

New Directions

Volume 17 | Issue 3

Article 2

7-1-1990

newsfile

Editorial Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dh.howard.edu/newdirections>

Recommended Citation

Staff, Editorial (1990) "newsfile," *New Directions*: Vol. 17: Iss. 3, Article 2.

Available at: <https://dh.howard.edu/newdirections/vol17/iss3/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Directions* by an authorized editor of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact digitalservices@howard.edu.

NEWSFILE



Michael Manley, the prime minister of Jamaica, paid tribute to Howard for its role in helping train his countrymen at a speech he delivered in Cramton Auditorium the evening of May 3.

"A lot of the progress we have known in Jamaica can be traced to Howard University," he said, while calling for the enhancement of the bonds of friendship and cooperation.

The Manley speech was given before an audience of several hundred, including guests who trace their origins to Jamaica, and students, faculty and administrators of the university. It marked the first official welcome of a government leader by Howard President Franklyn G. Jenifer, who, in his introductory remarks, characterized Manley as "a longtime hero of mine."

In his speech, Manley touched on a number of points relative to his country's economic development and the changing political scene around the globe.

On the economic front, he called for regional integration of the economies of the countries of the Caribbean, and the inclusion of the broad masses of the people in that process.

On the political front, he urged the United States not to abandon its friends and neighbors while America shifts its foreign aid priorities to help newly emerging democracies in Eastern Europe. And he saluted the release of Nelson Mandela, whom he described as "one of the greatest figures of the 20th century," and called for the intensification of economic sanctions against South Africa "until all of South Africa is free."

The School of Business celebrated its 20th anniversary and honored its founding dean, Milton Wilson, on the occasion of his retirement from Howard at a special commemorative dinner on May 11 at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

In its 20 years under Wilson's stewardship, the School of Business has grown from an initial enrollment of 500 to nearly 2,200, making it the second largest among Howard's 18 schools and colleges. (The College of Liberal Arts is first.) And its academic programs, once housed in a former warehouse a block or so from the university's main campus, are now ensconced in the heart of the campus in a massive \$13 million building generously endowed with state-of-the-art equipment.

In these years, the school also has earned an enviable academic reputation. Its graduate program, which offers an M.B.A. in general management and another in health service administration, and its undergraduate program, which offers eight specializations, were both the first in the nation's capital to earn accreditation by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

Before becoming a Howard dean, Wilson had inaugurated

successful business programs at a number of other academic institutions, including Hampton University, Dillard University and Texas Southern University.



Hassan Minor Jr. has been named a special assistant to Howard President Franklyn G. Jenifer.

Minor comes to Howard from Boston where he headed The Partnership, Inc., a business-supported civic group concerned with improving race relations and enhancing the quality of life in the city.

In Boston, also, he was for six years a member of the Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education, serving as chairman of its Committee on Computers, Telecommunications and Information Systems; vice chairman of its Committee on Administration and Finance; chairman of its Committee on Academic Policy and Planning; and co-chairman of a 16-member task force it set up to study the administrative organization of the Massachusetts public higher education system.

Minor, a *summa cum laude* graduate of the University of Detroit, where he studied both engineering and history, holds master's and Ph.D. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a second master's degree from Brandeis University.



Lawrence A. Hill, who served the university for four decades before retiring in 1977, died this April at his home in Washington, D.C. He suffered from Parkinson's disease.

On and off campus, he is remembered by numerous individuals and organizations as the unofficial ambassador of his alma mater as a result of his work in the alumni and public liaison areas. Those he escorted around the university included such historical figures as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Jackie Robinson and Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

His last position at the university was that of guest-university relations officer. Before that, he had been associate director of the Department of Alumni Affairs, and special services officer. His first job at the university, upon his graduation in 1937, was as a circulation assistant at Founders Library.

The ninth session of the Howard University Press Book Publishing Institute attracted 19 participants from a variety of backgrounds but with a singular purpose: to learn more about the ins and outs of book publishing, an area in which minorities traditionally have been underrepresented.

This year's opening session on May 30 was keyed by E. H.

Phillips, executive director of the Association of American University Presses. In his delightful but serious remarks, he touched on future trends in the publishing industry, including new technological developments that will transform its structure. The session concluded with a special graduation ceremony for 17 students on June 29, featuring Irving S. Hamer Jr., president of Globe Publishing Company, as speaker.

The five-week Publishing Institute is an "important part of the many activities of the Howard University Press," in the words of Avis A. Taylor, program administrator.



Eleanor Holmes Norton, professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center, delivered the Inaugural Patricia Roberts Harris Lecture in Public Affairs at the university this spring.

Norton, a former chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and a current candidate for the D.C. delegate seat in Congress, spoke on the topic: "A New African American Agenda: The Unmet Challenge." An excerpt:

"Faced with spectacular changes in demographics, technology, the economy and our own condition, African Americans of every background confront a brand new set of tough questions.

