Dear Howard University Community:

Season’s greetings! With the end of year drawing nearer, many of us are immersed in the usual hustle and bustle of the holidays. The tendency to lose focus during this stressful season, no matter your religious affiliation, is strong but should not be a source of deviation from what this period of celebration is truly about – reflection and giving thanks.

In all the festivities, let us not lose sight of the fact that our nation continues to struggle with social challenges, even as we approach 2015. Recent newsworthy events are a clear reminder that sustaining Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) like Howard is imperative for strengthening the social, judicial and economic fabric of our nation. At the same time, the role of HBCUs is evolving; we must embrace what is excellent in contemporary education, be cognizant of the rapid changes in approaches to learning, and embrace the most promising and effective innovations. We will then be able to preserve our hard-earned legacy of excellence and maintain our place in the vastly competitive arena of higher education.

Efforts to strengthen our rich heritage cannot, however, be achieved alone. One of the reasons why I love Howard is that she sees in us what we don’t see in ourselves. As soon as I arrived at the Hilltop, Howard poured into me what was necessary for me to fulfill my potential. Every day, I am grateful for my time at Howard. Alma mater gave to me, now it is time to give back to her.

As the year comes to a close, I encourage everyone, both alumni and friends, to reflect on the joys of your Howard experience and join me in giving thanks by contributing to the University that has done so much to enhance our lives. A form has been included on the last page of this edition of Bison Beat for your convenience in making a year-end donation. They can also be made online at http://www.howard.edu/bridgingthegap/.

Thank you so much for joining me on this journey and supporting Howard University. May your holidays and New Year be rich with blessings, joy and laughter.

In Truth and Service,

Wayne A.I. Frederick, M.D., M.B.A.
President
Leo E. Rouse, D.D.S., F.A.C.D., whose leadership and vision as dean have been the guiding forces for the College of Dentistry for the past decade, has announced his retirement, effective Dec. 31, 2015.

Dr. Rouse was the first African American to serve as president of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), the voice of dental education in the United States and Canada. He also chaired the ADEA Council of Deans and served as one of the four ADEA commissioners on the Commission of Dental Accreditation. In 2009, the association honored him with the Presidential Citation for “distinguished service to the association and dedication to the advancement of the dental education community.” In 2011, he received the Legend Award from the National Dental Association.

Prior to his 2004 appointment as dean, Dr. Rouse served as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Chair of the Department of Clinical Dentistry. Before entering academia, he served in the U.S. Army for 24 years. He concluded his military career at the rank of colonel as the Commander and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Army Dental Command, leading the Army Dental Corps worldwide.

A Howard alumnus, Dr. Rouse has given Howard credit for providing nourishment, support, mentorship and leadership in his development as a student, professional, faculty member and administrator.

Dr. Leo Rouse Retiring After Decade As Howard University Dentistry Dean

PHARMACY PROJECT TRANSFORMS AIDS RELIEF EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA

Assistant Provost for International Programs and Dean of the College of Pharmacy, Anthony Wutoh, Ph.D., recently led a delegation to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to celebrate the successful implementation of the Clinical Pharmacy Twinning Project (CPTP) conducted with the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) in collaboration with the Addis Ababa University (AAU) School of Pharmacy.

Dean Wutoh was accompanied by Dr. Bisrat Hailemeskel, Associate Professor of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy Sciences and Principal Investigator for the Clinical Pharmacy Twinning Project. The project was an eight-year, PEPFAR-funded (President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) endeavor that has transformed the education of pharmacists throughout Ethiopia.

Dr. Hailemeskel provided an overview of the project and noted that Howard University and Addis Ababa University agreed to collaborate several years ago because of the high incidence of HIV in Ethiopia and the lack of health care professionals trained to address the epidemic. The five-year clinical pharmacy curriculum, realized through the CPTP initiative, has now become the standard of education throughout Ethiopia with more than 4,000 pharmacy students enrolled in programs utilizing the new patient-focused syllabus.

Dean Wutoh noted that the collaboration has had a significant impact on the College of Pharmacy because AAU’s public hospital, Black Lion Hospital, has served as an international rotation site for Howard University medical students for the past few years.

