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NEWSFILE



The School of Law has a new dean. He is John T. Baker, a professor of law and once an associate dean at Indiana University's Law School in Bloomington.

The new dean, who earned his bachelor's degree from Fisk University in 1962, is a 1965 cum laude graduate of the Howard University School of Law. He replaced Dean Wiley A. Branton, who resigned in September, 1983, to pursue other interests. Professor Oliver Morse served as the acting dean of the school in the interim.

Before joining Indiana University in 1978, Dean Baker served Yale Law School as an associate professor for five years. Additionally, he has been a visiting professor at Georgetown, Rochester, San Diego, Minnesota and New York Universities.

His legal experience includes positions as general counsel and president of the New York Urban Coalition Venture Capital Corp., and as an associate of the law firm, Winthrop,

Stimson, Putnam & Roberts, in New York.

He is the author of numerous articles on corporations, contracts and civil rights, and has served as a consultant to the Ford Foundation, the Heritage Hall Development Corporation of New Haven, Conn., and the Taconic Foundation, in New York.

The legacy of Charles Hamilton Houston seemed very much alive at a program marking the unveiling of a bust of the pioneering lawyer who often has been called "The First Mr. Civil Rights." The program was held in the moot courtroom of the Howard University School of Law on May 9.

The handsome bronze sculpture, created by Randall J. Craig, Sr., is a gift to the school from its 1985 class.

In addition to Howard law school students, faculty and staff, the ceremony attracted a number of distinguished lawyers and jurists, among them Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Thurgood Marshall, a 1933 graduate of the school.

They came to pay tribute to the former vice dean of the School of Law (1930-35) and former special counsel of the NAACP (1935-40) who laid the groundwork for the 1954 school desegregation decision and other legal attacks on racial discrimination.

Speakers included James E. Cheek, president of the university; Genna Rae McNeil, author of "Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights" [see review in the July 1984 issue of *New Directions*]; Herbert O.



Reid, Sr., the school's Charles Hamilton Houston Distinguished Professor of Law; J. Clay Smith, Jr., Professor of law; Robert C. Warren, Jr., president of the 1985 class; Isiah Leggett, assistant dean of the law school; and Justice Marshall, whose unannounced appearance at the program was a delightful surprise to most in the audience.

President Cheek, characterizing the presentation of the sculpture as "an important occasion in the life of the law school," read a proclamation designating the day Charles Hamilton Houston Day on Howard's campuses.

Reid, who read a similar proclamation from the Mayor of the District of Columbia, called for "a renewed dedication and commitment to the unfinished work of Charles Hamilton Houston."

"We must pick up Charlie's mantle and rededicate ourselves to his legacy," he said. "We must dedicate ourselves to public service. If not that, what else?"

In a warm, anecdotal style, Marshall spoke of Hamilton as "a perfectionist" who "knew exactly where he was going," and as an individual who embodied "decency" and who displayed "fear of no man."

The sculpture of Houston shows the legal pioneer seeming to look out towards the future as he holds a thick volume entitled "Constitutional Law" in his hands. It has been placed outside the entrance to the chapel on the first floor of Houston Hall on the university's west campus.

Professor Orlando L. Taylor has been named to serve as the acting dean of the School of Communications following the resignation of Lionel C. Barrow, the school's dean since 1975, on June 30.

Taylor, who joined the faculty of Howard University in 1973, is a distinguished scholar-teacher who has concentrated primarily on communications disorders and language sciences. He chaired the school's Department of Communications Arts and Sciences from 1975 to 1980.

In 1984, he was among a group of distinguished Howard faculty members who received awards from the university for their outstanding work in the classroom and in research.

A permanent dean is expected to be appointed by the first of July next year.

Millard James (Jim) Watkins III, technical director since October 1984 of Howard University's Office of Satellite Communications, has been named acting general manager of the university's WHUR-FM



radio station, succeeding general manager Robert Taylor effective June 30.

Watkins was formerly the station's chief engineer, starting in 1971 when WHUR made its air debut. In 1979, he became assistant for mass media to the university's vice president for administration, and the following year was appointed director of operations and engineering for the university's then new WHMM-TV, Channel 32.

