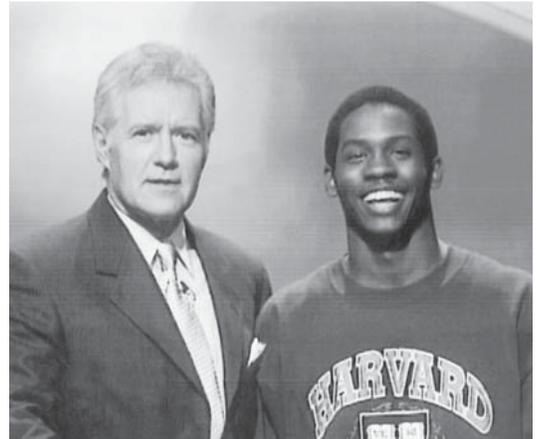


RON BROWN SCHOLAR APPEARS ON JEOPARDY

This past October Marques Redd (RBS '00), a sophomore majoring in social studies and African-American studies at Harvard University, became one of 15 students chosen to participate in the 2001 College Jeopardy tournament. The tournament was filmed at the University of California, Los Angeles on October 6 and 7 and was televised over a two-week period (Nov.7-21).

When he was a high school senior, Marques told his dad that he had three goals for the next four years—attending Harvard University, appearing on *Jeopardy*, and becoming a Rhodes Scholar. Why *Jeopardy*? According to Marques, watching *Jeopardy* had been a family tradition for as long as he could remember. He fondly recalled days of sitting around after dinner trying to answer questions before his family members and the contestants on TV, always wishing for a chance to compete. After his freshman year at Harvard (which allowed him to check off one thing from his list), he

decided to take the step he'd always dreamed about. First, he visited the Jeopardy website and filled out the registration form. He was then randomly selected to audition at one of the four sites set up around the country. The site closest to Marques, a Macon, Georgia native, was a Marriott Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. During the summer, he drove to Orlando with his mother where he and hundreds of other students tested their knowledge on a 50-question written test. From this large pool, the students with the 12 highest scores were asked to stay and participate in



Marques Redd ('00) with Jeopardy Host Alex Trebek

Jeopardy practice rounds and mock interviews. The judges were looking for someone with a bright, lively personality whom people would enjoy watching on TV. With his flashy smile and booming voice, Marques impressed the judges, and he was invited to fly out to California to be a contestant on the show.

In his first round of the tournament, Marques competed against students from UCLA and Miami University of Ohio. Even after doing well in the practice round (which included a Diana Ross category), he was

(continued on page 8)

VANESSA EVANS NAMED NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Just months ago, if you'd been a prospective student on a visit to The College of William and Mary, Vanessa Evans might have been your campus host. Had you then applied for admission, she might have evaluated your credentials. If you applied for a scholarship award, there she would have been, assessing your application. Interested in creating or editing one of the College's brochures on cultural diversity? Vanessa would have worked with you. Interning? She supervised student interns.



The RBSP's new associate director joins us from her position as senior assistant dean at a school recently ranked by *US News and World Report* as the country's sixth best national public university. "Vanessa was an easy choice," says RBSP Director Mike Mallory. "She has exactly the qualities and experience we'd hoped to find—but didn't dare think we actually would."

In her new role Vanessa will organize our Aspen leadership conferences, coordinate internships, keep the Program's web site up to

date, and work closely with RB Scholars. After interviewing her, Kelly Cross (RBS '97, Princeton '01) wrote that Vanessa "truly enjoys her interactions" with college students. "She makes every effort to be 'in step' with current trends and attitudes."

She was born in Richmond, Virginia, and has lived in the state all her life. Before taking the job at William and Mary she worked at James Madison University, first as assistant event planning coordinator, then as actual coordinator of events and conferences. She says she liked the work but thought she could help the school do more towards attracting students of color. For that more than any other reason she became an assistant director in the

(continued on page 8)

Former Activist Renews Passion

One of the most salient features of the Ron Brown Scholar Program's offices in Charlottesville is the pictures. Some hang on the walls, even more lie in piles. A few feet in front of Michael Mallory's office stands a large desk whose surface, covered by a "random" assortment of photographs, resembles a collage. The pictures are largely similar: young, energetic African-Americans talking with one another or, occasionally, with



Steve Rubin, former civil rights activist

a dignitary. But look at the table long enough and you'll see, in a slightly obscure position, an anomaly—a black and white picture, circa 1965. In it, a young white man peers into an automobile full of debris and badly damaged. With eyes somber, mouth closed, and clenching onto the side of the vehicle, he looks both relieved and bewildered.