"The new African American agenda will not appear in a dream, or roll on the lips of an inspirational leader. It will take sweat. It will require a labor of the intellect. It will demand all that the government owes us—and we must settle for nothing less from our country. But the most essential ingredient to the formation of a new agenda is our own determination and energy and brilliance that has sustained us through more than 350 of the most difficult years in this country."

The lecture was sponsored by the Patricia Roberts Harris Public Affairs Program, which was established in 1987 to honor the late Howard alumna, professor and dean who was known for her trailblazing public service career.

Recently, a new director has been appointed for the program.

He is Horace G. Dawson Jr., who recently has overseen a communications enhancement program for the School of Communications and brings to his new responsibilities experience in both education and diplomacy. He has held a variety of diplomatic posts in Uganda, Nigeria, Liberia, the Philippines and Botswana, serving as U.S. ambassador in the latter country from 1979-83.

He replaces the program's founding director, O. Rudolph Aggrey, also a former diplomat (Senegal, The Gambia, Romania, Nigeria, France and Zaire), who has moved on to become the full-time executive director of the Howard University Press.

Four members of the South African hit musical "Sarafina!" paid a visit to the campus in early May as guests of the College of Fine Arts.

A number of Howard students, as well as some faculty and administrators, were on hand to view a 10-minute video of the successful musical and chat with the actors during an informal luncheon.

The musical itself, which concluded a four-week Washington run at the John F. Kennedy

Center for the Performing Arts, celebrates the 1976 "resistance to and rebellion against apartheid" by schoolchildren in Soweto.

Mbongeni Ngema conceived, wrote (1984) and directs "Sarafina!"—with the musical collaboration of exiled South African jazz trumpeter Hugh Masekela.

Initially, the musical, with its powerful political message and energized young cast, performed for 20 months on Broadway, in New York City, before going on the road. Among other stops this time: New Haven, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Cleveland, Detroit and San Francisco.



Dean Harry G. Robinson III of the School of Architecture and Planning is the recent recipient of double honors for his contributions in architecture.

He has been invested as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), entitling him to use the prestigious designation "FAIA" after his name.

He also has received the AIA's annual Whitney M. Young Jr. Citation, named in honor of the late civil rights activist who had served as executive director of the National Urban League. Young had challenged the architectural profession to respond to the social issues of the day; and the award bearing his name is given to recognize an architect or architect-

naturally oriented organization that has demonstrated that social responsibility.

Robinson, a practicing architect and planner, has served as dean since 1979. His professional involvements include serving as secretary, National Council of Architectural Registration Boards; trustee, National Building Museum; director, Washington Chapter of the AIA; and member, D.C. Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects.

Howard University Hospital, faced with a \$12 million deficit this year and a projected \$25 million deficit for the next fiscal year, was forced in early June to lay off 281 of its employees.

The mounting deficits were fueled by the costs of caring for patients who lack health insurance and/or those who remain in the hospital when they're no longer sick because they have no other place to go.

For example, in the last fiscal year, providing care to "boarder babies," infants typically abandoned after birth by drug-abusing parents, has cost the hospital \$6.5 million. The hospital lost another \$28 million providing care to long-term adult patients, typically elderly people who are well enough to be discharged from the hospital, but who require nursing home care, which is in short supply in the District of Columbia.

Compounding the hospital's fiscal woes is the fact that although many indigent patients rely on Medicaid to pay for their health care, the District of Columbia government has not provided any inflation increase for its Medicaid compensation in the last three years. As a result, the hospital lost another \$6.5 million in covering the shortfall between the cost of care for these patients and the rate of compensation provided by D.C. Medicaid.

Compounding the hospital's fiscal woes even further is the large number of D.C. residents—about

one in six—who have no medical insurance whatsoever and rely on emergency rooms like Howard's as their primary entry point for health care services.

The layoffs are expected to result in savings of \$10.8 million for the next year.

In announcing the difficult decision to reduce the hospital's work force by about 9 percent [from 2,997 to 2,716], Howard President Franklyn G. Jenifer noted: "It is with deep regret that the university takes this action . . . however, we are acting decisively now to ensure the integrity of our programs and the continuity of our clinical objectives."

The reduction in force is not expected to have an impact on patient care in that most employees who directly interact with patients—such as licensed registered nurses and house staff physicians—have not been affected.

Addressing the larger question of how the hospital is responding to the problems which necessitated the layoffs, Howard Vice President for Health Affairs Russell L. Miller Jr. says this: "Our recovery involves becoming more cost-efficient in terms of patient care and, therefore, more competitive in our market, and becoming more cost-efficient in terms of our teaching and educational activities—while maintaining a high quality of care. That's our challenge.

"At the same time, we're trying to restructure ourselves to put in quality control measures to ensure that we offer high-quality care. We're meeting with the physicians in the Washington community to encourage them to refer patients to us and, if they do not have privileges, to seek them at our hospital and to use our hospital more."

He adds something else: "We want the District of Columbia government to pay for the services we're already delivering." □