Message From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

What a terrific year 2012 has been for the Program in terms of noteworthy individual and group-inspired achievements, plus the Scholars dedication to service projects, mentoring and leadership. Our family of Ron Brown Scholars continues to grow, to mature, to give back and to amaze. Important Program successes such as the launch of the new CAPtáns initiative and the 2012 American Journey Awards Dinner where we honored the Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Regina Benjamin and RBSP Founder, Mr. Tony Pilaro, provide testament to the impact of our unique scholarship program. The seeds, planted 16 years ago, are flourishing in directions and paying dividends in ways we never imagined. Vanessa, I and the entire RBS staff are more motivated than ever (with your help) to move the Ron Brown Scholar Program to the next level.

As Trustee member Ambassador Dougan often states, “the remarkable piece of this scholarship program is that it is so much more than scholarship. It is the mentoring, advising and holistic approach to growing nurturing leaders which is at the foundation of our success and sets us apart.” We believe that the benefits of the Ron Brown Scholar Program to date are clear as we now set short term and long term goals for the next 16 years. How can we increase mentoring, public service and leadership opportunities, while also growing and strengthening career and networking partnerships for our Scholars and Alumni? Our goal for 2013 and beyond is to develop a forward-looking strategic plan that will focus on both impact and sustainability.

We have challenges, yet remain optimistic because we are at the end of the beginning—entering a new phase where we can leverage what we have learned, created and utilize our new partnerships. If our past successes are any indication of where we will be in 16 years, we believe we will be the equivalent of a small company paying dividends through our young leaders.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions. I am so grateful to everyone who has mentored, advised, donated or spread the word about the Ron Brown Scholar Program, and, I ask for your continued support.

Scholar Program Launches Ron Brown CAPtáns Initiative to Support More Students

The Ron Brown CAPtáns Program, a new and exciting initiative created in 2011, extends the reach of the RBS Program beyond the recipient Scholars. The top 4% of our annual pool of applicants (approximately 250 highly qualified young African Americans each year) are invited to become RBS CAPtáns and thereby share some of the important opportunities, connections and resources our Ron Brown Scholars enjoy. The Ron Brown Scholar Program network has proven to be powerful in providing access to a wide variety of professional and academic leaders, career opportunities/guidance and graduate scholarships. The goal of the CAPtáns initiative is to ensure that more outstanding young African Americans will achieve their full leadership potential and thus be in positions to help countless others.

(Continued on Page 16)
A
n award was created to honor plastic surgery resident Marco Ellis, MD, for his contributions to increasing diversity initiatives at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University.

Marco Ellis, MD, chief resident of plastic surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, has had an interest in diversity programming since his days as an undergraduate medical student. When he entered his residency program at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University in 2005, he wanted to create a similar amount of enthusiasm for minority presence here. “As an underrepresented minority, diversity is important because you look for that sense of belonging, community and mentorship when you decide to enroll in a program,” Ellis said.

He became involved with the McGaw Diversity Council in 2007, and assisted, and organized programming for some of their small initiatives, in addition to mentoring medical students. Ellis served as a great resource to the council, sharing his experiences and ideas to increase diversity at McGaw, and started a new foundation last year, Northwestern McGaw Underrepresented Residents and Fellows Forum (NMURFF).

For his extraordinary contributions in increasing diversity in McGaw programs, an award was created in his honor. (The Marco Ellis Legacy Award for Diversity) Ellis was the inaugural recipient of this award on June 8. “I was absolutely appreciative and awe struck when the award was presented to me, and, to have the award named after me was a surprise. I don’t see the work that I’ve accomplished on the Diversity Council as community service or volunteer work. I see it as part of my job as a physician,” Ellis said.

The award honors Ellis’ character, work, and commitment to diversity and will be presented annually to those who demonstrate an interest and devotion to improving the experience of underrepresented minorities on campus.

“We knew we had to honor Dr. Ellis because he was involved from the beginning and has always been reliable. His thoughts, comments and ideas were insightful and we were able to learn from him,” said Rob Christopher, executive director of McGaw Medical Center. “Marco directs a lot of our efforts and is so helpful. A lot of our success has come from his involvement and leadership.”