That young man is Steve Rubin—writer, teacher, social activist. The photograph was taken the morning after Steve's car was firebombed by the Klu Klux Klan, who had tired of his increasingly prominent role in the Louisiana State's Civil Rights Movement. Steve is a very modest man, quick to point out that his role in the southern Movement was, at best, minor. However true this may be, Rubin's track record constantly belies his modesty.

Steve was born in New York, and his father, one of the city's leading attorneys, was to become president of the City's public school system. After attending Carleton College (where he met Gail, his wife of forty-five years), Steve eventually took a position on the English faculty at the University of New Orleans. It was 1963, and the nation was on the brink of revolution. Steve didn't know it, but he was heading straight for the maelstrom.

The University of New Orleans, though ostensibly integrated, was still staunchly southern. "I could teach a class with thirty students," Steve recalls, "twenty whites and ten blacks. Of those twenty whites, eighteen would be segregationists." Steve, the product of a northern liberal home, argued against the hypocrisy and injustice of the South's caste system as soon as he arrived in New Orleans. But rhetoric and action were two very different things.

"I knew much was wrong, but it would be wrong to suggest that I went in planning to change things. But when the Movement really got underway, and when it hit New Orleans, it was impossible to be ambivalent. There was a war on, and you had to choose sides. The injustices were so great in Louisiana that I was, in a way, shamed into entering the Movement."

Whatever his motivations for getting involved, it's clear that once he did, he devoted himself to the cause. "It was just amazing to see the faces of those kids. A lot of them had come from utter poverty and had every reason to be intimidated by the inveterate institutions of the South. But they stood up with a remarkable amount of bravery and bucked the system."

Steve's first work in the New Orleans civil rights movement was with the NAACP. Around 1962 or '63 ("it's been such a long time ago"), he began work with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). If he hadn't already been viewed as an iconoclast, he certainly was after helping to publicize the link between a series of attacks on African Americans in the city. He galvanized this reputation by campaigning for the abolition of irrelevant mention of race from news stories and on birth certificates in the state.

Steve also spent time in Louisiana working on voter registration with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), one of the most renowned and effective groups of the Civil Rights era. In the mid 60s, Steve became

president of the Louisiana ACLU and served on the organization's national board.

And that's just his youth.

After his departure from Louisiana, Steve moved to New York, where he became chair of SUNY Oneonta's English Department and vice-chairman of the NY Committee of the US Commission on Civil Rights. He later took up one of his great loves, sailing, and spent years writing articles for the nation's most prestigious sailing magazines. His love for sailing was so great, in fact, that he and his wife spent nearly a decade living on boats in various parts of the world.

But Steve is a man who values "usefulness." After several years of sailing, he began to feel selfish and useless. After all, this was a man who had devoted much of his life to helping others. So he anchored, came ashore, and moved to Charlottesville.

"Mike Mallory can draw you in," Steve recalls of his first meeting with the Ron Brown Scholar Program's executive director. "We met in the locker room of Mike's tennis club, and he told me about his program. I was fascinated: it was almost too good to be true. I was really looking for something, and when I heard that I could indirectly combine my interest in civil rights with my love of education, I jumped at the opportunity."

Steve's decision to volunteer has been a major boon for the Program. He reads applications, edits and comments upon speeches, letters, and press releases, and advises on the general direction of the program. He loves reading the applications of the "incredible, brilliant young people" that flood the office every year. More than anything, though, he remains hopeful that the Ron Brown Scholar Program will help to realize so many of the dreams he fought for in his youth. ■

Steve is currently an editor for the online literary magazine, Archipelago (www.archipelago.org).

