

HUEDAA Newsletter

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HUEDAA...

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

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Rising to the Top -- Joe Hawkins Recognizing an Outstanding Achiever

by Gwendolyn Flowers

Joseph Hawkins serves as Deputy Administrator for Analysis at the U. S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). For those who have known him most of his career, Joe's rise to the top is not a surprise—his entire career has been marked by numerous career crescendos. At TSA, he serves as Chief Economist for the Agency and Chairperson of the Aviation Security Advisory Committee (ASAC), where he directs the Agency's effort to build a consensus with industry on critical aviation transportation security issues. Before joining TSA he served as Deputy Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) where he had oversight responsibility for safety standards for the launch and operation of commercial space vehicles. Earlier, he served as the Director of Rulemaking at the FAA, leading an agency-wide initiative to reengineer FAA's rulemaking processes. And, at the U.S. Coast Guard, he applied complex economic analysis to support major policy decisions related to petroleum transportation. Joe began his career as a junior economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), where he worked on what is now the producer price index.

When one meets Joseph Hawkins, the first impressions are "commanding, strong, disciplined and reserved." A balance of strength and warmth surrounds him. Joe's long-time friend and colleague, Archie Muckle, recalls his first encounters with Joe while they were junior economists at BLS. Muckle notes that Joe was simply an exceptionally bright economist. He goes on to say that as Joe has moved up the ranks, he has not changed. He continues to demonstrate exceptional leadership and skill, and maintains the highest ethical standards and values. Yet, he keeps a balanced perspective and a measure of humility that endears him even more to his colleagues, friends, and family.

Joe acknowledges that some 30 years ago he was not even sure about going to college. But once making up his mind, he acquired an undergraduate degree in Economics, with a minor in Mathematics from Howard University, a Master's of Science in Economics from Georgetown University and a Master's of Public Administration from George Washington University. He also graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces of the National Defense University.



Joe's story is truly inspiring. He developed a winning strategy that meets challenges head on. With the force of sure will, unbeatable determination, and belief in the possibility of his dreams, he overcame obstacles that are well-known and so often catastrophic for African-Americans. He shares the credit for his success with his teachers, mentors, and family who provided support and encouragement along the way. But it is clear that Joe was born to win;

he exemplifies the traits of a true leader. Joe says he has lived by a few solid rules that have yielded lifetime value. "First and foremost—no matter what the challenges, he recommends that you never give up. Second—persevere and pursue the smallest opening to achieve your goals. Third—remember that hard work always pays off and is the ultimate equalizer."

Despite a demanding job, Joe manages to find time for a little fun. He is exceptionally animated about sports, especially boxing and basketball. He also enjoys table tennis and the sounds of the oldies, particularly the Drifters.

Joe stands tall both physically and professionally, always meeting the challenge of the day. The members of Howard University Economics Department Alumni Association are especially proud that he is also one of our own. Because of his outstanding achievements, we recognize Joseph Hawkins—husband, father, economist, and professional. From Joe, we can expect more to come.

Alumni News...

Compiled by Doris Newton and Sandra Cooke

Congratulations!

Dr. Sadie R. Gregory ('87) recently accepted a position as the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland, where she will become the University's first African-American female chief academic officer.



Dr. Sadie R. Gregory

It wasn't very long ago that Sadie left her teaching position at Virginia State University (VSU) and moved to Washington, DC to become a full-time student in the doctoral program in the HU Economics Department. Despite the weekly commutes from DC to her home in central VA, Sadie managed to complete the doctoral program with relative ease. An illustrious career as an economist, professor and university administrator would follow. Since graduating in 1987, Sadie has worked as Director of Business Research and Chief Economist of the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and Senior

Researcher and Chief Economist of the Virginia State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance. She returned to VSU in 1991 where she served two years as Assistant Dean and then ten years as Dean of the School of Business. In May, Sadie will leave her current post as interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs at the Richmond School of Health and Technology to join Coppin State.