Prior to joining the university, Watkins worked for the American Broadcasting Company as an engineer.

The university's endowment campaign has received a gift of a quarter of a million dollars from David Packard and his wife, Lucile.

The gift by Packard, chairman of the board of Hewlett-Packard Company of Palo Alto, Calif., is the second substantial one for the endowment campaign this year. Early in March, Joe L. Allbritton, chairman of the board of the Riggs National

Bank, in Washington, D.C., and his wife, Barbara, made a \$250,000 donation to the campaign.

The university's endowment campaign, officially known as the Howard University New Direction Endowment Campaign, was launched late last year after the U.S. Congress appropriated \$2 million in matching funds.

South Africa, foreign policy and famine in Africa dominated the discussions at TransAfrica Forum's Fourth Annual Policy Conference which was held at Howard University on May 31.

"The issue of South Africa has moved students in ways that domestic issues didn't," said journalist/author Paula Giddings in her keynote address on "Blacks and Foreign Policy." She was of course referring to the current demonstrations across the country by concerned students bent on pressuring their universities to divest from American companies with South African business connections.

The campus demonstrations follow in the footsteps of other public demonstrations against apartheid that are being staged in several cities by the Free South Africa Movement. This crusade, which is getting larger and larger, was first launched last November 21 at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Giddings, a Howard alumna and author of a new book, "When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America," emphasized the value of a global vision on issues involving foreign policy. "Our work remains

undone unless we communicate, not only in the ideological sense but also on the personal sense," she said.

On the issue of famine and the worldwide food crisis, particularly in the Third World, panelist Cherri Waters, an assistant professor of political science at Howard University, said: "Except for a nuclear war, nothing threatens humanity more than hunger." She blamed the current devastating food shortages in many parts of Africa on poverty and underdevelopment, for the most part.

A second panelist, Djibril Diallo, chief of information of the United Nations Office of Emergency Operations in Africa, pointed out that millions of people are threatened by hunger in Africa and elsewhere. "Much of the attention has been focused on Ethiopia," he said. While "Ethiopia deserves whatever aid it gets, there are many more Ethiopians—for example, Chad, Mali, and Burkina Faso. It (drought) has been going on for 10 years or more in some parts of Africa."

The most critically affected countries in Africa, in addition to the three Diallo mentioned, are: Angola, Niger, Mauritania, Mozambique and Sudan. Those critically affected are: Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, according to the United Nations. (See International.)

On the political front, specifically U.S. support for the South African regime, Randall Robinson, executive director of TransAfrica, put things in perspective. "Apartheid is a ringing insult to every Black American in this country... A rebuke to Blacks



anywhere is a rebuke to Blacks everywhere," he said. He characterized the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" as a failure. Thus, a reassessment of the U.S. policy is in order.

"We (Free South Africa Movement) will hold up a mirror to America to look at itself," he said. "We are going to change the national policy of this country or die trying."

Change seems to be creeping up on South Africa. In a related event, the U.S. House of Representatives on June 6 overwhelmingly voted to curb future investment in South Africa by American companies now doing business there, new loans, the sale of computers to the apartheid regime and the sale in the U.S. of Kruggerrands, South Africa's gold coins. The House vote was 295 to 127. Earlier in the week, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee also adopted a similar but less far-reaching measure. Again, by a vote of 80-12, the full Senate reaffirmed the earlier action.

The South Africa bill now faces one last hurdle in the Senate. Although ardent critics of South Africa and the Reagan Administration's "constructive engagement" policy say even stronger measures than those the House bill calls for are needed, the bill represents a historic first in this country's changing mood against apartheid.

Rep. William H. Gray III (D-Pa.), a key sponsor of the House bill, said (in *The Washington Post*) the regime in South Africa is likely to face "even stronger measures" should it fail to change its ways.

Members of the Howard community turned out in full force to honor Col. Frederick Drew Gregory, the pilot of the April 26-May 6 flight of the space shuttle Challenger, at a June 4 reception at the Blackburn Center.

