



CONSORTIUM OF UNIVERSITIES PRESS RELEASE

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Colleges and universities in the Washington metropolitan area have mobilized to provide aid and relief for the victims of the January 12 Haiti earthquake. News from Haiti and activities on local college campuses are as follows:

Haiti Dispatches

Ten students from **George Mason University** who were on a mission trip to Haiti were reported safe and sound. The group, affiliated with McLean Bible College, left for Haiti the Saturday before the earthquake to build latrine shelters and run Bible classes for Haitian children. A parent of one of the students on the mission received a text e-mail within three hours of the quake reporting that the students were sleeping outside at a mission 40 miles west of Port-au-Prince and had sufficient food and water.

A student from the **National Defense Intelligence College** was in Port-au-Prince working on a research project when the earthquake hit. CDR James "Jeb" Livingood, USCGR blogged about the initial emergency response as it was happening. He has since returned to the United States.

Less than a year after **American University's** School of Public Affairs (SPA) started an innovative public policy partnership with Haiti's central bank, the earthquake in the Caribbean nation has crippled the program. The facility where SPA faculty taught the courses is completely destroyed, said Robert Durant, chair of the Department of Public Policy and Administration. Some of the students, Haitian bureaucrats selected by the government, have been accounted for, but the well-being of the majority of them is unknown. In addition, several Haitian staff members have been severely injured, Durant said. All classes in the program are on hold.

Several emergency physicians from the **GW Medical Center** were deployed as part of the Fairfax Urban Search and Rescue team including Joseph A. Barbera, an emergency physician and co-director of **George Washington University's** Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management. The team rescued 45 people and provided them with medical care. Other **George Washington** physicians have volunteered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to participate as needed. "The real issue is you have to know what is going to be needed at the time you can realistically arrive and be ready to operate your medical resource, said Dr. Barbera."

American University alumnus Adam Koons (CAS/PhD '87) is currently in Haiti working on Relief Efforts with International Relief and Development, specialists in disaster relief.

Trinity Washington University professor Robert Maguire has been active in educating government officials about Haiti;

- Shortly after the earthquake, he participated in a special meeting at the White House;
- He was a keynote speaker at a forum, “Haiti After the Earthquake,” convened by the Inter-American Dialogue and the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he chairs the Haiti Working Group;
- He traveled to Florida to participate in meetings to coordinate State of Florida and Floridian Haitian-American humanitarian efforts in Haiti;
- He is scheduled to present testimony before the subcommittee on International Development, Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Presidential Statements

Several **Consortium**-member presidents issued statements about the tragedy in Haiti:

- **President Knapp’s** statement said in part, “As you know, a tragic situation is unfolding in Haiti following a devastating earthquake. Insofar as we can determine at this time, no **George Washington** students or employees were in Haiti when the earthquake occurred, but members of our University community do have family and friends there. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their loved ones. As additional needs are identified, the University stands ready to help and will distribute information on how to participate as it becomes available;”
- **President Mote** issued a statement to the **University of Maryland** community that said in part, “Like people everywhere, we are shocked by the devastation in Haiti and wrenched by the human tragedy. Concern for our community members who have family and friends there, heightens our anxiety. Our prayers are with our people and all people in Haiti through this extremely painful time. Haitian relief efforts are being mobilized on campus through several student groups. . . I am always heartened by our community’s extraordinary spirit of generosity in these times of great need. We will continue to keep the Haitian people in our thoughts and prayers;”
- In a letter to the **Howard** community, **President Ribeau** said “Our thoughts and sincere concerns are extended to the many victims and families of Tuesday’s devastating earthquake in Haiti. We especially embrace those members of the **Howard University** family who are from Haiti or have relatives and friends there. No doubt, Haiti faces a tough recovery ahead, but we at **Howard** feel a kinship and stand ready to assist;” and
- **President Kerwin** sent a letter to the **American University** community containing a list of organizations collecting funds and resources for Haiti relief.

