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Ron Brown Scholar Program Announces Latest Initiative *RBS Community Service Foundation*

At the heart of the Ron Brown Scholar Program lies an unshakable commitment to service. Applicants to the Program, in addition to displaying academic excellence and a capacity to lead, must also demonstrate a commitment to service and community involvement. After being named Ron Brown Scholars, the young leaders continue to serve their communities while completing their undergraduate courses of study and while excelling as busy professionals. Ron Brown Scholars are emerging as a collective force serving communities and making a genuine impact on the nation.

The Ron Brown Scholar Program and the Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association (RBSAA) are pleased to announce the latest opportunity for Scholars: The Ron Brown Scholar Community Service Foundation. The Ron Brown Scholar Community Service Foundation will help Ron Brown Scholars continue serving their communities through innovative service projects. Thanks to a gift from the CAP Charitable Foundation, the Community Service Foundation will award small grants to Ron Brown Scholars who submit proposals for service projects that demonstrate visionary solutions to problems of social importance.

In addition, the Community Service Foundation is an opportunity for Ron Brown Scholars to encourage one another in their service endeavors and will extend the reach of the Ron Brown Scholar Program further into the greater African American community. Scholars will be able to offer their skills and insights to make an impact at the local level, and the collective ambition and support offered by the Program and its community will heighten that impact to achieve a nationwide and even global reach.

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UNFORGETTABLE Reflections From a 2008 Ron Brown Scholar

By: Peter Boyce, RBS '08



Peter Boyce (shown center) releases some stress with finalists during an interview break at Selection Weekend.

Selection Weekend for the Ron Brown Scholar Program was an unforgettable experience; a weekend we all wish never came to an end. What started out as nervous fear of not receiving the coveted \$40,000 scholarship and the initial intimidat-

tion meeting the other finalists in the airport quickly dissolved into a strong feeling of community and friendship before we returned home.

The day I had marked on my calendar had finally arrived. Friday, March 14th, rather than go to school, I would be one of twenty finalists to fly to Washington, D.C. to compete for the Ron Brown Scholarship, named in honor of the late Secretary of Commerce. Coming from a very competitive high school, where Darwin's survival of the fittest meets academia, I was expecting to meet students who introduce themselves along with their SAT score. Instead, I found that every Ron Brown Scholar was selected not only for their academic excellence and commitment to their communities, but for the quality of their character, the intangible elements not assessed on standardized exams that make a student not just smart, but exceptional. No talk of SAT scores,

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Greetings From a Ron Brown Scholar

By: Danielle Andrews-Lovell, RBS '02

Dear Ron Brown Family:

I bring you greetings from the entire Ron Brown Scholar Program staff here in Charlottesville, Virginia, and I am excited to share with you news of the latest initiatives from the beginning months of 2008. We have been working diligently to ensure that the Scholar community continues to have new and exciting opportunities that promote both their connectivity and their dedication to service. Through cultivation events and regional gatherings, we have spread the message of the Program and added to our family of mentors and donors who help keep the Program rich with opportunities for Scholars.



Danielle Andrews-Lovell (shown above) will be attending Georgetown Law School this fall.

In addition to these successes, the Program is proud to welcome the 2008 Ron Brown Scholars, an outgoing group of young leaders who exemplify both the ambition and humility of the classes before them and of Ronald H. Brown himself.

An innate drive for personal developments and community involvement is common to all the Ron Brown Scholars that, along with the support of great mentors and programmatic opportunities, enables Scholars to meet their individual goals. Two major recent successes include Danielle Allen, RBS 2005 who received the Truman Scholarship and Terence Carter, RBS 1997 who was promoted to Vice President of Drama Programming for NBC (see page 14 for a Scholar Spotlight on Terence). I am awed by my fellow Scholars and anticipate that they'll have a great impact on local and global communities. Being part of this community has been a constant inspiration for me since I became a Ron Brown Scholar in 2002. The continued achievement of all the Scholars demonstrates their understanding of the importance of continuous progress, overcoming obstacles and ensuring that their successes are an opportunity for generations to follow.

Two of our major endeavors for 2008 are the 4th Triennial Ron Brown Scholar Summer Leadership Conference (see page 5) and the Ron Brown Scholar Community Service Foundation (see page 1). The Summer Conference is an opportunity to bring our 241 Scholars

together to renew and initiate dialogues about opportunities for individual service projects. The Community Service Foundation is a mechanism to realize those local initiatives and will provide Scholars with small grants to carry out sometimes visionary service initiatives.

As a Scholar and as Program staff, I understand that these initiatives of the Program and the resulting good works done by the Scholars can often be realized because of the dedication of the Friends of the Ron Brown Scholar Program. We are thankful to all of the Friends who have contributed meaningfully to individual Ron Brown Scholars and to the Program that identifies and supports them. We appreciate the support we receive and I want to encourage continued collaboration between Scholars and Program supporters to extend the legacy of Ronald H. Brown and to make a difference in communities across the world.