Among those in attendance were numerous members of the family of the late Dr. Charles Drew, the noted surgeon and former chief of staff and medical director of Freedmen's Hospital who pioneered in developing a method to store blood plasma. In 1944, Dr. Drew received the NAACP's Spingarn Medal for his contributions.

Gregory, a nephew of Dr. Drew, had taken the medal with him aboard the Challenger, which orbited the earth 110 times during its mission. At a brief ceremony at the Howard reception, he returned the medal to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, the permanent repository for Dr. Drew's memorabilia and papers.

On receiving the medal on behalf of the university, Michael Winston, vice president for academic affairs



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and former director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, noted that Gregory's Howard connection reaches far back into the university's past. The astronaut's great-grandfather, James Monroe Gregory (1849-1916), had graduated from the university's collegiate department in 1872, stayed on to become a tutor in Latin and mathematics, and in 1876 was appointed professor of Latin. He remained at Howard for more than 20 years before becoming the principal of an industrial school in New Jersey.

In his own remarks, Gregory stressed the importance of increasing the number of Black scientists and engineers in the nation. He had sounded a similar theme when he spoke to high school students during his well-publicized visit to his native city. As he told a Washington Post reporter, "I'm not going to go out and tell them [students] to become astronauts. I'm just trying to fill in the pie so when they make [career] decisions, they'll consider the entire pie instead of a couple of slices."

The Divinity School has received a \$344,000 grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., to research and publish a directory of Black churches in the United States. Dean Lawrence N. Jones is the principal investigator for the three-year project.

The school also recently received a \$50,000 gift from New York philanthropist Clementine Miller

Tangeman to help defray the costs of renovating the newly named Benjamin E. Mays Hall, which will be the headquarters for the school when it moves to its new campus, a 22-acre expanse in northeast Washington, formerly the Holy Name College of the Franciscan Order of Friars. That renovation is currently in progress.

The unique experience of Black soldiers who fought in World War II is the focus of an oral history project being undertaken by the university's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

In a special ceremony in the Blackburn Center on March 22, transcripts of the memoirs of six veterans of the Army's 368th Infantry Regiment and the Tuskegee Airmen who had seen action in Italy were installed in the oral history collection. Donated at the same time was the diary of the late Col. Wendell T. Derricks, commander of the 597th Field Artillery unit, who was described by H. Minton Francis, director of Howard's Office of University Planning, as "a consummate combat leader." Francis, a 1944 graduate of West Point, is a retired Army colonel.

At the ceremony, he paid special tribute to retired Army Col. Major Clark of Tulsa, Okla., a student of Black military history, for preserving the diary and making it accessible to others through the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. "We must be brought to the realization that an accurately documented Afro-American military history is much too important to be left to white military historians," he emphasized.

Indeed, if there was one theme that seemed to emerge strongest at the installation ceremony it was the need to document, preserve and disseminate information on the often-forgotten contributions made by Blacks in the nation's armed forces. This is especially true for the veterans of World War II who first "had to fight for the right to die for our country," an irony noted by retired Army Brig. Gen. George B. Price, and then were confined to segregated

units where they had to contend not only with the enemy but with prejudice, discrimination and racism.

As Elinor DesVerney Sinnette, who heads the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center's oral history department, observed at the ceremony: "Far too many of today's young Black men and women believe our struggles began with the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s. Afro-American military personnel should be made aware of the trials and triumphs of those Black persons who marched before."

Howard University Hospital employees celebrated its 10th birthday April 12 and 13 with cake and ice cream, while an article in the April 25 issue of the hospital's biweekly newsletter, Probe, presented an overview of the hospital's operations today. An excerpt from that article:

"The [Howard University] medical complex includes 499 inpatient beds, 24-hour emergency medical and dental care, over 70 outpatient clinics, four satellite health centers, a sickle cell disease center, transplant center, renal dialysis center, an Institute of Family Life and Child Development Center, and a cancer center. In addition, the hospital serves as the primary teaching facility for the Howard University Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Allied Health Sciences."

The hospital's predecessor, Freedmen's Hospital, dates back to the 1860s.

Dr. Roland Scott, director of the Howard University Center for Sickle Cell Disease, has received this year's Jacobi Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Section on Pediatrics of the American Medical Association.

