

EDUCATION TODAY

Giovanni Takes Post At Virginia Tech

BLACKSBURG - Nikki Giovanni, the poet who teaches her students to dream, to be flexible, but to use language precisely, has taken a permanent position at Virginia Tech.



Giovanni

Giovanni, who has been called the "poet laureate of black women and sensitive souls everywhere," came to Virginia Tech in 1987 to teach creative writing and literature for one school year. She decided to stay an extra year, and this week the department of English announced Giovanni has signed on permanently as a professor of English.

"To attract Nikki to a permanent position here has been my ambition since she came as Commonwealth Visiting Professor 18 months ago," said Hilbert H. Campbell, head of the Department of English. "Naturally, I'm very happy that we have succeeded. She is not only a famous writer and widely known public figure, but she has also proven to be a dedicated, popular

teacher and a splendid colleague. Since I know that she recently has had some very attractive offers from other universities, I consider it a real stroke of good fortune that she

has decided to stay here." Giovanni, who said she also enjoys the Southwest Virginia area and feels welcomed by a congenial Blacksburg community, said taking the permanent position at Tech will make her

feel less nomadic. She has several goals for her work at Tech.

"I hope to encourage more minority faculty and students," she said, "especially in the graduate program in English."

NCSU Students To Head To Africa On Excursion

A group of about 50 students, faculty and staff from North Carolina State University will conduct an educational excursion to Togo, Benin and Ghana in western Africa in early March. The trip is being organized by NCSU's recently established African-American Heritage Society.

Faculty from NCSU's colleges of agriculture and life sciences, engineering, humanities and social sciences, and education will make the trip, looking for research possibilities in their respective fields.

"During this era of heightened interest in African-Western interaction, there is a renaissance in the African-American community with respect to understanding their cultural heritage," Clark said.

"Thus we believe that African-American students, faculty and staff could serve as valuable resources in helping to forge and solidify these linkages.

"These linkages also are most important," he added, "because the African continent has resources so necessary to the West, and the West has technological know-how the Africans need."

The excursion will serve as a preliminary activity in establishing programs of exchange in research and extension between NCSU and African nations as well as a planned study-abroad program for students from NCSU, N. C. Central University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The excursion will provide an opportunity for African-American students to observe and interact with African people and to learn something of their heritage and culture as preserved by modern West Africans, said Dr. Lawrence M. Clark, NCSU associate provost.

The experience also will enable the students to gain insight into the role of modern Africa in the world's economic, political and social environments, Clark said.

Upon their return to NCSU, students will write papers and produce visual and audio presentations on their experiences in Africa.

For faculty members, Clark said, the excursion will provide a chance to explore collaborative research opportunities with their counterparts in the countries they visit.

Communication Award

The Charlotte Professional Chapter of Women in Communications, Inc. is pleased to announce its sixth annual Communications scholarship competition.

The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a Mecklenburg County high school senior who will graduate in the spring of 1989, attend college in the fall, and plans to pursue a career in communications. This field includes journalism, publishing, broadcasting, advertising and public relations.

This competition is open to both men and women students.

The scholarship will recognize achievement in communications activities and academic studies and will be awarded in May at the annual Women in Communications luncheon.

The deadline for scholarship applications is March 20, 1989. Applications can be obtained from principals and guidance counselors in all Mecklenburg County high schools, public and private. Or a self-addressed, stamped envelope may be sent to the Women in Communications Scholarship Committee, 2107 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203.

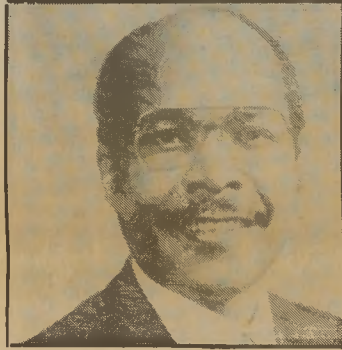
Sullivan, Glover Honored As Positive Role Models

ATLANTA (AP) ---U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary-designate Louis W. Sullivan, professional athlete Bo Jackson and actor Danny Glover were among 12 black men honored by Morehouse College recently as positive role models.

The awards were given as Morehouse celebrated its 122nd anniversary with a fund-raising gala at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in downtown Atlanta, and went to those the predominantly black college selected for serving as positive role models in athletics, business, education, entertainment, government, law, the military, religion, science and technology.

Sullivan, the former president of the Morehouse medical school, was besieged with requests for autographs, despite the controversy over his nomination and the presence of such celebrities as Jackson and Glover.

Sullivan, whose views on abortion caused opposition to his HHS nomination from conservatives, earlier in the day told a wide-ranging panel discussion that one must have strong personal convictions to make a dif-



Sullivan

ference." Receiving the Bennie award, named after the late Morehouse President Benjamin E. Mays, were Sullivan; Dr. Roderic Pettigrew, a physician and nuclear physicist; and Dr. Otis Smith, Atlanta chapter president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Given the Candle award were Dr. Benjamin Carson of Johns Hopkins Hospital; Henry L. Gates, a literature professor at Cornell University; Brig. Gen. Fred A. Gordon of the West Point Military Academy; George R. Le-

wis, vice president and treasurer of Philip Morris Co.; Archbishop Eugene A. Marino of Atlanta; Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke; Virginia Lt. Gov. L. Douglas Wilder; Jackson, of the Kansas City Royals baseball team and the NFL's Los Angeles Raiders; and Glover.

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A Morehouse Alumni Meeting

The Metrolina Morehouse Alumni Club will meet Wednesday, March 8, 7 p.m., at the home of Sam Young Jr., 7101 Lea Wood Ln., Charlotte.

This will be the final meeting prior to the Region III annual meeting to be held March 17th at Kiawah Island, SC.

For further information, please call (704) 568-5440.

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