With the close of my tenure with the Program, I am eager to take varied lessons and insightful mentorships with me as I continue my professional development at Georgetown Law this coming fall.

I thank all of the Friends for their support of my time here and my fellow Scholars for being a constant source of inspiration. I also thank Brennan Johnson for being a phenomenal office mate, Kelly for keeping all of our financials in order, and welcome Cathy Ames as the new Executive Assistant. Last, but never least, I thank Mike Mallory and Vanessa Evans for being the backbone of the organization. With such a dedicated core team, the Program is destined for continued success. ■

Friends of Ron Brown Scholars

The Ron Brown Scholar Program understands the great importance of our Friends network. Friends of Ron Brown Scholars (FORBS) give of their limited free time to ensure that the Program and its elite group of Scholars continue to exceed expectations year after year. In light of the great dedication of our group of FORBS, we will begin highlighting individual FORBS who have contributed to the Program through new initiatives, mentorships and financial donation by featuring them as Outstanding FORBS.

We feature Terri Dean as this issue's Outstanding FORBS. Ms. Dean is the Senior Vice President of Global Communications for Verizon Business, a global provider of advanced communications and information technology (IT) solutions. In that capacity she is responsible for advancing the Verizon Business vision and mission worldwide by communicating to internal and external audiences. In addition, she bears responsibility for media relations, industry analyst relations, and community investment for Verizon Business. That seems to us a daunting job description.

With the Ron Brown Scholar Program, Ms. Dean has given numerous hours of her time hosting Cultivation Events, supporting the Program's fundraising initiatives, and most importantly, directly mentoring many individual Ron Brown Scholars. Terri Dean gives even more of herself to the Program by serving on the prestigious Ron Brown Scholar Program's Advisory Board — Ms. Dean was recently appointed to the position of Chairman of the Board. Professionally, she has also been instrumental in maintaining



Terri Dean (shown above) serves as Chairman of the Ron Brown Scholar Advisory Board.

Verizon's continuous commitment to the Read to Lead Program, and securing her corporation's title sponsorship of the 2008 Summer Leadership Conference.

We thank Terri Dean for being an Outstanding FORBS. ■

Ron Brown Scholar Program Announces Latest Initiative

(Continued from Page 1)

The Community Service Foundation places no restrictions on the type of service to be administered or the demographics of the communities to receive the benefits. Scholars are encouraged to propose innovative solutions to problems occurring in any population, and should look to apply their skills in areas where those skills traditionally have not been utilized. A Scholar applicant's method of service may range from direct outreach to research of a socially-relevant issue to providing administrative consultation to an organization that provides a crucial service but is not operating at full capacity.

All 241 Ron Brown Scholars are eligible to apply and collaboration between Ron Brown Scholars is especially encouraged. Grant recipients will receive funding from the Foundation

and will present their projects and outcomes at the Ron Brown Scholar Leadership Conferences and Selection Weekends.

Scholars have been unanimous in their excitement about the new initiative. William Chichester, RBS 2001 and current RBSAA President, expanding on the announcement said, "For years, Scholars have wanted to channel their skills and talent into an organization of change for the betterment of the Black community. For the first time, Ron Brown Scholars, who are individually inspired to change the world, can band their time, energy and resources together and make those seemingly far-reaching dreams a tangible reality. For us and run by us, the Community Service Foundation will be the tie that binds us, uniting us to serve a greater good both locally and globally." ■

From Atlanta to Nagano: A Scholar's Olympic Connection

By: Ashley Hayes, RBS '02

I can still remember the shock I felt the moment that I found out about my job placement in Nagano, a medium-sized city in the mountains of central Japan. In my interview for the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, I had specifically asked to be placed in an area of the country that I was more familiar with: an area where I would be less likely to develop frostbite. At any rate, my requests appeared to have been lost in translation. Hence, I have spent the past two years making a life in the Japanese Alps and gradually coming to love the fun-loving people, the abundant natural attractions, and the fascinating opportunities that have come my way. The most recent highlight of my experience here was running in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Torch Relay.

Many of you probably recall Nagano as the site of the 1998 Winter Olympic Games. This was also my only point of reference for the city before coming here, and I thought it a unique coincidence that

surprise, then, when the Japanese Olympic Committee appointed the city to welcome the China-bound Olympic torch.

With no plans to go to China to see the games, I grew excited that the Olympics



Ashley Hayes (shown above) received a degree in East Asian Studies from Columbia University.

would practically stop by my doorstep, and that if selected as a torchbearer through the open recruitment campaign, I would have the chance to be a part of the Olympic Movement myself. The Nagano leg of the torch relay would mark the second time in my life that I had come in contact with the Olympic flame. The first was in 1996 when my grandmother took my younger brothers and me to see the relay as it passed through the small town of Griffin, Georgia. On that day the Olympics became a tangible concept for me: I began to understand that beyond the glittering medals and the ceremonial fanfare, the event was about bringing together the people of the world and encouraging us to celebrate our underlying commonalities. Working as a coordinator of international relations at Nagano City Hall, such goals form the foundation of my daily activities and have come to resonate with me all the more.

