PROGRAM

The Ninth Annual
Black Scholar Awards

sponsored by

The University of Rhode Island
Black Scholar Awards
Program Committee

April 4, 2006
NINTH ANNUAL
BLACK SCHOLAR AWARDS PROGRAM
Cherry Auditorium
Chester Kirk Center for Advanced Technology
4 April 2006

Presider

Harold D. Bibb, B.A., M.S., Ph.D.
Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Invocation

Donna Gilton, B.A., M.S., Ph.D.
Department of Library and Information Studies

Welcome

Christopher D. Hunter, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Department of Civil Engineering

Introduction of Speaker

Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D.
Department of Sociology-Anthropology

Speaker

Lisa Churchville, B.A., M.B.A.
President and General Manager
NBC 10-WJAR

About the Black Scholar Awards Program
The Black Scholar Awards Program was developed by Dr. Donald Cunnigen and Dr. Yvette Harps-Logan, members of the University of Rhode Island Black Faculty Association, in 1998 as a means of recognizing the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of graduating students of African descent. Although Black students received recognition from other entities on campus, the Black faculty wanted to demonstrate their commitment and interest in the recruitment, retention, development, and support of Black students at the University. Presently, the program is organized by the Black Scholar Awards Program Committee.

The University of Rhode Island Black Scholar Awards Program Committee acknowledges the longstanding financial support and encouragement of President Robert Carothers, University of Rhode Island Alumni Association, and the Office of Alumni Relations.

Black Scholar Awards Program Co-ordinators, Dr. Donald Cunnigen and Dr. Christopher Hunter
Lisa Churchville is president and general manager of NBC 10 WJAR, NBC’s owned-and-operated station serving Providence and New Bedford.

Churchville has been with NBC since 1986. She came to NBC 10 in 1997 from WCAU-TV in Philadelphia where she was vice president of sales.

Prior to her position at WCAU-TV, Churchville served in several key positions at WMAQ-TV in Chicago, including vice president of marketing and programming (1994 to 1996), director of sales (1990 to 1994) and sales manager (1988 to 1990).

She began her career at NBC in New York as an account executive in NBC Spot Sales. She also worked in advertising sales for ABC and WABC-TV, both in New York City. Churchville is president of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra. She serves on the boards of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Rhode Island, Women & Infants’ Hospital and the Providence Public Library.

Churchville holds a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University and a bachelor’s degree from Barnard College.

She is married to Alex Carlin, an antiques dealer, and they have two sons, Drew and Gray.
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Award                                                                                      Presenter
William Gould Award for All-Around Outstanding Achievement                           Kendall M. Moore, B.A., M.A.
                                                                                       Department of Journalism

Arthur L. Hardge Award for All-Around Outstanding Community Service                 Gordon H. Dash, B.A., M.B.E., D.B.A.
                                                                                       Department of Finance

Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to the University Community
                                                                                       Cynthia Hamilton, B.A., Ph.D.
                                                                                       Departments of History and Political Science
                                                                                       Director of African and African-American Studies Program

Harvey Robert Turner Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Rhode Island Black Community
                                                                                       Talia M. McCray, B.S., B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
                                                                                       Department of Management

Sojourner Truth Award for Scholarly Persistence and Dedication                         Gitahi Giti, B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D.
                                                                                       Departments of English and African and Afro-American Studies

Jackie Robinson and Althea Gibson Scholar-Athlete Awards                               Natacha E. Thomas, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
                                                                                       Department of Civil Engineering

Noreen Coachman Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Older Student                 Abu Bakr, B.S., M.S., M.B.A.
                                                                                       Executive Assistant to President
                                                                                       Director of Planning Services and Professional Development

St. Elmo Brady Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science                            Jaycoda S. Major, B.S., Ph.D.
                                                                                       Department of Chemistry

Estes Benson Award for Academic Achievement                                            Melvoid Benson, A.B.
                                                                                       North Kingstown School Committee

