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## Newsfile

Editorial Staff

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## NEWSFILE

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**The university** marked its 121st anniversary with a two-day celebration on March 1 and 2.

The traditional Charter Day Dinner took place the evening of March 1 at one of Washington's newest downtown hotels, the Grant Hyatt. Approximately 1,500 celebrants enjoyed the festive \$200-a-plate affair.

The March 1 festivities were followed, on March 2, by a formal Charter Day Convocation in Cramton Auditorium on the main campus. The guest speaker was Del. Walter E. Fauntroy, D-D.C.

At the dinner, six alumni of Howard University who have made outstanding contributions in their chosen careers, were presented with the 1988 alumni achievement awards. They are: William V. Bell, George T. Butler, A. Michael Espy, Henry C. Gregory III, Clara J. McLaughlin and Jack E. White.

William V. Bell is a 1961 graduate with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. He is a senior engineer with the IBM Corporation in Research Triangle Park, N.C., near Durham. Besides his research work, Bell has taken up active roles in politics, serving as a member of the Durham Board of County Commissioners since 1972. In 1982, he was elected the first Black chairman of the board.

George T. Butler is a 1954 graduate of Howard with a bachelor of music education degree. He has served in leadership roles in the music business for more than three decades. Currently, he is a vice president and executive producer with CBS Records. He had been affiliated with United Art-

ists Records and Blue Note Records. Among the artists he has worked with are such nationally and internationally acclaimed musicians as Donald Byrd, Bobbi Humphrey, Shirley Bassey and Wynton Marsalis.

A. Michael Espy is a 1975 graduate with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. He made history in 1986 when he won election as the first Black congressman from Mississippi since Reconstruction. He is currently serving on the House Agriculture and Budget Committees and the Select Committee on Hunger. Before he was chosen to represent his district, the Second Congressional District, Espy had served as Mississippi's assistant secretary of state and as assistant attorney general in charge of the State Consumer Protection Division.

Henry C. Gregory III, is a 1966 graduate of Howard with a bachelor of arts degree in classics. He is pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, one of the oldest churches in Washington, with a congregation of approximately 5,600 and 90 internal organizations that offer a wide range of services to the community. A fourth generation clergyman, he is the fifth pastor of the 125-year-old church. Besides his leadership of the church, Gregory is active in such organizations as the Washington Metropolitan Operation PUSH Board, which he chairs; the Budget Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches, and the boards of the Washington Urban League and the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

Clara J. McLaughlin is a 1972 graduate who earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism with honors. She is founder, chairman and executive officer of a commercial television station in Texas, the first Black woman in the nation to achieve this distinction. Her station, KLMG-TV in Longview and Tyler, which began broadcasting almost four years ago, is a CBS affiliate. She is the author of *The*

*Black Parent's Handbook: A Guide to Healthy Pregnancy, Birth and Child Care*; a life member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and a member of the Africare board of directors, among other organizations.

Jack E. White is a 1944 graduate of the College of Medicine. He made his mark as a medical scientist and teacher at Howard, from which he retired in 1986. But he is perhaps best known for his persistent efforts to win support for cancer research at Howard. Those efforts resulted in a \$5.8 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to build what is today the nationally recognized Howard University Cancer Center. He has, for many years, served as mentor to a number of medical practitioners who have become specialists in cancer research and surgery. Before retiring, he served Howard as professor and chairman of the College of Medicine's Department of Oncology, professor in the graduate school, director of the Cancer Clinic Teaching Project and director of the Howard University Cancer Center.

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**A grant in excess of \$1.1 million** has been made to the university by the Pew Charitable Trusts of Philadelphia to support programs in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Divinity.

The graduate school's share of the \$1,170,000 Pew gift is \$770,000. The money has been earmarked to support the development of a program in cellular and molecular biology over a four-year period.

Divinity received two smaller grants of \$150,000 and \$250,000. The money will be applied toward the renovation of the school's library and to fund a two-year program in urban ministry, respectively.

The Pew Charitable Trusts were established between 1948 and 1979 by the children of Joseph N. Pew, the founder of Sun Oil Company.

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**Russell L. Miller Jr.**, dean of the College of Medicine, has been



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elevated to the post of vice president for health affairs, effective this month.

Miller's appointment fills a position that had been vacant for four months, following the promotion of Carlton P. Alexis to the position of executive vice president of the university. (See January *New Directions*).

Miller, himself a 1965 graduate of the College of Medicine, became its dean in 1979. In his new position, he oversees Howard University Hospital, the colleges of medicine, dentistry, nursing, allied health sciences, pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences, as well as the student health center.

**"Washington, Save Your Children!"** That was the alarming headline that ran above a January 24 commentary in *The Washington Post* by Howard sociologist Joyce Ladner on an alarming subject: the escalation of violent youth crime in low-income Black neighborhoods in the nation's capital. Some excerpts from the article:

"Like many District mothers and fathers I have talked to, I have reached my boiling point and I say enough is enough. We cannot continue to allow young men to maim, to kill and to be killed. Their lives are worth far more than the jackets and radios that often spark these fatal fights — even if some of the young people no longer believe this to be so . . .

"The sanctity of human life has always held special value for a people who held on to life with such tenacity through the long, hard years of slavery . . . But the old values regarding the sanctity of human life have clashed head-on with a new culture in which life is up for grabs."

A week earlier, Howard criminologist Gwynne Peirson addressed the same subject in a newsmaker breakfast hosted by the Department of University Relations.

As for the whys of the escalation of violent youth crime, he cited the terrible impact of drugs on impoverished Black communities. "Many young people find they can sell drugs relatively safely and make more money than they could ever see in a lifetime," he said. "For them, the possible risk of getting arrested is relatively small, the rewards great. A young fellow with little stake in society is willing to take risks."

