Newsfile

Editorial Staff

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Melvin W. Jones Jr., director of the District of Columbia Department of Finance and Revenue, has joined Howard University as vice president for business and fiscal affairs and treasurer of the university.

Jones, whose appointment becomes effective on August 1, replaces Caspa L. Harris Jr., who retired at the end of June after many years of dedicated service to the university.

As the university’s chief financial officer, Jones will be responsible for Howard’s overall financial resources.

He formerly worked as a budget administrator for Iowa City, Iowa, and moved to Washington, D.C., in 1980 to work in fiscal management with the city government. He was later elevated to the post of comptroller/treasurer for the city and served in that position from 1983 until he became the head of the finance and revenue department in 1984.

New deans have been appointed to the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Continuing Education and the College of Nursing.

Wendy Glasgow Winters will head the College of Liberal Arts. She comes to Howard from Smith College where she served as professor of social work and was once dean of the college. Before joining Smith College in 1979, she taught at the University of Connecticut and at Yale University, where in 1975 she earned the Ph.D degree in sociology.

Eleanor I. Franklin, professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics in the College of Medicine at Howard University and also a professor in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and director of the Cardiovascular Research Laboratory at the College of Medicine, will head the School of Continuing Education. Prior to joining the Howard faculty in 1983, she taught in the school of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University). She earned the Ph.D degree in zoology with a major in endocrinology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1967.

Dorothy L. Powell will head the College of Nursing. She comes to Howard from Norfolk State University where she was the chairperson of its nursing department and an associate professor since 1976. Before that, she taught at Hampton Institute (now Hampton University), George Mason University and Thomas Nelson Community College. She earned the Ed.D degree in higher education administration from the College of William and Mary in 1983.

W. Lester Henry, the John B. Johnson professor of medicine at the College of Medicine, has received the highest honor of his profession — mastership — from the American College of Physicians (ACP).

He was one of 13 leading medical educators and investigators so honored by the 63,000-member national medical society of internists at its 68th annual scientific meeting in New Orleans.

Selected on the basis of personal character, eminence in practice or medical research, achievements in medicine or science and service to the society, those receiving the accolade are now entitled to use the letters MACP after their names in recognition of their accomplishments.

Henry, the first Black internist to be awarded mastership by the ACP, was specifically cited “for dedication and excellence in teaching and service.”

Members of the Howard community, in turn, marked the honor in several ways. The Department of Medicine hosted a tribute dinner for Henry as well as a lecture and symposium in his name. The dean of the college of Medicine, Russell L. Miller, hosted a reception for him during the ACP meeting.

Henry has taught at the College of Medicine since 1963 and in 1972 was appointed the John Beaugregard Johnson professor of medicine, an endowed chair named for an outstanding former Howard medical educator. He received his bachelor’s degree from Temple University in 1941 and his M.D. from Howard’s College of Medicine in 1941, ranking first in his class.

Dorothy Fosdick, a member of the Howard University Board of Trustees, is the editor of a new

Senator Jackson, who died in September 1983 at the age of 71, served in the U.S. Congress for 42 continuous years.

Editor Fosdick worked with the senator as a professional staff member from 1965 to 1968 and was an advisor on defense and foreign policy. She writes in the Introduction to the book:

"Throughout the latter half of Jackson's career in Congress, his conviction, independence and courage were most manifest on those difficult decisions in the 1960s and 1970s which determined the current course of this country's role in world affairs. These decisions dealt, for example, with the Vietnam War and its aftermath; detente; the Soviet 'peace' offensive against Western Europe; human rights; the crude oil shortage and the economic crises of the mid-'70s; Moscow's invasion and genocidal policies in Afghanistan; Soviet adventurism in Asia, Africa and Latin America; the role of the intelligence community; strategic and conventional defense policy; the opening to China; and arms control negotiations."

Recent grants received by the university include $750,000 from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., $150,000 from the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, $100,000 from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and $50,000 from The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.

The grant from the Lilly Endowment was awarded to the School of Divinity for capital projects and faculty improvement. It represents the latest installment of many years of support by Lilly and comes at a particularly propitious time in the school's development: its move to an impressive new campus.

The Equitable grant goes to the Center for Insurance Education in the School of Business and Public Administration and, likewise, is the latest evidence of many years of support from the company for insurance education at Howard. The grant provides scholarships, internships and direct monetary support for the school's actuarial science program.

The USAID grant was awarded to three chemists at Howard and a nutritional biochemist at the University of Ife in Nigeria to help develop improved varieties of amaranth, a grain-producing plant. Members of the Howard-based team are Joseph B. Morris, chairman of science policy and planning in the office of the vice president for academic affairs; Robert L. Shepard, who is on loan to the university from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission under the Intergovernmental Personnel Assistance Program and Polahan Q. Ayorinde, a professor in the chemistry department. Directing the African component of the project is Olusegun L. Oke, a professor of chemistry at the University of Ife.