Spiritual Support

- Several campuses hosted vigils to remember the victims of the Haiti earthquake:
 - **Howard University** hosted a memorial service for Haitian victims on campus on January 13, which attracted nearly a hundred students and staff, many from Haiti.
 - **Georgetown University** held a prayer vigil on behalf of Haiti. Students, faculty and staff gathered on January 15 for an interfaith service. **President DeGioia** said “We must all do our part to help those in need in Haiti;”

- Members of **The Catholic University of America** community gathered at Caldwell Chapel on January 14 to participate in a Mass for the victims of the earthquake. **President O’Connell** served as presider and homilist;
- **Trinity Washington University** students, faculty and staff participated in a Mass in remembrance of the many lives lost in the earthquake in Haiti.
- The Caribbean Student Association at the **University of Maryland** held a candlelight vigil and dinner on January 28. The \$10 per plate fee was collected for the Red Cross and the Haitian Embassy.

Coordination and Fundraising

Among fundraising efforts underway:

- Students and faculty at **Howard University** are coordinating relief donations through the American Red Cross. Several campus organizations at **Howard University** have sprung into action with programs designed to collect money and supplies for victims of the Haitian quake. A total of \$60,000 has already been collected through the following initiatives:
 - Three benefit concerts staged on campus. The most prominent was a January 21 concert hosted by the **Howard University Student Association**, Office of Student Affairs, Crampton Auditorium, Office of the Dean of the Chapel and Office of the President which was named “Hands for Haiti” and featured recording artist Wale, performers Cimarrones, who performed an interpretive dance featuring African and Caribbean influences, as well as spoken word artist Messiah, a three-time Apollo award winner.
 - **HU’s** public radio station, *WHUR*, began a three-day “drive-by” fundraiser on January 27 for Haitian relief. More than \$16,000 was collected in the first day; and
 - Four thousand dollars was collected in a water bottle sale at the **HU** basketball game. Proceeds from the water bottle sale will be donated to water supply reconstruction efforts in Haiti;
- At **Georgetown University**, various relief efforts have raised over \$30,000 earmarked for three organizations on the ground in Haiti—Jesuit Refugee Service, Save the Children, and Partners in Health. Among the fundraisers was a concert at the Kennedy Center;
- **Catholic University of America** has initiated “**CUA Cares: A Novena of Prayer and Action for the People of Haiti.**” **CUA** students organized committees to help increase awareness of the tragedy in Haiti, to offer prayerful support and to raise funds. They collected more than \$28,000 from students, faculty, staff and others, which the university matched and supplemented sending \$60,000 to Catholic Relief Services for Haiti relief;
- The **Marymount University** community has also begun fundraising projects to provide support for the relief efforts. The university has pledged to match all moneys raised up to \$10,000 and donate the proceeds to the American Red Cross and Catholic Relief Services. Initiatives so far have included:
 - Collections were taken at Masses in the campus chapel on January 17 and donated to Catholic Relief Services;
 - At a basketball double-header on January 18, the **MU** Saints men’s and women’s basketball teams collected donations of \$1,039;

- Students groups across campus, including the University's International Club and Global Charity Project, are meeting to determine how they can work together to have the greatest impact;
- **MU** senior Chardelle Moore, a communications major from Dominica and the current Ms. Caribbean Metro USA, has worked with **Marymount** student groups and the Caribbean Professional Network to collect survival items. Six carloads of essential supplies were delivered to the Haitian Embassy on January 17;
- **Gallaudet University** has engaged in several fundraising initiatives:
 - Its athletic department donated all proceeds collected at its basketball games against **Marymount University** as well as proceeds from both the men's and women's games played on January 13 (Hood College) and January 20 (Wesley College) to the American Red Cross. Players, fans and officials observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the quake;
 - Students and alumni have organized a Spin-4-Haiti fundraiser on February 4 and 5 under the leadership of Lena Dunning, a 2007 graduate of the master's in social work program. Dunning, a personal trainer, will supervise a stationary cycling event with proceeds benefiting Institut Montfort, a school for deaf and deaf-blind students in Port-au-Prince, and the Haiti Association for the Deaf. **Gallaudet** has particularly focused its efforts on assisting Haiti's deaf community. One of Haiti's three schools devoted to deaf education was destroyed in the earthquake;
 - Catherine Valcourt-Pearce, a **Gallaudet** alumna and coordinator of publications and development for the Clerc Center's Office of Public Relations, Products and Training, is collecting donations for the Faith-Hope-Love Infant Rescue in Port-au-Prince. The children's home is run by Dorothy Pearce, her mother-in-law and mother of alumnus Larry Pearce. Pearce is also suggesting that donations may be made directly to the Christian Light Foundation, designated as the Pearce-Haiti Infant Rescue;
- The **National Defense Intelligence College** is exploring the creation of a combined fund for employees of all Defense Intelligence Agencies to donate to for Haitian relief;
- The **Trinity** Campus Ministry and several student organizations are collecting funds to support relief efforts in Haiti;
- Students and administrators at **George Mason University** are planning a massive volunteer program for homecoming weekend;
- Students at **The George Washington University** participated in various fundraisers including GWorld Day, where students, faculty and staff using their campus issued debit cards raised more than \$6,300 in one day for Haiti relief. All resources collected are being donated to the Red Cross and Medishare, a medically oriented program with which **GW** partnered in 2004;
- Students at the **University of Maryland** are discussing how to incorporate fundraising for Haiti into the campus annual fundraiser. Students have also participated in a debit card fundraiser.

