Black Scholar Awards

Tuesday, 7 April 2009 • 6:30 pm
Cherry Auditorium
Chester R. Kirk Center for Advanced Technology

Keynote Address by Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts
PROGRAM

The Twelfth Annual
Black Scholar Awards

sponsored
by

The University of Rhode Island
Black Scholar Awards
Program Committee

7 April 2009
TWELFTH ANNUAL BLACK SCHOLAR AWARDS PROGRAM
Chester Kirk Center for Advanced Technology
Cherry Auditorium
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island
7 April 2009
6:30 P.M.

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

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

Speaker
The Honorable Elizabeth H. Roberts, B.A., M.B.A.
Lieutenant Governor
The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

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 Coordinators
Dr. Donald Cunnigen and Dr. Christopher Hunter
Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts was inaugurated as the 68th lieutenant governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations on January 2nd, 2007, making history as the first female elected to the position.

Prior to taking office, Lt. Gov. Roberts spent over a decade distinguishing herself as one of Rhode Island’s most respected advocates for quality, affordable health care for every family and built a statewide reputation for being a tireless leader on health and medical issues. Roberts served in the Rhode Island State Senate from 1997 to 2007 and received the second highest rating in the General Assembly from Common Cause, Rhode Island’s premier government reform organization.

Roberts is leading the fight to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to high quality health care at a cost they can afford. In October 2007, Roberts launched Mission: Healthy RI, an advisory work group of representatives from the medical community, the insurance industry, hospitals, business owners, labor leaders, consumers, advocates and other stakeholders. The culmination of Mission: Healthy RI came in February 2008 with the introduction of the Rhode Island Healthy Reform Act of 2008, Roberts’ eight part, comprehensive, health care reform package. Four pieces of legislation from the reform package were passed in the most recent legislative session, which ended in June 2008.

Roberts serves as chair of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council, the Small Business Advocacy Council, and the Emergency Management Advisory Council. In her work on the Long Term Care Coordinating Council, Roberts is pushing to expand community-based care for seniors and people with disabilities.
Through Roberts' leadership, the Small Business Advocacy Council has focused on ensuring that small business owners have a voice in government. The council has focused on the rising costs of health care for employers and state investments in small business development.

As chair of the Emergency Management Advisory Council, Roberts has played a key role in working with state emergency management officials and the Rhode Island National Guard to ensure Rhode Island’s preparedness for events like hurricanes and terrorist attacks.

Roberts graduated from Brown University in 1978 and earned an MBA in health care management from Boston University. Before serving in the Senate, Roberts worked as a business strategy consultant, policy analyst, and health care manager. She is married to Thomas Roberts and they have two daughters, Kathleen and Nora. The Roberts have been residents of Cranston’s Edgewood section for more than 20 years.

Below: Lieutenant Governor Roberts working the phones for the Obama Campaign.
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Award                                                                                                        Presenter
William Gould Award for All-Around Outstanding Achievement                                                   Earl N. Smith III, B.S., M.S.W.
                                                                                                              Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Arthur L. Hardge Award for All-Around Outstanding Community Service                                          Marc Hardge, B.A.
                                                                                                              Talent Development Counselor
Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to the University Community        Anna Barraza, B.A., M.S.
                                                                                                              Center for Student Leadership Development, Program Coordinator
Harvey Robert Turner Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Rhode Island Black Community         Christopher D. Hunter, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
                                                                                                              Department of Civil Engineering
Sojourner Truth Award for Scholarly Persistence and Dedication                                               Yvette Harps-Logan, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
                                                                                                              Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design
                                                                                                              Department of Finance
St. Elmo Brady Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science                                                 Charles Watson, B.S.
                                                                                                              Minority Student Recruitment and Retention Coordinator
                                                                                                              College of Engineering
Noreen Coachman Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Older Student                                      Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D.
                                                                                                              Department of Sociology-Anthropology
Estes Benson Award for Academic Achievement                                                                 Melvoid Benson, A.B.
                                                                                                              North Kingstown School Committee
Onyx Senior Honor Society Ceremony                                                                          Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D.
                                                                                                              Department of Sociology-Anthropology, 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: Gessie E. Belizaire

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: Ahyieh Mansue

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 areas of organizational leadership, volunteer service, and general service in the University of Rhode Island community.
Recipient: Sheena Gonsalves

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: Brandy O. Derogene

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: Catalina Gomez

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: Chinyere G. Okpara (Volleyball), Ashley Roberson (Track), TyLynn Graham (Track), Jeffry C. Martin (Track), Kahiem Seawright (Basketball), and Jason Francis (Basketball)
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 high academic achievement in the sciences among Black Students.

