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*Happy Holidays*

**W**hat a wonderful time of the year! Holiday cheer surrounds us and with the realization that we are coming to the end of another fantastic year, we embrace the closing of the year with great anticipation for the beginning of 2011!

Throughout 2010, the Ron Brown Scholar Program has made great strides and we are mindful of the many gifts we have received from family and friends, and of the numerous accomplishments of our Ron Brown Scholars. We thank each of you for the support you have not only provided to us, but to the Scholars. Our collective efforts continue to challenge them to lead through service in their local and global communities.

We are especially appreciative to the Pilaro family, our Advisory Board, and our Steering Committee for their generosity and continued commitment to the growth and development of the Program.

In this edition, we bring to you a few of the highlights of the last few months. We are eager to embrace the road ahead of us with much anticipation for the 2nd Annual American Journey Awards, the continued growth of the RBSP L.E.A.D. Series, the many new partnerships which will be fostered, the new friends who will join our family and most importantly the welcoming of the 2011 Ron Brown Scholars (our 15th class of Scholars)!

We look forward to your continued support and extend to each of you best wishes for both a peaceful and joyous holiday season and a blessed New Year!

*With warmest regards,*

*The Ron Brown Scholar Program*

## Ron Brown Scholar Program Partners With Local Schools

**W**hen an innovative organization whose motto "The Value of One, The Power of All" forms a collaborative partnership with educators and business leaders, ideas are actualized, exciting endeavors are pursued, and many in the community reap benefits. We are proud to announce that our Leadership Enrichment and Academic Development (L.E.A.D. Series) curriculum for middle and high school students is

being implemented by both the Charlottesville City and Albemarle County, Virginia school systems.

In 2007, Ron Brown Scholar (RBS) Kiya Jones developed the Read to Lead Program. Her innovative undertaking coupled the book *I Have Risen: Essays by African American Youth* (a collection of college admission essays written by Ron Brown Scholars

*(Continued on Page 2)*



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- Jason W. Young (RBS 2000)**  
Entrepreneur



**Ron Brown Scholar Program Partners With Local Schools** *(Continued From Page 1)*

when they were applicants), with a powerful set of teaching points to be used in classrooms and enrichment programs. The program generated excitement and, in the ensuing years, evolved into the L.E.A.D. Series. Activities for the standards-based curriculum were developed by RBS staffer Dr. Jill Urquhart Reed and UVa graduate student Shanna Hogberg, (with invaluable input from several alumni Scholars). Financial support from The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, State Farm Insurance, Merrill Lynch/Bank of America, and Verizon's Thinkfinity has been essential to the project's success. In September, RBS alumnus Eddie Martin joined the endeavor to get the curriculum online. Web pages came to life and the curriculum assumed its current format.



Local area teachers and administrators listen to the introduction of L.E.A.D. Program curriculum.

On November 11, 2010 the program was presented to an audience of superintendents, business partners, and teachers from Charlottesville City and Albemarle County school systems. The teachers listened as our staff explained the flexible format and the goals of the leadership and service-based curriculum:

- to encourage self-awareness and reflection, examine and discover individual strengths and weaknesses,

instill concepts of goal-setting and attainment;

- to examine leadership in the contexts of history and current events;
- to help students in the understanding of and the positive manipulation of group dynamics;
- to engage students in civic activity fostering an individual and group sense of responsibility toward and for community, and connect students with Ron Brown Scholar mentors.

After several very positive comments came, the question teachers everywhere asked with incredulity, "Did you say the materials and mentoring partnerships are available at NO COST to us?" Only one week after the meeting, we have more than a dozen teachers who are excited to use the curriculum.

What makes the L.E.A.D. Series unique is the element of connecting L.E.A.D. students with Scholars as mentors. We are proud to be engaging in actions that embody the value we place on service and civic duty. Ron Brown Scholars will be available online to mentor students who are developing service projects that will impact their schools and/or communities. What a wonderful way to give back! Several Scholars will also serve on an Advisory Committee to the L.E.A.D. Series to assist in the continued development of curricula and projects for the high school students.

We look forward to having the Ron Brown Scholar Program L.E.A.D. Series expand around the country in the future. If you would like additional information about the program, you may visit our website at [www.ronbrownlead.org](http://www.ronbrownlead.org). ■

RBS L.E.A.D. Coordinator Jill Urquhart Reed (standing), answers questions following presentation of the web-based curriculum.