We are very excited that Sadie is returning to the area and we look forward to her involvement in HUEDAA. Congratulations and good luck in your new position!

Donna P. Wood ('83) was recently promoted to Committee Management Specialist with the U.S. Small Business Administration's White House Liaison Staff. In her new position, Donna will assist with the candidate selection process for members to serve on the Agency's National Advisory Committee.

Doris Epton Newton ('79) was appointed Vice President of the American Agricultural Economics Association subcommittee, COSBAE (Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics). COSBAE engages in professional activities which encourage advancement of its members within the agricultural economics profession.

Michelle Robinson ('91) - former President of Abram Harris Economics Society, has worked for more than nine years as an economist with the Bureau of Economic Analysis - the agency responsible for estimating GDP and National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs). Michelle recently co-wrote an article on the Federal Budget estimates which appears in the March edition of the *Survey of Current Business*, BEA's feature publication. Michelle also serves as a Department of Commerce recruiter.

Where are they now?

Kenneth Gadson ('79) retired in 2001 from the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO), Washington, DC. He had served as Senior Load Forecast Analyst, Rates and Regulatory Practices area, from 1985 until his retirement. While at PEPCO, Ken was responsible for designing economic and sales models that used weather and load data. Prior to PEPCO employment, Ken was an economist with the Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, from 1980-1985. At ERS, Ken used his quantitative expertise to assess the usefulness of proprietary models for analyzing farm policies and program. Ken also performed research to assess the economic impact of food and agricultural programs on the food system. Prior to ERS, Ken had also taught for one year at Hampton University. Congratulations on your retirement, Ken!

Simon Francis ('73) is an industry economist and international trade specialist at the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration. He writes chapters on health and medical services for the U.S. Industrial Trade Outlook. His work has been cited in major newspapers, news magazines, and health journals. Simon earned a Master's degree in Economics from Howard and in 1992, he earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government.

HUEDAA Awards First Annual Senior Recognition Award

by Gwenell Waters-Bass

The Howard University Economics Department Alumni Association is pleased to announce that the first annual "Senior Recognition Award" recipient is **Dionandrea Shorts**. The purpose of the award is to recognize a senior economics major who has excelled in rigorous economics course work, demonstrated leadership skills, and participated in community service activities.

Despite pursuing a double major in Economics and Political Science, Dionandrea found time to participate in community service projects including Habitat for Humanity and the Warren Village for Low Income Single Mothers.

Dionandrea's academic accomplishments are equally impressive. She has been on Howard's Dean's list since her freshman year and is on the National Dean's List. She is a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

This award is jointly funded by **Dr. Gail Grass-Fulgham ('86)** and HUEDAA. Students interested in applying for the 2004-05 award should contact Dr. Gwenell Waters-Bass at HUEDAA@hotmail.com.

Want to report your Alumni news?

Send an e-mail to:
Doris Newton or
Sandra Cooke at
HUEDAA@hotmail.com.

"This is What the Good Lord Wanted for You"

A Tribute to Dr. Jean Louis DuCarmel Bocage (1923-2003)

by Hazel Robinson and Charles Thorpe

Dr. Jean Louis DuCarmel Bocage was a man of strong determination, unbending loyalty, and deep commitment to excellence. For more than 30 years, he dedicated his life to educating the students at Howard University. Among the many courses that he taught at the university, Dr. Bocage is well known for teaching the "History of Economic Analysis" to graduate-level economics students. Dr. Bocage taught this course with so much passion and energy, that he made a dry, boring subject, interesting and challenging. He literally brought to life the Economists and the various schools of economic thought, in a manner that allowed the students to appreciate their relevance to other economics courses. How did Dr. Bocage become so passionate about the history of economic thought and economics as a whole?

According to his wife of 48 years, Mrs. Yvette Bocage, Dr. Bocage "always wanted to be an economist." During his early years in Haiti (his homeland), Dr. Bocage took a placement examination to study economics in France. Although he scored highest on the exam, to his disappointment, the "powers that be" selected someone else for this honor. When the opportunity arrived for the Bocages to move to the United States, Dr. Bocage announced, "I am going to become an economist in the United States." While working as the First Secretary, Minister Counselor, and later The Charge d'Affaires in the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Washington, DC, Dr. Bocage studied at Howard University at night and earned a Master's degree in Economics in 1964.