(Written by Kelly Cross '97)

*Selection Weekend for the
Ron Brown Scholar Class of 2002
will be held March 22-24 in
Washington, DC.*



A Mother's Voice

by Dorianna Jones

It seems like only yesterday when my daughter Gwendolyn Jones was selected as a 1999 Ron Brown Scholar. I can still hear her joyful scream the instant she learned of her acceptance. She felt honored and elated that she had been recognized for her hard work and accomplishments. A lifelong vision of my daughter attending a major university was suddenly becoming a reality.

Motivated by challenges, Gwen was thrilled to expand and explore new horizons. So in August of '99 my sweet baby girl left her Kansas home to attend the University of Texas in Austin. At 17, she was living on her own in an unfamiliar metropolitan city with no visible support. Thank goodness for AOL, AT&T, but mostly . . . the Ron Brown Scholar Program. Because of its powerful network, Gwen was not alone.

Gwen often reflects upon her first days on campus. She recalls wandering around a 40 acre University knowing only one person, Nakiya Jones, her fellow RBS. After hours of interacting with nameless faces, Gwen finally decided to look up Dr. Uri Treisman, a calculus professor that Mike Mallory suggested she

Later that year, Gwen learned that the Ron Brown office sent Professor Treisman a picture and summary of her goals and achievements prior to her visit with him. What appeared to be a "by chance" mentorship had been thoughtfully facilitated by the Ron Brown network. Gwen has come to realize that the Ron Brown Scholars Program extends far beyond its generous scholarship. It is an alliance of wisdom, nurturing minds, and commitment. She continues to work with Professor Treisman and values his intellect and guidance. As a result of his tutelage, Gwen is a more confident and knowledgeable individual.

Gwen accelerates into 2002 with great momentum. Now a senior and finance major

Leaders are not made, they are mentored

contact. She made the call not knowing what to expect. But when Gwen entered his office he greeted her by name, and welcomed her to UT. His conversation was enlightening, motivating, and he seemed to know her personally.

That same fall, Gwen took Professor Treisman's calculus course. The enriching experience launched the beginning of a two-year mentorship of advice, academic guidance, concern for Gwen's health, and a kaleidoscope of growth opportunities including:

- * Work experience each semester (20 hrs/week) as an advanced calculus grader/tutor under the direction of Professor Treisman, which enabled Gwen to see academia from a different perspective and also gain in-state residency status. Yeah!
- * Participant in The Emerging Scholars Program, a calculus enrichment program for freshmen minority students, which helped Gwen make new acquaintances and develop a higher level of insight.
- * Intern research participant for The Louis Stokes Alliance, a national program designed to increase minority participation in math, which strengthened Gwen's research and technology skills.

in the Red McCombs School of Business, she has established integral connections at UT and within the Austin community. She is involved on campus as a member of three honor societies and coordinates meaningful community service projects for Phi Eta Sigma. Gwen was also heavily involved with an extensive web-mentoring project that entailed listening to and counseling 7th graders. Gwen is shaping her future with optimism and direction. Though she encounters occasional frustrations and obstacles, she relies on family and strong faith to see her through.

All my life I have devoted great effort and heart into raising my daughter. In today's unpredictable world, it is calming to know that Gwen is secure. She walks tall with fellow RBS and the strong support of the CAP Charitable Foundation and Mike Mallory and his staff.

As an educator and single parent, I would like to thank Mike Mallory, the Pilaro family, the Alumni Association, the Board of Directors, and the entire Ron Brown Organization. I thank all of you for making available a once in a lifetime—for a lifetime legacy to Gwen and other bright and aspiring African-American youth. ■

Amanda Alexander (00) accepted a position as a research assistant for the Deputy Director of African Research (Dr. Lisa Cook) at the Center for International Development (Harvard). She will be working on their partnership with the Pan-African AIDS fund, a fund that directly supports grassroots efforts for AIDS orphans in Africa. Also, this semester she has been organizing a midwest conference for the Student Global AIDS Campaign that will take place Feb. 22-24 at Indiana University (Bloomington). Over 150 students from all over the midwest are expected to attend this conference on the role of students in fighting the global AIDS crisis.