# Save **THE** Date



**Co-Host**

**Tom Werner**

Chairman, Boston Red Sox  
Partner & Co-Founder,  
Carsey Werner

## **Ronald H. Brown American Journey Awards**

Friday, March 25, 2011  
6:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.



**Co-Host**

**Marva Smalls**

Executive VP & Chief of Staff  
Nickelodeon Networks

JW Marriott  
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

For Ticket and Sponsorship Information visit [www.ronbrown.org](http://www.ronbrown.org) or call the office at 434-964-1588.

## HONOREES



**Julian Bond**  
Civil Rights Activist



**Sylvia and Eddie Brown**  
Entrepreneurs



**Thomas H. Boggs, Jr.**  
Chairman, Patton Boggs LLP



**Ronald H. Brown American Journey Awards**  
are granted to individuals who have developed opportunities  
for others to achieve success. Like the late Ron Brown,  
these role models demonstrate through their life experiences  
the importance of mentoring, service and the value of nurturing  
a network of leaders in America.

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Mary Snitch

## Program Announces the Addition of New Advisory Board Members

We are pleased to announce the addition of two distinguished new Board members, Mr. Jack Leslie and Mrs. Thaderine McFarlane. Their contributions will assist us in continuing to expand the breadth and depth of the Program. We welcome them warmly to the Ron Brown Scholar Program family.

**Jack Leslie** is Chairman of Weber Shandwick, one of the world's leading public relations firms. He is a veteran communications strategist, having advised corporations and governments on high-profile campaigns over the past two decades.

Jack served as a senior aide to Senator Edward Kennedy in the late 1970s, and later became President of Sawyer Miller Group, a pioneer in the political media consulting business. In the 1980s, he served as political consultant and media advisor to dozens of candidates for U.S. Senate and governor, and to presidential candidates in the U.S., Latin America, Africa and Asia. Political and business leaders alike have sought his counsel during significant crises, including American Airlines following the attacks of September 11th. He later testified before the House International Relations Committee on U.S. public diplomacy programs directed at the Muslim world.

In 2009, Jack was appointed by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate to serve as Chairman of the U.S. African Development Foundation. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, former Chairman of USA for UNHCR and a member of the Board of Advisors of the Duke Global Health Institute. Jack is a graduate of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.



Jack Leslie, Chairman Weber Shandwick

\* \* \* \*



Thaderine MacFarlane,  
Philanthropist

**Thaderine MacFarlane** is a respected philanthropist, currently serving on the Board of Trustees of The College Foundation of the University of Virginia. Thad is the mother of five. She is a community leader and board member of Today's Youth Matter; member and past philanthropic chair of the Oakland Bay Area Chapter of Links, Inc.; National Advisory Board member of Jazz at Lincoln Center; member and on the fundraising committee of MoAD (Museum of the African Diaspora); past member of Hillsborough School Foundation; and spousal member of World Presidents Organization and Chief Executives Organization.

Thaderine holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Denver; and a bachelor's degree in management from the University of New Orleans. ■

## Ron Brown Scholar Joins Program Staff

Eddie Martin, Jr. (RBS 2000) has joined the RBS staff in Charlottesville. As an undergraduate at Mississippi State University, he obtained a double degree in International Business. Following his graduation and missionary work in Niger, Africa, Eddie completed a Master of Divinity and an advanced Master of Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. Eddie is involved with several office projects, including working with the Program's L.E.A.D. Series, where he has performed administrative duties and created the website.

Eddie also serves as a consultant for the not-for-profit educational corporation Edvantia. Working primarily with Edvantia's Appalachia Region Comprehensive Center (ARCC), he works alongside the Intervention and Equity Initiative Teams and is engaged in extensive equity research (focusing on African Americans and the academic achievement gap), provides web design enhancements, and is helping to coordinate the ARCC's Equity Summit to be held on January 25th-26th, 2011.

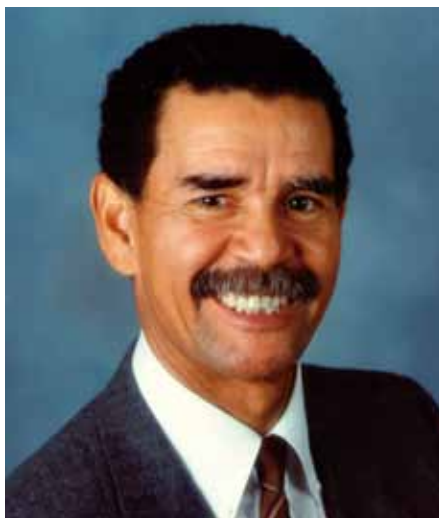
In his spare time, Eddie continues to pursue his pastoral call of ministering within and beyond the confines of the institutional church walls. He plans to work with a few youth organizations within the Charlottesville community and has also been invited to take a Religious Ethics class at the University of Virginia in the Spring. Welcome Eddie! ■



Eddie Martin, Jr.

## Maryland Scientist Dr. Anthony A. René Named 2010 Mentor of the Year

The Ron Brown Scholar Program is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Anthony A. René of Potomac, Maryland as the third annual recipient of the Ron Brown Scholar Program's Mentor-of-the-Year Award. Dr. René was selected from over 7,000 guidance counselors and mentors nationally. The Mentor-of-the-Year Award was established in 2008 to recognize outstanding public servants who embody the Program's commitment to the support of its Scholars.



Dr. René recently retired from the National Institutes of Health as Assistant Director in the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Although retired, he still volunteers as a mentor, introducing underrepresented students to the sciences and helping them to navigate the intricacies of the scientific world.

Announcing the award, RBSP Executive Director Michael Mallory said, "Tony is an exceptional individual and has played a vital role in the placement of our Ron Brown Scholars in top research facilities around the country. I cannot think of anyone who has been more passionate about directing African American students into the science fields – his legacy spans 50 years of federal service. He has been involved with our Scholars since 1998 and previously assisted me at the University of Virginia with opportunities for minorities going in to the medical field".

Dr. René recently played an essential role in guiding Ms. Victoria Tate, Ron Brown Scholar 2004, through her search for professional opportunities in the science field. "I have known Dr. René for about 2 years now and in that short amount of time he has made an incredible impact" said Victoria. "I admire Dr. René's 'pay it forward' methodology. After my first meeting with him, I could

tell that Dr. René truly believed in sharing resources and helping others get to the next step. That's exactly what he has done for me, and so many others. As a mentor, Dr. René goes exceedingly above and beyond. Dr. René's sound professional and personal advice is invaluable not only to students, but also to the people with whom he volunteers. This is just another example of his giving spirit and nurturing nature. Dr. René is unique and I am blessed to know him. He genuinely deserves this award".

Dr. René also mentored another Ron Brown Scholar, Danai Kadzere. "Dr. René embodies what it is to be a Ron Brown Mentor of the Year: he is eager to help, dedicated to the success of those he mentors, willing to make his free time available to help others, and somehow able to put those whom he mentors instantly at ease. Dr. René truly is a mentor who goes above and beyond the call of duty and I owe him great thanks for all of his help". ■

## Folake Dosu (RBS 2007) Appears on Game Show Jeopardy!



Photo courtesy of Jeopardy! Productions, Inc.

"This...Is...Jeopardy!" So often I heard Johnny Gilbert's booming voice announce the beginning of my favorite game show. Except this time, I would not be glued to the TV set at 3:30 p.m., shouting out answers

(technically "questions"). Rather, I was playing *in* the game, representing Stanford University in the 47th Annual College Jeopardy! Tournament.

In honor of the game's format, I have elected to structure this piece around questions. After the question, "Did you win!?", the second most popular question I have fielded since earning a spot on the show was "How did you get on Jeopardy!?" I am not above subjecting hapless readers to unnecessary suspense, so the outcome will be the "Final Jeopardy!" question of this essay.

The short answer of my journey to the podium is that I took an online test released biannually on Jeopardy!'s website. I was then selected for a live audition in

Los Angeles, where I took a written test and played a simulated round of the show against other hopefuls. I also answered a few behavioral interview questions to assure the judges that behind the trivia there is personality, and not utter social ineptitude. Eleven thousand students tried out for 15 coveted spots, so I was shocked and elated to have left an impression on the contestant producers, who were a delight to work with throughout my Jeopardy! experience.

