



April 27, 2020

Dear Firebirds,

Even though we were not able to complete the 2019-2020 academic year in the way planned, there are many successes and milestones to celebrate.

First, thank you to the many insightful, hardworking, dedicated and creative individuals who support Firebird student-athletes and understand student-athletes are the nucleus of the Athletic Department at the University of the District of Columbia.

KUDOS to: Joe Lang, Joel Phillip, Alison Michie, Marlana Wright, Andre Myers, Sandra Smith, Liam Haycock, Stefano Dye.

To the cornerstones of the department, **GRATITUDE to:** Mike Riley, Tony Iati, Terrell Stokes, John Nakpodia, Raven Gerald, Jasmine Rich, Rodney Williams, Simone Grant, Dickie Mahaffey, Rodger Colbert, Kevin Murphy, Cassandra Grady, Zhane Ruffin, Matt Thompson, Danny Wadeson, Iain Langstone, Damian Jones.

You should know that there are countless individuals throughout the university community and beyond who provide invaluable support; without them we would not be able to function. **THANK YOU:** President Ronald Mason, Chief of Staff Evola Bates, members of the university compliance committee, NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative Dr. Kimberly Crews. (to name a few)

LEADERS: Thank you Dana Harrington, Diana Atenco-Gonzalez and all of the members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for your commitment to student development and community engagement.



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FALL 2019- SPRING 2020

In March, we hosted the East Coast Conference Men's and Women's Basketball Championships. The effort involved many who worked diligently to prepare and manage the event. **Special recognition and appreciation to Firebird student-athletes who volunteered to work and ensure our best effort:** Turner Allison, Zander Torres, Rohdena Innocent, Terri Nashe, Da'zah Regusters, Javier Avadia, Eduardo Bugay, Thomas Cecil, Vitor Gomes, Malik Thom, Maksim Bahdanovich, Jake Bedfordth, Wilsn Cano, Juan Estevez Hernandez, Kostiantyn Kalchev, Louis Mangeon, Sofia Bellucco, Izabella Bilecova, Estefania Castrillon, Marija Millic, Simone Parn, Joanna Skrzypcysynska, Aisha Dozier, Zoie Little, Shakeithia Nicholson, Karlos Roberts, Dorian Hurd, Kenneth Stancell, Dana Harrington



You may recall, during the student-athlete orientation last August, I talked about creativity based on Roger Von Oech's book "Expect The Unexpected". Little did any of us anticipate COVID-19 which led to the most unprecedented end to the academic year. I trust all of us have found ways to clear our minds and find new ways to approach life. Firebird Nation remains a family. We are a circle that is not broken. We will come through this situation stronger than ever. A circle has a point that is both the beginning and the end. Firebirds who will continue on the path with us, know that you are appreciated and we look forward to working together again to achieve our goals. To those of you who have successfully completed this part of your life journey, please accept heartfelt congratulations. **Thank you** for representing the university with excellence. You have our best wishes for continued success in reaching your goals. Please stay connected and remember you are a **Firebird Forever!**

Thank you everyone. Stay safe and well.



Firebirds Together Forever!

Sincerely,

Patricia

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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Directors Honor Roll 3.0 GPA+

Juanye Colon
Kerry Kirkwood
Cheyemne Nettleton
Kenneth Stancell
Turner Allison
Giovanni Barahona
Joseph Cote
Kyle Cummings
Kyle Drouin
Gerald Futrell
Karson Gregory
Maxwell Hansberry
Jose Leon
Matthew Miller
Jacob Saunders
Joshua Sequira
Nico Tharpe
Zander Torres
Jeffrey Vo
Javier Abadia
Jake Bedforth
Danillo Muniz Beserra
Simon Birnstad
Eduardo Bugay
Alex Cantero
Thomas Cecil
Jaime Cusihuaman-Morin
Ryan Dagley
Kenec Elvir
Ioannis Kiotsekoglou
Pierre La Noire
Eusebio Macedo
Dennis Meza Baez

Ivan Meza Baez
Malik Thom
Gabriel Velluto
Vitor Gomes
Maksim Bahdanovich
Wilson Cano
Juan Estevez Hernandez
Louis Mangeon
Mia Boyd
Halia Ellis
Desiree Gaeckler
Dana Harrington
Danielle Harrington
Latavia Jackson
Alexus King
Kayla Moore
Natasha Roy
Diana Atenco-Gonzalez
Nyasha Counts
Alaina Feather
Jada Foy
Kayla Gray-Hillian
Rohdena Innocent
Terri Nash
Dazah Regusters
Sarai Reyes-Roman
Sabrina Roberts
Sofia Bellucco
Izabella Bilecova
Estefania Castrillon
Marija Milic
Simoné Pärn
Shaneika Bowra

