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Commencement '83

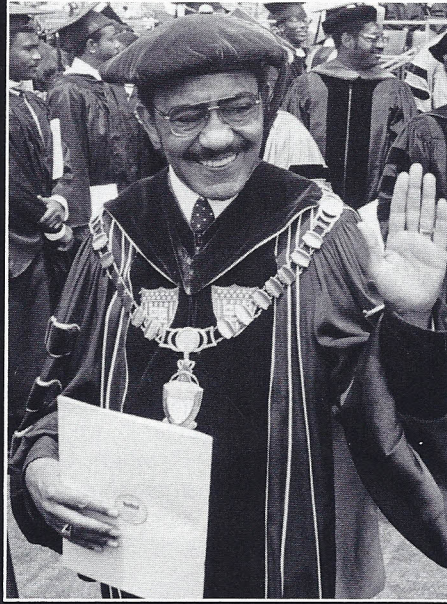
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Commencement '83



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARVIN JONES

Approximately 2,000 students received undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees at the University's 115th commencement exercises on May 14. Honorary degrees were conferred on former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the commencement speaker; along with Coy G. Eklund, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States; Pearl Bailey, entertainer and star of several Broadway hits, films and television series; James Van DerZee, world-renowned photographer; William Greene, M.D., a Washington, D.C., physician, and Luther H. Foster, president emeritus of Tuskegee Institute.

Chisholm served in the U.S. Congress from 1969 to 1982, representing the 12th Congressional District in Brooklyn, N.Y. She earned recognition for her outspoken independence in Congress, working for minorities and the poor. She served on the Rules Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee.

In 1972, Chisholm conducted a nationwide campaign for the Democratic Party nomination for president, the first

Black woman to seek that office. In 1982, she chose not to seek reelection to the Congress and currently writes, teaches, and lectures around the nation. She received the honorary degree of doctor of laws from the university.

Coy Eklund joined Equitable in 1938, and, except for a period of service in the Army during World War II in which he advanced to the rank of lieutenant colonel, he has been with the company ever since. Progressing through the ranks, he was named senior vice president in 1964, to the board of directors in 1965, executive vice president in 1969, president in 1973 and chief executive officer in 1975.

A native of Minnesota, Eklund is a graduate of Michigan State University. He is a director of several institutions and organizations and is chairman of the board of the National Urban League. He also received the honorary degree of doctor of laws.

Pearl Bailey began her show business career working the clubs of the coal regions of Pennsylvania for \$15 a week and tips. Moving on to the nightclubs of New York, she made her legitimate stage

debut in "St. Louis Woman" in 1946—going on to star in several Broadway shows. Her "Hello Dolly," starting in 1967, was the longest running Broadway company of the show, having run for 716 performances.

Since her appearance in "Variety Girl" in 1947, she has also starred in several films, including "St. Louis Blues" and "Porgy and Bess." She is a successful author of five books, starting with "The Raw Pearl" in 1968 to her latest "Hurry Up, America, and Spit." Her television series, "The Pearl Bailey Show," was carried by ABC-TV from 1970-71. In 1975 and 1976, she served as special adviser to the U.S. Mission at the United Nations. Howard bestowed on her the honorary degree of doctor of music.

James Van DerZee, who was born in 1886, opened a photography studio on 135th Street in Harlem in 1918 and called it the Guarantee Photo Studio, thus launching his professional photography career. Later the name changed to GGG Studio, and his customers included the great and not-so-great of Harlem for the next 50 years. Marcus Garvey, heavyweight champion Jack Johnson, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Florence Mills and





Adam C. Powell Sr. were among his customers. The result of his life's work was a collection of photographs which, beginning in 1969 with the Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibition called "Harlem on My Mind," was finally recognized nationally and internationally as some of the finest art in the field of photography.

Subsequently, the James Van DerZee Institute in Harlem was founded to preserve the Van DerZee collection, and exhibits of Van DerZee photos have traveled throughout the country. A number of books of Van DerZee photos have been published since 1968. Van DerZee received the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters. [*Van DerZee died after a heart attack less than 24 hours following the ceremony.*]

William Henry Greene, who died in September 1983, practiced medicine in Washington, D. C., since his graduation from Howard's College of Medicine in 1924. In addition to his long and distinguished career in medicine, a commitment to public service was evidenced through his membership in many civic, religious and other service organizations.

He served on the Howard University Board of Trustees and was a trustee emeritus at the time of his death. He was a life member of both the NAACP and the Washington Urban League; he was a member of the board of directors of the United Black Fund and a charter member of the Pigskin Club.

A native of Jefferson County, Ala., he grew up in Oklahoma. He was an active member and held several positions in the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and the Chi Delta Mu Medical fraternity. As an alumnus of Howard, he was involved in numerous alumni organizational and fundraising efforts and helped to establish scholarship funds and loan programs at the University. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities.

Luther H. Foster is currently the chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Robert R. Moton Memorial Institute. He was president of Tuskegee Institute from 1953 to 1981. A life-long career in education started at Howard University where he was budget officer from 1936 to 1940. From 1941 to 1953 he was business manager at Tuskegee. He

earned the Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1951, the M.B.A. from Harvard in 1936, and bachelor's degrees from Virginia State and Hampton Institute in 1932 and 1934, respectively.

He holds numerous honorary degrees from universities throughout the country and Africa, and has served on the boards of several organizations in both the corporate and public sectors. He is a member of the Overseas Development Council, and a director or trustee of the United Negro College Fund, Norton Simon, Inc., Sears Roebuck & Co., and the March of Dimes/Birth Defects Foundation. He received the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters. □

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