



## **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**

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Lisa Churchville**  
**President and General Manager**  
**NBC 10--WJAR**



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**

<b>Award</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>William Gould Award for All-Around Outstanding Achievement</b>	<b>Kendall M. Moore, B.A., M.A. Department of Journalism</b>
<b>Arthur L. Hardge Award for All-Around Outstanding Community Service</b>	<b>Gordon H. Dash, B.A., M.B.E., D.B.A. Department of Finance</b>
<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to the University Community</b>	<b>Cynthia Hamilton, B.A., Ph.D. Departments of History and Political Science Director of African and African-American Studies Program</b>
<b>Harvey Robert Turner Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Rhode Island Black Community</b>	<b>Talia M. McCray, B.S., B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Management</b>
<b>Sojourner Truth Award for Scholarly Persistence and Dedication</b>	<b>Gitahi Gititi, B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D. Departments of English and African and Afro-American Studies</b>
<b>Jackie Robinson and Althea Gibson Scholar-Athlete Awards</b>	<b>Natacha E. Thomas, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Civil Engineering</b>
<b>Noreen Coachman Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Older Student</b>	<b>Abu Bakr, B.S., M.S., M.B.A. Executive Assistant to President Director of Planning Services and Professional Development</b>
<b>St. Elmo Brady Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science</b>	<b>Jaycoda S. Major, B.S., Ph.D. Department of Chemistry</b>
<b>Estes Benson Award for Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Melvoid Benson, A.B. North Kingstown School Committee</b>
<b>Lumas Hamilton Sr. Scholarship</b>	<b>Cynthia Hamilton, B.A., Ph.D. Departments of History and Political Science Director of African and African-American Studies Program</b>
<b>Special Rhode Island Legislative Citations</b>	

**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*  
*Monica Tavares*  
2003  
*Reza Clifton*  
*Cynthia Prudence*  
2004  
*Naomi S. Govern*  
2005  
*Pascale Delaunay*

##### **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*

##### **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*

##### **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  
*Jimmie 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*  
*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*

**Gibson Award**

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

**Coachman Award**

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

**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*  
*Adilson M. Ribeiro*

**Brady Award**

2004  
*Demond M. Boseman*

**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*



## **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*

*On the Front Cover (Left to Right): Randy Brooks--2005 Robinson Award, Raydeana Roderick--2005 Hardge Award, Alex Bien-Aime--2005 Truth Award, Pascale Delaunay--2005 Gibson Award and 2005 Gould Award, Moses Siums--2005 Hamilton Scholar, Emily Hall--2005 King Award, Safi Mojidi--2005 Scholastic Achievement Award, Adilson Ribeiro--2005 Benson Award, and Millie White--2005 Benson Award.*