Another common question is "Did they give you anything to prepare?" The answer: absolutely not. Contestants get no forewarning about the categories. The beauty of the Pandora's box that is the game board is that showcases your areas of expertise, but

*(Continued on Page 9)*

# Ron Brown *Leadership*

**Terence Carter** (1997) is happily working in the TV industry at Fox where he oversees their one-hour programming development. But in his spare time he is raising funds so that he and his wife can bring solar ovens to villagers in Mozambique this winter. Through African Millennium Foundation's Apron Project, Terence and wife Tal are providing ten women in Maputo with solar ovens and microcredit loans so they can save the time they typically spend collecting firewood (about half their day) and instead start a small business enterprise using the ovens drying vegetables or frying meats for market.

**Maria Velazquez** (2000) is currently working on her doctorate in American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. She recently received certificates in Women's Studies and Critical Theory. Her presentation at the National Women's Studies Association garnered a great deal of positive feedback, and her work as a board member of Lifting Voices, where dynamic DC youth discover the power of creativity, continues apace.

**William Chichester, III** (2001) is currently working at Capital One as a senior campus recruiter. He's traveling quite a bit recruiting sophomores, juniors and seniors for Capital One's operations in Dallas, TX. If you're interested in learning more about Capital One's Summit for Developing Leaders, internships and full-time opportunities at Capital One, please contact him immediately at [william.chichester@capitalone.com](mailto:william.chichester@capitalone.com) or calling him at 434-825-5327.

**Jade Craig** (2002) is a second-year JD candidate at Columbia University in New York. He serves as co-chair of the Civil Rights Law Society and as a staff editor for the *Columbia Journal of Race and Law*, under the leadership of Sheila Adams (RBS '01), the journal's Editor-in-Chief. He also currently works as a law clerk at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund,

Inc. This coming summer he will return to Moore & Van Allen, the Charlotte-based law firm where he spent last summer. Then he will join the summer associate program at the law firm of DLA Piper, a proud sponsor of the Ron Brown Scholar Program, in New York.

**Brennan (Johnson) Gould** (2001) is working as the Associate Director of Donor Services and Program Support at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, with a primary focus on facilitating the philanthropic interests of over 100 donor advisors. She serves on the Board of Directors of the local chapters of Habitat for Humanity and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She was married on October 23, 2010.

**Derick Gross** (1999) and his band Aqua Cherry have just independently released their debut full-length album, *Drowning in the Shallow End*. All 10 songs are available now in the iTunes Store, Zune Marketplace, and at Amazon.com. Aqua Cherry is now preparing for their official CD release party at Crash Mansion in NYC on December 22.

**Yann LeGall** (2003) is a first-year PhD student in computer science at the University of Pittsburgh. He was awarded the K. Leroy Irvis Graduate Fellowship. He also won the highly competitive UNCF Google Graduate Research Fellowship.

**Cameron Drake** (2006) has founded a company and is working day and night towards making the biggest splash in Silicon Valley in years. The company is in stealth mode at the moment but if you would like to know more hit up his inbox! He has become obsessed with Napa Valley and his happiness is dependent completely on the success of the Stanford Football team, GO CARD!

**Maris Jones** (2001) was awarded top surgical intern in her surgical residency program at University of Nevada,

# Scholars & Service

Las Vegas. She currently is working on her research and is exploring specialty options that interest her.

**Eleanor Branch** (2001) is working in Chevron's renewables division and was named project manager of a large renewable energy project involving UC Davis. She is currently living in San Francisco and enjoying the cultural and service opportunities her city affords.

**Danai Kadzere** (2002), a freshman at Harvard University, is concentrating in Molecular and Cellular Biology, as well as writing for Stories for Orphans, an organization that creates individualized early-reader books for children at an orphanage in Tanzania.

**Ihotu Ali** (2003) is finishing up her last semester as a full-time Public Health Masters student at Columbia University. She recently discovered a love for applied research and program evaluation in health, education, and the arts and is looking for jobs in these areas. She is also proudly releasing her first book of poetry and prose, titled *Mixed, divided and diasporized. And still we rise.*

**Amanda K. Johnson** (2002), a 2nd-year student at Harvard Medical School, is thrilled to be working on initiatives in primary care, global health, and medical language training in between respiratory pathophysiology and dance rehearsals for the infamous second-year show.

**Afaf Ibraheem** (2007) is enjoying her senior year at Harvard, and has just signed a job offer with Morgan Stanley Investment Banking Division.

