



Hired as Director of Athletics in 2008, **Patricia Thomas** brings over 30 years of NCAA athletic experience to the UDC community.

She has served as the Senior Associate Athletic Director at Georgetown University as well as a member of the NCAA Division I Management Council.

During her tenure at UDC, Thomas has guided the university into its first membership in an athletic conference as the Firebirds joined the East Coast

Conference on July 1, 2011. Thomas has also increased the support capabilities of the athletic department by growing the senior administrative staff and implementing the university's vision and commitment to athletics.

Thomas currently oversees all operations of the UDC athletic department and its ten Division II teams.

*"The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at UDC is poised to elevate the university to the national stage as a member of the East Coast Conference. We are committed to providing our student-athletes with outstanding opportunities while maintaining integrity, high academic standards and enhanced facilities in support of all our programs. Outstanding coaches, experienced administrators and dedicated support staff will foster an environment where student-athletes can thrive as they prepare for future success. As a new age begins, it is an exciting time to be associated with Firebird Athletics at the University of the District of Columbia - in our nation's capital."*

- Patricia Thomas, Director of Athletics



## FIREBIRDS FOREVER

### FUNDING THE FUTURE OF UDC ATHLETICS

Firebirds Forever is the booster club for UDC Athletics. Firebirds Forever pays tribute to all who have come before us and all those who now work for the future success of athletics at the University of the District of Columbia. The Athletic Department's goal is to make sure that each student-athlete enjoys a positive academic and athletic experience while at UDC - thus staying a Firebird Forever! The organization is dedicated to the support of the UDC Firebirds and our athletic programs. We welcome you to join us on our journey as "A New Age Begins" for UDC Athletics so that our athletes and coaches may compete at the highest level of NCAA Division II. Your support is essential as we expand, grow and compete for championships in our new home, the East Coast Conference.

We welcome alumni, family and friends of UDC to join Firebirds Forever.

For more information or to join Firebirds Forever, contact Patrick Knapp, Associate Director of Athletics for External Operations at [pknapp@udc.edu](mailto:pknapp@udc.edu) or visit us on the web at [www.udcfirebirds.com](http://www.udcfirebirds.com). Click on "Support Athletics," then click on "Give to Athletics."



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Department of Athletics  
Sports Complex - Building 47  
4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Facebook: UDC Athletics



Twitter: UDCFireBirdFans



YouTube: UDCAthletics1



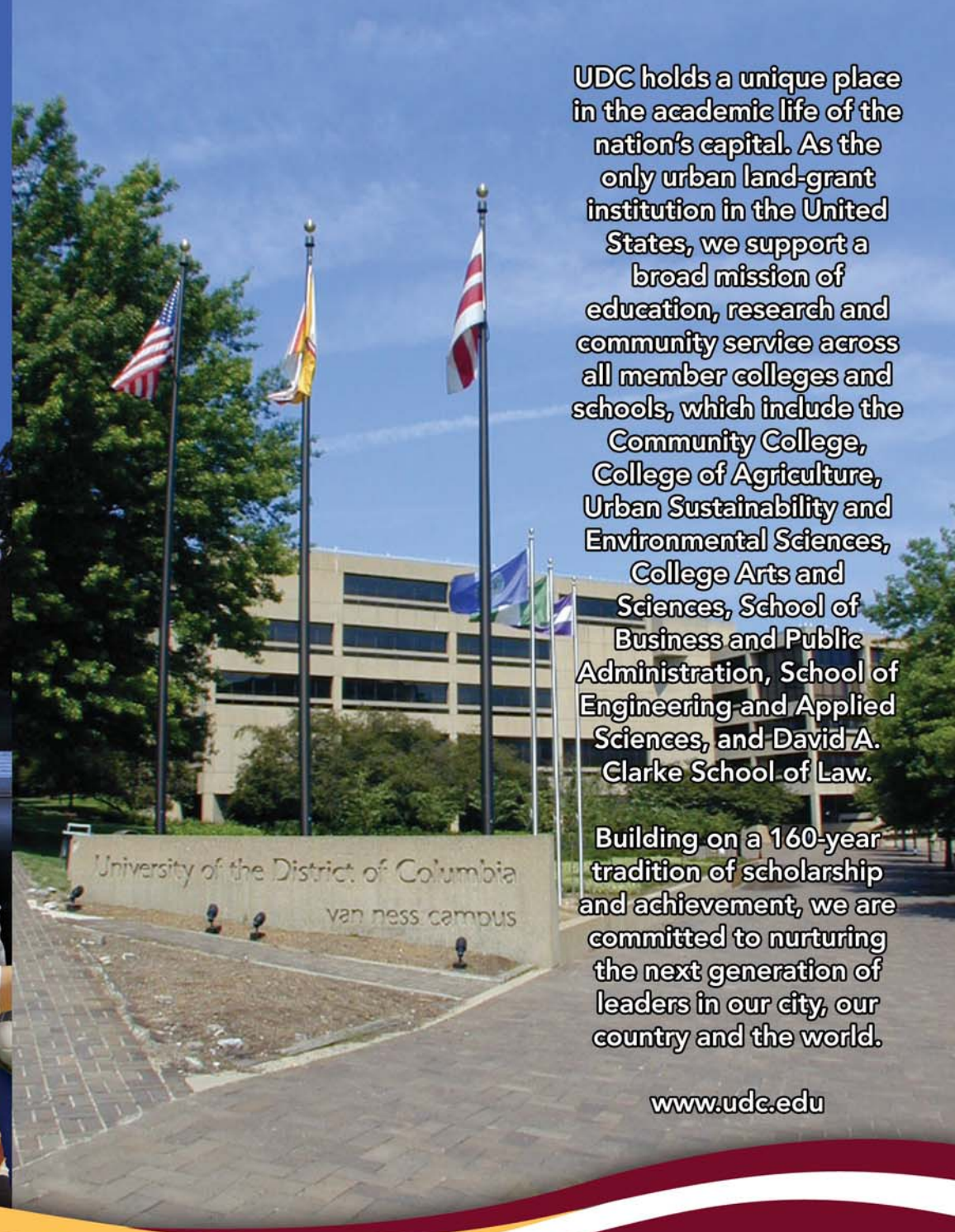
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"WE KNOW THAT THE BEST POSSIBLE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS INCLUDES A VIBRANT, SUCCESSFUL ATHLETICS PROGRAM. WE HAVE SET IN MOTION SEVERAL PROJECTS TO CAST THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS A SERIOUS CONTENDER IN COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ON MULTIPLE LEVELS. AT UDC, THE FIREBIRD IS INDEED RISING!"

