

HUEDAA Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1, Spring 2002

HUEDAA...

Providing advice and support to the faculty and students of the Economics Department at Howard University.

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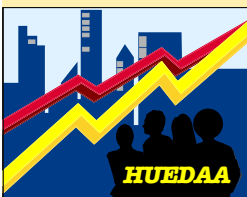
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Salute to LTC Hazel Robinson

*She Excels on Three Fronts:
Military Service, Economics, and Howard Alumna*

by Gwendolyn Flowers

On March 3, 2002, LTC Hazel Robinson was installed as the Commander of the 326th Maintenance Battalion during a Change of Command ceremony held at the Jachman United States Army Reserve Center in Owings Mills, Maryland. She will have responsibility for over 700 soldiers assigned to the 326th Maintenance Battalion. She celebrated this occasion with her family and friends with flair and style.

Her traits of leadership and excellence have marked her entire career. LTC Hazel Robinson graduated with honors with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Economics from Howard University in 1979 and with a Masters of Arts Degree in Economics in 1986. She has continued to excel in Economics; she is now Senior Economist with the US Department of Agriculture.

Her career of exemplary military service began when she received her ROTC Commission at Howard in 1979. Her awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal; the Army Commendation Medal with 3rd Oakleaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal 3rd Award; the Army Reserve

Component Achievement Medal with 6th Oakleaf Clusters; National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Ribbon; and the Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, 9th Award.

She has shown leadership and excellence as a Howard Alumna as well. In April 2001, LTC Robinson convened the first meeting of the Howard University Economics Department Alumni Association. As founder and President, she has spearheaded the organization through its first year. Now with more than 20 active members, HUEDAA is ending its first year with a full slate of activities, which include a job fair, economics seminar, travel award, and an honorary luncheon for Economics Department faculty.



LTC Hazel L. Robinson,
HUEDAA President

HUEDAA Awards Travel Stipends

by Hazel Robinson

Mr. Ubaldo Raymond, a doctoral candidate and Mr. Nicholas Hill, a master's degree candidate, were the first recipients of the HUEDAA Travel Awards. The awards of \$250 each were used to defray the travel expense of attending the 2002 National Economics Association (NEA) meetings in Atlanta, Georgia, held January 3-6, 2002.

HUEDAA believes that it is important to promote the exposure of our students to the national

bodies of the various economic associations and their programs, such as the NEA. The travel gift awards were presented to the candidates on December 11, 2001 at the Department's faculty meeting, by the President, Ms. Hazel Robinson, and the Economic Data and Information Committee Chairperson, Dr. Gwendolyn Flowers.

Good-bye Dr. McDonald; We'll Miss You

by Hazel Robinson

On a chilly December afternoon, at a luncheon held in his honor, the alumni of the Department of Economics said a fond farewell to Dr. Vincent R. McDonald, a professor whom they have admired, loved, and respected. The members of HUEDAA paid tribute to a gentle man who seems more like a trusted and caring family friend rather than a mere educator. Fall 2001, marks the occasion of the official retirement of Professor McDonald from Howard University. It would be the last semester that Dr. McDonald would teach a course, attend a staff meeting, mentor a student, serve on a dissertation committee, or provide a sympathetic ear to students struggling with their everyday difficulties. Dr. McDonald was retiring from Howard University after having a

began his professional career at Howard University in the fall of 1968. Dr. McDonald has spent his entire professional career at Howard, except for one year in which he served on the staff of Eastern Michigan University.

At Howard, Dr. McDonald taught a number of courses including the Principles of Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Agricultural Development, Caribbean Development, and Development and Planning. He has published two books, written over 40 articles for professional journals and presented more than 70 papers at conferences. Dr. McDonald won a fellowship to the Brookings Institute in 1973 where he worked for the International Bank for Reconstruction & Development.

Dr. McDonald is the professor who went the extra mile, who put in the extra hours, who volunteered to work with students, who wrote the books and articles, who served on the Committees. He cared about the Department of Economics and he loved working with students. One of his main goals was to increase the supply of Black Economists. To this end, he served as President of the National Economics Association, and the International Economics Association. He served for six years as the Vice-President for the National body of the Omicron Delta Epsilon Economics Honor Society, and since 1990, he has served as the Society's faculty advisor. Professor McDonald has served as the Director of Graduate Studies for three terms, as the Director of Undergraduate studies for the Department for two terms and as the Chairman of the Department for one tour of duty.

