

# New Directions

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## Notes

Editorial Staff

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# From the Editors Notebook Staff Notes

## 2 Charter Day '79

It was that time of year again. More than a thousand alumni and friends of the university gathered for a lavish Charter Day Dinner at the Sheraton-Park Hotel to celebrate the 112th anniversary of Howard University.

The event on March 1 was significant in more than one way. Besides the observance of the university's birth, it was a major fund-raising campaign of the year, and also a time to recognize a select group of alumni for their accomplishments in the fields of history, law, and literature.

Supporters of the university contributed \$100 each to make this year's dinner the most successful since the event was first inaugurated in 1943. The total contribution realized this year exceeds \$100,000.

Indeed, it was a rewarding experience for each of the guests and for the university as well.

The 1979 Alumni Achievement Awards went to:

JOHN W. BLASSINGAME, professor of history at Yale University. He was recognized for his work in the field of Afro-American life and history.

CHRISTOPHER F. EDLEY, executive director of the United Negro College Fund, Inc. He was recognized for his work in law and public service.

TONI MORRISON, senior editor at Random House. She was recognized for her work in the field of literature and creative writing.

On March 2, the university's traditional Charter Day Convocation took place in Cramton Auditorium with an address by Samuel D. Proctor, senior minister of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City.

Here again, three more individuals were awarded honorary degrees—including the speaker who received the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Lionel L. Hampton, whose fame as a jazz artist has reached many corners of the world, received the Degree of Doctor of Music.

The Degree of Doctor of Laws (posthumously) was received by Mrs. Cilan B. Powell on behalf of her late husband, who before his death in 1977 had left his mark as a successful physician, publisher and businessman.

### The Howard Museum

Elsewhere in this edition, there is a story and pictures on the new museum which opened on the campus of the university in February.

It is a modest beginning, but one which shows a great promise for the future.

Granted that the task of collecting, preserving and documenting the riches of our culture is never a simple undertaking, the work of the early pioneers of the museum project and their farsightedness should give us a cause to appreciate. And those individuals who came after them to carry on the work to a stage of fruition have given us a cause to celebrate. Let the museum grow!

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