**Peter Boyce II** (2008) is currently a sophomore at Harvard University, returning from a year working at Bad Boy Entertainment with Harry Hutchinson, and spent the summer at a hedge fund in New York. He also developed a microfinance program with Julian Miller (2003) that received the Ron Brown Community Service Foundation

Grant. Peter is currently working with a startup focused on addressing financial literacy, as well as creating a startup incubator at Harvard.

**Miles Johnson** (2004) is currently marketing *Search* at Google. He recently launched the [AdWords Small Business Center](#) to help small business owners use Google's advertising product, and is enjoying being the man behind the Google fan page on Facebook.

**Alexandra Wood** (2003) is currently the Marketing Coordinator for Groupe Alain Ducasse in New York. She also graduates from Professional Culinary Arts program at the French Culinary Institute on December 8th.

**Nicholas Smith** (2005) is currently a first-year medical student at Vanderbilt University on a Dean's Scholarship. He has taken on the role of Health Fair Coordinator for Vanderbilt's Chapter of AMSA and has just started a research project which will investigate human topoisomerase II, a common chemotherapy target in patients being treated for cancer. In his free time he is always looking for new recipes to try out.

**Ronnie Threadgill** (2001) is looking forward to the holidays, and is excited that she will be starting the MBA program at Baruch College in January.

**Dorian Dargan** (2007) is enjoying his first year as a grad student in MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning, in the International Development Group, while finishing up undergrad in Economics and Urban Studies and Planning. He is currently doing preliminary thesis preparation and is planning to examine how common perceptions of blackness influence social tensions in Cartagena, Colombia, and how these tensions are embodied spatially. Dorian also just had his art exhibit opening, entitled *A Noble Savage* at the Wiesner Gallery at MIT. See [doriandargan.com](http://doriandargan.com) for more details!

## Zindagi Founder, Jason Young Selected for Kauffman Labs Education Ventures Program

In November, Jason Young (RBS 2000) and his company Zindagi were chosen to participate in the Kauffman Labs Education Ventures Program. The program is sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and its purpose is to identify and incubate the next generation of scalable educational ventures. In this case Kauffman describes *scalable* as having the potential to become a billion dollar company and/or touch the lives of over 100 million people. After a grueling four-day interview process in Kansas City where Jason and his teammate Matt Garmur collaborated with and competed against other entrepreneurs vying for one of the spots, Zindagi was one of twelve companies chosen out of a total of 500 that applied. As part of the program, the Kauffman Foundation will provide the founders of Zindagi with a stipend, and in 2011, Jason and Matt will spend four months working with the Kauffman



Jason Young (RBS 2000) graduated from Harvard in 2004.

Foundation and the network of advisors that it has assembled in order to launch Zindagi nationally.

Jason was ecstatic about the selection, “This is an awesome development for us. The Kauffman Foundation is a well-respected force in the realms of entrepreneurship and education. Having them behind us when we launch next year will mean a lot.” Jason has been working on Zindagi since 2009. The company is a social enterprise that combines social gaming with real money to teach kids about personal finance. Think Farmville meets Mint.com. The word “zindagi” is Urdu for “life.” Zindagi’s mission is educate a new generation of financially capable Americans who are empowered to achieve their life goals and it differentiates itself from other financial literacy tool by focusing on achieving and measuring long-term behavior change. The Zindagi team will be launching the first version of their learning platform during the first quarter of 2011. ■

## A Noble Savage Dorian Dargan, RBS 2007 Reflects on Recent Art Exhibit

This has been an interesting ride so far... and what’s amazing about it is that it’s just beginning. Like an ascending rollercoaster, I’ve been building and preparing – anticipating what is to come and developing my artistry for my nascent career as an artist. But when I truly reflect on it, I realize that this is not actually a career I’m working towards. I’m cultivating myself. My art, whether it inhabits my paintings, poetry, or music, is a living extension of me, and no matter what my profession is, it will always have a place to live.

I recently had my first art exhibition opening on November 5, 2010 at MIT’s Wiesner Gallery. I marketed *A Noble Savage* as “an opportunity to discuss art and that which is quintessentially human.” It turned out to be that and much more.

