BLACK SCHOLAR AWARDS

Monday, April 5, 2010 • 6:30pm
Cherry Auditorium
Chester Kirk Center for Advanced Technology, Kingston, Rhode Island
featuring Dr. David Kyuman Kim
PROGRAM

The Thirteenth Annual
Black Scholar Awards

sponsored by

The University of Rhode Island
Black Scholar Awards
Program Committee

April 5, 2010
THIRTEENTH ANNUAL BLACK SCHOLAR AWARDS PROGRAM
Chester Kirk Center for Advanced Technology
Cherry Auditorium
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island
5 April 2010
6:30 P.M.

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

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

Introduction of Speaker
The Honorable Gordon D. Fox, B.A., J.D.
The Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, District 4

Speaker
David Kyuman Kim, B.A., M.Div., Th.D.
Director, Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, Connecticut College

About the Black Scholar Awards Program
In 1998, 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 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 financial support of President David M. Dooley, University of Rhode Island Alumni Association, and the Office of Alumni Relations. President Dooley’s recognition of the program’s vital role in acknowledging the unique presence and exceptional achievements of Black students on the campus demonstrates his sincere commitment to diversity. A special thank you is extended to Dr. Andrew M. Staroscik for financial support; Dean Earl Smith for invaluable assistance; and Mr. Charles Watson for support and organization of this year’s reception.

Black Scholar Awards Program Coordinators
Dr. Donald Cunnigen and Dr. Christopher D Hunter (On Sabbatical Leave–2009-2010)
Dr. David Kyuman Kim is Director of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE) and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Connecticut College. Cornel West has called him “the leading philosopher of religion and culture of his generation.”

Born in Seoul, Korea, he came to the United States as an infant in 1966 with his parents. The family left Korea’s political turmoil to seek a better life and arrived with just $75. They were among the first Koreans to obtain visas after passage of new immigration laws in 1965. The family settled in the Boston area, where his father, who spoke no English, re-established his career as a doctor after a second residency. Assimilation into United States culture was not easy. He attributes his interest in issues of race and ethnicity partly to his heritage and his identity—he was always a racial minority in predominantly white schools. He came of age during a time of greater awareness about pluralism in public life, in both good and bad ways.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in American history from the University of Rochester, and a Master of Divinity degree and Doctor of Theology degree in philosophy of religion from the Divinity School, Harvard University. He joined Connecticut College’s Department of Religious Studies in 2003. He has also taught at Harvard University and Brown University. In 2005, Dr. Kim was named the Inaugural Director of the College’s new Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity. Under his leadership, the Center has sponsored scores of public lectures, colloquia, and performances and has developed new curricular initiatives focused on race and ethnic studies.

His first book, Melancholic Freedom: Agency and the Spirit of Politics was published by Oxford University Press in 2007. The book was the topic of a major panel at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Diego, featuring commentaries by Judith Butler, Tavis Smiley, and Cornel West. In December 2007, Kim appeared on the national Public Broadcasting System (PBS) program, the Tavis Smiley Show. Currently, he is completing a new book project, Excessive Modernity: Race, Religion, Memory. He is a co-founder of a number of nationally regarded Asian American initiatives, includ
ing the American Academy of Religion’s program unit Asian North American Religions, Cultures, and Society and the Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the American Studies Association, the Association for Asian American Studies, and the American Political Science Association. In 2007, he joined the editorial board of the political theory journal *Theory and Event*—the first scholar of religious studies invited onto the board. Most recently in 2009, he was inaugural Visiting Professor in the Humanities at the Cogut Center for the Humanities at Brown University. In the spring of 2009, he served as the Acting Program Director of the Programs in Religion and the Public Sphere at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). He continues his work with the SSRC as Senior Advisor and also the Editor-at-Large of the SSRC’s blog, The Immanent Frame.

In addition to his scholarly work in race and ethnic studies, philosophy of religion, political theory, and memory and identity, He has also collaborated with the critically acclaimed choreographer David Dorfman on *Disavowal*, a dance-theatre piece inspired by the life and legacy of the messianic abolitionist John Brown. His cultural interests and activity have included singing with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1989.

*Dr. Kim with guests at a CCSRE event.*
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Award

William Gould Award for All-Around Outstanding Achievement

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

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

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

David Edmonds Award for Outstanding Artistic and Creative Expression

Sojourner Truth Award for Scholarly Persistence and Dedication

St. Clair Drake Award for Outstanding Scholarly Research

Althea Gibson and Jackie Robinson Scholar-Athlete Awards

St. Elmo Brady Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science

Noreen Coachman Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Older Student

Estes Benson Award for Academic Achievement

Rhode Island Legislative and Other Citations

Onyx Senior Honor Society Ceremony

Presenter

Earl N. Smith III, B.S., M.S.W.
College of Arts and Sciences, Assistant Dean

Marc Hardge, B.A.
Talent Development Program, Counselor

Ana Barraza, B.A., M.S.
Class of 1994

Vanessa Wynder Quainoo, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Departments of Communications Studies and African-American Studies

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

Gitahi Gititi, B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D.
Depts. of English and African-American Studies