Martine Caverl (99) was recently awarded an internship with the Legal Aid Society in New York working in the Criminal Division in Queens. Martine will attend a once-a-week law and society seminar, assist her assigned lawyer with research, trial preparation, and even become part of the defense team. To top it all off, Martine will earn 6 credits.

Will Chichester (01) received Dean's List and high academic honors from the Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) at the University of Virginia.

Shirley Delaleu (98) is currently participating in the Stanford in Washington program, and is interning at the National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center. Next quarter she will be studying at Oxford University.

Matthew Espy (99) has accepted a position with Lehman Brothers in their London office for the summer. He will work in the summer analyst program.

Katori Hall (99) is currently attending the University of Cape Town in South Africa in a study-abroad program with her university, Columbia. She is participating in a program entitled Multiculturalism and Social Change in South Africa, where she is studying the politics, culture, and languages of South African peoples. Ms. Hall was also awarded the Kluge Scholarship at Columbia University for the spring semester of 2002.

Kara Hamilton (99) attended the Black World Conference in November. Ron Daniels, executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, envisioned a gathering that would bring together black people from throughout the diaspora to assess how best to pursue collective economic and political empowerment and to take the preliminary steps to launching an Institute of the Black World. Notables in attendance included Charles Barron, Atlanta Councilwoman Mabel Thomas, Danny Glover, Cornel West and Tavis Smiley. Kara said the conference was phenomenal and eye-opening!

Antonia Henry (98), now a senior at the University of Michigan, was recently named a Rhodes Scholar Finalist-State of Michigan and Student Speaker at the University of Michigan Honors Convocation (March 2002).

Donielle Newell (00) has been selected to serve as a NASA Undergraduate Research Scholar. This summer she will conduct research at a NASA research site or at her home institution and will receive a NASA scholarship in the amount of \$7000.



Marques Redd (00) was recipient of the Goldman Sachs Scholarship for Excellence, which includes an internship and a \$5000 scholarship. He will be working in their Global Operations department.

Tomeka Suber (98) has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa and accepted to her top choice medical school—a combined M.D./Ph.D. program at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She has also been accepted to the same program at Cornell, Emory, and NYU. She awaits decisions from Harvard, Duke, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Maria Velazquez (00) recently spent three weeks in Havana, Cuba, participating in Smith College's J-term abroad theater program. She also recently founded Mulch, a multicultural e-zine centered at Smith College. Its URL is www.geocities.com/mulchzine. All Scholars are welcome to contribute and contact her at mvelazqu@email.smith.edu.

Aaliyah Williams (98) has accepted a position with Citibank as an analyst in their Citicards division. She will participate in two one-year rotations, and then be placed in a management position for the third year.

Andre (Damian) Williams (98) was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in recognition of academic excellence which placed him in the top 2% of Harvard's senior class. He was also named the Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar, which allows him to study for a year at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. He plans to earn a Masters in International Relations. Additionally, Damian was awarded the Seymour and Ruth Harris Prize for Combined Achievement this winter.

Gerald (Jay) Williams (99) has begun research on religious human rights in Northern Africa as part of the Mellon/Mentored Minority Undergraduate Research Fellowship funded by the Mellon Foundation.

Nneka Williams (99) was recently admitted into the A.B./A.M. program at Harvard for her concentration in earth and planetary sciences. This program will allow Nneka to receive her master's degree and AB degree in four years.

Koryse Woodrooffe (01) accepted an externship with a pediatric neurologist in Philadelphia for spring break.

Jamaal Young (99) is enjoying his year abroad in Spain studying at a Spanish university. ■

Congratulations RBS Class of 1998!

Elizabeth Alicea

Columbia University
Major: Sociology
Plans: Has applied to the New York City Urban Fellows Fellowship Program for 2002-2003 and will pursue attending law school the following year.

Jennifer M. Banner

Harvard University
Major: Government
Plans: Will attend law school.

Traci Burch

Princeton University
Major: Politics
Plans: Will pursue a Ph.D. - Has been accepted at Brown University, Boston University, Duke University, and Emory University.

Shirley Delaleu

Stanford University
Major: Human Biology
Plans: Would like to do research through the National Institutes of Health.

