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NEWSFILE



Howard University has embarked on a rare multi-million dollar project overseas, funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development, AID.

The five-year project carries an initial price tag of \$6.5 million and represents the largest cooperative program the agency has ever entered into with a historically Black institution of higher education. It is targeted at the improvement of health-care services and related training programs in the African nation of Malawi.

"This endeavor is completely consonant with the university's mission" of sharing its expertise and knowledge to improve the quality of life, noted Howard's President James E. Cheek on the day the agreement was signed, July 31.

The university, for example, will assist Malawi in the training and improvement of its health-care services by sending to the southeast African nation nurse-midwife-educators, community health nurse-educators and specialists in public health, academic evaluation, curriculum development and health education.

Jay F. Morris, AID deputy administrator, described the agreement as "another historical step forward."

"Over the years," he elaborated, "men and women from Howard University have played an important role in helping AID carry out its humanitarian and economic assistance programs in developing countries. They have effectively worked on health, agriculture, rural development and many other programs in Africa."

Professor Richard P. Thornell, who joined the faculty of the School of Law in 1976 after having served with the New York-based national law firm of Rosenman, Colin, Freund, Lewis and Cohen, has moved up to the position of general counsel at the university.

With the Office of General Counsel now relocated to the main campus, he promises to infuse new blood in it and reshape the legal department to make it among the best in the country.

For starters, he said he will forge a healthy alliance with the School of Law, whereby the expertise and advice of key members of the law faculty will be utilized as the need arises. To further enhance the work of the office, and to assist in the legal training of future lawyers, selected third-year law students will work as legal interns in the Office of the General Counsel beginning with the current academic year.

Thornell, who at one time headed the Peace Corps' Africa Regional Office, is a magna cum laude/Phi Beta Kappa honors graduate from Fisk University. He holds a law degree from Yale Law School and a Master of Public Affairs degree from Princeton University.

The first of what is likely to become an annual conference on the continuing crisis in the Horn of Africa took place on Howard University's campus on Saturday, August 25, under the sponsorship of

the African Studies and Research Program.

The one-day event attracted about 300 participants, most of them representing the area's diverse groups — the Amharas, the Eritreans, the Tigreans, the Oromos and the Somalis. They listened, asked questions and gave approval/or disapproval to the mix of messages coming from the podium.

As has been the case during past conferences focusing on this crisis-ridden part of East Africa, at times the exchange between members of the audience and some panelists bordered on emotionalism, with a sprinkling of arrogance.

But as one panelist observed during a late afternoon session, it was now time for all parties who are truly interested in peace for the region to move from nationalistic rhetoric, chart a new course, and deal with the crisis in the Horn of Africa on human terms. In other words: judicious political solution instead of devastating military adventures that to date have resulted in enormous bloodshed and millions of uprooted refugees.



The plight of African refugees was among the concerns addressed at the session. Other topics included the historical roots of the crisis, the various resistance movements, and the current state of affairs.

The following paragraphs prepared by the organizers of the conference give a brief assessment of the state of the malignant crisis

that continues to consume the Horn of Africa:

"For some 23 years now, an armed conflict has been raging in this sub-region, with tragic consequences to lives and devastation of property. The largest number of refugees in Africa are from the Horn. The internationalization of the conflict, with more and deeper foreign intervention, has aggravated the situation, as the international community (including the UN and the OAU) watch helplessly. With military solutions imposed to solve political problems, the crisis has been intensified, increasing the level of violence tenfold since 1977.

"The aim of this conference [was] to define and explain the main elements of the continuing conflict, in terms of the various issues of contention and the forces aligned behind the issues with a historical perspective, current ramifications and future implications in view. The conference [was] designed to elicit dialogue among concerned individuals and groups, with a view to helping turn peoples' minds towards just and peaceful solutions. It should be clear to everyone that military solutions are no answer to political problems, particularly when, as in the Horn of Africa, people are prepared to pay the ultimate sacrifice for their cause.

"It is time that the options for political solutions are explored. But such a creative effort at lasting solutions requires, as a precondition, an openness of mind, a readiness to talk and listen, and above all, an appreciation of what is (or are) at stake from all sides."

Panelists came from such institutions as Rutgers University, Boston University, George Mason University, Hobart and Smith College, and from as far away as Cambridge and Oxford Universities in England.

"By all accounts, the conference was a success," noted Professor Bereket Habte Selassie of the African Studies Program, one of the key organizers of the day's event.

There were warm embraces, joyous greetings and intense recollections of shared legal battles on behalf of the poor as some 60 former fellows of the Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellowship Program held their first reunion, August 24 and 25, at the Howard University School of Law.

Administered by the law school and funded by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), the program enables recent law school graduates to spend one or two years delivering legal services to the poor in LSC-funded neighborhood law offices throughout the U.S., as well as in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Micronesia. The program — named for a pioneering advocate of legal services for the poor — was originated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1967 and transferred to Howard two years later.

Specifically, the reunion consisted of an opening night reception and a day-long program featuring a panel on the past, present and future of the Reggie program, and small group sessions aimed at developing strategies for ensuring the program's continuing support. All this was capped by a dinner with a keynote address by Jean Camper Cahn, the former co-dean of the Antioch School of Law, who was founder and first director of the Office of Economic Opportunity's (OEO's) National Legal Service Program and whose own example inspired many talented young law graduates to focus their training and service on the needs of the poor.