- DR. ALLEN L. SESSOMS,  
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY  
SYSTEM OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
**FIREBIRDS**  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



UDC holds a unique place in the academic life of the nation's capital. As the only urban land-grant institution in the United States, we support a broad mission of education, research and community service across all member colleges and schools, which include the Community College, College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences, College Arts and Sciences, School of Business and Public Administration, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and David A. Clarke School of Law.

Building on a 160-year tradition of scholarship and achievement, we are committed to nurturing the next generation of leaders in our city, our country and the world.

[www.udc.edu](http://www.udc.edu)

[WWW.UDCFIREBIRDS.COM](http://www.udcfirebirds.com)

A NEW AGE BEGINS

AN EDUCATION AT UDC OPENS DOORS TO OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

## UDC ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT TEAM

Over 130 years of combined experience in collegiate athletics

Patricia Thomas – Director of Athletics

Joseph Lang – Associate Director of Athletics – Compliance

Michael Riley – Associate Director of Athletics – Internal Operations

Patrick Knapp – Associate Director of Athletics – External Operations

Matthew Rienzo – Associate Director of Athletics – Marketing and Communications

Kendra Greene – Associate Director of Athletics – Academic Support

Dr. Thomas Bullock – Faculty Athletics Representative

Terri Carmichael Jackson – Legal Counsel for Athletics

## UDC ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

MEN  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Soccer  
Tennis

WOMEN  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Indoor Track and Field  
Outdoor Track and Field  
Tennis  
Volleyball

"UDC offered me the opportunity to play basketball for four years at the college level and to meet a lot of new people. The location of the University is great too, because there is so much to do in the nation's capital."

–Jasmine Rich,  
Class of 2012, Women's Basketball

## UDC ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- UDC Joins the East Coast Conference (ECC)
- Average GPA of Student-Athletes was Above a 3.0 Overall
- Seven Student-Athletes Earned a 4.0 GPA
- Hiring of New Head Coaches – Men's Soccer, Cross Country/ Track and Field
- Dickie Mahaffey – ECC Men's Tennis Coach of the Year
- Tomas Gajdusek – ECC Men's Tennis Scholar-Athlete of the Year
- Jessica Nunez and Maria Vitkina - 1st Team All-ECC Women's Tennis Team
- Tomas Gajdusek and Bruno Reich – 1st Team All-ECC Men's Tennis Team
- Miguel Uzcatequi – ECC Men's Tennis Rookie of the Year



UDC Student-Athletes inducted into Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society



"In general terms, UDC's Athletic Department is headed in a very positive direction. The commitment from the administrative staff and coaches is significant. We want to provide our student-athletes with the best possible experience and help them be successful on the court and in the classroom."

– Jeff Ruland, Head Coach, Men's Basketball



"This was my first time helping with the Special Olympics and it isn't every day that you get to work with a special-needs child. Being able to interact and help them play a sport was overwhelming for me. As I refereed the game I encouraged healthy, wholesome interaction. They were smart kids and I was so moved by the experience."

– Jamilia Bonner, Class of 2012, Women's Basketball

## UDC IN THE COMMUNITY

UDC and the East Coast Conference are committed to the highest standards of scholarship, sportsmanship, teamwork and citizenship. Their mission, which is to promote the "total-person concept" in student-athletes, stresses academic achievement, athletic competition and the development of positive character traits. As part of this concept, UDC student-athletes are rigorously encouraged to pursue community service and engagement as part of their participation in sports programs. The ECC has created and enthusiastically endorses a series of events to support its member institutions in serving the community: the ECC Fitness Challenge, stressing the importance of fitness and healthy living; the Community and Character Leadership Workshop, building these qualities in our student-athletes and community youth; and ongoing efforts with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Habitat for Humanity. UDC Athletics, as a member of the East Coast Conference, is looking forward to taking part in these initiatives as well as finding new ways to engage and serve the community.

## EAST COAST CONFERENCE



Renamed and rebranded on July 1, 2006  
Located in Central Islip, NY  
[www.eccsports.org](http://www.eccsports.org)  
Nine Member Institutions  
(Seven in NY, One in CT, One in DC)  
Conference Sponsors 12 Sports



"Becoming a full member of the outstanding East Coast Conference is a milestone for UDC Athletics. The Conference's mission reflects our core values and membership provides many opportunities that will significantly enrich the student-athlete experience. We are proud to take this step."

– Patricia Thomas, Director of Athletics

