2011 Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

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PROGRAM

sponsored
by

The University of Rhode Island
Black Scholar Awards
Program Committee

April 2, 2012
2012 Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

Stephane Andrade
Marie Beltre
Reumildo R. Correia
Trystan Del Tufo
Anulouwapu Linda Famodimu
Yvens L. Faustin
James E. Fontes
Maya S. Gibbes
Robert Gilliard
Diamond C. Goncalves
Brittany S. Hedger
Susanna O. Iwu
Antaeus K. Jefferson
Mitzie Johnson
Tetee R. Joseph
Anthony P. Malhoit
Vaughn X. Martin
Brianna N. Mays
Jasmine Middleton
Admir Monteiro

2012 Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

Paul F. Monteiro
Fatou A. Ndiaye
Marissa Norman
Gafar O. Odufuye
Nana Ofel-Tenkorang
Kelly Oliveira
Kimberly A. Oliveira
Omolara Oritetan
Rusbel Perez
Judy L. Perry
Tonisha Pierre
Kimberly A. Pires
Timothy Quainoo
Jonathan St. John
Mecca Smith
Christie A. Theodore
Celeste G. Thompson-Roach
Nindi D. Tiemo
Jillian Marie Winfield

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 financial support of the Office of the President, University of Rhode Island Alumni Association, and the Office of Alumni Relations. A special thank you is extended to Assistant Dean Earl Smith for invaluable assistance and Mr. Charles Watson for support and organization of this year's reception. Please visit the Black Scholar Awards web site at: www.uri.edu/bsa. The Black Scholar Awards Program Coordinators are Dr. Donald Cunnigen and Dr. Christopher D. Hunter. The program was prepared 03/23/12. Please forgive any names spelled incorrectly, omissions, and other errors.

Brief History of Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society

In 2005, Dr. Cynthia Hamilton, former Director of African and African-American Studies and Professor of Political Science and Dr. Donald Cunnigen, Professor of Sociology established the Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society on the campus of the University of Rhode Island. The purpose of the society is to recognize the academic achievement of graduating seniors of African descent. The impetus for the founding of the independent Rhode Island organization was derived from a similarly named group established in 1974 by three administrators and seven Black students at the University of Pennsylvania. The Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society has three main tenets, academic excellence, community service, and cultural pride. Through these tenets, the society recognizes Black student academic achievement by encouraging and providing incentives for scholastic excellence and community service. Society membership is extended to Black students with overall grade point averages of 3.00 or higher. The Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society is not affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania’s Onyx organization.
James Vincent is no stranger to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)—Providence Branch. He served as the Second Vice President for many years. He has spent his entire career working in housing and community development in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Since March 1998, he has served as the Manager of Constituent Advocacy for Rhode Island Housing, the state’s housing finance agency, where he provides outreach and technical assistance to underserved communities among other duties.

He serves as the Producer and Host of the award winning, Jim Vincent Show on public service television. He has significant board involvement with the American Exchange Commission. Most notable are his community engagement activities. His demonstrated leadership in community relations earned him elections and appointments to various leadership roles. He serves as President of both the Rhode Island Affirmative Action Professionals (RIAAP) and the East Bay Community Action Program, Incorporated (EPCAP). Likewise, he serves as Vice President of both the Rhode Island Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce (HACC) and the Center for Hispanic Policy (CHisPA). Further, he serves as the Outreach and Public Relations Coordinator of the African Alliance of Rhode Island (AARI) and member of the Cape Verdean Progressive Center. He is a former President of the Urban League of Rhode Island.

He is the recipient of the 2009 Wheeler School Community Spirit Award, the 2008 Leadership Rhode Island David E. Sweet Award, 2006 Metcalf Diversity Award for television broadcast, 2006 Special recognition Best Series Rhode Island COX PEG Television Awards, 2006 NAACP Providence Branch George Lima Community Service Award, 2006 John Hope Settlement House Community Service Award, 2006 New England Omega Psi Phi Citizen of the Year, 2005 Rhode Island Omega Psi Phi Citizen of the Year Award, 2004 NCCJ Leadership Award, 2004 Rhode Island Affirmative Action Professionals (RIAAP) Co-Board member of the Year Award, 2004 First Annual Rhode Island Young Professionals “Honorary Young Professional Award”, the 2003 Ocean State Business Forum Business Practitioner of the Year award, 2002 Cape Verdean-American Reunion Man of the Year Award, the 2002 Urban League special recognition award, SWAP’s 1999 “Going Above and Beyond” Award, 1997 Self Help Board Member of the Year Award, In April 2001, Johnson and Wales University designated a scholarship in his name.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Government from Dartmouth College and a Masters in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. He is also a graduate of Leadership Rhode Island.
TAYLOR COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD
1999
Brothers United for Action
2001
Jack Reed
2002
Ambrose Jeard
2003
Jimmie L. Davis, Jr.
2004
Peter F. Hurst, Jr.
2005
Geraldine S. Hines
2006
Lisa Churchville
2007
D. Crystal Byndloss
2008
Nicky Sheats
2009
Elizabeth H. Roberts
The Underground Railroad
2010
David Kyuman Kim
2011
Ibrahim Abdul-Matin

ROBINSON AWARD
1998
John Bennett
LaJhon Jones
Joshua King
Cuttino Mobley
1999
Preston Murphy
Antonio Reynolds-Dean
2000
Silas Otniel Rodrigues Pinto
2001
Andrew Wafula
Leroy Womack
2002
Brackston Poitier
2003
Lazare Adingono
2005
Randy Brooks
Reuben Ray
2006
Robert Eben Johnson, IV
Terrence Mack
Tyrese Sullivan
2007
Darrell Harris
LaPetra Brooks
2008
Adrian Owen
William Daniels
2009
Jeffry C. Martins
Kahiem Seawright
Jason Francis
2010
Lamont Ulmer
Keith Cothran
2011
Wille V. McGinnis