Jason B. Pina, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Asst. Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students

College of Business Administration

Charles Watson, B.S.
College of Engineering, Minority Student Recruitment & Retention Coordinator

Andrew M. Staroscik, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
Director, Rhode Island Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research Academy

Yvette Harps-Logan, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Dept. of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising & Design

Melvoid Benson, B.A.
North Kingstown School Committee

Representative Joseph S. Almeida Jr., B.A.
Rhode Island General Assembly—District 12

Representative Anastasia P. Williams
Rhode Island General Assembly—District 9

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

Earl N. Smith III, B.S., M.S.W.
College of Arts and Sciences, Assistant Dean
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: Brandon F. Brown

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: Wayne James Montague, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Outstanding Leadership & 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: Douglas Tondreau

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: Richlieu A. Norris

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 senior who has demonstrated excellence as well as originality and creativity in the arts.
Recipient: Jason E. Smith

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: Kathy Young

Saint Clair Drake Award for Outstanding Scholarly Research
Saint Clair Drake was a noted anthropologist-sociologist who served as a distinguished professor on the faculty of Stanford University. The Drake Award is presented to a senior who has demonstrated the best aspects of scholarly research through the development, execution, and completion of a scholarly research project.
Recipient: Omobola Onikoyi
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: Kehinde Omisore (Track), Lamonte Ulmer (Basketball) and Keith C. Cothran (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 high academic achievement in the sciences among Black Students.

Recipients: Omotola Ashorobi, Temiloluwa A. Kusemiju, and Faith Tolulope Adewusi

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: Joy Robinson

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: Maxwell E. Edmonds (3.99) and Jessica A. Adefusika (3.85)

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.

Recipients: David K. Kim
## 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
- **2007**: Jenell B. Yates
- **2008**: Christian Apollon Kalyanna Champlain
- **2009**: Gessie E. Belizaire

### HARDGE AWARD
- **1998**: Solomon Comissong
- **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
- **2007**: Sharon L. Isom
- **2008**: Aleah Bagwell Moreino
- **2009**: Ahyieh Mansue

### GIBSON AWARD RECIPIENT
- **2009**: Ashley Roberson

### 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
- **2006**: Aaron M. E. Gardner
- **2007**: Iziarah Roberts
- **2008**: Matthew Lewis Maye E. Osborne
- **2009**: Brandy O. Derogene

### KING AWARD
- **1998**: Ebony-Anne Smith
- **1999**: Ibrahim Abdul-Matin
- **2000**: Alissa P. Carroccino
- **2001**: Igor S. Garcia
- **2002**: Laura Santos
- **2003**: Shawalewa Brown
- **2004**: Paulo M. Cruz Thelma Yaniza Titus Benjamin Wesley
- **2005**: Emily M. Hall
- **2006**: Brian A. Monteiro
- **2007**: Chris Washington
- **2008**: Asad Akinfolarin Michonne Gamble Rivers
- **2009**: Sheena Gonsalves
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<td>William Daniels</td>
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<td>Kahiem Seawright</td>
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<td>Jason Francis</td>
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2009 Distinguished Service Award recipient, Dr. Cynthia Hamilton, Former Director of the African and African-American Studies Program

Distinguished Service Award
2009
Dr. Cynthia Hamilton
Former Director of the African and African-American Studies Program

Benson Award
1998
Katrina Douglas
Troy Robinson
1999
Cheryl Anne Connor
Jose Barbosa
2000
Angelica Gomes
John Harris
Wennzdehl Powell
2001
Kimberly Anderson
Michael Lyle
2002
Babatunde Ologun
Joyll Smith
2003
Cynthia Prudence
Claudio Rodrigues
Kimberly Starks
2004
Sharina Niera Savage
Freddie Skipworth
2005
Adilson M. Ribeiro
Millie N. White
2006
Kevin Delle Femine
Natasha L. Soares
2007
James G. Smart
Chris S. Washington
Amber L. Wells
2008
Frederick Arnett II
Cynthia Murray
2009
Joseph Godfrey
Olubukola Babalola

Brady Award
2004
Demond M. Boseman
2006
Destiny Woodbury
2007
Lucelene Almeida
2008
Daryl Mensah
2009
Martha Ofeibia-Tenkorang

Edmonds Award
2007
Emily Bibb

Drake Award
2008
Tanzeem Ajmiri
Victor Gonzalez
Ryan Hughes
Sharon L. Isom
Delvin Johnson
Matthew Lewis
Jacquelyn Moreino
Albert Omijie
Elvis Soriano

Robinson and Gibson Award Recipients
2007
Kahiem Seawright
TyLynn Graham
Jason Francis

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

Hamilton Scholars
2005
Moses Siums
2006
Jacqueline Moreino
Shantae Moreino
2007
Titilayo C. Fakiyesi
Ruth Laurent
Jolene Octavius

2009 Robinson and Gibson Award Recipients: Kahiem Seawright, TyLynn Graham, and Jason Francis
2010 Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

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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

2009
The Honorable Elizabeth H. Roberts
Lieutenant Governor
The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations