Black Scholar Awards
10th Anniversary Celebration
PROGRAM

The Tenth Anniversary Celebration
Black Scholar Awards

sponsored by

The University of Rhode Island
Black Scholar Awards
Program Committee

April 16, 2007
TENTH ANNUAL BLACK SCHOLAR AWARDS DINNER PROGRAM
Theme: “Celebrating a Decade of the Young, Gifted, and Black”
Memorial Union Ballroom
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island
16 April 2007

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

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

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

DINNER
A Special Black Scholar Awards Video Retrospective

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

Speaker
D. Crystal Byndloss, B.A., Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Research and Associate Director, Center for Research on Human Development and Education
Temple University

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
Dr. D. Crystal Byndloss did not take a sociology class until she was a Sarah Lawrence College (Class of 1991) senior. According to Byndloss, “Then, I realized I had been secretly studying sociology all along. In all of my classes, I wrote conference papers about things like race, poverty, inequality and education.” With her passion named, she began applying to graduate schools; a year after that first course in sociology, she was at Harvard working on her Ph.D. in the subject.

In graduate school, she narrowed her focus to public education, determined to collect hard data on a topic often defined by hearsay and hyperbole. Byndloss’ motivation was described in the following statement: "Fifty years after Brown v. Board of Education, our schools are more segregated than ever, I wanted to understand why." She was intrigued particularly by the Ocean Hill-Brownsville school controversy of the 1960s. In this impoverished Brooklyn neighborhood, African-American and Puerto Rican parents fought for community-based control of their school district, demanding that the white bureaucracy address the needs of their students and rehabilitate their schools--schools that were not only failing, but segregated. At the climax of the historic conflict, the teachers went on strike for several weeks, shutting down the entire school system.

Byndloss thinks that we can learn a lot about our current educational dilemmas from the community control movement. Prior to receiving her Ph.D., she was a New England Board of Higher Education Scholar-in-Residence at Simmons
College. After completing her Ph.D. at Harvard (1999), she was a Carolina Minority Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Leaving Chapel Hill, she went on to study contemporary educational problems as a researcher at the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation in New York, where she worked for several years. In one research project, schools in the Mississippi Delta were attempting to engage parents in the classroom as a component of a reform effort, but the teachers had a difficult time connecting with them. Byndloss found that the parents' reluctance to visit the schools was caused not by lack of interest, but lack of money: Many of them could not afford to take time off from work during the day or to hire childcare for their other children at night. Her dissertation research on Afrocentric male public schools in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Detroit, Michigan placed an emphasis on their impact on students. It has been published in the journal, *Education and Urban Society*. She has coupled her scholarship with community service as volunteer for local agencies. She has donated time and financial support to the Ronald McDonald House Meal Donator Program (New Jersey and North Carolina), Writer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Metropolitan New York, and a participant in the Pediatric Cuddler Program of Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York and the University of North Carolina Hospitals.

With this type of insightful information attained as a researcher and personal community service, Byndloss hopes to guide the College of Education at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As the Assistant Dean for Research and Associate Director of the Center for Research on Human Development and Education, she is in charge of strategic planning. In her own words, she hopes to demonstrate that: "Educational institutions do not exist in a vacuum--it's important to consider the larger context."
## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Presenter</th>
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<td>William Gould Award for All-Around Outstanding Achievement</td>
<td>Kendall M. Moore, B.A., M.A.</td>
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<td>Department of Journalism</td>
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<td>Arthur L. Hardge Award for All-Around Outstanding Community Service</td>
<td>Cynthia Hamilton, B.A., Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Departments of History and Political Science</td>
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<td>Director of African and African-American Studies Program</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to the University Community</td>
<td>Ana Barraza, B.A., M.S.</td>
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<td>Program Coordinator, Center for Student Leadership Development</td>
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<td>Harvey Robert Turner Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Rhode Island Black Community</td>
<td>Christopher D. Hunter, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Department of Civil Engineering</td>
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<td>Sojourner Truth Award for Scholarly Persistence and Dedication</td>
<td>Gilahi Giliti, B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Departments of English and African and Afro-American Studies</td>
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<td>Department of Finance</td>
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<td>Noreen Coachman Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Older Student</td>
<td>Abu Bakr, B.S., M.S., M.B.A.</td>
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<td>Executive Assistant to President</td>
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<td>Director of Planning Services and Professional Development</td>
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<td>St. Elmo Brady Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science</td>
<td>Vanessa Wynder Quainoo, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Department of Communications Studies</td>
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<td>David Edmonds Award for Outstanding Artistic and Creative Expression</td>
<td>David Edmonds</td>
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<td>Class of 1964</td>
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<td>Estes Benson Award for Academic Achievement</td>
<td>Melvoid Benson, A.B.</td>
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<td>North Kingstown School Committee</td>
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<td>Lumas Hamilton Sr. Scholarship</td>
<td>Cynthia Hamilton, B.A., Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Departments of History and Political Science</td>
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<td>Director of African and African-American Studies Program</td>
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Special Rhode Island Legislative Citations

Representative John Patrick Shanley, A.B., M.A.
Rhode Island Assembly—District 35

Representative Joseph Almeida
Rhode Island Assembly—District 12

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
Onyx Advisor

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

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: Jenell B. Yates

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: Sharon L. Isom

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: Chris Washington
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: Iziarh Roberts

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: Kristie Correia

Jackie Robinson Scholar-Athlete Award

In 1946, Jackie Robinson broke the color line in American professional baseball. As outstanding athlete, he never let the racism of the day defeat his purpose. The Robinson Award is presented to a senior male athlete(s) in recognition of outstanding performance in sports that highlighted skills of good sportsmanship and the best qualities of the scholar-athlete.

Recipients: Darrell Harris (Basketball), and Laejon Brooks (Track & Field)

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: Frantz Medina

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: Luclene Almedia

David Edmonds Award for Outstanding Artistic and Creative Expression

David Edmonds was a member of the University of Rhode Island Class of 1964. He had an outstanding career as an administrator at the University of Massachusetts–Boston. The Edmonds Award is presented to a student who has demonstrated excellence as well as originality and creativity in the arts.

Recipient: Emily Bibb

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: Chris S. Washington (3.03) and Amber L. Wells (3.92)
Tossie E. Taylor Jr. 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: D. Crystal Byndloss

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: Titilayo C. Fakiyesi, Ruth Laurent, and Jolene Octavius

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

Gould Award
1998
Darran Anthony Simon
1999
Danielle Leigh Hill
2000
Chantale M. Edouard
2001
Patricia Dos Santos
2002
Marvens LaPorte
Monica Tavares
2003
Reza Clifton
Cynthia Prudence
2004
Naomi S. Gobern
2005
Pascale Delaunay
2006
Nimota A. Solola

Hardge Award
1998
Solomon Comissiong
1999
Marc Hardge
2000
Azikiwe Husband
2001
Ana P. Semedo
2002
Barry O’Connor
2003
Alberto DaCruz
Shaquila Hazard
2004
Andrea D. Hepburn
2005
Raydeana Roderick
2006
Nicole Austin
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<tr>
<th>Years</th>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Ebony-Anne Smith</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Ibrahim Abdul-Matin</td>
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<td>Alissa P. Carroccino</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Igor S. Garcia</td>
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<td>Laura Santos</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Shawalewa Brown</td>
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<td>Paulo M. Cruz</td>
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<td>Thelma Yaniza Titus</td>
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<td>Benjamin Wesley</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Emily M. Hall</td>
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<td>Brian A. Monteiro</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>Nepko Brown</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Winston Bedell</td>
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<td>Jonathan L. Lewis</td>
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<td>Marlon J. Mussington</td>
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<td>John C. Cruz</td>
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<td>Dorien Agyapon</td>
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<td>Claudette M. Bannerman</td>
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<td>Candace Ranglin</td>
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<td>Aaron M. E. Gardner</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Brothers United for Action</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Jack Reed</td>
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<td>Ambrose Jearld</td>
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<td>Jimmie L. Davis, Jr.</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Peter F. Hurst, Jr.</td>
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<td>Geraldine S. Hines</td>
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<td>Lisa Churchville</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Shirley Consuegra</td>
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<td>Cal Vinson Whitfield</td>
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<td>Abner Correia</td>
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<td>Nicole Love</td>
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<td>Naomi Love</td>
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<td>Teresa B. Evans</td>
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<td>Alex Bien-Aime</td>
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<td>Caroline O. Freeman</td>
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Robinson Award
1998
John Bennett
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
2006
Tyrse Sullivan
Terrence Mack
Robert Eben Johnson, IV

Gibson Award
1999
Martinique Alber
2001
Zinobia Machanguana
2002
Yatar Kuyateh
2003
Gina Rosen
2004
Denise M. King
2005
Pascale Delaunay
2006
Erin Aseli Fleming

Coachman Award
2002
Maria L. Sampson
2003
Bryan Barros
2004
Barbara J. Ellis
2006
Brandy O'Donnell

Benson Award
1998
Katrina Douglas
Troy Robinson
1999
Cheryl Anne Connor
Jose Barbosa
2000
Angelica Gomes
Wennzdehl Powell
John Harris
2001
Michael Lyle
Kimberly Anderson
2002
Babatunde Ologun
Joyll Smith
2003
Claudio Rodrigues
Cynthia Prudence
Kimberly Starks
2004
Sharina Niera Savage
Freddie Skipworth
2005
Millie N. White
Adison M. Ribeiro
2006
Kevin Delle Femine
Natasha L. Soares

Brady Award
2004
Demond M. Boseman
2006
Destiny Woodbury

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

Uhuru Sasa Anniversary Award
1999
Uhuru Sasa
2007 Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

Amber L. Wells, 3.92
Amma O. Marfo, 3.90
Janet A. Foster, 3.88
Judy L. Perry, 3.45
Christine G. Brown, 3.44
Janell B. Yates, 3.44
Jane E. Fontes, 3.37
Nina Kizekai, 3.26
Analy N. Lopes, 3.25
Dolores L. Sousa-Andrews, 3.23
Roseline K. Thorp, 3.19
Sophie D. Eugene, 3.08
Maria J. Varela, 3.05
Chris S. Washington, 3.03
Bryan A. Cartwright, 3.00
Sharon L. Isom, 3.00

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

2006
Ms. Lisa Churchville
General Manager and CEO
NBC-10, WJAR