Over 200 people came to the exhibition, including many of my friends and colleagues, and complete strangers/art-lovers that I didn’t even know. Much like a stone in a bubbling stream, I was rooted to one spot, as waves of inquiries about the artistic process, my inspiration, technical details and philosophical side notes encompassed me. People signed my guestbook, leaving their thoughts, blessings and analyses of my work. The most rewarding part of the whole night was when I sat back to survey the bustling crowd as they pondered and discussed, and I realized that everyone had come to support *me*, Dorian Dargan. They came not on behalf of an organization, not for selfish reasons... but to support my artistry and me. That alone was instantaneously both empowering and humbling.

Besides finishing up my degrees and contemplating my thesis, I’m currently looking for more venues to display my work and potential opportunities to expand while simultaneously harnessing my current creative energy to generate art.

To read/see more about my art, and to hear about what’s on the horizon, please see [doriandargan.com](http://doriandargan.com), or follow me on Tumblr and/or Twitter: <http://doriandargan.tumblr.com> or <http://twitter.com/dtothathird>.

Thanks for your love and support.

Dorian Dargan



Dorian Dargan is shown above with two pieces of art from his collection.

## Reflections From 2008 Mentor of the Year – Donna Cross

**M**y career at Kathleen Senior High School as their College and Career Specialist has been very rewarding for the past fifteen years. Not only am I allowed to pursue my passion by helping young adults prepare for their futures, but I have a “fun” job. Each day I find a challenge, and each day there is a victory.

Receiving recognition for my work has been rewarding, but means very little to me other than the prestigious award I received from the Ron Brown Scholar Program. Receiving this award not only surprised me, it made me realize there is so much more I can do to ensure students about how far they can go in life, and how, with effort, they can be anything they want to be. Because of this award I have come to realize, and pass on to my students, that although the world is not fair, it is wide open to whomever wants to take it. All you have to do is stay focused on the end result, keep your integrity, show initiative, keep your honor, and work hard. Winning this award has made me a much better mentor to my students, and allowed me to become much closer with them. I find myself letting them talk



Mentor Donna Cross (right) is shown with RBS Desiree Montgomery at school award ceremony.

about their lives, advising them on their career paths, and reminding them that the world is not fair. But the world is a game, and if they approach it prepared, they will win every time. Remember, you may be the only one that ever listens or furnishes

them with sound advice.

Desiree Montgomery was one of the twelve Ron Brown Scholarship recipients in 2008. Please allow me to share with you her achievements and accomplishments after receiving the scholarship. She attends Southeastern University and mentors students on a regular basis, is very active in her church, mentors and tutors several times a week at the Florida Baptist Children’s Home. She manages to donate money to the Ron Brown Scholar Fund monthly, continues to hold a very high GPA, and with all this, manages to visit and keep in touch with her high school teachers and follow their advice.

I have no doubts that whatever she chooses to do with her life, she will be extraordinary, and will always excel and be a leader of her peers. ■

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## Folake Dosu (RBS 2007) Appears on Game Show Jeopardy! *(Continued From Page 5)*

exposes gaps of knowledge. On the topic of serendipity, a favorite quote of mine is attributed to Thomas Edison: “Luck is when opportunity meets preparation.” Luck played a factor in the questions that I happened to know for the online test and at the audition, as it did for my competitors. Ultimately, luck had a hand in my show in the form of the pernicious buzzer in my clenched fist.

Though the questions in the selection process for the Jeopardy! College Tournament are rigorous, the questions in the actual College Jeopardy! shows are accessible for even the most casual viewers. Therefore my mortal enemy was not in the form of my opponents from Ohio State and Texas A&M (though they were worthy adversaries), but the dastardly buzzer. With the questions at a comfortable level, the game becomes a test of reflexes rather than a test of wits. Though viewers at home are spared from

the agonizing intricacies of the buzzer, contestants cannot click the buzzer until Alex is finished reading the clue. If you click too early, you get timed out. If you click too late, someone else gets in before you. Understanding the pitfalls of contestants “missing” seemingly no-brainer questions brings to mind another quote, this time courtesy of Plato: “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting an unknown battle.”

Though I led in the first round and played an overall solid game, due to an inability to master the buzzer and the record high cut-off for wild-card winners, I was not afforded many opportunities to display my preparation. By Edison’s definition of luck, I was unlucky and exited the tournament as a quarterfinalist.

I could dwell on this “bad luck” and ruminate over “What if’s” but at least one important lesson has been reinforced. What I took away in lieu of the tantalizing

\$100,000 grand prize is that sometimes not getting something you want makes you realize what you already have.