In welcoming remarks, reunion coordinator Jesse Pennington, a former Mississippi Reggie who later went on to direct a legal services program in the state and helped design a legal system for Micronesia, observed that the Reggie reunion "was a long time coming." "Since 1967," he said, "Reggies have had and continue to have a substantial and beneficial impact on the delivery of legal services to the poor." He noted that there are about 2,500 graduates of the program and that the reunion effort

had resulted in identifying and locating about 1,700.

In the panel discussion, Alan W. Houseman, a former Michigan Reggie who now directs the Center for Social Welfare Policy and Law in Washington, D.C., traced the Reggie Program's early history. The program originated as a division within OEO in the heady days of the War on Poverty and it was viewed as the means to achieve three major goals, he observed. Those goals were: "to be a catalytic agent bringing aggressive attorneys into communities to push for legal reform; to recruit 'the best and the brightest' young lawyers to go into legal services work; and to create a network of substantive advocates for the legal rights of the poor."

Glenn Carr, one of the first Reggies in the nation and the first director of the program after it was moved to Howard, recalled how that shift in headquarters came to be. He spoke of young activist minority lawyers who formed a "Black and Brown Caucus" to pressure the OEO to transfer the Reggie Program to a Black institution. Given Howard's long tradition of training lawyers to represent the disadvantaged and its national reputation as the think tank of the civil rights movement, the university seemed the natural first choice. The caucus used a variety of tactics — from lobbying to sit-ins — to effectively make its voice heard.

The reunion mood turned somber when John W. Davis, the program's current executive director, spoke of the program's present status. "This year is critical," he said, citing cutbacks in funds and staff the previous year, a contract stalemate between Howard and the LSC, and what he sees as a general "hostility" toward what the program represents. "When the Reggie Program started, the people involved saw themselves as part of the civil rights movement," he remarked. "Now people can't even spell 'civil rights.' I think the question we need to address here is: Can a program like the Reggie Program survive in today's times?"

The testimony of Reggie alumni

that day seemed best summed up by Joy West, who is now an attorney with a prestigious Washington law firm: "We need to see the Reggie Program survive and move on."

Working in small groups, reunion participants hammered out a plan to formally establish and incorporate an alumni association to rally support for the program, assist in the recruitment of new Reggies and serve as a national network of individuals committed—still—to providing legal services for the poor.

Drug abuse in nearly all age

groups, particularly in inner-city communities, has become a health problem of enormous proportion, according to Dr. Alyce Gullattee, director of Howard University's Institute of Drug Abuse and Addiction. She made the observation at the second in a series of Newsmaker Breakfasts, sponsored by the Department of University Relations.

Adults as well as young children have become captives of the drug scene, with most of them cut off from gainful employment, education and a normal family life, noted Dr. Gullattee. "Drug abuse," she pointed out, "is probably the number one public health problem because of the vast number of people who are addicts and who may never seek help."

She accompanied her talk with color slides which graphically depicted the ugly results of drug abuse, including the deformed image of a baby abandoned by an addict mother.

According to Dr. Gullattee, a nationally recognized authority on drug abuse, a concerted effort needs to be undertaken by national funding agencies and local politicians to provide prompt treatment for those already victimized by drug abuse, and to prevent the spread of this epidemic. Also, community leaders as well as other concerned individuals need to get involved in educating the general public on the dangers of drugs, she said.

"We as a people cannot survive as long as substance abuse [at its

present level] continues," she emphasized.

The Newsmaker Breakfast series is designed "to bring together major news sources at Howard University and members of the news media to discuss topics of current importance," according to Barbara R. Tolerson, Community Relations and Special Events coordinator.

In June, Dr. Harriette McAdoo, acting dean of the School of Social Work, spoke at the first conference. Her topic was single parenting and teenage pregnancies.

The Howard University School of Education will soon send experts to Botswana, Haiti, Liberia, Niger, Somalia and Yemen to assist those countries in improving their educational systems.

The university recently received a \$4,726,483 subcontract from Florida State University to cover the cost of the project, which is expected to run through June 1989. The subcontract is part of a \$30 million grant to a consortium of American universities from the U.S. Agency for International Development. Besides Howard and Florida State, the consortium includes the State University of New York at Albany, Syracuse University, Pennsylvania State University and the Institute for International Research.

Dean Willie T. Howard of the university's School of Education serves as coordinator and director of the project at the university. Florida State University is the prime contractor with the funding agency.

According to Dean Howard, "the purpose of [the] contract is to improve the efficiency of education and training systems in selected developing countries, and to develop the capacity in those countries for education and human resource planning, implementation, evaluation and administration."

He indicated that some faculty members from Howard are scheduled "to go into Haiti, Yemen and Botswana for project work during [the] fall semester."



A new untramodern facility for the School of Business and Public Administration was dedicated at a formal ceremony on September 28, following the annual Opening Convocation, which marked the beginning of Howard University's 117th year.

H. Naylor Fitzhugh, retired vice president with Pepsico, Inc., the speaker at the dedication ceremony, said:

"The school, its faculty and graduates have a unique opportunity to do good while doing well." He also noted that the university has been providing commercial or business or marketing education since 1870, and credited the business school's current dean for his vision and leadership.

President James E. Cheek, who accepted the new building on behalf of Howard University, also paid tribute to the dean and to all others whose input provided substance for a dream that now is a reality.

Last March when the cornerstone was put in place, Dean Milton Wilson called that event "a significant step in our move from a converted warehouse" (on Sherman Avenue) to the towering new addition to the university's main campus.

The five-story brick and concrete building was constructed at a cost of \$13 million and is located directly across from Cramton Auditorium at the corner of Fairmont and Sixth Streets, N.W. It has an overall working space of 130,869 square feet. □