Recipient: Martha Ofiebea-Tenkorang

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: Raphael Solawon

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: Joseph Godfrey (3.58) and Olubukola Babalola (3.96)

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: Elizabeth H. Roberts and The Underground Railroad


## PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Award</th>
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<td><strong>Gould Award</strong></td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Darran Anthony Simon</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Danielle Leigh Hill</td>
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<td>Chantale M. Edouard</td>
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<td>Patricia Dos Santos</td>
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<td>Marvens LaPorte</td>
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<td>Monica Tavares</td>
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<td>Reza Clifton</td>
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<td>Cynthia Prudence</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Naomi S. Gobern</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Pascale Delaunay</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Nimota A. Solola</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Jenell B. Yates</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Christian Apollon</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Kalyanna Champlain</td>
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<td><strong>Hardge Award</strong></td>
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<td>Marc Hardge</td>
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<td>Azikiwe Husband</td>
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<td>Ana P. Semedo</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Barry O’Connor</td>
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<td>Alberto DaCruz</td>
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<td>Shaquilla Hazard</td>
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<td>Andrea D. Hepburn</td>
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<td><strong>King Award</strong></td>
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<td>Ebony-Anne Smith</td>
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<td>Ibrahim Abdul-Matin</td>
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<td>Alissa P. Carroccino</td>
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<td>Igor S. Garcia</td>
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<td>Shawalewa Brown</td>
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<td>Aaron M. E. Gardner</td>
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<td>Iziarah Roberts</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Matthew Lewis</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Maye E. Osborne</td>
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Taylor Community Spirit Award
1999
 Brothers United for Action
2001
 Jack Reed
2002
 Ambrose Jearld
2003
 Jimmie L. Davis, Jr.
2004
 Peter F. Hurst, Jr.
2005
 Geraldine S. Hines
2006
 Lisa Churchville
2007
 D. Crystal Byndloss
2008
 Nicky Sheats

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
2006
 Caroline O. Freeman
2007
 Kristie Correia
2008
 David Bell

Robinson Award
1998
 John Bennett
1999
 LaJhon Jones
2000
 Joshua King
2001
 Cuttino Mobley
2002
 Preston Murphy
2003
 Antonio Reynolds-Dean
2004
 Silas Otniel Rodrigues Pinto
2005
 Andrew Wafula
2006
 Leroy Womack
2007
 Brackston Poitier
2008
 Lazare Adingono

Gibbsson Award
1999
 Martinique Alber
2000
 Zinobia Machanguana
2001
 Yatar Kuyateh
2002
 Gina Rosen
2003
 Denise M. King
2004
 Pascale Delaunay
2005
 Erin Aseli Fleming
2006
 Whitney Hollis
2007
 Safiatu K. Mojidi
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<th>Award</th>
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<td>Coachman Award</td>
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<td>Maria L. Sampson</td>
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<td>Frantz Medina</td>
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<td>Benson Award</td>
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<td>Katrina Douglas</td>
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<td>Babatunde Ologun</td>
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<td>Brady Award</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Destiny Woodbury</td>
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<td>Lucelene Almeida</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Daryl Mensah</td>
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<td>Edmonds Award</td>
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<td>Angela Lovegrove</td>
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<td>Drake Award</td>
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<td>Tanzeem Ajmiri</td>
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<td>ASBS President’s Award</td>
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<td>Olajumoke O. Akinrolabu</td>
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<td>Danielle Leigh Hill</td>
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<td>Uhuru Sasa Anniversary Award</td>
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<td>Hamilton Scholars</td>
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<td>Moses Siums</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Moreino</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Shantae Moreino</td>
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<td>Titilayo C. Fakiyesi</td>
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<td>Ruth Laurent</td>
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<td>Jolene Octavius</td>
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</table>
2009 Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

Olubukola T. Babalola, 3.96
Paula C. Monteiro, 3.70
Robin Covington, 3.62
Marie H. Yattara, 3.62
Joseph Godfrey, 3.58
Adedamola Ajiboye, 3.47
Temiloluwa A. Kusemiju, 3.48
Babawale F. Jenyo, 3.47
Bright U. Onye, 3.40
Bukola O. Bakare, 3.33
Nellie M. Semedo, 3.36
Jasmin Souza, 3.35
Sara L. Green, 3.30
Khabria L. Hundley, 3.28
Olunfunmilay Y. Jenyo, 3.26
Chinyere G. Okpara, 3.18
Marie Joseph, 3.17
Coretta J. Antwi, 3.16
Gessie E. Belizaire, 3.16
Steve Barbosa, 3.15
Sierra Cooper, 3.15
Ankawha Blain, 3.14
Denisha M. Ford, 3.13
Ramatouli Touray, 3.11
Brandy O. Derogene, 3.10
Theresa J. Evans, 3.10
Carlos M. Miranda, 3.08
Kasey L. Johnson, 3.05
Ginette J. Bernadotte, 3.03
Joseph P. McCullough, 3.03
Ahyieh Mansue, 3.00
Dwan J. Roberson, 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 has the distinction of being the first Onyx chapter established at a New England state university.
**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

2007
Dr. D. Crystal Byndloss  
Assistant Dean for Research  
Temple University

2008
Dr. Nicky Sheats  
Director of Center for Urban Environment  
Thomas Edison State College