As a youngster, very few people who looked like me appeared on Jeopardy!. I hope that my appearance made black girl nerds visible and put Stanford and Jeopardy! in the realm of possibility and aspiration for young people of every color. I feel thankful to God for the once-in-a-lifetime chance to represent a university I love in College Jeopardy! and make my loved ones proud all while having fun. Affirmation from family, friends, well-wishers, and even strangers at school and from across the country was humbling and the excitement buoyed my spirits and readies my mind for future opportunities. From being a Ron Brown Scholar to being a Stanford student and everything between and beyond, I have been lucky when it has mattered the most and there is nothing trivial about that. ■

## Ron Brown Scholar Community Service Foundation Grant Recipients

The Ron Brown Scholar Community Service Foundation awarded small grants to the following Scholars:

**Martine Caverl** (RBS 1999), **Black Diaspora Project (\$1,000)**—to create an opportunity for cultural and political exchanges between African American and Haitian youth.

**Kristian Henderson** (RBS 2005) and **Mya Thompson** (RBS 2007), **Athletic Leadership and Empowerment (\$6,500)**—to provide male athletes with access, exposure, and skills in the sports industry.



RBS Oluwadamilola Oladeru (center) is shown with Princess of Ondo Kingdom (Dr. Adekemi Kiladejo) and Regent (acting King) of Erin-Ijesa land during the dedication of the library in Erin Ijesa, Nigeria.

**Kara Lee** (RBS 2000), **Tracy T. Moore, II** (RBS 2002) and **Jason Young** (RBS 2000), **Financial Literacy for the Future (\$9,900)**—to implement a financial literacy program for 9th and 11th grade students (and their parents) at Uniondale High School in Long Island, NY.

**Adora Mora** (RBS 2006) and **Peter Boyce** (RBS 2008), **Nigerian Initiative for Joint Advancement (\$5,000)**—to support the incorporation, website, and software development needs of NIJA, which will develop and implement training for students who commit to an internship in Nigeria.

**Oluwadamilola Oladeru** (RBS 2007) and **Folake Dosu** (RBS 2007), **Community Reads at Peace (\$6,800)**—to build a library in Erin Ijesa, Nigeria that will improve the literacy of all community members, promote peace amongst students by addressing religious tolerance issues through workshops, restore hope and give people a reason to hold on to their dreams for a better future and higher educational opportunities.

**Maria Valezquez** (RBS 2000) and **Desirée Montgomery** (RBS 2008), **Words Work! (\$4,795)**—to provide writing workshops to child survivors (ages 3-16) of domestic violence who are living in an emergency domestic violence shelter in Washington, DC.

**Jason Young** (RBS 2000), **Biz Camp—Ben Franklin Intermediate School (\$1,665)**—to support teaching a class of middle school students how to start their own business.

**Geraldine Pierre** (RBS 2004), **Ku McMahan** (RBS 1999), **Mike Woodward** (RBS 2004) and **Danielle Lovell-Andrews** (RBS 2002), **Masue Village Borehole: Access to Clean and Safe Water (\$5,000)**—to finance materials for the building of a borehole which will provide disadvantaged villagers with a reliable source of clean water for the village households.

**Charly Jeune** (RBS 1999) and **Geraldine Pierre** (RBS 2004), **Backpacks for Haiti (\$5,000)**—to provide backpacks and school supplies for the most disadvantaged Haitian children (many of whom lost all of their belongings in the 1/12/2010 earthquake).

**Diana Ofosu** (RBS 2008) and **Raymond Grissom** (RBS 2008), **Giving Youth a Valuable Environment (G.Y.V.E.) (\$1,500)**—to cultivate the intellect and spiritual capacity of junior youth by engaging in community service.



RBS Jason Young (back row far right) is shown with students from Ben Franklin Intermediate School on their field trip to Noe Valley where they sold their cards to people passing by the farmer's market.

**Joni Stuart** (RBS 2000), **Greater Kids Help-First Aid and Disaster Camp and Adult Basic First Aid Classes (\$1,000)**—to support a children's first aid and safety camp for inner city youth and a basic first aid course for inner city adults in New Orleans. ■

# Commitments 2009-2010

The Ron Brown Scholar Program wishes to thank all of the foundations, organizations and friends who have supported our mission.

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**In Memory of:**

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