Maleka Donaldson

Harvard University
Major: Biology
Plans: Has accepted a position as an associate at The Boston Consulting Group, New York office.

Melanie Forbes

Harvard University
Major: Social Studies
Plans: Will be working as a litigation consultant or legal assistant prior to attending law school in 2004.

Tiffany Griswell

University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill
Major: Business Administration
Plans: Has accepted a position with SunTrust Bank in their Commercial Banking Associate training program in Atlanta, GA.

Antonia Henry

University of Michigan
Major: Microbiology
Plans: Will attend medical school at the University of Michigan.

Leah Hodge

University of Pennsylvania
Major: Accounting Concentration (Wharton School of Business), Hispanic Studies minor
Plans: Has accepted position with JP Morgan Chase and Co. as an analyst in London.

Christopher Hunter

Harvard University
Major: Literature
Plans: Will be enrolling in a Ph.D. program in comparative literature. Has been accepted at the University of Pennsylvania and offered the Fontaine Fellowship.

Fatoumata (Fatime) Kaba

Columbia University
Major: African American Studies
Plans: Undecided

Marc Knight

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Major: Electrical Engineering & Computer Science/Management Science
Plans: Will be pursuing a master's in electrical engineering & computer science at MIT.

Tiombe Jones Osisanya

Pomona College
Major: Sociology
Plans: Would like to gain employment with a nonprofit organization in the Los Angeles area, preferably working with women, low-income families, and in the areas of economic or legal justice. Also considering law school in two years.

Jon Piper

Wake Forest University
Major: Chemistry
Plans: Considering graduate school in Computer Science at Wake Forest University or North Carolina State University. Also considering teaching high school math or physical science.

Tomeka Suber

University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill
Major: Chemistry Minor:
African-American Studies
Plans: Will be attending medical school. Has been accepted at Johns Hopkins, Emory, NYU, and Cornell.

Sara Whetstone

Brown University
Major: Community Health
Plans: Will participate in the Teach for America program in Washington DC for 2002-2003. Will apply to medical school the following year.

Aaliyah Williams

Harvard University
Major: Psychology
Plans: Has accepted a position with Citibank as an analyst in their Citicards division.

Andre (Damian) Williams

Harvard University
Major: Economics
Plans: Will be studying for a masters in international relations at Cambridge University in England as the University's Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar.

Tracy Wynter

Princeton University
Major: Economics
Plans: Will attend law school. Awaiting responses from Temple University, Rutgers University, Villanova University, and The College of William & Mary.

Allen Yancy

Harvard University
Major: History
Plans: Currently working on thesis—Politics and Religion in 18th Century England. Will take a year off prior to attending law or graduate school. ■



Mike Anderson Spends Summer in Budapest

The following is excerpted from a report by Mike Anderson, RBS 2000, after he spent a summer in Budapest, Hungary as a Flinn Scholar:

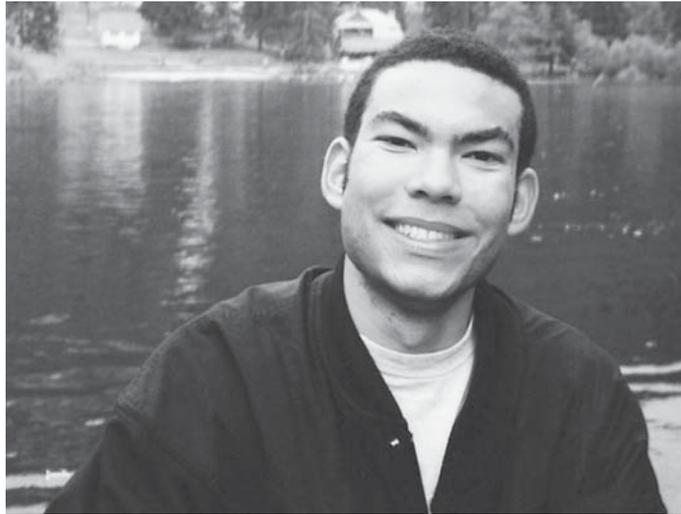
I am one of the few students on this year's trip who had never before had the opportunity to travel abroad, and as I quickly discovered, there could have been no better and more effective first journey than the Budapest seminar. For future reference, any portions in italics are excerpts from my travel journal.

I remember feeling quite overwhelmed at the outset: we were immediately faced with a new culture, an unfamiliar language, the subway system, jet lag, and most importantly the humidity! After ordering a Number Three Meal at McDonald's on that first day and instead receiving three Number Three Meals, I decided to make an elementary study of the Hungarian language a priority for the trip. Luckily enough, Therese Buchmeier is an American and had enough background in Hungarian to get us around and teach us what we needed to know about the language—never under-estimate the power of “please” and “thank you” when dealing with everyday situations in a foreign country. I can say, then, that one of my goals for the trip was defined very early on and proved to be a focus for the remainder of the journey. Several people involved with the program demonstrated incredible patience with my constant questions and butchered attempts at pronunciation and made the mistake of encouraging further study on my part. Little did they know that this “elementary study” that I had originally intended would blossom in a few short weeks into a real interest in not only Hungarian, but the study of other spoken languages; in my subsequent travels in Italy and Switzerland I developed an interest (finally!) in learning both German and Spanish in the future. . . .

I found the initial lectures on the history of Hungary to be the most informative and interesting and thus stumbled upon my second goal for the program: to try to determine (in a long study of three weeks) what it was that made the people of Eastern Europe so fiercely independent. During the Romania portion of the program it became apparent that not a little animosity exists between just about any combinations of ethnicity one can imagine in this area of the world. This is not just true of the Balkan states; we learned of bloody wars and conflicts between Hungarians and Romanians stretching back as far as the two peoples had populated the area. My classmates informed me that it was quite futile to attempt to find an answer within three weeks time, but I was determined to try anyway; the results of this search were not entirely fruitless. This question gave me an angle from which to approach the differences in culture between the areas, and while it did not provide any solid answers, it did make for some interesting conversations during the homestays. I found out that there is basically very little difference between ethnic tensions in that region and those we seem to be facing in the United States; the difference lies in the fact

that each conflict in Europe is much older and more deeply rooted in culture than they are here (simply due to the short time our country has existed as such, I suspect.)

These people are inseparable from their past just as in some ways I'm inseparable from mine...suffering repression has left irrevocable scars on this population. It can be seen in their films, in their stories, in their magazines, and in the everyday outlook most people here seem to live with—feelings of helplessness and powerlessness in a sense . . . and this is well off as most Eastern European countries go.



Mike Anderson RBS '00 rowing in Romania

Hungary has changed hands so many times through the years that the people have this underlying sense of doom. They have a saying: “Whether the elephants fight or make love, the grass suffers.” Hungary has been trampled again and again in the past by giant armies foraging for supplies or territory, and through it all, the Magyar people have managed to retain some sort of cultural identity. Many things there are the same: patterns of prejudice and poverty are represented just as well in these “older, wiser” countries. This was the most interesting part of the study of history and

politics to me . . . the scars of communism remain, but so do the scars of the Turkish invasion, World War I, and World War II. Perhaps rightfully, the Hungarian people seem to think that they just can't win.

I wish that we could spend more of our time here meeting people and getting to know their culture through the eyes of just another human being, not a student / tourist . . . I think the homestays will be the most valuable and memorable experiences I have here in Europe—how can one truly experience a country without knowing its people?

As another aside, I have to admit that I was both wrong and right on that count. The homestays were incredible and I still wish we could have spent more time doing that sort of thing, but I found the most moving experiences to be those that involved children; namely, the visit to the refugee camp at Debrecen and the orphanage in Romania:

I happened to have my gold Grand Canyon keychain with me, so I gave it to him—it was an awesome experience to see his eyes light up. He just shone—it was incredible . . . he and his sister need to have a chance. Kids like them must have a chance. We can't stand by and just watch these people live their lives and eventually die in poverty . . . my sense of justice is severely wounded here. Forgive me for my reckless idealism.

