



# 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)**

# Keynote Speaker

David Kyuman Kim, B.A., M.Div., Th.D.

Director

Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity  
Connecticut College



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

### Presenter

**William Gould Award for All-Around  
Outstanding Achievement**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**David Edmonds Award for Outstanding  
Artistic and Creative Expression**

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

**Sojourner Truth Award for Scholarly  
Persistence and Dedication**

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

**St. Clair Drake Award for Outstanding  
Scholarly Research**

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

**Althea Gibson and Jackie Robinson  
Scholar-Athlete Awards**

**Gordon H. Dash, B.A., M.B.E., D.B.A.**  
College of Business Administration

**St. Elmo Brady Award for Outstanding  
Achievement in Science**

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

**Noreen Coachman Award for Outstanding  
Achievement by an Older Student**

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

**Estes Benson Award for Academic Achievement**

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

**Rhode Island Legislative and Other Citations**

**Melvoid Benson, B.A.**  
North Kingstown School Committee

**Onyx Senior Honor Society Ceremony**

**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



2009 Gibson Award Recipient  
Ashley Roberson

### **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

### **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

**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

**2009**

Elizabeth H. Roberts  
The Underground Railroad

**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

**2009**

Catalina Gomez

**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  
Laejon Brooks

**2008**

Adrian Owen  
William Daniels

**2009**

Jeffry C. Martins  
Kahiem **Seawright**  
Jason Francis

**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

**2008**

Whitney Hollis  
Safiatsu K. Mojidi

**2009**

Chinyere G. Okpara  
Ashley Roberson  
TyLynn Graham

**UHURU SASA ANNIVERSARY  
AWARD**

**1999**

Uhuru Sasa

**COACHMAN AWARD**

**2002**

Maria L. Sampson2003  
Bryan Barros

**2004**

Barbara J. Ellis

**2006**

Brandy O'Donnell

**2007**

Frantz Medina

**2008**

Angela Lovegrove

**2009**

Raphael Solawon



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 Ofeibea-Tenkorang



2009 Robinson and Gibson Award Recipients: Kahiem Seawright, TyLynn Graham, and Jason Francis

### **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**

**2009**

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



## 2010 Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

Andrew R. Shumate, 3.00	Rodney Confident, 3.25
Joseph Hanna, 3.00	Eric W. Kyne, 3.29
Modupe Afolabi, 3.01	David C. Cherry, 3.36
Omobola Onikoyi, 3.01	Admir A. Monteiro, 3.38
Emline Previlon, 3.85	Elizabeth K. Downing, 3.39
Veronica McLain, 3.03	Katia Lopes, 3.42
Amma A. Armah-Yeboah, 3.03	Aviette C. Hardy, 3.48
Erika A. Degraphenried, 3.05	Zelma I. Murray-Barclay, 3.49
Rohan K. Henry, 3.05	Natatia A. Nugent, 3.51
Jacqueline M. Neves, 3.06	Norma M. Dowdell, 3.53
Gloria O. Faboyede, 3.07	Ezekiel W. Payne, 3.55
Ayobami C. Akinbo, 3.10	Temiloluwa A. Kusemiju, 3.48
Fatma H. Mohamed, 3.12	Omotola S. Ashorobi, 3.61
Anice Barbosa, 3.12	Wayne J. Montague, 3.63
Dante Aliesh Waters, 3.16	Temitope M. Daodu, 3.63
Kehinde O. Omisore, 3.16	Faith Tolulope Adewusi, 3.63
Jimmy Adediran, 3.17	Jason E. Smith, 3.67
John P. Brito, 3.17	Ananda F. Fraser, 3.73
Sylvester Makor, 3.19	Ann M. Sam, 3.83
Brandon F. Brown, 3.21	Jessica A. Adefusika, 3.85
Maima Fortune, 3.25	Maxwell E. Edmonds, 3.99

## 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*