After leaving the Embassy, Dr. Bocage and his family went to New York City to find work. Without much success in securing employment, he decided to move back to Washington, DC and pursue a career at the World Bank. While searching for employment, out of the blue, the Chairman of the Howard University Economics Department telephoned and asked him whether he was interested in teaching at the University. Dr. Bocage said that he had not considered it before, but he did have a teaching background, having taught in the public schools in Haiti. With his wife's encouragement, Dr. Bocage accepted the position of instructor. "This is a miracle, a blessing from Lord," exclaimed his wife because they had no idea that Howard was even considering him for employment. To this day, the Bocages do not know who recommended Dr. Bocage for the position, but they always felt, "it must have been what the good Lord wanted."

Because of his fine service to Howard, after only two years on the job, the University offered him the position as Chairman of the Social Sciences Division. Dr. Bocage accepted, and served as Chairman for 19 years. While serving as Chairman, he attended Catholic Uni-

versity at night and earned a Ph.D. in Economics in 1975. Dr. Bocage later became "Acting Chairman" of the Department of Economics at Howard University from 1988-90. For several years he served as Faculty Advisor to the Howard chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international honor society in economics. He retired from active service in January 1991, but continued to teach on a part-time basis, the History of Economic Analysis course until 2000.

Many are unaware that Dr. Bocage was multi-talented and gifted. He was an outstanding lawyer, who never lost a case. He was also an accountant, a diplomat, an educator, a mathematician, and an economic scholar. Affectionately known in his native country as, "Ti-carm," Dr. Bocage loved classical music and soccer, and had a passion for reading.

Dr. Bocage truly cared about his students. One of his guiding principles was, "If the powers that be do not like you, and you have knowledge, then prove yourself and they will appreciate you. It is not a matter of them liking you, but appreciating you." He made a personal commitment to ensure that his students received a quality education. He often remarked, "the students are like my kids; I want them to succeed. I want them to have a real knowledge of what I am teaching. I can not fail them."

Because of his unconditional love for his students, his unselfish service, and his commitment to excellence, the alumni of the Howard University Economics Department wish to say thank you Dr. Bocage, for a fine education. Indeed, you did not fail us. We are profoundly grateful that long ago, you took that phone call from the Chairman and came to Howard University to teach. And we are grateful that your job at Howard "was what the good Lord wanted for you."



Dr. Jean Louis DuCarmel Bocage

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 impact on students and faculty in the Economics department.

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

BEA is Hiring!

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), an agency within the U. S. Department of Commerce, is currently seeking entry level economists for various program areas. Qualified candidates must be US citizens who have at least 21 credit hours of economics and at least 3 credit hours of statistics, accounting or calculus. BEA has been rated as one of the top five "employers of choice" by the Office of Personnel Management. Interested candidates may contact Michelle Robinson (BA, '91) at (202) 606-9783 or via email at: michelle.robinson@bea.gov Or visit the BEA website: www.jobs.doc.gov.

News from the Economics Department...

Congratulations 2004 Omicron Delta Epsilon Inductees!

Aeran Baskin
Melody Bockelman
Crystal DeVone
Fonta Gilliam
Christopher Rutledge
Abidemi Sanu
Michael Stewart
Kurt Stiel
Akilah Tucker

2003-2004 ODE Officers

Daren Conrad
President

Hazel Gumbs
Vice President

Ano Miller
Secretary

Carlene Messan
Treasurer

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The Department Awards Third Annual Chairman's Prize

On Thursday, October 9, 2003, the Department awarded the third annual Chairman's Prize. The Chairman's prize is awarded annually in the fall to the graduate student with the highest grade point average after completing the first year of graduate study. There were TWO winners of the 2003 Chairman's prize -- **Hassan Akinkoulie** and **Ying Li**. Both recipients had a 4.0 grade point average.