He was presented with the award at an April 16 meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. Scott is the first Black pediatrician to receive the prestigious award which singles out American pediatricians who have made significant contributions in the area of

child health and pediatrics education. It is named for Dr. Abraham Jacobi, who is considered the father of pediatrics.

The College of Fine Arts sponsored a symposium on "The Artist-Scholar Faces the Twenty-first Century" on March 20 and 21 as part of its annual week-long Spring Festival.

One of the symposium panels — "Arts Administration Today" — seemed to combine elements of a pep rally for the arts, a career strategy session for those planning to involve themselves in arts administration and a confessional on the sometimes thwarted or rechanneled dreams of the artist. The speakers were all Howard alumni.

Grace Bradford, supervising director of music for the D.C. Board of Education, told the future arts teachers and others sitting before her: "We have to get people to think of art and music teachers as basic to the curriculum — not as special teachers — because if you're 'special,' you're not considered 'essential.'"

Teixera Nash, a painter who formerly chaired the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, offered some emphatic advice: "Every one of you is going to have to be an arts administrator because every one of you has to take charge of your career. A lot of artists think of themselves as somehow being in a sacred religion, that they don't have to sell. That's not so. You have a product or service to sell."

Later, she added: "What you do should be fun. If not, go into something else. Don't buy that old adage about the suffering, starving artist in his garret. Art — and arts administration — should be fun."

"You can't be a great prima donna sitting in your office," warned Odell Hobbs, chairman of the music department at Virginia Union University, in discussing the role of the arts administrator. "You have to constantly demonstrate the need for the arts and music."

Beverly Kelch, a drama teacher in a Philadelphia arts high school who is a member of Howard's Board of

Trustees, gave a pointed reminder: "The U.S. government spends more on one MX missile than it spends on the arts. The arts are important to us, but you [students] are in a false atmosphere. The world does not share our view of the importance of the arts."

She also addressed those students who say "I'm going to be a star." "I'm not telling you to lose your dream," she said. "But have something to fall back on."

Poignantly now, she spoke of how she, too, had once wanted to be "a star," but that her life circumstances didn't work out that way. "I understand it is not all that easy now," she remarked. "I also see that there are a lot of successes you can have in the arts without being a quote star." She cited as example the role she had played in helping to steer successful Universal Studios producer Charles Johnson towards a career in the arts. "Lots of people have heard of Charles Johnson," she said. "But who's heard of Beverly Kelch? Someone has to teach the Charles Johnsons of this world."

Her words seemed to strike a special emotional chord within members of the Fine Arts faculty in the audience.

Five faculty members and one department were honored by the university for outstanding achievement at an awards ceremony held at the Blackburn Center on April 29.

Two faculty members received the Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Award: Faustine Jones-Wilson, a professor in the School of Education and editor of the *Journal of Negro Education*, and William E. Matory, director of the Department of Continuing Medical Education in the College of Medicine.

Two other faculty members received the Outstanding Research Award: Edward W. Hawthorne, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and a pioneering researcher in cardiovascular physiology, and Oswaldo Castro, associate director of the Howard Center for Sickle Cell Disease.

Receiving the Distinguished Service Award in the division of health affairs was James M. Tyson, assistant dean for student affairs in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences.

The unit award for Outstanding Achievement was earned by the Department of Clinical Dentistry in the College of Dentistry, chaired by John B. Boyd.

Each awardee received a plaque and a citation. In addition, the five individual faculty members received \$1,000 each; the unit awardee \$5,000.

This is the fifth year of the awards program which was initiated by Howard University President James E. Cheek to provide recognition and enhancement of the teaching program and to encourage faculty development. Selections are made by a faculty-student committee appointed by President Cheek.

The College of Medicine is one of four predominantly Black medical schools selected by the AT&T Foundation to receive \$50,000 this year. The funds are for the creation of a permanent endowment for medical scholarships.

The AT&T Foundation will repeat the grant in 1986, provided each of the four institutions is able to match its initial \$50,000 grant on a two-to-one basis.

The other three institutions are: The Drew Postgraduate Medical School in Los Angeles, Meharry Medical College in Nashville, and Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. □