Dean's List 3.5 GPA+

Jennifer Dail
Temera Duncan
Shannell Hibbert
Zoie Little
Patricia McLean
Shakeithia Nicholson
Nickisha Phillips
Cierra Roberts
Shanise Rose
Christine Taylor
Kendra Williams



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

4.0 Club



Halia Ellis



Simoné Pärn



Simon Birnstad



Estefania Castrillon



Shakeithia Nicholson



Desriree Gaeckler



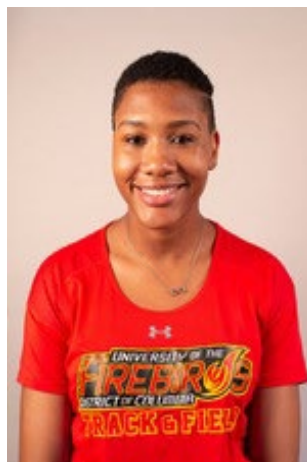
Ryan Dagley



Joshua Sequira



Eduardo Bugay



Temera Duncan



Mia Boyd

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ALL-CONFERENCE ATHLETES



Vitor Gomes
Third-Team



Sofia Bellucco
Second-Team



Izabella Bilecova
Second-Team



Simoné Pärn
First-Team



Marija Milic
First-Team



Joanna Skrzypczynska
Second-Team



Zachary Olukanni
Third-Team



Aisha Dozier
Second-Team
(4x400relay)



Lavonde Douglas
Second-Team
(Triple Jump, 4x400relay)



Shanise Rose
First & Second-Team
(60m hurdles, 60m dash)



Cierra Roberts
First & Second-Team
(Long Jump, 400m, 4x400relay)



Jason Mayorga
Third-Team



Shannell Hibbert
First & Second-Team/ECC Champs MOA
(60m hurdles, 60m dash, 200m, 4x400m relay)



Malik Thom
Third -Team

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Men's Soccer

MVP-VITOR GOMES

“Vitor has outstanding natural ability. Vitor was our top scorer and made ECC third team all-conference. With his continued productivity in front of goal and assisting we look forward to him leading the group offensively in his final year as he looks to take UDC and his own playing career to the next level.”-Coach Thompson & Coach Wadeson



COACHES AWARD- GABRIEL VELLUTO

“Gabriel has made an outstanding contribution to the program as a whole since he first arrived. A tireless worker, outstanding human being of good character and a model captain he has always been there for the group doing the little things that go unnoticed. Adaptable he work ethic and ability to remain positive has remained exemplary. Gabriel has constantly sacrificed and put the needs of the team before his own. A pleasure to coach and to call a friend.”

-Coach Thompson & Coach Wadeson



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Women's Cross Country/ Indoor Track & Field

XC MVP- CIERRA ROBERTS



“Cierra is one of the hardest working student-athletes I have ever coached. Anyone who knows Track & Field sprinters would know they want nothing to do with any kind of distance running much less Cross Country, as it is a big challenge for them and Cierra took that challenge head on. Cierra came into the season with the mindset of working hard to accomplish goals she had set for herself. Cierra pushed herself at every practice and pushed her teammates as well. She would be at the front in every workout for every rep no matter the conditions and at meets the same can be said.” -Coach Phillip

INDOOR T&F MVP-SHANNELL HIBBERT

“This season started really slow for Shannell. It took us a while to get Shannell back into her rhythm for hurdling. I could sense the frustrations from her at times but she continued to work. Anyone who knows Shannell knows she is very competitive especially at meets and as the season progressed she started getting into her rhythm. Every meet we competed at she would run faster than the last. The season ended with Shannell winning the 60m hurdles at the Conference Championship and placing in the top three in the two other individual events (60m – 3rd, 200m – 2nd) as well as helping the 4x400m relay placed second. Shannell helped in contributing 32 of the 68 points the team scored in our third place finish at the Conference Championship.” -Coach Phillip



COACHES AWARD-SHAKEITHIA NICHOLSON

“No one is more deserving of this award than Shakeithia. Her team spirit and passion for athletics is next to none. Shakeithia has been a huge help not just to me and the Track & Field program but the department as well. She has done everything from helping me coach while at practice to helping me coach while she is also competing at a track meet. Shakeithia is a huge motivator and knew how to get her teammates together to support one another at meets and always made herself available to compete in any event she is needed in (distance races included). She has also helped in the coordination of volunteering events that the team would be apart of as well as any communication between myself and the team. Shakeithia was also a big help at all the home games we hosted as well. Whether it was mopping the floors at basketball games, working the game clock for lacrosse games or helping out at soccer games as a ball girl, she was always willing and ready to help.” -Coach Phillip



