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NEWSFILE

The university's 1984 outstanding faculty and unit awards were presented to six individuals and two units at a special ceremony April 24.

The six initial recipients of plaques, citations and \$1000 each are:

Dr. Clive O. Callender, director of the university's Transplant Center and professor in the Department of Surgery; Dr. William M. Jackson, professor in the Department of Chemistry; Dr. Melvin E. Jenkins, chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health; Dr. Verle E. Headings, professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, College of Medicine; Dr. Lenneal J. Henderson, professor in the School of Business and Public Administration and Dr. Orlando L. Taylor, professor in the School of Communications.

The two units cited this year for outstanding work are: The Center for Academic Reinforcement, directed by Dr. Imogene G. Robinson, and the Department of Community Dentistry of the College of Dentistry, chaired by Dr. Harold B. Martin. The unit award for each is \$5000.



May was an awards month for W. Montague Cobb, distinguished professor of anatomy emeritus. Colby College of Waterville, Maine, awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science on the 20th, and on the 21st he was the speaker at the Fifth Annual Awards Day

program at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

The citation by Colby College read, in part, as follows:

William Montague Cobb: Distinguished anatomist, insightful author, respected teacher, staunch defender of the downtrodden, your presence on the faculty from 1928-1973 opened new vistas for Howard University and its students. Graduate of a small liberal arts college, Amherst, and holder of both an M.D. and a Ph.D., your books, *Discriminatory Patterns in Community Health Services*, *Progress and Portents of the Negro in Medicine*, *Medical Care and the Plight of the Negro*, *What is Man?* and *Human Archives*, as well as your leadership of the National Medical Committee of the NAACP, helped to open America's eyes to the egregious violation of Afro-Americans' civil rights and the shameful neglect of medical care of this segment of America's population. Your phrase, "Old clothes to Sam," and its allegory of the second-hand hospitals available to Black Americans, has become part of the national idiom. You are not only a practitioner and reformer; you are also a scholar and writer and have served as president of the Washington Society of the History of Medicine and of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. You have been for over twenty-eight years the editor of the *Journal of the National Medical Association*. Your stand against injustice and your entire life exemplifies a commitment to openness, tolerance, understanding and compassion for others. Most of your career has been centered at your beloved Howard, but you have also taught at Harvard, Stanford, the Universities of Washington, Maryland and Arkansas, as well as a number of other distinguished schools. Former member of the White House Conference on Health, recipient of numerous awards, Colby salutes you as a lifetime opponent of racism, intolerance and discrimination, and for the compassion you have shown in helping to heal the human body and mind.



Howard Professor Emeritus

Sterling A. Brown is now the Poet Laureate of the District of Columbia. The distinguished literary figure was named to this high and honorable position in May during the opening of the Second Annual Larry Neal Writers' Conference, sponsored by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and the Humanities.

"Sterling Brown's cultural contributions touched a broad range of people, places and years. He is perhaps best known as a writer. *Southern Road*, a collection of his poetry, was one of the first works to honor the implicit dignity of Afro-American folklore. It has been a source of inspiration to countless poets. His critical works, *The Negro in American Fiction* and *Negro Poetry and Drama*, are still considered seminal studies of Afro-American literature 47 years after publication. As an editor of *Negro Caravan*, he generously promoted the talents of Afro-American writers," read a passage from program literature prepared by the arts commission.

A native Washingtonian, Brown has held, although unofficially, the D.C. poet laureate title for most of his professional career. Nonetheless, he said he was "deeply moved" by the honor bestowed on him by his home city. He then went on to read four selections from his work, among them the classic poem "Strong Men" from his volume of *Collected Poems*, published in 1980 by Harper and Row and reissued in paperback a year ago.

*They dragged you from
homeland*

*They chained you in coffles,
They huddled you spoon-
fashion in filthy hatches,
They sold you to give a few
gentlemen ease . . .*

*You sang:
Keep a-inchin' along
Lak a po' inch worm . . .
They put hammers in your
hands
And said - Drive so much before
sundown.*

*You sang:
Ain't no hammah
In dis lan',
Strikes lak mine, bebbie,
Strikes lak mine . . .
The strong men keep a-comin',
on
Gittin' stronger . . .*

Howard University sociologist

Joyce Ladner was recently appointed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia to head a 34-member panel that was formed to look into ways of reducing teen-age pregnancies in the District.

Last year, teen-age pregnancies in the District were estimated at 18.8 percent of all pregnancies, a figure lower than the high 19.7 percent of the previous year. This year the figure is expected to dip to approximately 17.8 percent, according to published reports.

Janet R. Griffin, an English instructor at the university's Center for Academic Reinforcement and a frequent contributor to this magazine, has just completed a second book of poems which is being marketed at \$8 a copy.

The collection in this work, "Amphony" Volume II, extends "into the world of the mind and into the feelings of the heart," writes the author.

After her first volume was published two years ago, she wrote:

"Because you have published my poems in *New Directions*, I have gained the strength, the courage, and the confidence to publish my own volume of poems . . ."

