



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

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

D. Crystal Byndloss, B.A., Ph.D.

Assistant Dean for Research

**Associate Director of Center for Research on Human Development and
Education
Temple University**



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

Award	Presenter
William Gould Award for All-Around Outstanding Achievement	Kendall M. Moore, B.A., M.A. Department of Journalism
Arthur L. Hardge Award for All-Around Outstanding Community Service	Cynthia Hamilton, B.A., Ph.D. Departments of History and Political Science Director of African and African-American Studies Program
Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to the University Community	Ana Barraza, B.A., M.S. Program Coordinator, Center for Student Leadership Development
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	Gitahi Gititi, B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D. Departments of English and African and Afro-American Studies
Jackie Robinson Scholar-Athlete Awards	Gordon H. Dash, B.A., M.B.E., D.B.A. Department of Finance
Noreen Coachman Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Older Student	Abu Bakr, B.S., M.S., M.B.A. Executive Assistant to President Director of Planning Services and Professional Development
St. Elmo Brady Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science	Vanessa Wynder Quainoo, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Department of Communications Studies
David Edmonds Award for Outstanding Artistic and Creative Expression	David Edmonds Class of 1964
Estes Benson Award for Academic Achievement	Melvoid Benson, A.B. North Kingstown School Committee
Lumas Hamilton Sr. Scholarship	Cynthia Hamilton, B.A., Ph.D. Departments of History and Political Science Director of African and African-American Studies Program

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: Iziah 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

Nimofa 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

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

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

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

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

Robinson Award**1998****John Bennett****LaJhon Jones****Joshua King****Cuffino 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****Tyrese 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****Adilson 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
Analay 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*