In 2007, Christopher and Sunny Gibson, directors of Minority Affairs at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, started to talk about diversity initiatives in the residency program. The former Graduate Medical Education Dean, Sharon Dooley, MD, MPH, Albert B. Gerbie Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, conducted some comparative analysis and peer institution benchmarking and determined that McGaw needed to work on diversity. Dooley established the Diversity Council and had it approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee. Since the Diversity Council started, McGaw has more than doubled the number of underrepresented minorities in the resident match and has expanded diversity among specialty groups, such as increasing women in surgical fields and male representation in obstetrics and gynecology and family medicine.

“I had always felt that I didn’t have a strong answer when prospective medical students asked me about diversity among residents and I knew that we could be doing more. After being here for a year or so, I didn’t really see any visible McGaw-wide...”

(Continued on Page 5)
Scholar Profile: Sean Nolan, PhD, RBS 1999

Sean Nolan is a member of a select group: he is a Ron Brown Scholar alumnus. Nowadays, he is a senior engineer at Pratt & Whitney, a self-described “world leader in the design and manufacture of aircraft engines.” On the Middletown, Connecticut campus, he is assigned to the compressor section of product development for a next-generation, new-option jet engine planned for use on the Airbus A320 starting in 2015. Compared to the current engines used on the A320, this new offering will result in greater than a 10% reduction in fuel burn, with similar reductions in emissions and noise levels.

Sean has helped and been helped by the other minority engineers recently hired by Pratt & Whitney as they make the transition from academia to industry. He plans to mentor current undergraduate engineering students as they manage the rigors of academic life and the introduction to scientific research and product development.

Sean grew up in Tampa, Florida. He attended a magnet school, Tampa Bay Technical High School. He was selected in 1999 as a Ron Brown Scholar. Thanks to support from family and friends like the Ron Brown Scholar Program, Sean then had the opportunity to study at...
Dear Ron Brown Scholars, Alumni, and Friends,

As the new president of the Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association, it is my pleasure to share a few words concerning what I value about being a part of this organization, what I hope we can accomplish together, and what I know we can look forward to as a result of the privileges and responsibilities we share.

From the beginning, I have felt that the relationships that I’ve forged through participation in the Ron Brown Scholar Program have meant so much more to me than the generous scholarship I received. Throughout my 10 years as a Scholar, half of which were spent studying or working abroad, I looked forward with great anticipation to our conferences and reunions, because I saw these encounters as important opportunities to enrich the ties with fellow Scholars and enlighten myself as to how I might best utilize my talents in the future. RBS staff and other Scholars have provided an invaluable support network for me. They have offered thoughtful advice, countless letters of recommendations, and friendly faces in a new city. This is the element of the Program that I love, and that bolsters my sense of commitment for our upcoming endeavors.

The 2012 Alumni Reunion featured the theme: “Transforming Community: Education, Leadership, and Service.” The 34 Scholars in attendance included “old-timers” John Burton (RBS 1997) and Allen Yancey (RBS 1998) up through and including several of our 2012 Scholars. RBS CAPtains and even high school students attended the event! During our panel discussion, presenters from City Year, the Peace Corps, and Teach for America each imparted critical information about their respective programs sprinkled with thoughtful anecdotes. Like any large RBS gathering, the event left me feeling energized by my interactions with others and inspired to think harder about how to incorporate social change into my own career. Furthermore, it also functioned as an appropriate occasion to take stock of the state of our organization.

In the afternoon session, friends of the Program, including members of both the Advisory and Trustee Boards, led groups of Scholars in candid discussions about their personal definitions of success and their expectations of the RBSAA. Overwhelmingly, “direction” and “connection” emerged as the key concerns. We discussed how, for most of us, the path to college and through graduation is a no-brainer. Being the over-achievers that we are, we know how to balance good grades with stellar extracurricular activities, how to stay on the Dean’s List, and how to nab those coveted summer internships. It is after graduation, when the jobs we thought we always wanted turn out not to be what dreams are made of, and when we have to cope with life experiences that have not been covered in our textbooks, that we feel ourselves beginning to stumble on the path toward “success.” The once unwavering sense of direction that brought us this far is in danger of petering out.

