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NEWSFILE

Walter H. Annenberg, president of Triangle Publications, publishers of the highly successful *TV Guide* and *Seventeen* magazines and the *Daily Racing Form* newspaper, has donated \$2 million to the School of Communications.

The gift will be used to establish an endowed chair and scholarships for students.

The appointee to the Walter H. Annenberg Distinguished Chair in Communications, as it will be called, will teach one course a semester, conduct a national symposium on a communications topic and will be expected to maintain a record of scholarship and professional activity that garners national visibility. He or she will hold the prestigious post for one to three years.

The new scholarship program will enable the school to select up to five talented undergraduate students a year to pursue studies in broadcasting, broadcast journalism, print journalism or a related mass communications discipline. Called Annenberg Honors Fellows, they will be required to take an honors class or seminar each year, write a thesis on a subject relevant to their major and participate in an internship — while receiving \$10,000 a year to cover tuition, fees, books and other expenses.

A former U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain (1974-78), Annenberg is also the founder of the Annenberg School of Communications graduate programs, based at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Southern California.

Among other recent gifts to the university are \$900,000 from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and software worth more than \$900,000 from Applied Data Research Inc. (ADR), a major producer of software for IBM main-frame computers.

The grant from the Bethesda, Md.-based Howard Hughes Medical Institute will help fund education and research programs in biological and related sciences for high school and college students, the purchase of scientific and computer equipment for these programs and faculty and administrative costs.

Howard is one of 44 academic institutions receiving grants totaling \$304 million.

According to institute president Purnell W. Choppin, the grants reflect the institute's goals "to support education related to biology and medicine in the broadest sense, and to ensure that the next generation of medical researchers have the best possible training."

The \$900,000-plus in software from ADR, is part of the Princeton, N.J.-based company's initiative to reward \$12 million in software over the next three years to some of the nation's major universities.

Along with the software, Howard will receive from ADR the full component of support and service that it provides for its customers. The university also will receive free curriculum consultation, training materials and instruction for faculty members at ADR's national learning centers.

A glowing tribute was paid to the late widow of one of the university's former top administrators at a June memorial ceremony in Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel on the main campus.

Michael R. Winston, vice president for academic affairs, said: "The extended academic community exemplified by Howard Uni-

versity is deeply saddened by the loss of Mrs. Blanche Wright Nelson," whose late husband served the university in many capacities, including that of professor, dean, and vice president.

"A part of the broader life of the university for more than sixty years," Winston continued, "her contributions to it went far beyond conventional dimensions of spousal support . . .

"While her late husband, Dr. William Stuart Nelson, had a plethora of university duties and unusually diverse intellectual interests, she also had her own agenda of concerns and commitments. Her ideas, and the activities that supported them, were particularly resonant in a progressive university environment in which respect for a tradition anchored an energetic but quiet campaign for global economic and social change."



At the 10th Annual Alain Locke Lecture sponsored by the philosophy department, Henry Louis Gates Jr. delivered an upbeat, frequently witty and ultimately stirring defense of the inclusion of works by minorities and women in the "canon," that body of literature viewed by a society to be of value.

Gates, who is professor of English, Africana Studies and Comparative Literature at Cornell University, has earned somewhat

of a reputation as a "boy wonder" in literary circles as a result of his own scholarly output and the honors that have come his way. He is editor of the "Schomburg Library of Nineteenth-Century Black Women Writers"; the author of such books as *Figures in Black: Words, Signs and the Racial Self* and *The Signifying Monkey: Towards a Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism* (all Oxford University Press); a recipient of a MacArthur "genius" grant; fellowships from the Mellon, Rockefeller and Ford Foundations and a number of research grants.

In his well-attended lecture, Gates lambasted those who seek a "nostalgic return" to what he termed "the antebellum aesthetic position, where men were men, and men were white, when critics were white men, and when women and persons of color were voiceless, faceless servants and laborers, pouring tea and filling brandy snifters in the board rooms of old boys' clubs."

As an alternative to this "antebellum aesthetic position," he proposed this:

"We must redefine the notion of the canon, and indeed of the humanities themselves, by defining these to be not merely the important writings of white men, but the important writings of women and men, whether their province be Africa or Asia, Europe or the Middle East, the First World or the Third World.

"Perhaps the most unfortunate and politically dangerous pun under which the writings of non-white thinkers have suffered is that tyrannical connection between the words humanity on one hand and the humanities on the other, for the humanities as these have been taught in the West have embodied only the thought of the thinkers of the West and not the thought of the great cultures of the world."

Earlier, as Gates had looked out at the audience in the auditorium of the School of Business and Public Administration and acknowledged a number of old friends,

he remarked, "I love coming to Howard. It's like walking squarely into the Black intellectual tradition."

Alain Locke, for whom the philosophy department's lecture series is named, was, of course, an exemplar of that tradition. Teacher, philosopher, author, critic, intellectual gadfly, he is perhaps best known for his seminal influence on the New Negro [or "Harlem"] Renaissance. At Howard, his teaching career spanned 41 years.

The \$48-million Howard Plaza housing project currently under construction dramatically testifies to the university's commitment to minority business. The total value of contracts awarded to minority firms on the project is more than \$20 million.