EXCELLENCE AT HOWARD

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
TRANSPORTATION HUB CREATED WITH HOME DEPOT “RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL” GRANT

Howard was awarded a $25,000 grant from Home Depot’s 2014 “Retool your School Campus Improvement Program” established by the company to help HBCUs to improve the appearance of their campuses. The grant resources have been used by the Office of Sustainability to create a new transportation HUB (shuttle bus stop) in front of Cramton Auditorium to serve passengers who wait for the bus in front of this building. The new HUB, now nearing completion, will provide a much-needed exterior plaza allowing shuttle riders more space, accessibility and comfort while they wait.

Home Depot’s store manager, accompanied by Team Depot volunteers, visited campus on Monday, Dec. 8, to officially award the grant and assist with landscaping the area in preparation for the new HUB. The Howard University Student Association (HUSA) and student body took part in planting flowers.

Howard was one of three schools to win in the $25,000 Campus Pride Award category.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY CHOIR PRESENTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Howard University Choir, conducted by J. Weldon Norris, presented the Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 7, in Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. The Christmas concert is a celebrated, long-standing tradition at Howard University and regularly features performances and commentary from notable Howard alumni, including actress Phylicia Rashad and singer Roberta Flack.

This year’s concert—offered free of charge and open to the public—was sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences; Division of Fine Arts; and Office of Choirs and Bands. It was presented as a choral lecture and featured classic Christmas carols, holiday songs, spirituals, oratorio and opera with accompanying orchestra. The performance also featured commentary by Mrs. Simone Frederick, First Lady of Howard University.

The choir, comprised of students, faculty, staff and alumni, is recognized by many as a national treasure and performs at all major convocations and other notable University functions. The choir has performed in 17 countries on five continents. Dr. Norris has served as conductor of the choir, and of the Christmas Concert, for 41 years—the longest serving conductor in the history of the choir.

HOWARD CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF MARION BARRY

The Howard University community joined neighbors in Washington in mourning the passing of Councilman Marion Barry, Jr., the pioneering former mayor who championed the poor and voiceless and demonstrated that public service can be a fulfilling, lifelong mission. He died Nov. 23.

Councilman Barry was a friend of Howard who visited the campus for programs and discussions on numerous occasions to share his knowledge and expertise. Born into poverty, the councilman was a passionate advocate for education, believing education has the power to change the lives of disadvantaged youth and transform the quality of life in underrepresented communities. His vision for the District called for providing economic development opportunities for large and small businesses, as well as housing and jobs for all of its residents.

STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS PRESENT SHOWCASE – EVOKE

The Department of Theatre Arts closed its 2014 theatre and dance season in November with its Third Annual Student Choreography Showcase, EVOKE, in the Ira Aldridge Theater.

EVOKE serves as a showcase for dance works created by emerging student choreographers and dancers. Seven choreographers from the Dance Composition class created innovative works intended to probe and illuminate the human experience using themes involving Egyptian history, love, personal journeys and internal battles. Choreographers drew inspiration from life experiences, poetry and African ancestry.
SHOWTIME MARCHING BAND TO COMPETE IN HONDA BATTLE OF THE BANDS
On Jan. 24, 2015, Howard University’s Showtime Marching Band will join a select group of HBCU bands for the 13th annual Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The eight participating bands will showcase their musical talent and showmanship in front of tens of thousands during the competition. Honda awarded the University a $20,000 grant to support its music education program and will provide travel expenses and accommodations in Atlanta for Battle participants. This will be the Showtime Marching Band’s first performance in the Honda Battle of the Bands.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY RADIO NETWORK FEEDS THOUSANDS
WHUR and the Howard Radio Network made the holiday season bright for thousands of Washington area families by collecting more than $71,000 and two truckloads of non-perishable food in its annual Food2Feed campaign.

This invaluable campaign allowed WHUR and its partners to distribute more than 3,000 turkeys, along with bags of food, to needy families in the Washington region. Shabach Ministries and the Capital Area Food Bank, two non-profit agencies that work to fight hunger in the area, identified the families. Additional partners of Food2Feed 2014 included SunTrust Bank, Trade Center Management Associates and the supermarket chain, Wegmans.