The joyful anticipation that I felt when
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I have spent the past two years making a life in the Japanese Alps and gradually coming to love the fun-loving people, the abundant natural attractions, and the fascinating opportunities that have come my way.

I would move from one Olympic host city (Atlanta) to another. Although the games took place here a decade ago, the citizens of Nagano remain dedicated to keeping the legacy of the Olympics alive both locally and internationally. It came as no

NEWS & NOTES

Congratulations to Carmelle T. Norice, RBS 1997 and Oluwadamilola Oladeru, RBS 2007 both 2008 Winners of the SNMA Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan Research Forum.

Basic (Fundamental) Science—1st place (Carmelle Norice)

Columbia University—College of Physicians and Surgeons
Research: “Candida albicans Sun41 is Required for Cell Wall Integrity, Biofilm Formation and Pathogenesis”

Premedical Basic (Fundamental) Science—1st place (Oluwadamilola Oladeru)

Yale University
Research: “Generation of Stable Fluorescent Expression in Target Cells Used to Characterize Ex Vivo Cytolytic T Cell Function”

There were 4 categories total in this Forum (Social Science, Basic Science, Clinical Science and Premed Basic Science). Quite impressive that Ron Brown Scholars won 2 of the 4 categories in this national research forum! Way to Go!

Local Service, Global Change

2008 Summer Leadership Conference

The Triennial Summer Leadership Conference will be held in Charlottesville, Virginia, from August 6th through 10th, 2008. The Conference theme, *Local Service, Global Change* will address how community service at the grassroots level can create a measurable impact on a global scale in fields as diverse as education, entertainment, business, healthcare, public policy, government and urban renewal.

The gathering this summer will be the fourth time that all of the Scholars will meet for leadership development. The focus and intent of every conference is:

- To broaden each Scholars' perspective regarding leadership and service;
- To introduce Scholars to an increasingly wide variety of professional careers;
- To enhance the Scholars' vision and value of the Ron Brown Scholar network;
- To provide Scholars with the opportunity to bond with each other in intellectually and emotionally energizing events; and
- To stimulate a long-lasting and far-reaching network of referrals, support and advice.

The Title Sponsor for the conference will be Verizon Business. We are grateful for the strong and collaborative relationship we have formed with Verizon Business over the past years and we appreciate their sponsorship of the 2008 conference.

We are excited to announce that Marva Smalls, Executive Vice President for Public Affairs and Chief of



Scholars share a moment during a workshop at the 2005 Triennial Leadership Conference.

Staff for Nickelodeon, Nick at Nite, TV Land and Noggin will be on hand to speak. Additionally, Anthony Pilaro, benefactor and founder of the CAP Charitable Foundation, and Tom Werner, a member of the Ron Brown Scholar Advisory Board will be presenting to Scholars. Mr. Werner is partner and co-founder of arguably one of the most successful independent studios in television history, Carsey-Werner, and also serves as Chairman of the 2004 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox.

This conference will be by far the largest gathering to date of Ron Brown Scholars. Now in our 12th year and 241 Scholars strong, the Program expects the conference this year to be a powerful experience. It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the 2008 Triennial Summer Leadership Conference and it is with great excitement that we continue the Pilaros' vision of a network of Scholars committed to making meaningful contributions to society. ■



UNFORGETTABLE Reflections From a 2008 Ron Brown Scholar

(Continued from Page 1)

no arrogant advertisement of AP scores. Throughout the weekend we engaged in conversations about politics, about race, school, our experiences, our likes and dislikes, our families. The Ron Brown Scholar Program doesn't pool together twenty valedictorians to discuss differences in GPA: it brings together African American students who have a passion for learning along with a passion for making a positive impact on the world.

The Renaissance M Street Hotel would be our home away from home for the weekend. Once we arrived, we all gathered in a conference room to exchange introductions. It also was our first interaction with past Ron Brown Scholars. Going around the circle was initially stiff, each of us sizing up the other Scholars. Not three introductions later there were "whoops" of support of people from the same state as the person introducing themselves. Slowly but surely I would learn about the most valuable part of the scholarship: it was being a part of the Ron Brown community.

Whenever you have to share a room, whether it be in a hotel or a dorm, before you open the door, don't you say a little prayer to yourself that the person is cool? For once my prayer was answered. In fact, we were both happy to learn we'd be attending Harvard University together in the fall. When I opened the door to the hotel room we would share, rather than preparing notes for our interviews the next day, my roommate Derrick was lying on his bed watching TV. Derrick ended up tying my tie for me, a skill I've neglected to pick up.

