



2011 Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

PROGRAM

sponsored
by

The University of Rhode Island
Black Scholar Awards
Program Committee

April 2, 2012

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Mr. Abu Bakr

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL BLACK SCHOLAR AWARDS PROGRAM

Ryan Auditorium
Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island
2 April 2012



Presider	Harold Bibb, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Biological Sciences and Associate Dean of Graduate School Emeritus
Welcome	Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D. Department of Sociology - Anthropology
Invocation	Donna Gilton, B.A., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Library and Information Studies
Announcements from Africana Studies	Vanessa Wynder Quainoo, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Department of Communications Studies Interim Director of Africana Studies
Introduction of Speaker	Christopher D. Hunter, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Speaker	James Vincent, B.A., M.C.P. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Providence Branch—President
Tossie E. Taylor Community Spirit Award	Donald Cunnigen, B.A., M.A., A.M., Ph.D. Department of Sociology - Anthropology

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.

2012 Rhode Island Onyx Senior Honor Society Inductees

Stephane Andrade	Paul F. Monteiro
Marie Beltre	Fatou A. Ndiaye
Reumildo R. Correia	Marissa Norman
Trystan Del Tufo	Gafar O. Odufuye
Anuoluwapu Linda Famodimu	Nana Ofei-Tenkorang
Yvens L. Faustini	Kelly Oliveira
James E. Fontes	Kimberly A. Oliveira
Maya S. Gibbes	Omolara Oriretan
Robert Gilliard	Rusbel Perez
Diamonde C. Goncalves	Judy L. Perry
Brittany S. Hedger	Tonisha Pierre
Susanna O. Iwu	Kimberly A. Pires
Antaeus K. Jefferson	Timothy Quainoo
Mitzie Johnson	Jonathan St. John
Tetee R. Joseph	Mecca Smith
Anthony P. Malhoit	Christie A. Theodore
Vaughn X. Martin	Celeste G. Thompson-Roach
Brianna N. Mays	Nindi D. Tiemo
Jasmine Middleton	Jillian Marie Winfield
Admir Monteiro	

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.

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

2011

Carlene Fiorito

BENSON AWARD

1998

Katrina Douglas
Troy Robinson

1999

Cheryl Anne Connor
Jose Barbosa

2000

Angelica Gomes
John Harris
Wenzdehl 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

2011

Danielle Henderson
Jean W. Aubourg

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

EDMONDS AWARD

2007

Emily Bibb

2010

Jason E. Smith

2011

Albert B. Coelho

DRAKE AWARD

2008

Tanzeem Ajmiri
Victor Gonzalez

Ryan Hughes

Sharon L. Isom

Delvin Johnson

Matthew Lewis

Jacquelyn Moreino

Albert Omijie

Elvis Soriano

2010

Omobola Onikoyi

2011

Eugenio Fernandez, Jr.

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

Keynote Speaker

James Vincent, President

NAACP—Providence Branch

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.



Left to Right: James Vincent, NAACP President—Providence Branch, Dr. Ruth Simmons, Brown University President, and Clifford Monteiro, Past NAACP President—Providence Branch.

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
- 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
Laejon Brooks
- 2008**
Adrian Owen
William Daniels
- 2009**
Jeffry C. Martins
Kahiem Seawright
Jason Francis
- 2010**
Lamont Ulmer
Keith Cothran
- 2011**
Willie V. McGinnis

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**
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**
Erin Aseli Fleming
- 2008**
Whitney Hollis
Safiatsu K. Mojidi
- 2009**
Chinyere G. Okpara
Ashley Roberson
TyLynn Graham
- 2010**
Kehine Omisore

UHURU SASA ANNIVERSARY AWARD

- 1999**
Uhuru Sasa

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

2006
Nimota A. Solola

2007
Jenell B. Yates

2008
Christian Apollon
Kalyanna Champlain

2009
Gessie E. Belizaire

2010
Brandon F. Brown

2011
Danielle Henderson

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.

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
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

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
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

2010
Richlieu A. Norris

2011
Marquis Jones

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Award

Presenter

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

Christopher D. Hunter, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

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

Marc Hardge, B.S.
Talent Development, Counselor

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Outstanding
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**

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

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

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

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

Gitahi Gititi, B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D.
Departments of English and Africana Studies

St. Clair Drake Award for Outstanding Scholarly Research

Robert P. Dilworth, B.A., M.F.A.
Department of Art and Art History

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

Darran Simon, B.A., M.S.J.
Philadelphia Inquirer, Reporter

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

Earl Smith III, B. S., M.S.W.
Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

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

Remarks

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

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: 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

AWARDS

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 Ofei-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