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Charter Day '86

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Phylcia Rashad



Leslie Alexander



Joseph Henry

C • H • A • R • T • E •

The university celebrated its founding at a formal Charter Day Convocation February 28th at 11 a.m. in Cramton Auditorium on the main campus. Representative Parren J. Mitchell (D-Maryland) was this year's Charter Day speaker. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

The Charter Day celebration is held annually in observance of the founding of Howard University on March 2, 1867 by a charter of the U.S. Congress. This year's celebration was held two days early because the anniversary fell on a weekend.

The previous evening, at the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel, 2,100 celebrants attended the traditional Charter Day Dinner. Walter E. Washington, former mayor of the District of Columbia and chairman of the Charter Day dinner committee, presided over the \$150-a-plate dinner.

Six graduates of the university who achieved highly in their respective professional fields were honored as this year's alumni award recipients.

Heading the list of honorees is an alumna whose face and talents are familiar to millions of television viewers across the land, Phylcia Ayers-Allen Rashad of the award-winning Bill Cosby weekly show on NBC-TV.

The other alumni who received awards for distinguished postgraduate achievement are: Leslie L. Alexander, M.D., a

Brooklyn radiologist and a professor at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook; Joseph L. Henry, D.D.S., former dean of the Howard University College of Dentistry and currently an associate dean of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine; Dennis F. Hightower, executive director of an executive recruiting consulting firm in Los Angeles; Floretta Dukes McKenzie, superintendent of schools in the District of Columbia; and H. Patrick Swygert, a professor of law and vice president for university administration at Temple University in Philadelphia.

PHYLICIA AYERS-ALLEN RASHAD graduated from Howard University in 1970 *magna cum laude* with a bachelor of fine arts degree. Today she is best known for her role as Clair, a lawyer and wife of Cliff Huxtable played by Bill Cosby on "The Cosby Show." The show, which premiered in the fall of 1984, is currently dominating prime time television with the highest ratings of the season. The recent ratings give the show a 49 percent share of the television viewing audience, or about 58.5 million viewers every week.

Ayers-Allen Rashad also has appeared in daytime television as Courtney Wright on "One Life to Live" and on Broadway in "Dreamgirls," "The Wiz" and "Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death," as well as in several productions for the Negro Ensemble Company. A native of Houston,

she is the sister of Debbie Allen, star and producer of the television series "Fame" and the recipient of a Howard alumni achievement award in 1983. She is married to Ahmad Rashad, a sportscaster with NBC-TV, and has a son, William Lancelot Bowles.

LESLIE L. ALEXANDER is a 1952 graduate of the Howard College of Medicine. He has had an extensive career as a radiologist and a teacher in Brooklyn and Nassau County, N.Y. and currently is attending radiologist at Long Island Jewish-Hillside Medical Center in Jamaica, N.Y. and professor at the School of Medicine at SUNY-Stony Brook.

A native of Kingston, Jamaica, he earned a bachelor's and a master's degree from New York University in 1947 and 1948, respectively. After graduating from Howard, he returned to the New York area to do his internship and residency. He has since practiced medicine in that area, working as a radiologist, as a consultant and as a director or assistant director of radiology at several hospitals. He has been a professor at Stony Brook since 1978 and has served on the faculty of the SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn from 1956 to 1976. He has been very active with the National Medical Association and the American College of Radiology, serving in several posts with those organizations. He is a participant and an official of numerous other com-



Dennis Hightower



Floretta McKenzie



H. Patrick Swygert

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munity and service organizations and has published extensively in medical journals. He served in the U. S. Army from 1942 to 1946, achieving the rank of first lieutenant.

JOSEPH L. HENRY graduated from the Howard College of Dentistry in 1946 and went on to earn a master's and a doctorate from the University of Illinois in 1949 and 1951, respectively. Returning to Howard University, he served on the university's dental faculty — nine years as dean — until 1975. He was named dean of the college in 1966. Since 1975, he has been a member of the Harvard University School of Dental Medicine and three years later also became associate dean for government and community affairs.

He is a member of several community and professional organizations and the author of numerous publications. He has received many awards for his work in teaching and dentistry, including an honorary doctorate from Xavier University in New Orleans, he earned his bachelor's degree from Xavier.

DENNIS F. HIGHTOWER earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from Howard University in 1962. He served eight years in the Army, rising to the rank of major and after becoming a manager with Xerox Corp. went to Harvard University where he received an M.B.A. in 1974. He is currently the

executive director of the Los Angeles office of Russell Reynolds Associates, Inc., an executive recruiting firm. Before assuming his current position, he was vice president for corporate planning at Mattel, Inc. from 1981 to 1984; vice president and general manager of operational planning at General Electric's Mexico Lighting Affiliate and Lamp Components Division from 1978 to 1981; and senior associate and engagement manager at the management consulting firm of McKinsey & Co. from 1974 to 1978.

Hightower is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, the board of directors of the Southern California Center for Non-profit Management and the board of visitors of Shaw University and a 1985 recipient of a National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) Distinguished Alumni Citation.

FLORETTA DUKES MCKENZIE graduated from Howard University in 1957 with a master's degree in history. She is currently superintendent of D. C. Public Schools, having served in that position since 1981. Born in Lakeland, Fla., she grew up in Washington and earned a bachelor's degree from D. C. Teachers College and a doctoral degree in education from George Washington University.

She joined the D. C. public school system as a teacher in 1960 and then held several administrative positions before being named acting superintendent in

1973. Later that year, she was appointed deputy superintendent in charge of educational programs and services. From 1974 to 1979, she worked in the Montgomery County (Md.) public school system, serving as deputy superintendent from 1978 to 1979. She was with the U. S. Department of Education from 1979 to 1981, rising to the position of deputy assistant secretary for the Office of School Improvement. She also became the first woman to serve as deputy commissioner of education.

H. PATRICK SWYGERT graduated from Howard University in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in history and earned the juris doctor degree *cum laude* in 1968, also from Howard. After law school, he worked as a law clerk for Judge William H. Hastie in Philadelphia and later went on to become a member of the faculty of the Temple University School of Law from 1972 to 1977. From 1977 to 1980, he worked in government, serving as general counsel to the U.S. Civil Service Commission and as special counsel to the Merit Systems Protection Board.

In 1980, Swygert returned to Temple where he was appointed special counsel to the president of the university. He also rejoined the faculty of Temple's law school, where he continues as a professor of law. He became vice president for university administration in 1982. □