The lower level of the lobby was reserved for the finalists, FORBS (Friends of Ron Brown Scholars), Scholars, and program coordinators. Initially huddled in a circle amongst ourselves, a small group of us decided to take a chance and start a conversation with a FORB. The result: a lively discussion of hip-hop's impact on society, the role of education in improving African American communities, discussion of recent New York Times articles and sharing our own experiences. There

was no shy and quiet reluctance to speak, but rather we jumped at the opportunity to express ourselves to a group many of us rarely have an opportunity to be a part of.

The keynote speaker, Linda Biehl, delivered a speech that moved each and everyone one of us. Sharing the tragic story of her daughter, who worked with Ron Brown and volunteered in Africa, Ms. Biehl helped illuminate the role each of us would need to take on as Scholars to preserve the memory of those lost helping to make the world a better place.

Butterflies fluttered in all our stomachs the next morning, walking to the law offices of Patton Boggs for our interviews. We had attempted to study up the night before, reading and re-reading the bios of each interviewer we would be seeing. Another important piece of advice: if you can stay calm, relaxed and confident, you have nothing to worry about and will enjoy your interview. That was my strategy. We were all a bit stressed, waiting for our interviews, coming back to tell others how it went, offering tips and assurances. We were also having our photographs taken



Peter Boyce (far left) strikes a pose with fellow finalists during 2008 Selection Weekend activities.

Changing out of our formal wear, we met again in the conference room for snacks and casual conversation among finalists and past Scholars. I had never played the game "Mafia" before. It was a fun and easy way for all of us to learn each other's names, to joke around and set aside the scholarship and pressure that was mounting prior to Saturday's interviews. Remembering that night, the hours we played Mafia, the hilarious narrating by Cameron Drake (RBS '06), I realize that I had made friends for life that night.

by a photographer who promised to "photograph every part of our lives," including a lengthy attempt at recreating The Beatles *Abbey Road* album across the street.

We would all make it through our interviews in one piece, and the sense of relief we felt afterwards was liberating. While we waited to finish the second round of interviews, the MIT acceptance decisions were posted online. I checked my status on a computer in the lobby, and found that I had been accepted. I walked back

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Tracy Wynter (shown above) gets physical to balance work and play.

It's not uncommon for a person who is well-trained in her field to become disillusioned with the quality of its impact. This may be the case particularly when she finds herself working for resolutions that ultimately can't satisfy all parties involved. Tracy Wynter is a successful practicing attorney of property-related law who has discovered that she can't always make everyone happy: the law just isn't designed that way. So how has she found a way to counterbalance a reality that frequently leaves many of her

Tracy Wynter, RBS 1998

colleagues sour and cynical? Her answer: group fitness.

It was a combination of her mom's urgings echoing amidst the growing boredom of a quiet life in small-town Florida and her own cravings for physical activity that led her to attend a 6:15am BodyAttack class, a high-energy aerobic exercise class. Then Tracy tried other classes that her gym offered, including a mixed-martial arts class called BodyCombat. This particular class is a cardio journey of choreographed moves inspired by karate, boxing, Taekwondo, Tai Chi and Muay Thai. Against the thumping background of up-tempo remixes, Tracy encountered destiny: she had fallen in love with both the inspirational teachers and the rigorous workouts. She found herself enjoying the music, the physical challenge and the positive attitude that radiated throughout the group. Before long, she was attending as many classes as possible and socializ-

ing with other participants outside of the sweat and spandex.

Then, the sign appeared. Literally. "I was on my way to a BodyCombat session when I saw a sign for teacher training", she remembers. The class would be taught by Les Mills, the program that produces BodyCombat classes. She was excited by the opportunity to share fitness with others and inspire them to find the fun in taking control of their health. She attended a 3-day training camp where she received lessons about how to motivate students and keep them safe. Then she embarked on a 3-month teaching trial period beginning in July of 2007. At the end of the three months, she submitted a tape of her teaching skills to Les Mills for approval and certification. She successfully completed the training and currently team-teaches as many BodyCombat classes as her time will allow.

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UNFORGETTABLE Reflections From a 2008 Ron Brown Scholar

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into the waiting room and another finalist announced my acceptance. Osha Kondori, now my fellow Scholar representative, gave me a big hug with a tear in her eye, happy for me. Never have I felt such a strong sense of friendship than I have during Selection Weekend. It's a testament to the Programs' strong sense of family, bringing to life the belief that together we can achieve more than the individual.

That night we had dinner with Scholars, involving further introductions, networking, and meeting even more past Scholars. We got the lowdown on all the colleges we were considering from Scholars who went there, not to mention some hilarious stories. The power of the business card

can't be emphasized enough, the power of an email incalculable. Every person you meet gets included in your web of support, people you can rely on and who can rely on you, people that can give you a hand up in the world and you in turn lend a hand to someone else.

Late that night we couldn't sleep, the anticipation for tomorrow's announcement of the scholarship winners. We assembled in the lower lobby, dragging chairs from all over the hotel to hang out. We played "Never have I ever," talked about school, what we were doing spring break, ate Sun Chips, continued the "dart game" that has become infamous after the weekend, a game which some Scholars thought might

exclude them from the scholarship for inappropriate conduct during the dinner. The laughter was nonstop, and as the night turned to early morning, sleepy-eyed we looked around and realized that we had gained so much, even if we hadn't won the scholarship.