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Men's Basketball

MVP-ZACHARY OLUKANNI

“Zachary did a little of everything for us this season. He presented himself across the box score in scoring, rebounding and assists. Congratulations on being picked 3rd team all-conference. Your leadership style of leading by example was good for this team. You did not complain when I had to play you at multiple positions, or when you had to defend smaller and quicker guards or bigger and stronger forwards. Your willingness to listen helped you improve as a player this year.” -Coach Riley



COACHES AWARD-CONSOLO ADAMS

“Consolo has improved as much as any person we have had during the season. The extra time he spent working out after practice helped to improve his skill level and confidence. When we played teams with considerable size he usually played well and helped to block the middle on defense. His scoring was extra in those games and gave us a fighting chance to win.” -Coach Riley



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Women's Basketball

MVP-LATAVIA JACKSON

“When Latavia chose to come to UDC our staff knew we had gotten a special player. It did not take very long for her to make an impact on both ends of the floor. She plays with a passion that is unmatched and is willing to make any sacrifice for the good of the team. We are thrilled to see the heights Latavia will reach during her career at UDC.” -Coach Nakpodia



COACHES AWARD-HALIA ELLIS

“Halia was a joy to work with on and off the court. She was always quick to help coaches, teammates and staff in any way she could. She consistently is one of the first people in the gym and one of the last to leave. Her work ethic is a coach's dream. Halia truly leads by example and we are excited watch her grow as a person and a player.” -Coach Nakpodia



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Women's Tennis



MVP-MARIJA MILIC

“Despite dealing with a chronic injury and being in pain on and off the court, Women’s Tennis MVP Marija Milic competed at the highest level, fought through the pain, and remained committed to personal and team excellence. Marija being in the No. 2 Singles position and No.1 Doubles position was key to the Team’s success and she will be missed.” -Coach Mahaffey



COACHES AWARD -SIMONÉ PÄRN

“Simoné Parn receives the Women’s Tennis Coach’s Award for her dedication to team goals, always positive attitude, support of her teammates, and high level of competitiveness and success at the No. 1 Singles and Doubles positions.” -Coach Mahaffey

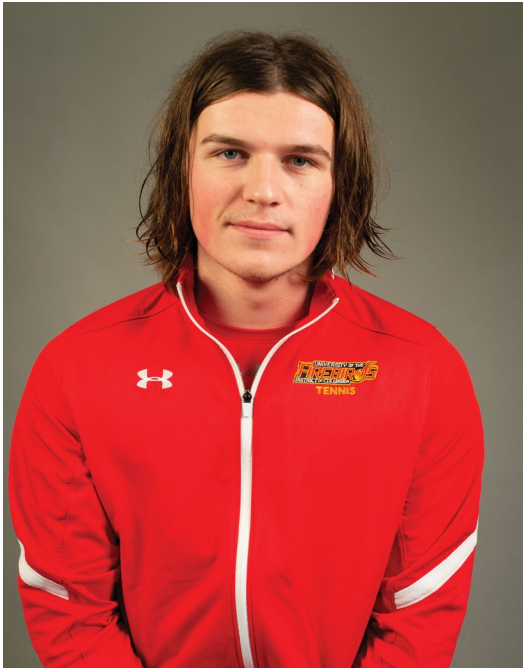


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Men's Tennis

MVP-KOSTIANTYN KALCHEV

“Kostiantyn Kalchev is the Men's Tennis MVP for his exceptional performance at the No. 1 Singles position.”-Coach Mahaffey



COACHES AWARD-WILSON CANO

“Wilson Cano receives the Men's Tennis Coach's Award for his commitment to hard work and improvement, and his perseverance. Wilson was a model teammate and the team will miss him.”

-Coach Mahaffey



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Men's Lacrosse

MVP-TURNER ALLISON



“Turner’s journey to and through college lacrosse has been anything but normal. Needless to say, his perseverance has led him to become a student leader, on and off the field.