Lumas Hamilton Sr. Scholarship                                                         Cynthia Hamilton, B.A., Ph.D.
                                                                                       Departments of History and Political Science
                                                                                       Director of African and African-American Studies Program

Special Rhode Island Legislative Citations
Academic Achievement Recognition (All Black Students with 3.50 or Higher Average)

Christopher D. Hunter, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Department of Civil Engineering

Onyx Senior Honor Society Ceremony

Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D.
Department of Sociology-Anthropology

Cynthia Hamilton, B.A., Ph.D.
Departments of History and Political Science
Director of African and African-American Studies Program

AWARDS

William Gould Award for All-Around Outstanding Achievement

William Gould was a member of the University of Rhode Island Class of 1958. He was the first Black appointed to serve as the chairperson of the National Labor Relations Board. The Gould Award is presented to a senior in recognition of all-around outstanding achievement in the areas of organizational leadership, peer relationships, faculty-student relationships, general service, and academic performance.

Recipient: Nimota A. Solola

Arthur L. Hardge Award for All-Around Outstanding Community Service

Arthur Hardge was a major force in the affairs of Rhode Island’s Black community. As a part of his activity, he founded the Talent Development Program at the University of Rhode Island. The Talent Development Program has played an integral role in the growth of the University’s Black community. The Hardge Award is presented to a senior in recognition of outstanding service to the Black community outside of the University.

Recipient: Nicole Austin

Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to the University Community

Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights leader, scholar, and visionary who played a pivotal role in the integration of American society. The King Award is presented to a senior in recognition of outstanding service in the area of organizational leadership, volunteer service, and general service in the University of Rhode Island community.

Recipient: Brian A. Monteiro

Harvey Robert Turner Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Rhode Island Black Community

Harvey Robert Turner was a member of the University of Rhode Island Class of 1914. He was one of the earliest Black graduates of the University. The Turner Award is presented to a senior in recognition of significant contributions made to the Black community of the University through activities that demonstrated a commitment to the community’s growth and recognition of others.

Recipient: Aaron M. Gardner

Sojourner Truth Award for Scholarly Persistence and Dedication

Sojourner Truth escaped from slavery to become a significant figure in Black history. In delivering her famous “Ain’t I A Woman” speech, she made a lasting contribution to American
oratory. The Truth Award is presented to a senior in recognition of success despite dire financial, physical and/or personal problems that would ordinarily impede progress.

Recipient: Caroline O. Freeman

Jackie Robinson and Althea Gibson Scholar-Athlete Awards

In 1946, Jackie Robinson broke the color line in American professional baseball. In 1957, Althea Gibson became the first African-American female tennis player to win the Wimbledon singles. As outstanding athletes, they never let the racism of the day defeat their purpose. The Robinson Award is presented to a senior male athlete(s) and the Gibson Award is presented to a senior female athlete(s) in recognition of outstanding performance in sports that highlighted skills of good sportsmanship and the best qualities of the scholar-athlete.

Recipients: Tyrese Sullivan (Basketball), Robert Eben Johnson IV (Track & Field), and Erin Aseli Fleming (Tennis)

Noreen Coachman Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Older Student

Noreen Coachman was a member of the University of Rhode Island Class of 1973. She exemplified the best characteristics of an older student by obtaining an M.D. after pursuing a secretarial career. The Coachman Award is presented to an older graduating senior who has achieved excellence in academic and extracurricular life while maintaining family and work responsibilities.

Recipient: Brandy O'Donnell

Saint Elmo Brady Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science

In 1916, Saint Elmo Brady became the first person of African descent to receive a Doctor of Philosophy degree in chemistry. He had a distinguished research and teaching career, including appointments at Fisk University, Howard University, Tuskegee Institute, and Tougaloo College. The Brady Award is presented to the graduating senior with the highest academic average in the sciences among Black Students.