There are two noteworthy accomplishments of which he is especially proud. First, is the number of students he recruited and second, his role in the establishment of the Ph.D. program in Economics. He has personally directed several students in the development of their Ph.D. dissertations and served on a number of dissertation committees for both Ph.D. and M.A. candidates.

Dr. McDonald has been especially proud of the number of students from other disciplines who he persuaded to pursue training in the field of Economics. He has given of his time in helping students with finding jobs, financial aid, housing, tutors, or whatever was needed. Dr. McDonald was a friend to the Economics students at Howard University. He enjoyed seeing students doing well in school, and after

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Dr. Vincent McDonald and wife, Dr. Doreen McDonald at the retirement luncheon at B. Smith's restaurant. Dr. Ransford Palmer is seated on the right.

glorious career that spanned 32 years, serving the students, faculty, administration, and alumni of Howard University. The HUEDAA did not want this moment to go unnoticed nor unheralded.

At the emotion-filled retirement luncheon numerous alumni came forward to offer tributes as to what he meant to them, how they appreciated him for who he is and what he has done. So, exactly who is Professor Vincent R. McDonald?

Dr. McDonald hails from Port Antonio, Jamaica, where he spent a happy childhood. He then traveled to the United States where he earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Economics from Tuskegee University. After teaching for one year at Tuskegee, he then attended the University of Maryland at College Park, and graduated with a Ph.D. in Economics in 1968. Hearing the call from the 'Black Mecca,' he

Do you have news you would like to report in our next issue of the HUEDAAA newsletter?

*E-mail to:
Sandra Cooke, Editor,
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graduation, doing well in the work place. In fact, Dr. McDonald makes it a point to keep in touch with Howard economics graduates. Because of his direct influence, we, the alumni, always look forward to coming back home in the spring to attend the annual Omicron Delta Epsilon banquet.

We were the students of Dr. McDonald. We owe much to him for what he has done for us in our careers. We are his legacy. And, on a bright, chilly, December afternoon, at a retirement luncheon held in his honor, one by one, the alumni stood up and told Dr. McDonald “thank you” and “we love you” and “we will miss you.”

HUEDAA Hosts Spring Career Fair

by Charles Thorpe

The Career Development Committee conducted its first “Economic and Public Policy Jobs and Career Opportunities” seminar on March 13, 2002. The seminar focused on types of jobs available, required characteristics, and how-to secure employment. Representatives from four public and private agencies were featured. Ms. Theresa Unkle of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, highlighted the requirements for opportunities at one of the world’s leading statistical agencies. Dr. Nwanze Okidegbe led a team from the World Bank in presenting the need for different levels of students in the Bank’s effort to eliminate poverty around the world. Ms. Genise Stancil from the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, discussed opportunities for students from historically black colleges and universities. Finally, Mr. Tom Woodward from the Congressional Budget Office stressed the need for sound economics and mathematics skills in preparing estimates and analyses for the Congressional budget process. The diversity of representatives was important given the variety of citizenry of students in the Economics Department and across Howard University. Dr. Patricia Cole, Director of Mentoring and Professional Development at Howard University, also presented the activities and opportunities available at her office.

Future seminar series will address resume preparation, interviewing, networking, and grant proposal development.

Photo on right: Dr. Charles Thorpe introduces panelists at the Career Development Seminar. Tom Woodward, CBO, is seated on the right.

Where Did the Budget Surplus Go?

by Gwendolyn Flowers

On February 13, 2002, the Economic Data and Information Committee hosted its first guest speaker seminar. Dr. Dan Crippen, Director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), spoke to Howard University faculty and students about the federal budget surplus.

Dr. Crippen began the seminar by discussing the rapid decline in the budget surplus CBO had projected just one year earlier. In its January 2001 report, **The Budget and Economic Outlook**, the CBO had projected that if the current tax and spending policies remained the same, the budget surpluses would total more than \$5.6 trillion over the 2002-2011 period. However, the CBO revised those projections in August, reducing the 10-year surplus to \$3.4 trillion. And in January 2002, the CBO projected that the cumulative surplus for 2002-2011 would total \$1.6 trillion—a drop of \$4 trillion from last January’s figure. CBO Director Crippen described the leading explanations for the roughly \$4 trillion decline in projected budget surpluses in fiscal years 2003-2012.