It is in those moments of doubt that strong connections across all sectors of the Program—scholars, alumni, staff, and friends—are most vital. Only by maintaining strong connections can we direct ourselves toward fulfilling the larger mission of the RBSAA, to cultivate a “family of scholars” that “becomes a force that positively changes America.”

(Continued on Page 10)
Inaugural Award Honors Resident’s Commitment to Diversity

(Continued From Page 2)

Residents were very central to our work in forming the forum, and they remain crucial partners in its success, both in helping us deliver programs and informing our process. We quite literally cannot do it without them,” said Gibson. “In the beginning, the residents taught us about their experiences, what to focus on in our strategies, and how to make our institution more welcoming. They helped us understand how our institution was viewed and received by prospective candidates and also were very candid about their training experiences, both supportive and challenging,” said Gibson. “They shared their ideas and insights with us as we developed each component of McGaw’s diversity infrastructure.”

“What’s really impressive to me is that the members of

NMURFF are all active residents and fellows. We all know how incredibly busy these people are, yet they recognize the importance of diversity throughout our institutions and want to be a part of making a positive difference at Northwestern,” said Christopher.

As Ellis starts his one-year fellowship in cranial facial surgery at Johns Hopkins, he hopes to stay in close contact with NMURFF, the organization he helped found. “It would be ideal to be at an academic institution where I can resume these administrative interests. It would be nice to come back to Northwestern because there are opportunities here,” he said.

Scholar Profile: Sean Nolan, PhD, RBS 1999

(Continued From Page 3)

MIT, where he completed his undergraduate degree and then his PhD (2009) in aeronautics and astronautics. While at MIT, Sean performed research on turbo machinery at the Gas Turbine Lab. This research led to the development of design methods that he is now using to improve the efficiency and operability of jet engines. Furthermore, he was instrumental in fostering a collaborative relationship between the MIT Gas Turbine Lab and the Air Force Research Lab’s turbine engine division.

As Sean has progressed in attaining his career goals, he continues to laud the opportunities and support that he received from the Ron Brown Scholar Program. “My training at MIT has been invaluable to the work that I do now, but I would not have been able to attend MIT without the help from the Ron Brown scholarship. Beyond the financial aid, there were times in grad school when I needed encouragement from the RBS family to push through the tough patches, so in many ways whatever success I might have now was enabled in a very direct manner by the RBS Program.”

Sean elaborates about the role Executive Director, Mike Mallory, and Associate Director, Vanessa Evans, have played in his success. “First they bring you in and they are always there for you,” Nolan says. “They continue to be always there for you. School is not easy. You always need someone to talk to and they were always there to help and I got through. Now it is my duty to check in with them,” he says about reciprocity. “Anything I can do to give back, I will do. Anything I can do to help, I will do.”
Marquise McGraw is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Economics and a Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) at the University of California—Berkeley. This unique position gives him an insider’s look at higher education today while simultaneously preparing and equipping him to play an important role in future public policy.

Marquise’s current research focuses on the link between aviation infrastructure and local economic development. Although his findings are preliminary, they seem to support the thesis that airports are an important driver of development and will continue to spur further growth in the future. He postulates that airports contribute by making it easier for people and their ideas to connect, and in an increasingly global marketplace, these linkages are more critical than ever. At the heart of his interest in the topic is one simple motive: improving the life position of the average American. “We’ve got to figure out how to get people jobs. We’ve got to figure out how to make our cities more competitive. We’ve got to put the money in the right places to make this happen, and we should do it based on what actually works, not what we think will work.”

McGraw is also a highly rated and experienced instructor whose skills and knowledge are highly sought after by students and others. He is the winner of two UC Berkeley teaching awards: the Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award and the Teaching Effectiveness Award, the latter of which was awarded to only twelve of the hundreds of graduate student instructors on campus. At Berkeley, Marquise has taught Introduction to Economics and is now the Head Graduate Student Instructor for Microeconomic Analysis. He also leads the Discipline Cluster workshops on teaching for the Quantitative Social Sciences required of new GSIs.

Importantly, Marquise also serves as a mentor to numerous undergraduates and involves undergraduates in his research. “Public education, unfortunately, sometimes gives undergraduates a raw deal. It’s really hard for them to get involved with what we do, and more importantly, to find people they can go to with their questions about courses, careers and life. I’m happy to help where I can. I love working with undergraduates, and I’ve grown so much as I’ve gotten to know them. The selfish truth is that I’m the real beneficiary of these mentoring relationships.”