Only breakfast was between us and learning the scholarship winners at this point. Mr. Mallory called us up to the conference room, and hanging on his every word, all we remembered was "the results were very unexpected. . . . I mean, you all won. . . ." We burst into tears, into laughter, into hugs, into thanks, overcome with being inducted into the Ron Brown Scholar community. ■

Welcome to the Ron Brown Family . . .

The Ron Brown Scholar Program

2008 Class of

*We are thrilled by the diversity of academic interests
forward to embarking on the exciting academic an*



Derrick Asiedu
College: Harvard University
Hometown: Nanuet, NY
Spring Valley High School



Kani M. Keita
College: Harvard University
Hometown: Miami, FL
Miami Killian Senior High School



Jocelyn T. Bell
College: Brown University
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA
Woodland Hills High School



Osha Kondori
College: Stanford University
Hometown: Washington, VA
Rappahannock County High School



Peter A. Boyce, II
College: Harvard University
Hometown: Bronx, NY
Stuyvesant High School



Christopher M. Lyle
College: University of North Carolina
Hometown: Ocean Springs, MS
Ocean Springs High School



Dora I. Duru
College: Stanford University
Hometown: Lynwood, CA
California Academy of Math & Science



Daren W. Miller
College: Duke University
Hometown: St. Petersburg, FL
St. Petersburg High School



Raymond D. Grissom
College: Yale University
Hometown: Austell, GA
Campbell High School



Ethan G. Monreal-Jackson
College: University of Pennsylvania
Hometown: Frisco, TX
Frisco High School

*... would like to welcome our
Scholars.
... and community service experiences and look
... personal journeys which lie ahead of them.*



Desiree C. Montgomery
College: Southeastern University
Hometown: Lakeland, FL
Kathleen Senior High School



William A. Tarpeh
College: Stanford University
Hometown: Alexandria, VA
Thomas Jefferson High School for
Science & Technology



Diana A. Ofosu
College: Yale University
Hometown: San Antonio, TX
Communications Arts High School



Christopher J. Taylor
College: Harvard University
Hometown: Blythewood, SC
Blythewood High School



Bradley D. Pough
College: Yale University
Hometown: Deltona, FL
Deland High School



Kiah C. M. Thorn
College: Stanford University
Hometown: Fort Worth, TX
All Saints' Episcopal School



Amanda M. Reid
College: Williams College
Hometown: Flagstaff, AZ
Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy



Ryan O. Williams-French
College: Dartmouth College
Hometown: Riverside, CA
Riverside Poly High School



William K. Stone
College: Yale University
Hometown: Jersey City, NJ
The Lawrenceville School



Briana L. Wong
College: Columbia University
Hometown: Kent, WA
Kentridge High School

Ron Brown Scholar Program Partners With Teach for America

After graduating from Duke University, Kiku McMahan, a 1999 Ron Brown Scholar, spent two years teaching 7th grade science in a rural North Carolina school. Kiku is one of thousands of college graduates across the country who have devoted time to Teach For America. With the Ron Brown Scholar Program's demonstrated dedication to community service, it seemed natural that we embark on an official partnership with Teach for America.

A program dedicated to eliminating educational inequity, Teach for America is comprised of a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates and professionals of all academic majors and career interests who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools. Corps members work endlessly in paving the path to provide the necessary educational opportunities to our nation's lowest-income communities.

round interview in the application process for both corps and staff positions. Teach for America has also made significant contributions to support the 2008 Ron Brown Scholar Leadership Conference and will be incorporating the Read to Lead Program into the curriculum.

"We're looking forward to making the most out of our partnership with the Ron Brown Scholar Program," said Delano Brissett at Teach for America. "We've met with many Ron Brown Scholars already and are very excited about the level of leadership skills they have the potential to bring to our program and the number of students across the country who will be impacted as a result of their participation."

"Ron Brown Scholars never forget that much is expected from those to whom much is given," added Mallory. "We know that Teach for America is exactly the kind of

*"Ron Brown Scholars never forget that much is expected from those to whom much is given," added Mallory.
"We know that Teach for America is exactly the kind of service opportunity for which many of our Scholars look."*

"Teach for America is an outstanding program that continues a vital mission to educate our youth for the global world in which we live," said Mike Mallory, executive director. "We're excited to partner with Teach for America, an organization like ours that shares our mission of cultivating the nation's most promising future leaders."

Teach For America is keenly interested in recruiting a high number of academically talented diverse candidates, and the Ron Brown Scholar Program is dedicated to helping Teach For America achieve that goal. Our caliber of Scholars is uniquely situated to bring the right amount of experience, dedication, enthusiasm and ability in overcoming challenges to reach a population of students who are too often left behind.