The seminar had wide coverage from across the campus. Howard students and faculty from economics, business, and political science went through a few rounds of questions and friendly sparring on the implications of recent actions on the President’s budget including the effect of 9/11 and the recent tax cut. A journalist from the Hilltop attended and ran a feature article on the seminar. Everyone, including the Director, appeared to relish having an open forum for discussing such an important national issue.



Dr. Dan L. Crippen

Dr. Crippen is the fifth Director of the Congressional Budget Office. He was appointed in 1999. He has served in senior positions in the White House and the U.S. Senate. He is a specialist in issues relating to the federal budget, health care, retirement, trade, and telecommunications.

Interested in Employment, Career Development, or Networking?

Here are a few places to look:

The Graduate School’s new **Office of Retention, Mentoring and Support Programs**

Contact:
Dr. Patricia Cole Holliday
Director
(202) 806-9603
pcoleholliday@howard.edu

HUEDAA Career Development Committee

Contact:
Dr. Charles Thorpe
charles.thorpe@faa.gov
Ms. Doris Newton
dnewton@ers.usda.gov

Department of Economics

Contact:
Dr. Ransford Palmer, Acting
Director of Internships and
Student Employment
(202) 806-6717

News from the Economics Department...

Congratulations 2002 Omicron Delta Epsilon Inductees!

Ms. Ano Miller
Mr. Ndimiso Davidson
Ms. Teri-Ann Brown
Ms. Karma Ardrey
Mr. Kehinde Adesola
Mr. David Timado
Ms. Gbemisola Oseni
Ms. Judith Eta
Mr. Mohammad Aminu
Mrs. Marumbok Etta-Nkwelle
Ms. Vernita Bradley
Mr. Andrew Othieno
Ms. Sharhonda Robinson
Ms. Nadine Morris

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New Faculty to Join the Department in the Fall 2002

The Department will have two new faculty members in the Fall of 2002. After completing the doctoral program at Georgetown University this summer, Ms. Ragna Alstadheim will join the faculty as a Monetary Economics and Econometrics instructor. Dr. Cassandra Tomlin, a graduate of the University of Oregon and current faculty member at the University of Central Florida, will teach Microeconomics and International Economics. Dr. Palmer expects the new faculty to bring a lot of energy to teaching and research at the Department. Dr. Haydar Kurban, who teaches Urban Economics, joined the Department in the Fall of 2001. A reception for new faculty will be held in the Fall.

Chairman Lectures on Economic Development

Dr. Ransford Palmer spoke at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA on April 1, 2002 and at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee on April 4, 2002. His topic was "The Role of Education in Economic Development."

HUEDAA Membership Adds Value!

An annual contribution of \$100 will give you...

- **Opportunities to network** with professional associates and fellow economics alumni
- **Opportunities to influence** economics students in their career decisions
- The **satisfaction** of knowing that your contributions, whether money, time, or talent, will have an immediate, measurable impact on students and faculty in the University's economics department.

Please demonstrate your support today by sending contributions to HUEDAA, P.O. Box 23705, Washington, DC 20026-3705.

Friends of the HU Economics Department

If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Howard University Economics Department, contact Doris Newton at dnewton@ers.usda.gov.

Department Awards First Chairman's Prize

Peng Yu, a graduating student of the Master's program was the 2001 recipient of the Department's first annual Chairman's Prize. The Chairman's prize is awarded annually in the fall to the graduate student with the highest G.P.A. after completing the first year of graduate study. The Fall 2001 Chairman's Prize consisted of a plaque and a set of Palgrave's Dictionary of Economics.

2002 Graduate to Receive Federal Reserve Award

Akunna E. Enwereuzor, a graduating senior with a 3.7 G.P.A., has been nominated for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Annual Award for "Excellence in Economics." Ms. Enwereuzor also recently passed the State Department's Foreign Service exam with distinction. She will pursue graduate study in the Fall.

During the 2002-03 Academic Year, HUDEAA is Planning...

Membership drives
Guest Speaker Series
Career Development Workshops
Fundraising Activities
Website Development
Information Packets for Students
and...
Issue No. 2 of the HUEDAA Newsletter!

Congratulations to the Class of 2002!

The Department of Economics is proud to announce 22 new graduates in economics.

B.A. degrees	11 students
M.A. degrees	10 students
Ph.D. degree	1 student