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Notes

Editorial Staff

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2 Charter Day 1981

Howard University commemorated its 114th anniversary with the traditional Charter Day Convocation in Cramton Auditorium on March 2, with President James E. Cheek presiding.

The formal ceremony, which lasted for more than an hour, was broadcast live by the university-owned radio station WHUR-FM. A video recording of the entire program was aired later that evening over Channel 32, the university's new television station, WHMM.

Dr. Charles Shelby Rooks, president of the Chicago Theological Seminary, was the speaker this year. In his message, "The Dream of Black Folk—1981," he said:

"I speak of dreams today precisely because Black folk face such coldly bleak prospects in this historical moment. The national economy is in precarious health. Black people suffer and die as a result. Unemployment, already too high, seems certain to increase. Public education in our cities is on the brink of disaster. Black political power is divided and unsteady and weak. The Klan stalks the back roads again, and some are convinced the second Reconstruction has begun. In such a time as this, surely it is foolish to think impossible dreams. Yet, without a dream, the most fragile hope is un nourished in our breasts. And, without hope, surely the people will die! The time has come to speak of dreams again! . . .

"I am convinced that Black folk still share a dream today, a dream that has never changed. It is a dream of freedom *with justice*—the compelling, irresistible hope that some day in this fair land—not some other place—we shall be truly free."

As customary during such occasions, the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters was conferred upon the guest orator.

The previous evening, at the Charter Day Dinner, five illustrious alumni of the university were presented with Alumni Awards for Distinguished Postgraduate Achievement. They are:

ARIS TEE ALLEN, a member of the Maryland Senate and a medical practitioner, was recognized for his achievements in medicine and public service.

DAVID CLYDE DRISKELL, artist, art historian and chairman of the Department of Art at the University of Maryland, was recognized for his accomplishments in art and education.

ISAAC THOMAS GILLAM IV, director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Hugh L. Dryden Flight Research Center, was honored for his distinct contributions in space science and engineering.

JULIA COOPERMACK, a civil libertarian and judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, was recognized for her outstanding contributions in law and public service.

JOHN CLAY SMITH, JR., a lawyer now serving as commissioner on the United States Equal Opportunity Commission, was cited for his work in law and social reform.

More than 1,500 persons, including alumni, students, friends of the university, diplomats and corporate representatives attended the dinner, which in recent years has become a grand social event.

Congratulations!

Hats off to the Bison Basketball team for capturing the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference tournament. The Bison defeated North Carolina A&T 66-63 and became the first team to represent the MEAC in the NCAA national tournament. □

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