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Commencement '84

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Commencement



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COMMENCEMENT '84

At Howard's 116th commencement exercises on May 12, about 2,000 students were awarded graduate and undergraduate degrees or advanced certificates.

It was a rare rainy day but the weather hardly dampened the joyous spirits of the 1984 Class, their relatives and friends.

Chicago television personality Max Robinson, the commencement speaker, brightened the occasion by noting the virtues of rain during special celebrations in the context of the African tradition. "We can bemoan the fact that Howard never has rain [during comment], and this is peculiar and awful. Or we could understand that rain — by all those African proverbs — is wonderful and productive and a good sign that the Class of 1984 will go forth and produce much." The sun did shine mid-way through the ceremony and for the rest of the day.

Honorary degrees were conferred on Max Robinson and five other nationally renown individuals, Katherine Dunham, distinguished anthropologist, choreographer and dancer; Arthur P. Davis, university professor of English at Howard; W. Lincoln Hawkins, a technical consultant to Bell Laboratories in New Jersey; Sir William Arthur Lewis, James S. McDonnell distinguished university professor of economics and international affairs at Princeton University and a Nobel laureate; and Robert L. White, president

of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees.

A veteran of 19 years in broadcast journalism, Max Robinson has been with WMAQ-TV in Chicago since March. He previously was anchorman with ABC-TV's "World News Tonight," working in that capacity since 1978. Prior to joining ABC, he was anchor of the "Eyewitness News" program at WTOP-TV in Washington from 1969 to 1978, and was a correspondent and early morning news anchor at WRC-TV in Washington from 1966 to 1969. He began his career at WTOP-TV in 1965 as a studio director and reporter.

Robinson has received two national and two regional Emmy Awards, the Capitol Press Club Journalist of the Year Award, several honorary degrees, the Harvard Foundation Special Award and numerous other honors. He served as journalist-in-residence at the College of William and Mary in 1981 and taught communicative arts and television production at the old Federal City College [now the University of the District of Columbia] in Washington from 1968 to 1972. He is a native of Richmond, Va., and attended Oberlin College.

Katherine Dunham, termed by critics as the "mighty matriarch of American contemporary dance," has enjoyed a long and successful career as a dancer/anthropologist/choreographer/actress/author/educator. With a Ph.D. in anthropology

from the University of Chicago, Dunham was the first to explore the anthropological and ethnological significance of dance, with particular emphasis on the dance rituals of the cultures of Africa and the Caribbean.

She began dancing at the age of eight, producing and performing in her own show at her local church in Joliet, Ill. Her first dance troupe, Ballet Negre, began performing professionally in 1931, and in 1939 she appeared in and also choreographed one of the first hour-long television entertainment programs.

The debut of the Katherine Dunham Dance Theatre Company in New York in 1940 created a sensation which led to more than 25 brilliant years of international touring for the troupe.

Dunham has choreographed and appeared in a number of films, including "Stormy Weather," "Cabin in the Sky," "The Bible," "Green Mansions," "Mambo" and "Cashbah." She is the founder of the Katherine Dunham School of Research and Theater Arts in New York and is director of the Performing Arts Training Center at Southern Illinois University in East St. Louis, Ill. She resides in East St. Louis, and maintains a second residence in Leclerc, Haiti.

Arthur P. Davis has been a professor of English at Howard University since 1944. A distinguished author, he has written or edited many major works, including "The Negro Caravan," edited with Sterling Brown and Ulysses Lee (1941); "Isaac Watts: His Life and Works" (1943); "Cavalcade: Negro American Writers from 1760 to the Present," edited with Saunders Redding (1971) and "From the Dark



Katherine Dunham



Arthur P. Davis



W. Lincoln Hawkins

Tower: Afro-American Writers, 1900-1960" (1974). He is also the author of innumerable scholarly articles, book reviews and journalistic articles, including the popular column for the Norfolk *Journal and Guide* newspaper called "With a Grain of Salt," which he wrote from 1933 to 1950.

Born in Hampton, Va., he attended high school at Hampton Institute, spent his freshman year of college at Howard University and went on to receive the A.B. in 1927 (with Phi Beta Kappa honors), the A.M. in 1929 and the Ph.D. in 1942, all from Columbia University. He was an instructor of English at North Carolina College in Durham from 1927 to 1928 and was a professor of English at Virginia Union University from 1929 to 1944.

W. Lincoln Hawkins has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as an engineer and scientist. He has 14 patents related to the protection of plastics against oxidation, and has authored several major publications on polymers. Currently a consultant with Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, he was research director at the Plastics Institute of America from 1976 to 1983 and worked on the research staff of Bell Laboratories from 1942 to 1976, a tenure which culminated in the position of assistant director of the chemical research laboratory which he held from 1974 to 1976.

He has also served as a consultant to corporations such as Mallinckrodt, P.P. & G Industries, Johnson & Johnson, W. R. Grace & Co. and Allied Chemical. Additionally, he has held adjunct faculty positions with Seton Hall University, Poly-

technic Institute of New York and the Western Electric Corporate Education Center. He has received numerous honors for work in his profession and for community service, including the Distinguished Alumni Award from Howard University in 1944.

A native of Washington, D.C., Hawkins received his bachelor's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1932, the master of science degree from Howard University in 1934 and the Ph.D. degree from McGill University in 1938. He did post-doctoral studies at Columbia University from 1941 to 1942.

Sir (William) Arthur Lewis was the joint winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics in 1979, the fourth Black person to win the Nobel. He has held the position of professor at Princeton since 1968, and in 1982 was named the James S. McDonnell distinguished university professor of economics and international affairs. His career as an educator has also included the posts of principal of University College, vice chancellor at the University of the West Indies from 1958 to 1963, Stanley Jevons professor of political economy at the University of Manchester in England from 1948 to 1958, and lecturer at the University of London from 1938 to 1948.

He has also served as an economist in a number of posts in the United Kingdom, the United Nations and the West Indies. He was also a director with the Central Bank of Jamaica and president of the Caribbean Development Bank. The recipient of numerous honorary degrees from universities throughout the world, Sir Arthur has authored several books, of

which the most recent is: "Growth and Fluctuations 1870-1913" (1978).

Born in St. Lucia, the West Indies, Sir Arthur was educated in local schools, and at the University of London, where he received his Ph.D. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1963.

Robert L. White is the president of the oldest and largest independent Black-led federal industrial union in the United States — the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees (NAPFE). He joined the U.S. Post Office in 1943 as a letter carrier and soon became active in NAPFE. In 1953, he was elected president of the Washington, D.C., local and retained that position until 1970 when he was elected to his current position. While serving as local president, White also was a National Alliance District Two labor relations officer for 17 years. Under White's tenure, NAPFE, through a \$1 million grant, established the Institute for Labor Management Relations at Howard University.

Also, White is active with the NAACP's Special Contribution Fund, Air Atlanta, TransAfrica, the Industrial Bank of Washington, the National Coalition on Black Voter Participation and the Voter Education Project. He has been listed by *Ebony* as one of the "100 influential Black Americans" for 14 consecutive years.

He attended Howard University — where he currently holds membership on the International Sponsors Council — from 1934 to 1938. During his tenure at Howard, he was an outstanding athlete, lettering in football, basketball and track. He currently resides in Washington, D.C. □



Sir William Arthur Lewis



Robert L. White



Max Robinson