As it pertains to lacrosse, Turner accumulated 30 points in 9 games this season. He had 10 points in 13 games last season. With 28 points in 15 games during 2018, Turner’s three years of playing culminated with a total of 68 points. This is extraordinary given the fact that he primarily played defense in 2019. This young man’s leadership proved to be vital in this spring’s shorten season. Whenever in a close game, it was Turner whom the team relied on to get us to the win. If that meant he played defense, offense, or special teams, it did not matter; Turner was there to show his teammates he would do anything to meet success. That same success is what escaped Turner his first year at UDC. Off the field, Turner’s ineligibility his freshman year led him to the hardest working year of his life. He became extra focused and dedicated to his mind and body. As a result his academic success became prevalent during his four years in Washington, D.C. That missed first season allowed a young man to focus on maturing attributes. Naturally he became a contributing member to SAAC as well as our team’s captain. His leadership also included volunteering at numerous UDC athletic events, supporting other student athletes and departmental leadership.

We are proud to highlight Turner Alison as our Most Valuable Player.

Turner’s character, leadership, and drive make us proud to call him a FIREBIRD. We wish you much success playing Division 1 Lacrosse. Thank you for everything CANADA!” -Coach Colbert

COACHES AWARD-JOSE LEON



“This is Jose’s second time winning the coaches’ award. There are not many superlatives that don’t fit this young man and his warming characteristics. In four years at our institution and on his team, Jose has led quietly and efficiently.

At the end of last season (2019), as a starting defenseman, Jose gave up the game winning goal. During this occurrence the opposing player chose to run directly at Jose’s chest. As a result, he ran Jose over and subsequently scored. For the next ten months and during the entire school year, Jose worked to become the strongest defender possible.

This award is to honor that extra work.

This award signifies the type of player both Coach Colbert and Coach Murphy expect to recruit to Firebird Nation. Jose is the perfect example of what it means to be a student-athlete and more important a leader. We hope to serve and coach more student athletes like Jose in years to come.

Best of luck in your new “real” position. Continue to be yourself and lead!

Thank you for your contributions Jose.” -Coach Colbert

Women's Lacrosse



CO-MVP'S KIANNA FRANKLIN & JADA FOY

“Kianna Franklin and Jada Foy have both left their mark on this program for years to come. Kianna has scored the most goals and draw controls in her career. In addition to scoring the most goals in a year. Her athleticism and knowledge of the game has been something that has driven her to continue to raise the bar. She has continued to not only make herself better but encouraged her teammates that they too can achieve the goals that they set for themselves. Kianna has been a member of this program for all 4 years of her academic career and has put in a lot of energy into doing her best for the team and for the program.”

Jada Foy has been the anchor for this program for 4 years! She has been a consistent and solid force in the cage. One of her goals going into college was to graduate in four years and to make an impact on a program both on and off the field. Jada did not only accomplish her goal she has crushed it! She will be graduating this year and has balanced both her academics and athletics with ease. She has set program records with most ground balls in a career, and most saves in a year and career. In the shortened 2020 season Jada made 22 saves which pushed her over the edge to receive 413 career saves! Both of these women have made sacrifices and have grown while here at the University of the District of Columbia and the program is very grateful for what they have been able to accomplish.” -Coach Grady



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Reslyn Henley Memorial Award

This award is given to the athlete who has nobility of character, a deep feeling of loyalty to his or her fellow students and teammates, high team spirit and a demonstrated ability to inspire his or her teammates to perform in a manner most favorably upon the team and university. This recipient must also show dependability of personal performance and must have the high regard of his or her teammates. The recipient must be a good student. The Reslyn Henley Award has been given to a student each year since 1953. A student who best exemplifies the character of Reslyn Henley: A student of athletic ability, scholarship, and integrity.

It is our honor and pleasure to present the Reslyn Woodruff Henley Memorial Award, created to honor the student who best exemplifies his ideals through athletic, scholarship and integrity to:



TURNER ALLISON

"I have enjoyed a 40+ year career in athletics administration that includes 33 years at Georgetown University. Turner Allison is one of the finest students I have ever worked with. A natural leader, Turner built solid relationships on campus and is well respected among staff as well as students. An integral member of our student-athlete advisory committee, Turner was instrumental in community engagement efforts, communicating effectively with the administration and supporting overall operations of the Department of Athletics. Turner's work ethic is second to none, in addition to demonstrating success in the classroom as evidenced by his 3.432 grade point average, and athletic accomplishments, Turner volunteered to provide game day operational support for all home contests in men's and women's basketball and men's soccer." -Director of Athletics, Patricia Thomas

"Turner Allison

The Reslyn Henley Award Board of Trustees is honored that a student of your caliber, athletic accomplishments, character and outstanding leadership is the recipient of the Reslyn Henley Memorial Award."

-Barry Conti
District of Columbia Teachers College, 1968

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COMMUNITY SERVICE



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FALL 2019- SRING 2020



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