Our partnership, signed in April, 2008 will help Teach for America improve the number of young Americans of color that are working to improve the educational experiences of students within rural and inner city school systems. Ron Brown Scholars will be guaranteed a second

service opportunity for which many of our Scholars look. We expect our partnership with Teach For America will be fruitful for our Scholars and particularly for our nation's youth and future Ron Brown Scholars and candidates."

Ron Brown Scholars are excellent candidates to participate in Teach For America because our Scholars all have the same goal as the corps members – to empower America's youth through education and knowledge.

The full list of Ron Brown Scholars who have participated or are currently participating in Teach For America are:

- Sara Whetstone, Ron Brown Scholar 1998
- Kiku McMahan, Ron Brown Scholar 1999
- Ryan Stewart, Ron Brown Scholar 1999
- Petra Sander, Ron Brown Scholar 2000
- DeLeon Wright, Ron Brown Scholar 2001
- Jade Craig, Ron Brown Scholar 2002
- Keaira Still Ron Brown Scholar 2004



Diarra Lamar will soon be departing for client work in Geneva, Switzerland for 14 weeks with McKinsey & Company.

An impressive academic career is not all that Diarra Lamar has been able to achieve since his matriculation to Harvard College in 1997.

After graduating *magna cum laude* and attending both Harvard Medical and Business Schools, he has developed a mature perspective on how to pursue a challenging career in business while remaining connected to service. For Diarra, the key is to remember that engagement in one's community can take on a myriad of forms and the value of one's actions is not always best measured by calculating the number of hours spent performing a service. On the contrary, the breadth of impact generated by one's activities is a matter of commitment and the proper application of one's unique skill set. Diarra provides us with the example.

Like most Scholars, Diarra was involved in direct outreach during his undergraduate years. He balanced his demanding neuroscience studies with regular trips to a Boston junior high and high school to teach students about drama and debate. He helped them learn how to formulate opinions and develop the confidence to state their views and be heard.

As he advanced through his undergraduate years and moved on to graduate studies, Diarra remained committed to serving his Boston community and tailored his activities to reflect his steady interest in policy and public health. He participated in a health care policy lecture series and got involved in annual health fairs teaching about the importance of healthy living while encouraging his academic and professional colleagues to learn more about healthcare disparities.

"I was still serving but doing so in a professional, mature manner", explains Diarra. "I got involved in policy on a local

Diarra Lamar, RBS 1997

and national level as a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society and the American Medical Society. This was service in a time-efficient manner and service for the working individual."

Diarra had initially planned to become a practicing physician, but as he became more involved in healthcare, including a stint with McKinsey & Company as a summer associate, he realized that his skill set and capabilities extended beyond patient care. In describing his decision to attend Harvard Business School in the middle of his medical studies, Diarra remarks, "I had made a fundamental shift. I had planned to practice medicine. But now I had to ask how do I best apply myself to help others . . . and stay connected? I loved business and found it engaging and medicine itself, but I also had social entrepreneurship interests."

After finishing his MBA, Diarra returned to Harvard Medical School with a renewed perspective on how to shape his final studies and dual professional interests. He finished medical school and traveled to Monrovia, Liberia where he helped to rewrite the national treatment guidelines to prevent maternal to child HIV transmission. He also designed, piloted and implemented new procurement and supply chain management standard operating procedures to improve the coordination of Global Fund funding and administration.

"I didn't have the experience or the understanding as an undergraduate to do such work. And this was also something that I couldn't do as a physician," he explains. "I was able to leverage my skill set to make a *different* impact. Not more or less, just different." After reflecting more on his experience in Liberia, he advises, "It's helpful to take stock of why you're in a situation and what opportunities you are distinctly positioned to address. To think about what you *ought* to do and how you can use the skills you have amassed to make an impact. You have to be flexible and reflective on life to optimize around what you can and should do."

After our interview, Diarra was headed to his current service opportunity. Although he works a full-time schedule with McKinsey & Company, he leaves work at 4:30 pm two times a month to help the director and staff of the Young Women's Leadership Forum. Their focus is to develop a strategic approach that will secure the existence of girls' schools in an oversaturated market and provide college access services in New York's most needy schools. "We make time for the things that are important. Sometimes it's easy and sometimes it's hard, but we have to remember that it's possible to stay connected to our communities even as professionals." ■

Congratulations to 2004 Ron Br...

Samuel Alemayehu

Major: Biomedical Engineering
School: Stanford University
Plans: Will continue graduate program in Engineering at Stanford University.

Chaz Beasley

Major: Economics
School: Harvard University
Plans: Will work as an analyst for the Fannie Mae Foundation in Washington, DC.

Sharlene Brown

Major: Social Studies
School: Harvard University
Plans: Will work as a Corporate Finance Analyst with JP Morgan Chase in New York, NY.

Miya Cain

Major: Behavioral Neuroscience
School: Yale University
Plans: Will work for Christ House, a 24-hour medical recovery facility in Washington, DC.

Brent Cash

Major: Mechanical Engineering, Economics
School: Duke University
Plans: Pursuing positions with technology and engineering firms in the Houston, TX and Washington, DC areas.