Recipient: Destiny Woodbury (3.13)

Estes Benson Award for Academic Achievement

Estes Benson was a member of the University of Rhode Island Class of 1979. As a student, he was a star athlete, fraternity man, and participant in a variety of campus activities. The Benson Award is presented to a male and a female student with the highest overall academic grade point average among Black seniors.

Recipients: Kevin Delle Femine (3.90) and Natasha L. Soares (3.78)

Tossie E. Taylor Jr. Community Spirit Award (formerly Community Spirit Award)

Tossie E. Taylor Jr. was a University of Rhode Island Ph.D. recipient in cell biology. He served in administrative positions at Delaware State University, Cheyney State University, and the Massachusetts Higher Education Coordinating Council. He was active in numerous community service groups, including Big Brothers, NAACP, Boy Scouts of America, and Rotary. The Taylor Community Spirit Award is presented to an individual or group in recognition of outstanding service that reflects the dynamic spirit of the New England minority community.

Recipient: Lisa Churchville

Lumas Hamilton Sr. Scholarship

The Lumas D. Hamilton Sr. Scholarship Award has been established by members of the Hamilton family to encourage and support students who have a serious interest in African and African American Studies. Often this interest must be maintained along with the student’s major and work commitments so financial assistance and intellectual encouragement is important.

Lumas Hamilton Sr. was the father of Dr. Cynthia Hamilton, Afro-American and African Studies Program chairperson. He was an individual whose commitment to serious study never
ceased although that was not his profession. He was an example of a true “organic intellectual” and he would be pleased to know we are encouraging youth to follow his example. 

**Recipients:** Jacqueline Moreino and Shantae Bagwell Moreino

**PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Gould Award**
- 1998: Darran Anthony Simon
- 1999: Danielle Leigh Hill
- 2000: Chantale M. Edouard
- 2001: Patricia Dos Santos
- 2002: Marvens LaPorte
- 2003: Monica Tavares
- 2004: Reza Clifton
- 2005: Cynthia Prudence

**Hardge Award**
- 1998: Solomon Comissiong
- 1999: Marc Hardge
- 2000: Azikiwe Husband
- 2001: Ana P. Semedo
- 2002: Barry O’Connor
- 2003: Alberto DaCruz
- 2004: Andrea D. Hepburn
- 2005: Raydeana Roderick

**King Award**
- 1998: Ebony-Anne Smith
- 1999: Ibrahim Abdul-Matin
- 2000: Alissa P. Carroccino

**Past PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Gould Award**
- 2001: Paul S. Garcia
- 2002: Laura Santos
- 2003: Shawalewa Brown
- 2004: Monica Tavares
- 2005: Emily M. Hall

**Hardge Award**
- 2001: Reza Clifton
- 2002: Cynthia Prudence
- 2003: Pascale Delaunay
- 2004: Monica Tavares
- 2005: Emily M. Hall

**King Award**
- 1998: Konrad Samuel
- 1999: Bishop James A. Bullock
- 2000: Alissa P. Carroccino
- 2001: Alissa P. Carroccino
- 2002: Alissa P. Carroccino
- 2003: Alissa P. Carroccino
- 2004: Alissa P. Carroccino
- 2005: Alissa P. Carroccino

**Turner Award**
- 1998: Nepko Brown
- 1999: Winston Bedell
- 2000: Jonathan L. Lewis
- 2001: Marlon J. Mussington
- 2002: John C. Cruz
- 2003: Dorien Agyapon
- 2004: Claudette M. Bannerman
- 2005: Candace Ranglin

**Tossie Taylor Community Spirit Award**
- 1999: Brothers United for Action
- 2001: Jack Reed
- 2002: Ambrose Jearld
- 2003: Jimmy L. Davis, Jr.
- 2004: Peter F. Hurst, Jr.
- 2005: Geraldine S. Hines
Truth Award
1998
Shirley Consuegra
1999
Celise Craig
2000
Cal Vinson Whitfield
2001
Abner Correia
2002
Nicole Love
2003
Naomi Love
2004
Teresa B. Evans
2005
Alex Bien-Aime

