



2011

Black Scholar Awards

Monday, April 4, 2011

University of Rhode Island
Ryan Auditorium
Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences
Kingston, Rhode Island

PROGRAM

The Fourteenth Annual
Black Scholar Awards

sponsored
by

The University of Rhode Island
Black Scholar Awards
Program Committee

April 4, 2011

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL BLACK SCHOLAR AWARDS PROGRAM

**Ryan Auditorium
Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island
4 April 2011**

Presider	Earl Smith, III, B.S., M.S.W. Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Welcome	Christopher D. Hunter, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Invocation	Donna Gilton, B.A., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Library and Information Studies
Introduction of Speaker	Earl Smith, III, B.S., M.S.W. Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Speaker	Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, B.A., M.P.A. Author, Social Activist and Sports Reporter, The Takeaway
Tossie E. Taylor Community Spirit Award	Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D. Department of Sociology-Anthropology
Benediction	Donna Gilton, B.A., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Library and Information Studies

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 President David Dooley, University of Rhode Island Alumni Association, and the Office of Alumni Relations. A special thank you is extended to Dean Earl Smith for invaluable assistance and Mr. Charles Watson for support and organization of this year's reception. We would like to acknowledge the financial support of Dean Winifred Brownell with this year's program and technical assistance in developing our brand new web site: www.uri.edu/bsa.

**Black Scholar Awards Program Coordinators
Dr. Donald Cunnigen and Dr. Christopher D. Hunter**

Keynote Speaker
Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, '99, B.A., M.P.A.
Policy Advisor for New York City Mayor's Office

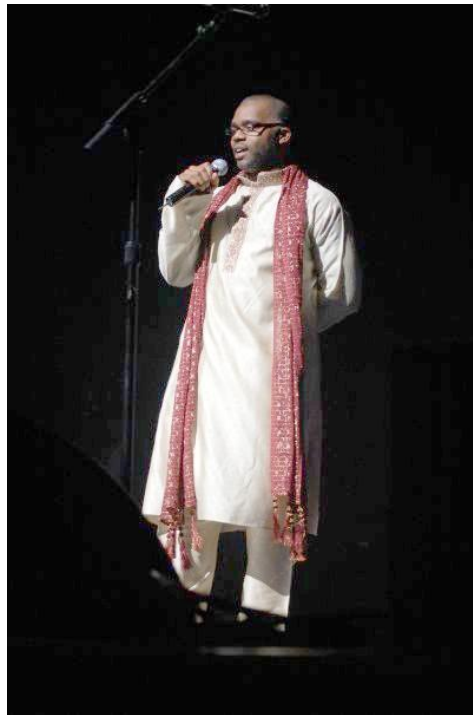


Ibrahim Abdul-Matin is author of the new book, ***Green Deen: What Islam Teaches About Protecting the Planet***. For the past ten years, Ibrahim has been a passionate voice for transforming our pollution based way of life to one that prioritizes our planet and its people. Ibrahim's dedication to the environment is rooted in his Deen - his religion of Islam.

In 1999, Ibrahim graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. He proudly served as the student commencement speaker where he reminisced about his time as a football player, student government leader, poet, and dedicated student. Post-graduation, Ibrahim worked for Outward Bound in the Boston Harbor, educating young people on issues of environment and leadership. With every new job, Ibrahim was committed to advocating for environmental justice. He worked as director of programs for the Prospect Park Alliance, an organizer for Active Element Foundation, a strategist for the Movement Strategy Center, and a Green for All fellow. In 2007, Ibrahim was accepted into the prestigious National Urban Fellows program. Along with being placed into a high-profile position at a private marketing firm, he completed a Masters of Public Administration from Baruch College. In graduate school, Ibrahim focused on mastering methods for efficient government management and operations. He served as a freelance consultant for Green City Force and soon after, was recruited by the New York City Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability.

Today, Ibrahim is a policy advisor for PlaNYC - New York City's policy plan for making the City "green." He serves as a translator between government officials and the public. Ibrahim is a volunteer with Interfaith Leaders for Environmental Justice, GreenFaith, and a board member of the Muslim Consultative Network. As author of **Green Deen: What Islam Teaches About Protecting the Planet**, he has appeared on FOX News, ABC News' "This Week," and is a featured regularly on public radio's morning news show, "The Takeaway." His writing has appeared in The Washington **Post**, **CNN.com**, **The Daily Beast**, **GOOD Magazine**, **ColorLines**, **Wiretap**, and **Elan Magazine**. **Green Deen** has been featured on the Brian Lehrer Show, The Global Grind, Energy Now, the Center for American Progress, America.gov.

Green Deen: What Islam Teaches About Protecting the Planet, presents a new way of thinking about the environmental movement. "If we are really serious about protecting our planet," Abdul-Matin argues, "we need more than gloomy scientific predictions and anti-corporate propaganda – we need to look to the deepest part of ourselves, and find motivation in our spiritual connection with the Earth." **Green Deen** bridges the gap between the secular environmental movement and the Islamic faith, and the message appeals to Muslims and non-Muslims alike.



