison Beat features the announcement of our new Athletic Director, latest research grants, news and details of upcoming events. Please enjoy and share the good news with your family, friends and fellow Bison.

In Truth and Service,

Wayne A. I. Frederick
President
Civil rights icon and Congressman John R. Lewis delivered the Opening Convocation Address in September to Howard University students, faculty, staff and guests. Congressman Lewis spoke of his experiences in the civil rights movement in the 1960s, and urged students to create positive, non-violent change in America’s present-day civil rights landscape.

Congressman Lewis addressed the audience with a call to action. “I call on members of this university community to get out there [to] educate our young people, to inspire, to give people hope, to stand up… to get into trouble. Good trouble, necessary trouble. It is the power of the way of peace, of love, of non-violence.” He concluded his speech touching on the need for students to act as symbols of non-violent change. “If we do our part, our nation, our community will merge as a model and maybe it will serve as a symbol of hope for the rest of the world. Don’t give up, don’t become bitter, and with faith, hope and love, I wish you well during this new school year.”

“We must dig deep, we all must make a sacrifice, and we must look beyond our current capacity and give even more. Commit to the primary goals of our university—academic excellence,” President Frederick said. “We all will put our collective efforts together for this change; we will recall a movement that occurred to make Howard University even greater.”
HOWARD AND GEORGETOWN AWARDED $27 MILLION FROM NIH

A large clinical research program led by Georgetown and Howard universities, facilitating the participation of more than four million Washington-area residents in clinical trials, has received a $27 million dollar grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences awarded a five-year renewal of the prestigious Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) to Georgetown University and Howard University on Aug. 28. The award allows those institutions, as well as the MedStar Health Research Institute and the Washington DC VA Medical Center to continue its broad support of clinical and translational research — improving health care by developing and testing targeted, next generation treatments for all human diseases.

The first CTSA grant for $38 million was awarded in 2010 to the two universities. This seeded the formation of the Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS).

To read more, visit http://www2.howard.edu/howard-and-georgetown-awarded-27-million-nih.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS CELEBRATES 45 YEARS

The Howard University School of Business will commemorate 45 years of academic excellence with an Anniversary Awards Dinner on Friday, October 2, 2015 at the J.W. Marriott, in Washington, D.C.

The theme for this milestone celebration is “Transforming the Face of Leadership.” The Howard University School of Business has been a model for higher education since its inception in 1970. The School’s success has been reflected in national rankings of its MBA and undergraduate programs by US News and World Report, Wall Street Journal, The Princeton Review, Fortune Small Business Magazine, Business Week and Black Enterprise Magazine to name a few. This signature event will serve as a significant fund-raising activity for the School’s Scholarship Fund.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit http://www2.howard.edu/howard-university-school-business-celebrates-45-years.

HOWARD ALUMNUS DR. DIARRA RECEIVES ENGINEERING SOCIETY’S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Internationally renowned astrophysicist Cheick Modibo Diarra, Ph. D., a graduate of Howard University, has been selected as a recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus Award of Tau Beta Pi, the International Engineering Honor Society. The award will be presented by Tau Beta Pi President J.P. Blackford at the organization’s 110th annual convention in Providence, Rhode Island, on Oct. 31.

Read more at http://www2.howard.edu/howard-alumnus-dr-diarra-receives-engineering-society%E2%80%99s-distinguished-alumnus-award.
HUH ANNOUNCES POSITIVE RESULTS OF TURNAROUND STRATEGY
In October 2014, Howard University established a joint-venture with California-based Paladin Healthcare to improve patient care, operations, and the financial performance of the hospital. These efforts are aligned with our commitment to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care that emphasizes preventative care as much as acute care for our patients. I am pleased to report that our collective efforts are producing positive results.

In the last 10 months, Howard University Hospital has experienced an increase in the number of patients it serves and a decrease in patients’ length of stay. This means that we are serving more patients, more quickly, more safely, and more efficiently, which directly impacts patient satisfaction, clinical operations and financial performance.

Thanks to the engagement of our dedicated staff, we have restructured workforce scheduling to align with patient volume, industry benchmarks, and our patients’ needs. We have significantly improved patient documentation and billing/collection practices. These and other improvements have transitioned the hospital to a more cost-effective and sustainable operation, resulting in improved financial performance and an overall better patient experience.

Additional initiatives are underway to directly address and enhance the overall patient experience at the hospital. For example, we are modernizing our hospital emergency department—from updated examination rooms to new administrative areas—which will provide important benefits to patients, paramedics, and hospital personnel. We are developing new service lines to extend our ability to meet the overall needs of the communities we serve.