Robinson Award
1998
John Bennett
1999
LaJhon Jones
Joshua King
Cuttino Mobley
1999
Antonio Reynolds-Dean
Preston Murphy
2000
Silas Otniel Rodrigues Pinto
2001
Leroy Womack
Andrew Wafula
2002
Brackston Poitier
2003
Lazare Adingono
2005
Randy Brooks
Reuben Ray

Coachman Award
2002
Maria L. Sampson
2003
Bryan Barros
2004
Barbara J. Ellis

Benson Award
1998
Katrina Douglas
1999
Troy Robinson
2000
Cheryl Anne Connor
2001
Jose Barbosa
2002
Angelica Gomes
2003
Wennzdehl Powell
2004
John Harris

Brady Award
2004
Demond M. Boseman

Gibson Award
1999
Martinique Alber
2001
Zinobia Machanguana
2002
Yatar Kuyateh
2003
Gina Rosen
2004
Denise M. King
2005
Pascale Delaunay

ASBS President's Award
1998
Darran Anthony Simon
1999
Danielle Leigh Hill
2000
Olajumoke O. Akinrolabu
2004
Silas Otniel Rodrigues Pinto

Uhuru Sasa Anniversary Award
1999
Uhuru Sasa
2006 Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

 Kevin D. Delle Femine, 3.90
 Natasha L. Soares, 3.78
 Kimberly M. Toney, 3.76
 Miranda L. Scott, 3.64
 Lydia S. Brown, 3.62
 Fatma H. Mohamed, 3.58
 Nimota A. Solola, 3.48
 Oluwayemisi A. Akinsinde, 3.45
 Brandon F. Ramos, 3.39
 Jacquelyn L. Moreino, 3.34
 Priscilla Adjei, 3.29
 Aaron M. Gardner, 3.29
 Justin J. Miranda, 3.29
 Jo-Anne E. Nelson, 3.29
 Robert E. Johnson, 3.23
 Tiffany J. Henley, 3.22
 Ada A. Smith, 3.21
 Richard Kim, 3.19
 Jessica Y. Lopes, 3.17
 Etta G. Kerkula, 3.17
 Destiny S. Woodbury, 3.13
 Robin E. Pino, 3.12
 Edinalia M. Lopes, 3.12
 Lisa F. McGill, 3.09
 Keith A. Cardoza, 3.06
 Chris S. Washington, 3.04
 Fatu M. Pelima, 3.02
 Brian A. Monteiro, 3.02
 Gary V. Jenkins, 3.02
 Michael E. DiBoty, 3.01

Brief History of Onyx Senior Honor Society

In 1974, three administrators and seven Black students at the University of Pennsylvania founded the Onyx Senior Honor Society. Its three main tenets place emphasis on heritage, humanity, and humility. Through these tenets, the Onyx recognizes Black student academic achievement by encouraging and providing incentives for scholastic excellence and community service. Onyx membership is extended to academically accomplished Black senior students with overall grade point averages of 3.00 or higher. The University of Rhode Island chapter is the first New England state university to establish an Onyx chapter.
Past Speakers

1998
Dr. Harold D. Bibb
Associate Dean of Graduate School
University of Rhode Island

1999
Dr. John H. McCray
Vice President of Student Affairs
University of Rhode Island

2000
Dr. Robert Carothers
President
University of Rhode Island

2001
The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate

2002
Dr. Ambrose Jearld
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

2003
Dr. Jimmie L. Davis
MITRE, Incorporated

2004
Peter F. Hurst, Esquire
Chief-Executive-Officer and President
Urban Financial Group/The Community's Bank

2005
The Honorable Geraldine S. Hines
Associate Justice
Massachusetts Superior Court