

GWminute

IN AND OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JULY 2007

UPD Chief Stafford Wins New National Honor

Campus Safety Magazine recently honored **Chief Delores Stafford** with the Campus Safety Director of the Year/Education Award. This year marks the first ever presentation of the award, which will be an annual recognition conferred upon outstanding leaders in campus safety.

Since she was a child in Hershey, Pa., Stafford wanted to be a police officer. She came to GW in 1992 after rising through the ranks of Bucknell and Butler universities' police departments. Stafford also has become nationally known as the first female president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. In this role, Stafford represented 1,800 members of the organization and helped the group to obtain federal grants to train campus police officers.

A hallmark of Stafford's time at GW has been her attention to neighborhood concerns. "Our department has focused a lot of time and attention to neighborhood issues and resolving complaints ourselves, instead of involving the Metropolitan Police Department," she says. Stafford helped create a Neighborhood Action Team, which assigns officers during peak hours to areas that have been the source of

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GW Fact

Tonic is a new community restaurant located in the historic Quigley's Pharmacy building at 619 21st Street, NW, on the GW campus. Featuring a redesigned interior with exposed brick walls, Tonic serves American comfort food and offers a relaxed, neighborhood feel.

Aloha from GW's Senior Prom



Nearly 300 guests attended GW's Senior Prom on April 21.

In five years, GW's Senior Prom has gone from being a small neighborhood potluck to a full-blown event with dinner, dancing, and entertainment enjoyed by senior citizens from all over Washington, D.C.

Titled "A Night in Paradise," this year's Hawaiian-themed Senior Prom was held April 21. Ukulele music serenaded the night's nearly 300 guests as they entered the balloon-filled Marvin Center Grand Ballroom.

For three hours, 146 seniors and 125 students mingled and danced to the music of a DJ and GW student jazz and a cappella groups. A multi-course dinner of pasta and chicken was the only reason prom-goers found their seats.

Last year, GW student **Jenna Fields** enjoyed her volunteer role as head of decorations so much that this year she served as head student coordinator. She led 28 student volunteers who worked throughout the semester to put together the event. For her, the highlight of the event was the crowning of prom king and queen. "The queen had attended GW's Senior Prom every year, and I could see how special it was to her, how surprised she was, and how much it meant to her. She was smiling ear to ear," Fields says.

Kerry Kidwell-Slak of GW's Office of Community Service gives special credit to **Councilmember at Large Kwame Brown** and Ward 8 **Councilmember Marion Barry** and the D.C. Office of Aging for helping connect the event planners with D.C. resources. "The city was behind us through the whole event," she says. "The Department of Parks and Recreation donated buses that picked up senior citizens all over the district at their front doors."

Kidwell-Slak also emphasized that the Senior Prom is only a part of GW students' relationship with the D.C. elderly population. Through continuing partnerships with organizations such as EMMAUS Services for the Aging, Iona Senior Services, and St. Mary's Court, students help out by sorting mail, assisting with bills, grocery shopping, and, most importantly, forming meaningful intergenerational relationships all year round.

In a thank you note sent after the event, D.C. resident Bertha Graves noted, "I am certain a lot of people forgot their daily hardships for those brief few hours [of Senior Prom] and looked at life as a joyous celebration. As I looked around me, I noticed the people, both young and old, interacting with one another. It reaffirmed my beliefs that the younger generation, who will run our country one day, will always take care of the seniors who have paved the way for them."

(Chief Stafford continued)

community concerns. Stafford explains that UPD officers monitor “problem areas” every night to better address neighborhood concerns. Stafford was also instrumental in the creation of a Community Concern Line for neighbors (202/994-6110) so that UPD can respond to complaints immediately.

Campus Safety Magazine was impressed that the on-campus crime rate, including robberies and aggravated assaults, has decreased to low single digits per year. Stafford’s creativity has resulted in the creation of “4-Ride,” an all-night escort van service for GW

community members, and increased training and education for her staff.

Stafford is particularly proud of leading her department through an accreditation process, completed by less than one percent of the country’s college police departments. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies has 450 national standards. By meeting them, Stafford’s department placed itself among the nation’s best.

ISCOPEs: Community of Hope Team



GW student Zahraa Al-Lawati teaches a class on healthy eating at Marie Reed Community Learning Center.

Over the past five years, students from the ISCOPEs Program, an interdisciplinary service program composed of health professions students, have been working with the Community of Hope (COH) Health Services Center. COH is a nonprofit located in Ward 1 that has been assisting the city’s low-income and homeless populations with health, housing, and support services for more than 25 years.

The COH Health Services Center provides primary health care services, health education, and preventative care, as well as specialized health services such as

prenatal and HIV/AIDS care, to adults, families, and children. In addition, COH funds a full-time school nurse to help with student health needs at the Marie Reed Community Learning Center. Two important needs

identified by school staff were related to poor nutritional habits and lack of physical activity, both of which contribute to obesity.

In fall 2006, ISCOPEs students helped Marie Reed staff determine the extent of students’ obesity by calculating the percentage of children who were at risk for becoming overweight or who were already overweight as reflected by the Body Mass Index (BMI). The ISCOPEs team found that a significant number of fourth and sixth graders were overweight or at a risk of becoming overweight. The proportion of students classified as overweight increased significantly with grade level.

After presenting these findings to COH and the school principal, the team developed an educational lesson to help children understand the importance of diet and exercise, including calories and food labels, and the need to balance energy inputs (food) with outputs (exercise).

“Bringing the lesson plan to life was a great experience,” says **Meg Densmore**, a GW public health student. “Interacting with the community was the most enjoyable part of the ISCOPEs program.” GW medical student **Sumit Bose** says, “I believe that our team project was a step forward in reducing obesity in the Washington, D.C., community.”

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