The Cafritz grant goes to the Center for Sickle Cell Disease to fund a pilot home care program.

Sculptor Ed Love, professor of art at the College of Fine Arts, has been named a 1987 Guggenheim Fellow.

He is among 273 artists, scholars and scientists in the nation chosen from among 3,421 applicants to receive awards this year by the selection committee of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

The 1987 Guggenheim fellows, whose awards total $6,336,000, "were appointed on the basis of unusually distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment," according to a foundation news release.

Love recently held a one-man exhibition at Howard, "Soundings" (featured in the January issue of New Directions). On June 21, he opened a show called "Constructs" (for Thelonious and Other Spheres) at the Montpelier Arts Center in Laurel, Md. He is currently working on "Installations and Redemption Songs," a multimedia event.

The ties between Africa and Afro-America were once again given visible expression with the visit of Ide Oumarou, secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to the campus in May.
Speaking through an interpreter to a small audience in the auditorium of the School of Business and Public Administration, the French-speaking African diplomat explained the reason for his travels around the U.S.: "to meet Afro-Americans in order that we might find ways and means to enhance our relationship."

"Everywhere I go," he reported, "the message is the same. "It is of the desire of Afro-Americans to promote mutual exchange."

Citing the support Black Americans have given the antiapartheid movement, he added, "I see the African sinews in you have not died."

Oumarou's visit to the U.S. was arranged by the Congressional Black Caucus and the National Black Leadership Roundtable. He had talks with Black leaders as well as the U.S. Secretary of State, among others.

In introducing the OAU secretary-general, D.C. Del. Walter Fauntroy (D), president of the National Black Leadership Roundtable, stressed the need for Black Americans "to be a strong constituency for our homeland, Africa, just as our Jewish brothers and sisters have become a strong constituency for Israel."

Tony Gittens, a 1968 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts who heads the Black Film Institute of the University of the District of Columbia, was one of two key organizers of Filmfest DC, the first major international film festival to be held in the nation's capital.

The 12 day event (April 22-May 3) showcased the works of 40 independent filmmakers from 23 countries, almost all of them never before shown in Washington.

"We wanted to have something that would appeal to most of the people who go to movies here in Washington," Gittens told a Washington Post reporter, speaking for himself and the festival's co-director, Marcia Zalbowitz, chief of the audio-visual division of the D.C. Public Library. At the same time, the two film buffs hoped the festival would coax viewers toward more innovative and unusual films.

Apparently, it did. A follow-up story in The Post reported that the event was a rousing success, attracting sellout crowds and even earning a modest profit, especially notable for such a pioneering effort. Entries included films from Brazil ("Sergio Toledo"), Canada ("Sitting in Limbo"), England ("Coast to Coast"), India ("Rossaheb"), Ivory Coast ("Faces of Women"), People's Republic of China ("A Good Woman"), Sweden ("My Life as a Dog"), United States ("Borderline"), USSR ("Success") and West Germany ("Vampires in Havana").

Among the stars who came to Washington for the festival were Pat Dillon of "Sitting in Limbo" and Lenny Henry of "Coast to Coast."


"The book would be one volume (instead of two) without Howard," remarked Claude H. Organ, Jr., one of its two editors, at a program at Howard University Hospital marking the book's publication by Transcript Press. A professor of surgery at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Organ served as chairman of the American Board of Surgery from 1964-66, the first Black surgeon to hold the prestigious post.

Five Howard surgeons have contributed to the work — Clive O. Callender, Charles H. Epps Jr., LaSalle D. Laffall Jr., William E. Matory and Burke Syphax. It is dedicated to W. Montague Cobb, distinguished professor emeritus of anatomy at the College of Medicine and editor emeritus of the Journal of the National Medical Association.

At the program, Organ presented a copy of the book to Cobb, who then treated members of the audience to a series of warm anecdotes about the role Howard physicians have played in his own life, beginning with the physician who delivered him that October day in 1904. He also threw out a challenge to the young physicians-in-training sitting in the audience. "What young doctors should ask yourselves each day is," he said, "'Am I becoming today someone I'd want to treat me?'"

Other participants in the program included Leffall, chairman of the department of surgery; Russell L. Miller, dean of the College of Medicine; and D.C. City Council member Charlene Drew Jarvis, daughter of Charles Drew, the pioneering surgeon and blood bank developer who played such an instrumental and inspirational role in training young Black surgeons at Howard.

Some 3,000 records — including those featuring the music of Louis Armstrong, Billie Holliday, Fats Waller and the Duke Ellington Orchestra — have been donated to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center by an alumnus of the university.

Marvin Whetstone, a 1972 graduate, gave the recordings to the university in honor of his aunt and uncle, Naydne O. and Marion L. Massey, from whom he inherited the collection.

The musical styles represented in the collection include boogie-woogie, swing, gospel, classical, blues and dixieland. "The wide variety of the Massey collection greatly enhances the center's music department collections," observes music librarian Deborah Richardson.