To learn more, visit https://www2.howard.edu/sites/default/files/HUH%20Update%20Memo%2009102015.pdf.

AFGHAN DELEGATION VISITS HUH, HEALTH SCIENCES
Howard University Hospital and Howard University Health Sciences hosted a delegation of 13 healthcare professionals from Afghanistan to discuss reproductive health on Aug. 11.

The meeting at Howard University focused on women’s health, emergency care and hospital administration. The group toured the Department Obstetrics and Gynecology, the HUH Labor and Delivery Unit, the Emergency Department and the Howard University Health Sciences Simulation Center.


HOWARD UNIVERSITY DAY OF SERVICE
The Howard Community continued to build upon the University’s legacy of service to humanity during the third annual Howard University Day of Service (HUDOS) on Friday, Aug. 21. More than 500 students, faculty and staff participated in the day of service by cleaning local schools, restocking school libraries and working in soup kitchens.

HUDOS is coordinated through the Office of the Dean of the Chapel with the support of the Office of Student Affairs.

PRESIDENT FREDERICK TO ADDRESS NEW U.S. CITIZENS
President Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., addressed 125 men and women on Tuesday, Sept. 8, as they took the oath for United States citizenship.

A native of Trinidad and Tobago, President Frederick told his own inspiring story — how he came to the U.S. at age 16 and seized the opportunities that were offered to him at Howard University to become a cancer surgeon, administrator and now, University president.

The naturalization ceremony took place at the U.S. District Courthouse in downtown Washington.
This school year began with many challenges that the Howard University Community united together to address. Students expressed various concerns and frustrations with systems and services at the University, from Financial Aid to WiFi access. Recently, students have stood together to present to the Administration a comprehensive lists of things that needed to be addressed or improved around campus. The Administration was receptive and appreciated the honest candor among student leaders and the student body.

President Frederick and members of his cabinet personally met with and engaged students to address their needs and concerns. Since August, the following elements have been addressed:

- Student Financial Services (SFS) has resolved all major issues related to the system outage and backlog, including the disbursement of Federal Pell Grants, Federal Direct Loans and Private Loans.

- Capacity of the WiFi network has increased to improve network traffic flow and better connectivity. Technicians will continue to
increase access ports and improve web services throughout the year.

The Student Help Desk was opened for a week to help facilitate and manage students’ issues and complaints. The Student Help Desk assisted nearly 400 students during its five-day operation (Friday, Sept. 4 to Friday, Sept. 11).

- Mr. Calvin Hadley was appointed the Student Ombudsman of Howard University. The Office of the Student Ombudsman is located in the Office of the President. Students are encouraged to contact Mr. Calvin Hadley at HUstudentadvocate@howard.edu or 202-806-2500. Students can also directly access the inquiry/concern form under “Student Ombudsman” on the President’s webpage at www2.howard.edu/about/president.

- Thompson Hospitality is working aggressively to address facility concerns. Thompson has partnered with a local vendor to work on AC systems campus-wide, with particular focus on Douglass Hall, Locke Hall, Just Hall and the Howard Center. Thompson is also following up on the rooms assessed by Residence life. As of September, the majority of reported issues in the residence halls have been addressed.

Howard’s Administration remains committed to providing our students with an environment conducive for the pursuit of academic excellence. We take these concerns very seriously and are working with a sense of urgency to address them. Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation.
Kery D. Davis has been appointed director, Howard University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. This announcement was made by Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick during a press conference at Campus Hall South.

Davis joins Howard University with an impressive track record of accomplishments during his most recent tenure with HBO Sports. Davis is credited with negotiating lucrative multiyear agreements for HBO with major league sports as well as an impressive roster of professional athletes. Davis provided leadership, oversight and both strategic and creative direction to various functions at HBO; and successfully negotiated numerous multiyear professional boxing contracts with Oscar De La Hoya, Roy Jones, Jr., Lennox Lewis, Shane Mosley, Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather, Jr. To read more, visit http://www2.howard.edu/howard-university-appoints-kery-davis-new-athletics-director.

Eric Poole, a conductor and choral director with nearly two decades of experience, has been appointed as the director of the choir at Howard University.

Previously, he served as assistant professor of music, the Department Chair of Visual & Performing Arts, and the director of choral activities at Saint Augustine’s University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He also was conductor of the university choirs. To read more, visit http://www2.howard.edu/howard-university-appoints-eric-poole-director-choir.

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