Preston Copeland

Major: German and Economics
School: Harvard University
Plans: Will continue his studies at Harvard University.

Tariq Dixon

Major: Social Studies
School: Harvard University
Plans: Will join the Investment Banking Division of Lehman Brothers in New York, NY.

Caprice Gray

Major: Psychology
School: Yale University
Plans: Will pursue either a MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health or MFA at Boston University.

Delbert "Andre" Green

Major: Biological Engineering
School: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Plans: Will attend graduate school at Harvard University for a Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology.

Miles A. Johnson

Major: Social Studies
School: Harvard University
Plans: Will be a Research Analyst at Corporate Executive Board in Washington, DC.



Congratulations to the Brown Scholars!

Sade M. Lawrence

Major: Finance and Women's Studies
 School: Georgetown University
 Plans: Will join the Vanguard Group in Philadelphia, PA.

Jonathan Marable

Major: Biological Sciences
 School: Dartmouth College
 Plans: Will teach Elementary School in the Marshall Islands.

Michael McDaniels

Major: Mechanical Engineering
 School: Stanford University
 Plans: Will continue graduate studies at Stanford University in Mechanical Engineering.

Crystal Paul-Laughinghouse

Major: Cognitive Science and International Affairs
 School: Stanford University
 Plans: Will travel and teach in Guatemala with the Somos Hermanos Program.

Geraldine Pierre

Major: Economics and African American Studies
 School: University of Virginia
 Plans: Will attend graduate school at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health.

Samere Reid

Major: Social Anthropology
 School: Harvard University
 Plans: Will join Deloitte Consulting as a Business Analyst in Boston, MA.

Kareemah Sabur

Major: Sociology
 School: Harvard University
 Plans: Will continue her studies at Harvard University.

Keaira Still

Major: Engineering Science
 School: Dartmouth College
 Plans: Will join Teach for America in Philadelphia, PA.

Victoria Tate

Major: Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
 School: Yale University
 Plans: Will join the National Institutes of Health in Washington, DC.

Carl "Mike" Woodward

Major: Engineering
 School: Stanford University
 Plans: Will continue his studies at Stanford University.



Terence Carter, RBS 1997

Sometimes it's easy to forget the power of an individual when he's viewed against the backdrop of a multi-layered world of complexity and conflict. Sometimes opportunity and inspiration are masked by a cast of stereotypical players. But if you have the creative eye of Terence Carter, you can see beyond the historic restrictions of a competitive industry known as the "boulevard of broken dreams". As Vice President of Drama Programming for NBC, Terence reminds us of the unique opportunity afforded to the individual to serve as both an agent of change and the creator of his own success.

Terence developed a love for entertainment during his second year at Harvard while participating in City Step, an after-school dance program for inner-city youth. He helped to produce the organization's final performance that showcased participants' newly-acquired dance moves and demonstrated discipline and teamwork. "It was then that I fell in love with entertainment and realized how rewarding and fulfilling it could be," Terence recounts. This experience allowed him to witness first hand his own power to touch the lives of others through art, even from behind the scenes.

Terence has come a very long way since then. As VP of Drama Programming, Terence is responsible for the creative development of the one-hour series programs; his work begins with sifting through hundreds of writers' pitches and extends through carefully selecting story lines for development and pilot runs. He then decides which pilots will make it to the fall line-up and follows those programs throughout their duration on air.

His latest project is *Knight Rider*, a two hour TV movie event that is the sequel to the original 1980s series. The project aired on February 17th and was both the highest rated program of the night and the highest rated movie on TV in almost three years. *Knight Rider* tells the story of a war veteran who has to assume the responsibility of fighting for law and justice upon his return from a tour in Iraq. The story bears an inspirational theme: "We are reminded that one man can make a difference and change his world. That no matter how disillusioned he may be, he can still impact the world around him."

It is this theme of the power of a single person to make a difference that has consistently captured Terence's attention. For example, he also worked to produce *Hello, My Name is Jason Scott*, a short film about one man's ability to build a utopian existence for a network of his namesakes with nothing more than a single quarter and a need for companionship.

But making films does not entirely capture the essence of Terence's achievements. He is, in fact, the embodiment of



Terence Carter (shown above) graduated from Harvard University in 2001 with a degree in Afro-American Studies.

the very man whose story he's so drawn to tell. Since studying black film at Harvard, he has been inspired to help influence the industry to offer more opportunities to underrepresented groups. He wrote his honors thesis about the contemporary black film experience and uncovered for himself the systemic flaws imbedded in the industry. The insight gained from this academic effort, coupled with his climb from mailroom attendant to independent producer to VP of Drama Programming, led Terence to achieve the persistence, passion and positive outlook necessary for his current successes.