The 2003 Chairman's Prize consisted of a copy of the *Handbook of Development Economics* (for Hassan) and the *Handbook of Monetary Economics* (for Ying). In addition, the winners each received a cash award of \$225, which was jointly funded by the HUEDAA organization, an anonymous HUEDAA donor, and the Graduate Student Council.

2004 Graduate to Receive Federal Reserve Award

Eleisha Petal John has been nominated for the Federal Reserve's 2004 "Award of Excellence in Economics." The award is given by the Baltimore branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. Eleisha will graduate with a 3.84 overall grade point average. Great job, Eleisha!

Congratulations to the Class of 2004!

PROSPECTIVE GRADUATES:

B.A. Degrees

Simon Akumchi	Are Ayodeji
Phelile Banda	Ian Blair
Silas Cardwell	Conte Coleman
Tricia Crosby	Fito Denis
Hazel Gumbs	Kareem James
Eleisha John	Ano Miller
Robin Parker	Dionandrea Shorts
Seth Thomas	

M.A. Degrees

Hassan Akinkoulie	James Kiawu
Ying Li	Lancelot Loncke
Camille Mwisela	Ndubusi Odoe
David Timado	

Ph.D. Degrees

LaTonya Brown, Dissertation: *A Study to Determine if HOPE VI Sites Influence Area Housing Prices* (Advisor: Dr. Rodney Green)

Daniel Muhammad, Dissertation: *A Study to Determine if State Governments Use "Rainy Day" Funds to Prevent Tax Increases During Fiscal Downturns* (Advisor: Dr. Rodney Green)

Princess Josephine Awoonor-Williams, Dissertation: *Gender and Credit: An Analysis of Women's Experiences in the Credit Market* (Advisor: Dr. Haydar Kurban)

Department Searches for New Chairperson and Faculty

In the fall of 2003, the Departmental search committee began a national search for a candidate to fill the position of Chairperson. Dr. Charles Betsey is serving an interim term that is scheduled to end on June 30, 2004. The search committee is headed by Dr. Rodney Green and includes several faculty members. Prospective candidates were interviewed at the January 2004 American Economic Association meetings in San Diego, CA. The external candidates have come from varied backgrounds, e.g., private-sector economists, professors at HBCUs and Division Directors at major State universities. Some current Departmental faculty are also being considered for the position. By mid-May the search committee expects to submit a list of three candidates to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for his consideration. Although nominations have been formally closed, if the Dean reopens the search, new applications will be accepted. Additional information is available on the HU website: http://www.coas.howard.edu/positions/econ_pos.html.

The Department's search committee continues to interview candidates for several tenure track and temporary faculty positions. Two new faculty members have been selected thus far. Starting in the fall of 2004, Dr. Mika Kato of the New School University will assume a full-time position as Assistant Professor and Dr. Martin Staab will fill an adjunct position.

Please Help Promote the Legacy of Dr. Joseph R. Houchins

Dr. Joseph R. Houchins was a professor, counselor, and friend who dedicated his life to helping economics students at Howard University. Help keep his memory and legacy alive by contributing to the **Dr. Joseph R. Houchins Endowed Scholarship Fund**. The fund was started shortly after Dr. Houchins' passing in 1991. Since 2002, HUEDAA, ODE, and the Department have joined ranks to support this worthy cause by raising money for the fund at the annual ODE dinner lecture. The fund currently totals \$7,500. Once fully endowed (at \$10,000), annual scholarships will be awarded to deserving and high achieving undergraduate economic majors. **Please give generously.** Make your check payable to Howard University. Specify The Dr. Joseph R. Houchins Endowed Scholarship Fund and send to Howard University, University Advancement-Annual Giving Office, Howard Center, Room 922, 2225 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20059. **Thanks for your support!**

Friends of the HU Economics Department

If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Howard University Economics Department, contact Doris Newton at HUEDAA@hotmail.com.