Above: Ibrahim Abdul-Matin speaking at the Apollo.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Award	Presenter
William Gould Award for All-Around Outstanding Achievement	Kendall Moore, B.A., M.A. Department of Journalism and Film Studies
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	Yvette Harps-Logan, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design
Harvey Robert Turner Award for Outstanding Service to the University of Rhode Island Black Community	Darran Simon, B.A., M.S.J. Reporter, Philadelphia Inquirer
Sojourner Truth Award for Scholarly Persistence and Dedication	Gitahi Gititi, B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D. Departments of English and African and African-American Studies
Jackie Robinson Scholar-Athlete Award	Gordon H. Dash, B.A., M.B.E., Ph.D. College of Business Administration
Noreen Coachman Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Older Student	Raymond Watson, B.A., M.C.P. Chairman, Alumni of Color Network
St. Clair Drake Award for Outstanding Scholarly Research	Christopher D. Hunter, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
St. Elmo Brady Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science	Jason Pina, B.A., M.A., Ed.D. Assistant to Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
David Edmonds Award for Outstanding Artistic and Creative Expression	Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D. Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Estes Benson Award for Academic Achievement	Melvoid Benson, A.B. North Kingstown School Committee
Special Rhode Island Legislative Citations	The Honorable Anastasia Williams Rhode Island Assembly—District 9

Onyx Senior Honor Society Ceremony

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

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

Remarks

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

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: Danielle Henderson

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: Ashley D. Smith

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: Stephen Larbi

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: Marquis Jones

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: Ruth Phillips

Jackie Robinson Scholar-Athlete Award

In 1946, Jackie Robinson broke the color line in American professional baseball. As an 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: Willie V. McGinnis

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: Carlene Fiorito

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: John P. Brito

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: Eugenio Fernandez, Jr.

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: Albert B. Coelho

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: Danielle Henderson (3.75) and Jean Aubourg (3.37)

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: Ibrahim Abdul-Matin

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

2007

Jenell B. Yates

2008

Christian Apollon

Kalyanna Champlain

2009

Gessie E. Belizaire

2010

Brandon F. Brown

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

2010

Wayne James Montague, Jr.



*Wayne Montague Jr.
2010 Hardge Award Recipient*

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

2010

Douglas Tondreau

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

Iziah Roberts

2008

Matthew Lewis

Maye E. Osborne

2009

Brandy O. Derogene

2010

Richlieu A. Norris

Edmonds Award

2007

Emily Bibb

2010

Jason E. Smith



Brandon Brown
2010 Gould Award Recipient

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

2010

David Kyuman Kim

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

2010

Kathy Young

Robinson Award

1998

John Bennett

LaJhon Jones

Joshua King

Cuffino 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

2010

Lamont Ulmer

Keith Cothran

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

Safiatu K. Mojidi

2009

Chinyere G. Okpara

Ashley Roberson

TyLynn Graham

2010

Kehine Omisore



Omobola Oniyoki

2010 Drake Award Recipient

Uhuru Sasa Anniversary Award

1999

Uhuru Sasa

Coachman Award

2002

Maria L. Sampson

2003

Bryan Barros

2004

Barbara J. Ellis

2006

Brandy O'Donnell

2007

Frantz Medina

2008

Angela Lovegrove

2009

Raphael Solawon

2010

Joy Robinson

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****2010****Maxwell Edmonds****Jessica Adefusika****Brady Award****2004****Demond M. Boseman****2006****Destiny Woodbury****2007****Lucelene Almeida****2008****Daryl Mensah****2009****Martha Ofeibea-Tenkorang****2010****Omotola Ashorobi****Temiloluwa A. Kusemiju****Faith Tolulope Adewusi****Drake Award****2008****Tanzeem Ajmiri****Victor Gonzalez****Ryan ughes****Sharon L. Isom****Delvin Johnson****Matthew Lewis****Jacquelyn Moreino****Albert Omijie****Elvis Soriano****2010****Omobola Onikoyi****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 Award Recipients



Jessica Adefusika
2010 Estes Benson Award Recipient



Jason E. Smith
2010 David Edmonds Award Recipient



Maxwell Edmonds
2010 Estes Benson Award Recipient



2011 Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

Danielle Henderson, 3.75
Carlene Fiorito, 3.72
Jessica Martin, 3.72
Brittany Hedger, 3.57
Margaret N. Lwanga, 3.50
Norma M. Dowdell, 3.46
Jean W. Aubourg, 3.37
David Grace, 3.33
Rita Tavers-Burk, 3.33
Megan E. Cruz, 3.33
Theophilus K. Osei, 3.32
Ashley D. Smith, 3.30
Monica A. Krakue, 3.29
Nicole L. Duckworth, 3.26
Rodney Confident, 3.24

Christina A. Knoll, 3.23
John P. Brito, 3.23
Justin Zebrowski-Blackson, 3.22
Mitzie Johnson, 3.20
Albert B. Coelho, 3.14
Dante Aliesh Waters, 3.13
Ashley M. Reed, 3.11
Sylvester Makor, 3.11
Willie V. McGinnis, 3.10
Paulina I. Lacossade, 3.06
Rhode G. Laurent, 3.05
Paul F. Monteiro, 3.04
Diamonde C. Goncalves, 3.03
Geneva S. Kpangbai, 3.01
Stephania A. Fenelon, 3.01

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 senior 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.



2010 Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society Induction Class

Special Thanks to DONORS
University of Rhode Island Alumni Association
URI Alumni of Color Network
Office of the President
Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Office of the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dean Earl Smith
Mr. Abu Bakr

The program was prepared 03/06/11. Please forgive any names spelled incorrectly, omissions, and other errors.

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 the Center for the Urban Environment
Thomas Edison State College*

2009

*The Honorable Elizabeth Roberts
Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor*

2010

*Dr. David K. Kim
Center for Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity
Connecticut College*