Laughter, music, dance and

comedy filled the stage in Cramton Auditorium when the 1920s musical review "Black Birds" premiered before a large audience on March 14.

An appreciative group of all ages was taken back in a time capsule to the 1920s and 1930s when Harlem was in its cultural heyday. That exciting period was brought to life on a colorful stage by a talented group of artists under the able direction of Professor Geoffrey W. Newman.

The 1984 version of "Black Birds" by composer/conductor/arranger Howard A. Roberts featured Sandra Bowie, a versatile actress/singer who has participated in other Howard University productions, in the leading role as "Star" and Larry Marshall, whose credits include leading roles in Broadway productions. It was sponsored by the College of Fine Arts, the Department of Drama and the University-Wide Cultural Committee.



"Black Birds" (written by Lew Leslie) was first produced in 1926, "featuring Florence Mills, popular Black performer of the times as 'Star'," according to drama historian C.W. Singleton. "Subsequent productions came in 1928 and 1929-30 in America as well as in London and Paris. The show received 'rave' reviews both here and in Europe."

New ground was broken as a result of a three-day conference on minority involvement in development in the Third World which was held at Howard during March.

Educators, diplomats, representatives from the church and non-profit organizations were among the 200 or so conferees whose collective aim was to explore ways of assisting the developing world, particularly Africa.

Diverse ideas and useful information changed hands, which resulted in a call for the establishment of a permanent secretariat — perhaps at Howard University — through which organizations or individuals could channel their expertise.

One of the conference organizers, C. Payne Lucas of Africare, indicated that the call to establish a secretariat may be answered before the end of the summer. And the conference coordinator, Marie Davis Gadsden, noted: "... the hour has come for collective development action. Time for minority involvement is now or never."

One of the participants, Tanzanian Ambassador Benjamin W. Mkapa, echoed the sentiments of his colleagues when he said: "In the global economic fabric, the people of sub-Saharan Africa are a minority. The feeling of disadvantage and great odds that comes from being on the periphery is something we share with minorities in this country. . . ."

Africare, the U.S. Agency for International Development and Howard's Department of International Affairs were the sponsors of the conference.

The Marriott Corporation, well known for its highly successful hotel chain, has signed an agreement with the university in which the corporation will provide professional assistance in the operation of The Howard Inn.

According to an announcement in May by university President James E. Cheek, the hotel chain will provide training and supervisory assistance to enable the Howard Inn to realize its full potential. "I believe this development is a major step forward in pursuit of the goals we had in mind when we purchased the hotel," he said.

The Howard Inn is a full-service 150-room hotel that serves as a

training laboratory for students enrolled in the hotel management program in the School of Business and Public Administration. Formerly the Harambee House, it was purchased by the university in 1981.

"We look forward to providing sound management for the Howard Inn, and in assisting in the training of students there," noted Terry Harwood, vice president for Marriott's Corporate Education and Conference Center division.



Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, the director general of UNESCO, came to Howard in April to speak up for the Paris-based international organization.

UNESCO, an agency of the United Nations, is involved in global projects involving education, culture, science and communication, among other pursuits.

"Modern communication," M'Bow said, "has developed tremendously to such an extent that no people anywhere can make the claim that they are isolated from the rest of the world. . . . We are living through a historical period, for there has never before been such an international interdependence on communication as there is today."

Through such linkages of communication, the public has learned of the Reagan administration's disapproval of the way the organization is run, and subsequent announcements that the United States will withdraw from UNESCO at the end of this year. If this decision is not reversed during coming months, UNESCO stands to lose one fourth of its annual budget,

which represents the yearly contribution by the United States.

When asked to comment on the impact of the U.S. decision, M'Bow indicated that he would not like to see the U.S. sever its ties with UNESCO. If it does, however, he said the agency will have to find alternative sources for funds or reduce funding its various programs to a level dictated by new financial circumstances. "The member states [181] will have to decide," M'Bow explained.

During his talk in French, which was simultaneously translated into English, M'Bow stressed cooperation among nations as the key to alleviating a myriad of cultural, social and educational concerns of member nations through standards acceptable by all.

Despite criticism by some Western nations that the agency, under his direction since 1974, has tilted toward programs in the less developed nations of the world, M'Bow said that he himself does not set policy and that all of UNESCO's projects, programs and budget are adopted by the consensus of the membership.

UNESCO was organized in 1946, after the turmoil of the last world war, for the common welfare of humanity and to promote understanding among mankind. The United States was one of the handful of nations responsible for its establishment.

Like its parent organization, the United Nations, Third World nations have the upper hand and the votes to tip the scale against Western interests. Hence the voices of dissent coming from the West. M'Bow himself is an African from Senegal. He was first elected to head the agency in 1974 and re-elected in 1980 for a second term of seven years. He joined UNESCO in 1970 as assistant director general for education. Prior to that he served his country as the minister of education, among other duties.

His visit to the campus was sponsored by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the Department of International Affairs. □