I decided that I may come back on a trip and try to establish some sort of educational program at the camp or at an orphanage . . . just one successful program could make a world of difference and could give even just a few kids a chance and a ticket to a better life. ■

Mona Sutphen Joins Selection Committee

Mona Sutphen, former special assistant to then National Security Adviser Samuel R. Berger and former Advisor and Deputy Chief-of-Staff to UN Ambassador Bill Richardson, has accepted our invitation to join the RBSP Selection Committee.

Holder of a 1989 undergraduate degree from Mt. Holyoke and a master's from the London School of Economics, she has worked for almost 10 years in the U.S. Foreign Service. She served as both a consular and political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and was involved in US policy decisions on the Balkans, China, and Iraq during subsequent assignments. She worked in Sarajevo on implementation of the civilian provisions of the Dayton peace accords. In the State Department she was responsible for bilateral human rights policy towards Southeast Asia and southern Africa.

Her typically gracious reaction: "I'd be honored to participate in the Selection Committee. How could I pass up the opportunity to be exposed to the best and the brightest our community has to offer?"

From government work she was wooed to the private sector, where she became director for strategic planning and policy for an electronic global currency exchange and where

she was an expert on international regulatory problems and government/central bank issues. Ms. Sutphen currently serves as vice president of Stonebridge International LLC, a Washington, D.C. consulting firm that provides strategic advice to global businesses.

She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Women's Foreign Policy Group. Ms. Sutphen recently co-authored an article with Sandy Berger on the relationship between the Middle East Peace Process and Bin Laden which appeared in *How Did This Happen? Terrorism and the New War*, published by Foreign Affairs/Public Affairs, November 2001. In connection with this publication, Mona has participated in roundtable discussions in communities across the U.S. on the implications of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on perceptions of national security and U.S. foreign policy.

Ms. Sutphen has advised a number of nonprofit organizations, including Play for Peace, which hosted organized sporting camps in war-torn societies (Bosnia and Sierra Leone) to help teens recover from the impact of armed conflict. In addition, she serves on the board of the International Human Rights Law Group, which supports human rights advocacy and legal development and training in over 20 countries.



Mona Sutphen, vice president of Stonebridge International, LLC

"Ms. Sutphen brings a wealth of experiences to our distinguished Selection Committee and Mona has been involved for some time as a friend and mentor to the program," says Executive Director, Michael Mallory. When she received our invitation, her typically gracious reaction: "I'd be honored to participate in the Selection Committee. How could I pass up the opportunity to be exposed to the best and the brightest our community has to offer?" ■

Council on African American Affairs Holds Annual Meeting

On February 15, 2002, the Council on African American Affairs (CAAA) convened its first Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Sixteen of the twenty members of the Ron Brown Scholar Class of 1997 participated in the two-day event, consisting of small "Affinity Group" discussions focusing on six topics pre-selected by the 1997 Scholars. Each Affinity Group evaluated the importance and relevance of the proposed topic, as well as CAAA's potential to make a difference in African-American communities through research of that topic. The conclusions reached during the Affinity Groups discussions were later presented to a general assembly of the 1997 Scholars. Discussion within the groups and at the presentations was thoughtful and intense,

leading to fruitful recommendations about which three policy topics should become finalists in the process to select CAAA's first policy initiative. At the end of the annual meeting, the following three topics were chosen:

- Restructuring Health Care Delivery Systems: Causes of High Rates of Preventable Diseases in African-American Communities
- Rethinking Urban Renewal Programs and African-American Property and Business Ownership
- Reform of Electoral and Social Barriers to Electing Responsive Leadership

In the next phase of selection, CAAA will further develop these three topics and explore their potential for objective research. Ultimately, however, only one topic will be chosen as CAAA's first policy initiative. With an intense push by CAAA over the next 2-3 years, this initiative is intended to translate into concrete solutions for some of the most pressing concerns of African American communities.

