

Several Hundred Students Are Honored At N.C. University

By Trelle L. Jeffers
North Carolina Central University honored several hundred students who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and above in a special awards day program, Friday, April 3, in B.N. Duke Auditorium.

The students were given awards for outstanding performance in various subject areas, for outstanding service to the university and special scholarships from various organizations that have established funds on the campus, including the Chancellor's Scholars, which honored 29

students. Forty-two students were selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities, and 92 students were chosen for the Dean's list for the fall semester, 1980-81.

The main address for the occasion was delivered by Brigadier General Frank E. Petersen, the only black brigadier general in the United States Marine Corps.

Brigadier General Petersen told the students that unlike many other blacks he would not pretend that he had grown up in an American ghetto.

"But I saw an opportunity and I took advantage of it and I challenge you to do the same," he said.

He told the students to use their history as a platform from which to spring, but to be careful not to use it as an excuse for failure.

"You will be entering a competitive, hostile world where losers are forgotten," said General Petersen.

Referring to the combat mission which he flew during the war in Vietnam, Brigadier General Petersen said that they (the soldiers) had returned

from this war to face the question of what had happened to America.

He said that soldiers had suffered in Vietnam due to those who had sent them.

"We had several presidents during the Vietnam War that had felt that the war was in the best interest of the country, and many soldiers suffered psychological problems in Vietnam caused by those who sent them," said the Brigadier General.

In a question and answer period, Petersen said that there was racism throughout America, but the U.S. Marine Corps has "made it very harmful to practice it" in that branch of the service.

"Racism exists because attitudes are difficult to change. You can mandate laws, but you can't legislate against racism," Petersen said.

Brigadier General Petersen has spent 31 years in the armed services and has been awarded the Purple Heart.

The NCCU students gave Brigadier General Petersen two standing ovations.



United Negro College Fund Campaigners

Local citizens who are spearheading a fund-raising campaign for the United Negro College Fund in Durham are: (front row, l-r) Miss Debra Wilhite, UNCF; Mrs. Constance Watts, Nathan Garrett, coordinator; Mrs. Adole Butts, Mrs. Wanda Garrett, Mrs. M.B. Creed, Miss Cynthia Perry, UNCF; Ms. Crystal Swain; (back row) M.K. Sloan, W.W. Easley, Mrs. O.D. Easley, Herbert Aiken, W.A. Clement and C.E. Boulware.

UNC-Chapel Hill Pays Tribute To Noted Scholar

By Trelle L. Jeffers
Noted black scholars from across the country, members of the administration and English Department at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and other interested persons, many of whom were from out of town, gathered at the university April 3-4 for a conference on Black Literature, honoring the retirement of Dr. Blyden Jackson, a distinguished scholar noted for his research and instruction on Afro-American Life and Culture. The theme of the conference was "Rescuing the Past, Securing the Future."

The group included many of Dr. Jackson's former students who related the impact he had made on their lives. Described as a "man who commands excellence in both himself and others," Dr. Jackson was also praised for his "humanistic qualities, his intellectual scope and pursuits, and his deep commitment to his belief in the potentials of people."

Speaking at a luncheon in his honor Saturday, April 4, Dr. Jackson said, "I have wanted a decent world, and I believe that I have done everything I can to make it so."

He said that it is a bad world if one expects too much.

"People have illusions. They expect too much. I

think that I have more than I deserve, but on the other hand, I am not disturbed about what I owe people. I don't think that I owe anyone anything," said Dr. Jackson.

Dr. Jackson also said that he does not feel that he has a mission to "civilize anyone."

"I leave them to heaven, and I can still be polite to anyone although I may think that they are dirt," said Dr. Jackson.

He said that he has friends that are both black and white and that he will be as reliable to one group as he would to the other group.

Dr. Jackson, whose bibliography totals 23 typewritten pages, first integrated UNC's English Department in 1968. Since that time, he says that he has been involved in strategies to add more black faculty members to that department (the UNC English Department has four blacks including Dr. Jackson who also serves as associate dean of the Graduate School).

Some of the noted black scholars who attended the retirement conference were Addison Gayle, author of *The Way of the New World*; Stephen Henderson, author of *Understanding The New Black Poetry*; Amiri Baroka, author of *Blues People* and *Black Fire*; Theodore Hudson, author

of *From Leroy Jones to Amiri Baroka*; Hoyt Fuller, editor of *First World*; Alvin Aubert, editor of *Obsidian*; Darwin T. Turner, co-author of *Images of the Negro in America*; Houston Baker, author of *Singers At Daybreak*, noted critic George Kent; curator of the Moorland-Spingarn Collection at Howard University, Dorothy Porter Wesley; Dr. Richard Barksdale, author of *Black Writers in America*, Distinguished Professor Emeritus Therman O'Daniel and noted poet, Samuel Allen.

Several papers on all aspects of Afro-American literature were presented on both Friday and Saturday, and the overall theses presented by many of those presenting papers were that all components of Afro-American Literature should be taught, criticized, evaluated and analyzed as part of the curriculum in English departments, and that blacks should play a major role in developing the standards for what is considered to be a work of art in Afro-American literature instead of allowing others to do it for them.

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