"What are we going to do about violent youth crime?" he asked. "It's likely we won't do anything — but throw rhetoric at the problems. What could we do? Develop a massive comprehensive program to upgrade education, job skills, housing . . ." Pessimistically, he added, "It is too late for this generation [of young people caught up in the web of violence], maybe we can help the next."

In a somewhat less pessimistic response to the "What can we do?" question, Ladner wrote: "There are no simple and magical solutions to this complex problem. But there are many proven ways for dealing with important parts of it."

Among these, she cited recruiting young Black men to form neighborhood watch programs; setting up programs aimed at preventing high school students from dropping out of school; establishing after-school learning and social centers for youths manned by caring adults in churches, schools, recreation centers; teaching young people through some formal mechanism to handle con-

flict and stress without resorting to violence.

"But first and foremost," she wrote, "there must be a call to arms to restore order in the streets and to make them safe again. If we do not act now, the cost in human life and potential will be incalculable."

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**Bill Cosby and his wife, Camille**, have donated \$1.3 million to Howard and three other historically Black universities: Central State; Florida A&M; and Shaw. Checks of \$325,000 each were presented to the presidents of the four institutions at a dinner at the Cosbys' New York home last December.

The gift for Howard was specifically designated for the School of Social Work.

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**Fern Hunt**, associate professor of mathematics, is one of 15 "Black Achievers in Science" featured in an exhibit of that title developed by the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

The 2,000-square-foot exhibit, funded by Citicorp, opened at the museum in February and is slated to begin a tour of other science museums around the country at the end of August.

Recognizing that "the low participation of Blacks in American science and technology is a serious problem for our country," the museum set three prime objectives for the exhibit:

1. To present the achievements of historical and contemporary Black scientists and engineers;
2. To increase public understanding of how institutions and social attitudes and policies have influenced the careers of Black scientists and engineers;
3. To make Black youths aware of science and engineering as desirable careers, and of steps necessary to attain them.

Hunt is one of the youngest contemporary scientists and one of the few women scientists highlighted in the exhibit. Her story is illustrated by biographical infor-

mation, a photograph and quotes about her career, as well as by a notebook filled with her calculations and a paper published in a journal. The paper, which deals with the seemingly obscure topic of oscillations in vole populations [a vole is a small rodent], shows "an application of non-linear mathematics to a problem in biology," she explains.

Mathematics that describes patterns in nature is one of Hunt's special research interests.

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### Howard has been designated

one of the nation's best "bargain colleges" by the *College Board Planner*, a monthly newsletter on college financial aid strategies. It shares this designation with Miami University of Ohio, Rutgers University, the State University of New York at Albany and Texas Christian University.

In its end-of-the-month November issue, the consumer-oriented newsletter based its "bargain college" designation on the following criteria:

- A school's excellence in virtually every degree program it offers;
- A good national reputation among educators and employers;
- Costs considerably less than comparable colleges or universities;
- A high percentage of returning sophomores, which gives a good indication of student satisfaction with their schools, according to the newsletter.

Whereas the average charge for tuition, room and board at America's private universities is \$11,870 a year, according to a recent College Board study, the comparable figure for Howard is closer to \$7000. (The university's tuition for undergraduates in the current academic year is \$3,900, while room and board is approximately \$3,000.)

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**"Being a human rights activist** in the Ronald Reagan era is not much different from being a civil rights activist. It's mostly bad

news. But within the bad news is also a glimmer of good news."

So spoke Patricia Derian, first assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs during the Carter administration, in remarks presented at the Eleventh Annual Merze Tate Seminar in Diplomatic History.

The Reagan administration, in her view, has lost its credibility in the area of human rights because it has only focused on violations of these rights in the Soviet Union and Soviet bloc countries, ignoring those in the West.

The glimmer of good news, she said, is that during the Reagan years non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights have had a chance to become stronger and better organized. She cites as examples of this the Free South Africa Movement led by Randall Robinson and Amnesty International.

Looking ahead, she observed, "The human rights community is in good shape to help the next administration. The idea of human rights is firmly implanted in our political life, the idea that we can't teach children about democracy and how we love liberty and act differently."

The annual Merze Tate Seminar is named for a distinguished professor emerita of history at Howard who is the author of numerous books and articles on such topics as disarmament, diplomacy in the Pacific, and the development of railways in Africa.

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**Doug Williams** came to Howard fresh from his Super Bowl XXII victory and scored big with the campus community.

An enthusiastic crowd gathered in Burr Gymnasium on February 4 to hear the star Washington quarterback deliver a message of hope, laced with Black pride and appreciation for his teammates and Washington's loyal fans.

As his audience chanted his name, "Doug, Doug, Doug," over and over again, the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XXII ap-



peared quite at home on Howard's campus.

And when athletic director William Moultrie bestowed the title of "honorary Bison" on Williams, the star quarterback reminded all that he was a Howardite already. "You don't have to make me a member of Howard. I am already a member," he said. "I am a product of all Black universities and colleges," he added as those in the gymnasium answered his deep sincerity and positive attitude with sustained cheer.

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**Scientists** concerned with improving the quality of semiconductors, the crucial building blocks of high technology, converged at Howard in December for the first International Conference on Amorphous and Crystalline Silicon Carbide and Related Materials.

The conference provided an international forum for the discussion and exchange of ideas on the current status of research aimed at developing silicon carbide semiconductors and circuits. Such research has been spurred by the need to create high temperature, corrosion resistant semiconductors for a wide range of applications, among them, nuclear power plants and automobile and plane components.

The principal organizers of the conference were faculty members Gary L. Harris of Howard and Cary Yang of Santa Clara University. ■