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Commencement

Editorial Staff

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CBS news correspondent Ed Bradley was the commencement speaker at the 114th commencement exercises of Howard University on May 8 at 10 a.m. in Howard Stadium. Approximately 2,000 students received degrees.

Howard conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters on Bradley and Dr. Isabel B. Lindsay, dean emerita of the Howard School of Social Work. Eubie Blake, pianist and composer; Jessye Norman, internationally reknown concert and opera singer; and Sarah Vaughan, acclaimed for decades as a "jazz musician's singer," received the honorary degree of Doctor of Music.

Elliot L. Richardson, attorney at law and former U. S. cabinet officer and ambassador to Great Britain, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Scovel Richardson, a former member of the Howard board of trustees who died in March, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, posthumously.

Bradley is a co-editor of the CBS weekly newsmagazine "60 Minutes" and also an editor of the CBS daytime broadcast "Up To The Minute." He began work at the "60 Minutes" position in March 1981, after having served as a principal correspondent for "CBS Reports" since September 1978.

A native Pennsylvanian, Bradley received a B.S. degree in education from Cheyney State College.

Eubie Blake, one of the greatest exponents of ragtime, has spent more than three quarters of a century performing and composing in show business. Starting as a young pianist, he moved on through vaudeville, night clubs and musical comedies to television, concerts, jazz festivals and recordings.
A native of Baltimore, Blake composed his first piece of music, “Sounds of Africa,” in 1899 at the age of 16. Among his honors are membership in the Songwriters Hall of Fame, The Ellington Medal awarded by Yale University and the U.S. Army’s medal for Distinguished Civilian Service.

Inabel Lindsay served as a social services adviser to the assistant secretary for community field services, Department of Health, Education and Welfare from 1967 to 1970. She became the first dean of Howard’s School of Social Work in 1945, when the school was established as an independent body. Prior to that she served as director of the division of social work in the graduate school. She came to Howard in 1937 as a professor of social work.

A native of St. Joseph, Mo., Lindsay received a B.A. degree from Howard in 1920, graduating cum laude. She received an M.A. degree in social work from the University of Chicago in 1937 and the D.S.W. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1952.

Jessye Norman made her operatic debut in West Berlin in 1969 at the Deutsche Opera Berlin, in the role of Elisabeth in Tannhauser. She has performed in Europe, South America, Australia, as well as in the United States. Norman has appeared in numerous operas, including the Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni, and Aida.

A native of Augusta, Ga., Norman received the B.M. degree from Howard in 1967. She was awarded an M.M. degree by the University of Michigan in May 1980, retroactive to 1968.

Elliot Richardson is currently the office of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and McCloy, a New York law firm engaged in diversified domestic and international practice. Richardson has filled several cabinet posts and was secretary of defense in 1973; secretary of Health, Education and Welfare from 1970 to 1973; and attorney general briefly in 1973. He served as an ambassador-at-large and special representative of former President Carter to the Law of the Sea Conference from 1977 to 1980.

Sarah Vaughan was the recipient of Downbeat’s award for the best female singer annually from 1947 through 1952, as well as Metronome Magazine’s award from 1948 through 1953. During the 1970s she made guest appearances with the National Symphony and Los Angeles Philharmonic. She has toured South America, Africa, Australia, England and Japan. She was the recipient (six times) of Downbeat’s International Critics Poll for the best female singer in the world.

Scovel Richardson was a judge on the U.S. Court of International Trade. He received his LL.B. from Howard in 1937, and had served as a member of the university’s board of trustees since 1961 and chairman of the board from 1968 to 1970. A native of Nashville, Tenn., he resided in New Rochelle, N.Y.