Terence's impact is larger than personal successes, however. He makes a conscious effort not only to create programming that challenges historical stereotypes, but also that provides opportunities for diverse talent. "The American consciousness is interested in diversity and people want to see different experiences that aren't the sugar-coated white-ified versions of them," he explains. "People have a desire and an openness to see a reflection of what's going on around them. Although you can't always have diverse casting, I try to find opportunities for minorities behind the camera to bring voice to their diverse perspectives."

Throughout his career, Terence has taken full advantage of the opportunities and personal connections that have come his way. His narrative reads as a success story of one man among many who has remained conscientious and tuned into how he can use his position of leadership to make a difference in the world around him. ■

Tracy Wynter, RBS 1998 *(Continued from Page 7)*

When asked what this endeavor means to her and how her involvement in group fitness has impacted her life, Tracy responds, "I'm very passionate about being an instructor and I haven't felt this way about an activity in a long time. When I'm in lawyer-mode, I'm dealing with issues that are not necessarily positive and people don't always get what they want. Sometimes I question how long I want to be a lawyer. But the group fitness is positive and people get what they want from me as a teacher. My involvement

in group fitness helps me stay positive in all aspects of my life."

Tracy's vision for her fitness training is larger than her own need for an optimistic outlet, however. She has a strong desire to inspire others to be healthy and to offer group exercise to populations who normally don't have access to classes. She explains, "Exercising is not about being a size 0. People should exercise so that they don't have to worry about diabetes, heart disease or cancer. Our health and our weight are within our control and I want to be the catalyst that helps people help

themselves." She is currently brainstorming a way to bring yoga classes to local schools so that teachers and students can experience the fun and camaraderie involved in group physical activity.

The most telling aspect of Tracy's new-found love is in her fool-proof method of keeping her students inspired. "I smile," she reveals. "People wonder how I can smile in the middle of doing hard-core workouts." For Tracy, fitness isn't about the strong bodies and the toned muscles: fitness is about the positive attitude and the resilient soul. ■

Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association 2008-2009 Board Members

President

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Director of Service

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William Chichester, RBS 2001

Travis Gayles, RBS 1997

Stefon Burns, RBS 2003

Maria Velazquez, RBS 2000

Donielle Buie, RBS 2000

Julian Miller, RBS 2003

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Amanda Johnson, RBS 2002

Jordan Brewer, RBS 1997

Brennan Johnson, RBS 2001



Ron Brown Scholar Alumni gather during Selection Weekend 2008 for the annual Alumni Association meeting.

2008 RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
 Breakdown by State and Country
 Total Applications: 5,636

Alabama	148	Massachusetts	62	South Carolina	169
Alaska	11	Michigan	180	South Dakota	0
Arizona	26	Minnesota	46	Tennessee	136
Arkansas	48	Mississippi	92	Texas	397
California	218	Missouri	97	Utah	3
Colorado	60	Montana	1	Vermont	3
Connecticut	90	Nebraska	6	Virginia	355
Delaware	56	Nevada	17	Washington	43
Florida	357	New Hampshire	3	West Virginia	10
Georgia	397	New Jersey	276	Wisconsin	37
Hawaii	4	New Mexico	3	Wyoming	2
Idaho	1	New York	546		
Illinois	267	North Carolina	353	District of Columbia	64
Indiana	45	North Dakota	0		
Iowa	6	Ohio	191	AP/AE	10
Kansas	18	Oklahoma	31	Puerto Rico	1
Kentucky	36	Oregon	12	Ghana	1
Louisiana	127	Pennsylvania	224	US Virgin Islands	11
Maine	5	Rhode Island	6	Unspecified	2
Maryland	326				

From Atlanta to Nagano: A Scholar's Olympic Connection

(Continued from Page 4)

I found out that I had been selected to run in the Nagano leg became tinged with apprehension as I watched scenes from the torch's tumultuous journey through London and Paris. As the day of the Nagano relay approached, anti-Beijing emails flooded my office's inbox, denouncing the Nagano City administration as "China's Dogs" and calling for the cancellation of the event. Such negativity caught me off guard. In order to stay positive and enthusiastic, I had to remind myself that the relay was meant to be a Journey of Harmony and to focus on the task of getting the torch from one point to the next.

Although I can't say that the Nagano relay was totally without incident (there were a few eggs thrown here, a few scuffles there), I can say that the three minutes I spent carrying the torch were both exhilarating and unforgettable. Greeted by the

smiling faces of my friends, co-workers and the thousands of Chinese students who came from all over the country to "protect the flame," I felt much honored to be a part of something of significance to so many people all over the world.

The 2008 Olympics presents an opportunity not only for China to shine on the global stage, but also for the country to reflect on its changing role in international society. And so, while I believe that any violation of human rights on behalf of the Chinese government is intolerable and inexcusable, I hope the Beijing Olympics will exceed all expectations and prove an resounding success. Perhaps I'm just hopelessly optimistic, but I would like to believe that this year's Olympics will leave a lasting impression on the millions of ordinary Chinese citizens, especially the members of the younger generation,

and inspire them to create a China that the world will regard with respect rather than resentment. ■

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