

# New Directions

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## Newsfile

Editorial Staff

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**NEWSFILE**


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Howard. After completing his internship and residency, he joined the College of Medicine faculty in 1961, becoming a full professor in 1972.



**The fall semester saw new deans** at the helms of three of the university's academic units.

Charles Epps, Jr. is the new dean of the College of Medicine. He succeeds Russell L. Miller, Jr., who was appointed vice president for health affairs at the university last April.

William Anderson Sadler is the new dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He replaces Esther Ottley who had served as acting dean since the death of Edward W. Hawthorne.

Rosemary Knighton Harkins is the new dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences, replacing Delores A. Mounsey who had been acting dean since the resignation of Harley Flack.

Epps, a nationally recognized medical leader, served as chief of orthopedic surgery at Howard University Hospital and chief of the division of orthopedic surgery at the College of Medicine. He earned the bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude* in 1951, from Howard and the M.D. degree in 1955 also from



Sadler (above photo) came to Howard from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health where he was chief of the reproductive sciences branch. He had held a variety of positions at NICHD since 1972, among them those as a health scientist administrator of the population and reproduction branch and chief of that branch's Center for Population Research.

A native of Texas, he previously had been a biology professor and biology department chairman at Texas Southern University. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Southern and a Ph.D. in endocrinology from Purdue University.

Harkins, another Texas native, came to Howard from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center where she had been dean of its College of Allied Health, having previously been an associate dean, department chairman, faculty member and graduate assistant there. She holds two degrees from the University of Oklahoma, a master's and a Ph.D.

In Oklahoma, she also had been a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army reserves, serving at the rank of lieutenant colonel since 1984,



and had been active in the Oklahoma City YWCA, the Oklahoma City chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City.

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**The Alain Locke African Art Collection**, traditionally housed at the university, found new admirers when it was featured as part of the inaugural activities of the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta last summer. An exhibition of selected works from the collection ran from July 17 through September 6 through the collaborative efforts of Howard's art department and Atlanta's Hammonds House Galleries and Resource Center of African-American Art.

Kwaku Ofori-Ansa, an assistant professor in the art department and a specialist in African art, served as guest curator for the exhibition. (See Gallery.)

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**Some 300 young people** flocked to the main Howard campus last summer to participate in a variety of programs designed to provide academic enrichment, possible career directions—and just plain fun.

They studied journalism, broadcast production and communications arts at the School of Communications; architectural design graphics, elementary design and building science technology at the School of Architecture and Plan-

4 ning; acting, dance and music through the Children's Theater Workshop sponsored by the College of Fine Arts' drama department; French, through a special language immersion program sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts' romance languages department; health careers, through the College of Liberal Arts' Center for Preprofessional Education; and actuarial science through the School of Business and Public Administration's Center for Financial Services Education.

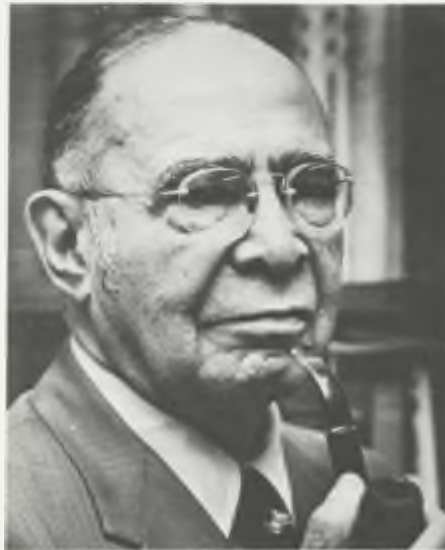
**A massive project** to compile and publish a directory of Afro-American churches is underway at the Howard University School of Divinity.

Entitled "The Howard University School of Divinity Yearbook of Afro-American Religious Bodies," it will provide information on the history, organizational structure and location of Black churches throughout the nation as well as listings of Black leaders, caucuses and conventions within predominantly white religious bodies.

Funding for the project comes from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

According to project director Wardell J. Payne, the directory aims "to increase and strengthen communication among Black church groups throughout the United States and will be routinely revised and updated to reflect the dynamic changes characterizing the growing Black church presence in the United States."

**A William Montague Cobb** Scholarship Fund has been established



at Amherst College to honor the pioneering teacher, anatomist, physical anthropologist, editor, writer, historian, medical, civic and civil rights leader. (See *New Directions*, April 1988.)