CAAA is in the process of establishing its headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s premier African-American community, Shaw, just a few blocks from Howard University. The office is currently staffed by its president, Theodore Small, executive assistant Cheryl Abbott, and research fellow Kelly Cross (RBS '97). ■

Ron Brown Scholar Appears on *Jeopardy* (continued from page 1)

extremely nervous. And after the first round started, the difficulties began. It didn't help to be competing against a UCLA student at his home school (the audience roared every time he answered a question correctly, ruining everyone's composure and concentration), or to have a UCLA alumni category pop up. Mastering the buzzer was another challenging task. Since one could only buzz in after the entire question was read and a light was flashed (and not a split-second before), quick reflexes were required. Fortunately, Marques rose from third place (where he was at the half

to gracefully advance to the semi-finals. He finished the tournament as a semi-finalist and proudly took home \$5,000.

As a result of his participation in the tournament, Marques gained celebrity status of sorts in his hometown. "People in Macon were really following the story and they had an article in the newspaper every time I appeared on TV. People were really excited for me and when I went home, a lot of people, even whom I had not met, recognized me." Marques also expressed appreciation and gratitude for the numerous congratulatory

emails he received from around the country. Overall, Marques enjoyed his first time in Los Angeles even though he didn't see any celebrities, as did some of the other competitors (who saw stars such as Dennis Rodman, Harrison Ford, and Fabio). He views his participation in the College Jeopardy tournament as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—one that he will remember and cherish for the rest of his life. ■

(Written by Ilisten Jones '00)

Vanessa Evans Named New Associate Director (continued from page 1)

Office of Admission at JMU and the university's coordinator of multicultural recruitment.

"I loved my experience as a student at JMU. I also knew at that time that the college could do a better job with multicultural recruitment and retention. And for that reason I decided to make the transition into Admission work and speak with young people about my experiences and being successful in the college environment." With Vanessa's help JMU made progress, as did William & Mary a few years later.

Our new associate director attended Richmond Community, a public high school, where she began to love sports; she still follows basketball and football, both college and pro. She was one of a family of six children. "We looked out for one another," she says. "We had the sort of camaraderie I'd like to at least aim for with our Scholars." After high school came a degree at JMU, six months in the banking industry, then a stint working for her alma mater where she completed her graduate degree. Favorite authors: Gwendolyn Brooks and Maya

Angelou; favorite TV shows: *Frazier*, *ER*, *Law & Order*; favorite music: "All!"

Vanessa says that Mike Mallory didn't have to work at selling the Ron Brown Scholar Program to her: it sold itself. "It seems to bring together perfectly a role for my skills and passions. It gives me an opportunity to work with talented young people who not only care about themselves and their future, but their communities as well. What more could you ask for?" ■

"The Value of One, The Power of All" 2nd Leadership Conference to Be Held in Aspen, Colorado August 10-14, 2002

Confirmed Speakers:

Mona Sutphen—Vice President, Stonebridge International, LLC

Walton Pearson—Senior Portfolio Manager, Alliance Capital

Dr. Emmitt McHenry—CEO, NetCom Solutions

William Raspberry—Syndicated Columnist

Dr. David A. Thomas—Professor & Author, Harvard Business School

Mary Tolar—Executive Director, Truman Scholarship Foundation

Dr. L.D. Britt—Trauma Surgeon & Professor,

Eastern Virginia Medical School

Clyde Williams—Domestic Policy Advisor to

Former President Clinton

**For additional
information,
contact us at**

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Charlottesville, VA 22901

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**To learn more about
the 2002 Finalists,
visit us at**

www.ronbrown.org

Veronica Tang

2336 E. Aire Libre Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85022; (602) 923-7238; Fax: (602) 923-7239

TO: Litro Artist—Tom Williams

From: Veronica Tang

Subject: Ron Brown Scholar Program Newsletter

This is an 8-page newsletter. Your contact in Charlottesville for billing and blueline is Vanessa Evans (434) 964-1588.

Use PMS 072 and Black throughout. There are 15%, 25%, 30% tints.

Fonts: Times and Helvetica.

You have masthead logo from previous newsletter.

The name of the masthead file is RBMasthead.EPS

The Macintosh PageMaker 6.5 file for newsletter is “RonBrn NL 02/02

Photos will be submitted by Vanessa. They will be marked as per page and in alphabetic order. Names assigned to photos are included at back of photos.

PLEASE SCAN AND CROP photos to fit black boxes. Vanessa will give quantity info.

Call me, if need be.

THANK YOU!!