Additional Projects

Health science faculty at **Howard University** are planning for medical teams that will be available to rotate into Haiti to provide medical assistance in the future.

GW faculty and staff are working with doctors affiliated with Medishare, a medical organization working on designing a field hospital in Haiti. **GW** is also working with an organization called Physicians for Peace which is collecting supplies and equipment to assist the many amputees in the country as well as coordinating physical therapists' visit to the country to help.

Georgetown University is planning to host several educational seminars on campus to focus on Haiti. The first took place on January 28 and focused on Haiti's current environment. **GU** alumnus Roosevelt Donat (C '07) spoke about his experience in Haiti where he traveled shortly after the earthquake to serve as a Creole translator. He remarked about how difficult it was for Haitians to interact with their care givers, "How many people will die because of miscommunication?" he asked. Also on the panel were **GU** Professor Susan Martin, the Donald G. Herzberg Associate Professor of International Migration; history professor Maurice Jackson; **GU** alumna Shaina Aber (L, '06), Associate Advocacy Director for Jesuit Refugee Services, USA; and Congressman Kendrick Meek (D-FL), who appeared via video broadcast. Future events will include speakers on Haiti's financial debt.

Experts gathered at **The George Washington University** to discuss the risk, suffering and response to the earthquake. The panel discussion and question-and-answer session was co-sponsored by the Cultural in Global Affairs Program and the International Development Studies Program at **GW's** Elliott School of International Affairs and the Department of Global Health in **GW's** School of Public Health and Health Policy. Among the panelists was **Trinity Washington University's** Dr. Robert Maguire, a noted Haiti expert.

The **National Defense Intelligence College** has been providing analysts and information to various relief agencies since the crisis hit. It is working in close coordination with US AID the lead federal agency.

The **National Defense University** participates in an international network that discusses emergency response. On the evening of January 12, members of the network linked crisis managers on the ground in Haiti with experts in the Creole language, among other specialties, that resulted in the discovery of some victims in the rubble after messages about them were sent from the Haiti Embassy in Port-au-Prince and translated by the network.

Dr. Cristina Berdichevsky, a professor in **Gallaudet University's** Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures; and Dr. Marguerite Glass, chair of **Gallaudet's** Art Department, have updated the service-learning component of a course they will co-teach this semester. GSR 221: "Rebels with a Cause: Picasso and the Rebirth of Art" will have a new focus on the Haitian community. For the class's service project, Berdichevsky and Glass will ask the students to research deaf schools and organizations, select one to support and design and implement a plan to raise funds and awareness.

Students and staff at the **University of Maryland** have formed the Helping Haiti Project. One of the students enrolled in the effort, Kevin Streete, a physician, who is in the university's executive master's in business program, plans to travel to Haiti in February to deliver medical supplies and set up a clinic with an organization called Horizon International Medical Mission. He plans to be in Haiti for a week. Among other programs in the planning stage are a benefit concert

on campus, a fundraising competition among dormitory floors and collection of campus dining hall points for donation to Haiti.

Consortium member schools have agreed to collaborate on joint initiatives under the leadership of **George Washington University** Provost and Vice President for Health Affairs Dr. John “Skip” Williams.