Cobb graduated from Amherst in 1925, then went on to earn an M.D. from Howard and a Ph.D. in anatomy and physical anthropology at Western Reserve University (now Case Western.) He was a full-time faculty member at Howard's College of Medicine for 41 years, 22 of those years serving as chairman of its anatomy department.

The endowed fund in Cobb's name will be used to support Amherst students eligible for financial aid. Preference will be given to "Black American students majoring in mathematics or the sciences who show promise for a future career in the medical or scientific professions," according to Kent W. Faerber, Amherst's secretary of alumni relations and development.

**Winnie Owens-Hart**, associate professor of art, spent the summer as a faculty research fellow at the Smithsonian Institution working on a project to chronicle the contributions of Black ceramicists to American ceramics.

The project will culminate in a 1992 exhibition, "Black on Brown," that the Everson Museum in Syracuse, N.Y., has agreed to host and which is then expected to travel around the country. Owens-Hart, who will be curator for the show, describes it as a "visual documentary history of African-American ceramics starting from the African roots and going up through the 20th century."

Before that, though, she is curating an exhibition for the National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts (NCECA) that will showcase the works of contemporary Black ceramicists. That exhibition is scheduled to be held next March at the Ephrates Gallery in Kansas City, Mo., in connection with the NCECA's annual convention.

Owens-Hart hopes both exhibitions—and the research that propels them—will erase any lingering perceptions that ceramics is an exclusively "white" art. "Even today I meet people and they say, 'What do you do?,' and I say, 'I teach ceramics,' and they look at me as if I'm crazy and say, 'Oh, I don't know any Blacks in ceramics,'" she remarks. "I think people say that out of genuine ignorance. So the whole point of what I'm trying to do is fill a void in the history of American ceramics."

Her research is continuing, as is her enthusiasm. "I'm getting a lot more information than anybody

anticipated when I started this project," she says. "There's a lot there if you dig for it."

(For more on Owens-Hart's own ceramic artistry, see "Winnie Owens: Messenger in Clay" in the October 1979 issue of *New Directions*.)

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**Charles L. Griswold Jr.**, associate professor of philosophy and acting chairman of the philosophy department, has received the Franklin J. Matchette Prize from the American Philosophical Association for his book *Self-Knowledge in Plato's Phaedrus* (Yale University Press, 1986, paperback edition, 1988.)

The prize, which includes a financial award of \$5,000, is given every two years for the best book in philosophy published by a person under the age of 40.

Griswold is also editor of the recently published *Platonic Writings, Platonic Readings* (Routledge, Chapman and Hall.)

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**Jack E. White**, who made his mark as a medical researcher, practitioner and teacher at Howard from 1951 until his retirement in 1986, died on June 2. He was 66.

In a kind of tragic irony, he succumbed to cancer, the disease that had been the primary focus of his professional life for many, many years. Indeed, he was instrumental in founding the Howard University Cancer Center, which today stands as a physical memorial to his efforts on behalf of cancer research, treatment and education. When the center's building was dedicated in 1980,



some on the Howard campus quickly dubbed it "the house that Jack built."

His legacy also resides in the patients he treated, the medical and graduate students he taught, the articles he co-authored, the messages he delivered before congressional committees and other groups on the disproportionate impact of cancer on Black Americans and the need to do something about it.

White attended Florida A&M University and in 1941 entered the Howard University College of Medicine, from which he graduated in 1944. In 1949 he was selected by Charles R. Drew, then chairman of Howard's department of surgery, to be trained in cancer surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. At the time, White was a surgical resident at Freedmen's Hospital (predecessor to Howard University Hospital).

Following training in New York,

White returned to Howard in 1951 as an assistant professor of surgery and later went on to hold such positions as chairman of the College of Medicine's oncology department, professor of surgery, professor in the graduate school, director of the Cancer Clinic and the Cancer Teaching Project and director of the Howard University Cancer Center, his last post at the university.

His other activities included serving as an advisor to cancer programs in Africa and the Caribbean, a member of the oncologic drug advisory panel to the Food and Drug Administration, a founding member of the American Society for Preventive Oncology and a diplomate of the American College of Surgeons.

For his outstanding contributions, especially for "the house that Jack built," White last March received an alumni achievement award from the university.

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**Procter & Gamble Co.** has awarded \$54,000 to the chemistry department to support a student pursuing a doctoral degree over a four-year period. "This grant represents a substantial investment and strong support of Howard's outstanding record for producing minority Ph.D. graduates," says Calvin A. Harper, personnel administrator at Procter & Gamble headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio. □