TRUTH AWARD
1998
Shirley Consuegra
1999
Celise Craig
2000
Cal Vinson Whitfield
2001
Ahner Correia
2002
Nicoie Love
2003
Nana Love
2004
Teresa B. Evans
2005
Alex Bien-Aime
2006
Caroline O. Freeman
2007
Kristie Correia
2008
David Bell
2009
Catalina Gomez
2010
Lamont Ulmer
Keith Cothran
2011
Ruth Phillips

GIBSON AWARD
1999
Martinique Alber
2001
Zinobia Machanguana
2002
Yatar Kuyateh
2003
Gina Rosen
2004
Denise M. King
2005
Pascale Delaunay
2006
Eliz Aseli Fleming
2008
Whitney Hollis
Safiatu K. Majidi
2009
Chinyere G. Okpara
Ashley Roberson
TyLynn Graham
2010
Kehine Omisore

UHURU SASA ANNIVERSARY AWARD
1999
Uhuru Sasa

Left to Right: James Vincent, NAACP President—Providence Branch, Dr. Ruth Simmons, Brown University President, and Clifford Monteiro, Past NAACP President—Providence Branch.
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 Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to the University Community
Harvey Robert Turner Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Rhode Island Black Community
Jackie Robinson and Althea Gibson Scholar-Athlete Awards
St. Clair Drake Award for Outstanding Scholarly Research
St. Elmo Brady Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science
David Edmonds Award for Outstanding Artistic and Creative Expression
Estes Benson Award for Academic Achievement
Special Rhode Island Legislative Citations
Onyx Senior Honor Society Ceremony

Presenter
Christopher D. Hunter, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Marc Hardge, B.S. Talent Development, Counselor
Yvette Harps-Logan, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design
Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D. Department of Sociology-Anthropology
Gitahl Gititi, B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D. Departments of English and Africana Studies
Robert P. Dillworth, B.A., M.F.A. Department of Art and Art History
Darran Simon, B.A., M.S.J. Philadelphia Inquirer, Reporter
Earl Smith III, B. S., M.S.W. Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
Melvoid Benson, A.B. North Kingstown School Committee
The Honorable Anastasia Williams Rhode Island Assembly—District 9
Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D. Department of Sociology-Anthropology

Remarks

GOULD AWARD
1998 Darran Anthony Simon
1999 Danielle Leigh Hill
2000 Chantale M. Edouard
2001 Patricia Dos Santos
2002 Mervens LaPorte Monica Tavares
2003 Reza Clifton Cynthia Prudence
2004 Naomi S. Gobem
2005 Pascale Delaunay
2006 Nimota A. Soliola
2007 Jenell B. Yates
2008 Christian Apollon Kalyanna Champlain
2009 Gessie E. Beiliser
2010 Brandon F. Brown
2011 Danielle Henderson

HARDGE AWARD
1998 Solomon Comissong
1999 Marc Hardge
2000 Askew Husband
2001 Ana P. Semedo
2002 Barry O’Connor

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS
2003 Albertio DaCruz Shaquila Hazard
2004 Andrea D. Hepburn
2005 Raydeana Rodérick
2006 Nicole Austin
2007 Sharon L. Isom
2008 Aleah Bagwell Moreino
2009 Ahyieh Mansue
2010 Wayne James Montague, Jr.
2011 Ashley D. Smith

KING AWARD
1998 Ebony-Anne Smith
1999 Winston Bedell
2000 Alissa P. Carroccino
2001 Igor S. Garcia
2002 Laura Santos
2003 Shawalewawa Brown
2004 Paulo M. Cruz Thelma Yaniza Titus
2005 Benjamin Wesley
2006 Emily M. Hall
2007 Brian A. Monteiro
2008 Chris Washington

2008 Avido Akinfolari
Michonne Gamble Rivers
2009 Sheena Gonsalves
2010 Douglas Tondreau
2011 Stephen Larbi

TURNER AWARD
1998 Nepko Brown
1999 Ibrahim Abdul-Matin
2000 Jonathan L. Lewis
2001 Marlon J. Mussington
2002 John C. Cruz
2003 Deron Agyapong
2004 Claudette M. Bannerman
2005 Candace Ranglin
2006 Aaron M. E. Gardner
2007 Isiarah Roberts
2008 Matthew Lewis
2009 Maye E. Osborne
2010 Brandy O. Derogene
2011 Richlieu A. Norris
2011 Marquis Jones

2008 Pascale Delaunay
2009 Reza Clifton
2010 Jenell B. Yates
2011 Danielle Henderson

2008 Mervens LaPorte
2009 Monique Tavares
2010 Brian A. Monteiro
2011 Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D. Department of Sociology-Anthropology

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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: Mecca Smith

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: Gafar Odufuye

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: Maria L. Beltre

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: Stephane Andrade

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 Gibson Award is presented to a senior female athlete in recognition of outstanding performance in sports that highlighted skills of good sportsmanship and the best qualities of the scholar-athlete. The Robinson Award is presented to a senior male athlete in recognition of outstanding performance in sports that highlighted skills of good sportsmanship and the best qualities of the scholar-athlete.
Recipients: Anthony Malhoit (Basketball) and Marissa Norman (Pentathlon)

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: Mitzie Johnson

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: Justin Brown

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: Nana Ama Ofi-Tenkorang

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: Antaeus K. Jefferson

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: Jillian Marie Winfield and Rusbel Perez

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: James Vincent

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