Press Resources

The national and international media turned to **Consortium**-member faculty and students for information and observations about all aspects of the Haiti tragedy including:

- **Howard University’s** President of its Haitian Student Association was quoted widely in the local media expressing the sentiments of many Haitian residents living in the Washington region. “I lost two friends this morning and I just thought this was a whole nightmare,” said Roberte Exantus. “I just spoke to my dad two days ago, and now I can’t find him.” Exantus had just returned from spending Winter Break in Haiti. Also interviewed by *WAMU*, **American University’s** local public radio station, were Dr. Daphne Bazile, a Haitian on staff at **Howard University** Hospital, and Yollete Lamour, one of three nurses on her floor at **HUH**. Dr. Bazile and Nurse Lamour expressed frustration over not being able to provide medical care directly to the many victims of the quake;
- Dr. Robert Maguire, Associate Professor of International Affairs at **Trinity Washington University**, who is an expert on Haiti has been quoted frequently in media stories about the quake:
 - He was interviewed by dozens of media organizations including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time* magazine, *US News & World Report*, *CNN’s* “Anderson Cooper 360,” *CNN* “News Live,” *MSNBC*, Dan Rather on *HDNet*, *Voice of America*, *NPR’s* “Morning Edition,” *NPR’s* “Diane Rehm Show,” (produced by local *NPR* affiliate **American University’s** *WAMU*), *NPR’s* “Radio Times with Marty Moss-Coane,” *PBS’* “News Hour,” *Chicago Public Radio*, *BBC World Service* and *BBC Television*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Foreign Policy* magazine, *Agence France Press*, *RCN Radio of Colombia* (South America), and the *Denmark Independent Daily*;
 - He has written several op-ed’s published in the *Los Angeles Times*, a Brazilian newspaper, the *Foreign Policy’s* blog, “The Best Defense
- **George Washington University** faculty were also in demand including:
 - Dr. Joseph Barbera, **GW** Associate Professor of Engineering Management, Emergency Physician and Co-Director of **George Washington University’s** Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management, who was featured in *The Washington Post* discussing emergency coordination in Haiti and whose web-published letter was discussed by *WJAC-TV*, a local affiliate out of Johnstown, PA;
 - Dr. Pedro Silva, **GW** Professor of Structural Engineering, who was featured in an *NBC* “Nightly News” piece about the Haiti earthquake, and provided a lab demonstration of the structural integrity of buildings during an earthquake on *WUSA-TV*; and

- Dr. Peter Hotez, Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Professor of Microbiology and Tropical Medicine at **GW**, who commented on potential health effects of the Haiti earthquake for *CNN.com* and *The Guardian*;
- Dan Kaniewski, Deputy Director of **GW's** Homeland Security Policy Institute, provided comment for a January 21 *CNN.com* article, “To survive after a quake, the desperate target Haiti’s orphanages,” as well as made comments on the 1,415 Canadians still missing days after the earthquake to the *Globe and Mail*;
- E. Reed Smith, assistant professor of emergency medicine at **GW**, was quoted in a *Wall Street Journal* article, “Rescuers Prepare for an End to the Miracles,”
- **GW's** Anthony Macintyre, associate professor of emergency medicine, was quoted in a *Washington Post* article about a teen rescued 15 days after the quake. Dr. Macintyre was one of the three **GW** doctors deployed in Haiti as part of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team;
- Randall Packer, professor of biology, provided comment for an *Examiner* article entitled “Another miracle: Girl rescued 15 days after Haiti’s earthquake renews hope;”
- The **University of Maryland** issued a press release including information on ten campus experts who could discuss the ramifications of the Haitian earthquake including African Diaspora experts, journalism experts, political experts and experts in civil and environmental engineering;
- Information about **Gallaudet University's** activities in mobilizing aid for survivors and educational plans underway are available at a new website, http://news.gallaudet.edu/Haiti_response.xml;
- **University of Maryland** student Marc-Peralte Dandin, who is pursuing his doctorate in bioengineering, wrote about his native country for the *NewsAmericaMedia* company, “Such times require that we go beyond grief, that we transcend our differences and grasp our common humanity . . .;”
- Michael A. Clemens, a **University of Maryland** research fellow at the Center for Global Development and an affiliated associate professor of public policy at **Georgetown University**, wrote an op-ed in the *Washington Post* calling on the State Department to relax its immigration laws governing Haitian immigrants as part of a “golden door” visa program, allowing the issuance of limited numbers of visas to people from the poorest countries.