The project also has made utilizing the skills of Howard alumni a high priority, notes project manager Edward W. Pinkard, himself a 1969 graduate of the university. The lead architectural firm responsible for the design — Bryant and Bryant of Washington, D.C. — is headed by Howard alumni Charles and Robert Bryant. One of the underwriting firms that handled the bond offering — Pryor, Govan, Counts and Co. of New York — includes Howard alumni Malcolm Pryor and Allen Counts, to take another example.

Future alumni, as well, have been involved in the project. Three students in the School of Engineering and another in the School of Architecture and Planning spent the past year working as part-time assistants to the project superintendent and engineers.

The Howard Plaza housing project, a twin-tower 797-unit apartment complex, will be the first new university housing to be built since Bethune Hall was constructed in the mid 1960s. It is designated primarily (but not exclusively) for graduate-level and married students.

Tracy Robinson Newell and James O'Barr this May became the first graduates of a master's degree program in social work with displaced populations that is believed to be the first of its kind in the world.

"The program is designed to provide education, skills and career opportunities for students interested in working with refugees, victims of disasters, the homeless and other displaced groups — both in the United States and abroad," says Richard A. English, dean of the School of Social Work.

Adds Fariyal Ross-Sheriff, coordinator for the program: "What we are trying to do is help students to understand the process from uprooting to adaptation to a new way of life. The focus is on pluralism and not the melting pot approach."



Students graduating from the program, which was launched in 1986, are fortified not only by what they learn in the classroom and library but also by practical experience. Examples:

Newell has monitored the progress of youngsters in foster care for the D.C. Department of Human Services' Refugee Unaccompanied Minors Program and assisted a court-ordered monitoring committee charged with planning and coordinating activities for de-institutionalized mental patients.

O'Barr has worked in Washington with Vietnamese and Cambodian adolescents in a Lutheran Social Services program and coun-

seled young Salvadoran children at FAMILIA, a small private social services agency for Latino children and their families.

Newell, a former Howard law student, and O'Barr, a former teacher in Berkeley, Ca., tend to speak of their gravitation to social work as a "calling." As Newell puts it, "I feel that advocating for the disadvantaged and the voiceless is one of the most honorable things that one can do in life. And I want to be proud of what I do."



Howard filmmaker Edward Tim Lewis' "Serving Two Masters" was shown at the Sydney (Australia) Film Festival and the Newark (N.J.) Black Film Festival in June and the Athens (Ohio) International Film Festival in May. In April it had been given a special showing at Washington's Biograph theater as part of the New Age Film Festival and it is scheduled to return to the Biograph again from September 12-22.

The hour-long dramatic film juxtaposes the experience of two Black men — a troubled Episcopal priest who is now a homeless man roaming the streets preaching against injustice and an elegantly-clad up-and-coming executive who will do anything to please his white bosses, including defend his company's tacit support of South Africa's *apartheid* policy.

A chance encounter between the two men, who had been friends at some time in the distant past, serves as Lewis' dramatic device

to address some pressing societal issues and explore them from a socially conscious Black perspective. As Lewis explains it, "Homelessness is a metaphor that I am using for the experience of Black people in America. America has consistently rejected our conscience and our perspective. We have always struggled to change America's values, but in trying the irony is that in many cases we have taken on the morality of the very institutions we were trying to change."

Lewis, a lecturer in the School of Communications, is one of "The Auteurs of Howard," so-described in an April 14 *Washington Post* article of that title. As writer Carla Hall described Howard's resident filmmakers: "They are acutely aware of the enormous social and political power of film, having often seen it used to distort images of blacks in America, and they take very seriously the goal of correcting those distortions in their own films. Some of them would rather experiment with the filmmaking process than take a safe route to a sure result." [See also, "The Image Messengers: Filmmakers at Howard" in the April 1983 issue of *New Directions*.]

Carroll L. Miller, graduate professor of higher education and a former dean of the Graduate School (now the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences), had inspiring words for the 1988 Ph.D. graduates at a ceremony honoring their achievements.

He told them to "demonstrate your recognition of Howard's place in your life and assist your Alma Mater in several ways:"

- Identify and encourage minority youth to continue their education, especially through the graduate level.
- Maintain continuous contact with Howard, especially your department . . .
- Share your material goods so that others may follow in your footsteps.

Also, at the ceremony in the Blackburn Center, one scholarship — The Chief M.K.O. Abiola Fellowship — was awarded to Dominic Kwang Ntube, a graduate student from Cameroon, who is completing Ph.D. requirements in the African Studies and Research Program. The presentation was made by Sulayman S. Nyang, acting director of the African Studies program.

The 1988 Ph.D. Class of 76 is the largest since the first two doctoral degrees (in chemistry) were awarded 30 years ago. Last year, the university awarded 65 Ph.D. degrees.

A \$2.2 million five-year grant was recently awarded to the university by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, an agency of the U.S. Department of Education.

The first year's funding of \$439,090 will be applied toward the creation of a Research and Training Center, under the auspices of the university's Center for the Study of Handicapped Children and Youth.

The new unit will focus on addressing problems affecting economically disadvantaged disabled persons. Its activities will include efforts to increase employment among the disabled, an assessment of the technology available to the economically disadvantaged, research on attitudes that limit rehabilitation of disadvantaged individuals and the development of support systems for the disabled. □