This summer, he was asked to be a teaching assistant in the American Economics Association’s long-running Summer Training Program for minority students who are considering going on for a PhD in Economics. The program, held on the campus of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, plays an important role in creating a pipeline of economists from diverse backgrounds. McGraw, a graduate of the 2005 program (then held at Duke University), happily accepted the charge. Quickly upon arrival, however, he realized that his job would entail much more than grading papers. “The staff asked me to fill a need by teaching labor economics and research methods to the students, and I was glad to do so. Not only did I simply teach, but I really tried my best to challenge the students. They hated me for it then but appreciate it now.” Living in the dorms with his 20 students allowed him to develop close mentoring relationships with many of them. “It’s scary, but I realize that they really look up to me now,” he says. “It is important to make sure that economists from all backgrounds have a seat at the table, and I am really excited about some of these folks being able to make a mark on the field of economics in the coming years. It’s awesome to play a small role in that.”

Moving forward, Marquise will continue his research on infrastructure and growth. He will also be charting a plan of research in urban economics to potentially help answer a variety of vexing questions. Chief among them is better understanding what roles various factors...
Skip West Named 2012 Mentor of the Year

The Ron Brown Scholar Program is pleased and honored to announce the 2012 Mentor-of-the-Year Award recipient, Mr. Skip West, Founder and President of Maxsa Innovations. 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.

Skip West is a leader in the American innovation and invention movement. His company is dedicated to the creation and design of unique and innovative consumer electronic products using solar technology and other alternative energy sources. Mr. West is on the boards of The Consumer Electronics Association, Electronics Industries Alliance and the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association as well as being involved with charities focused on improving literacy, education and health care in Africa. For CEA, he serves on the Mobile and Accessories boards and chairs the Small Business Group.

Mr. West received his Bachelor of Arts from Haverford College in 1978 and his Masters in Business Administration from Stanford University in 1980. Before his college graduation, Skip spent a year teaching in Africa. He is an adjunct professor at George Mason in both the Engineering and Business Schools where he teaches a class “Geeks to Gazillionaires: How to take an Idea and Build it into a Successful Company.”

Announcing the award at the Program’s Charlottesville, VA headquarters, RBSP Executive Director Michael Mallory said, “Skip has been a long time supporter of both Ron Brown Scholars and the Program. His professional guidance and personal friendship have assisted in many ways.”

“Over the past six years, Skip has been an incredible mentor and an incredible friend. I have no doubt that his generosity, council, and support has profoundly shaped my career and professional aspirations; more importantly, he has shaped my character and influenced my world view, most certainly for the better.”

Chris Khan, a 2001 Ron Brown Scholar has benefitted directly from Mr. West’s support. He commented, “Over the past six years Skip has been an incredible mentor and an incredible friend. I have no doubt that his generosity, council and support has profoundly shaped my career and professional aspirations; more importantly, he has shaped my character and influenced my world view, most certainly for the better. One of the most important lessons I have learned from Skip is to take that first step, even if you aren’t 100% sure where it will lead, and then stick with it as you figure it out.”

We salute and thank Mr. West for his commitment and contributions to the Ron Brown Scholar Program.

Scholar Profile: Marquise McGraw, RBS 2002 (Continued From Page 6)

play when it comes to the perplexing conundrums of cities as economic incubators and hubs of activity. He will also continue to teach and mentor undergraduates, train and mentor other GSIs, and in general to continue to be an advocate for excellence in higher education. He hopes to graduate in 2014 or 2015 and pursue a career that will allow him to contribute to public policy in a meaningful way.

Finally, McGraw strives to stay connected to the Ron Brown Scholar Program. He counts himself extremely fortunate to have the wisdom of fellow 2002 RBS Ty Moore and 2000 RBS Jason Young close by in Oakland where they are currently working on a technology start-up. Over lunch, the three of them often discuss big ideas and brainstorm ways of making the maximum impact in their respective areas. In addition, Marquise looks forward to connecting more with other RBS who have recently moved to the Bay Area and to participating in the Program in a variety of ways.
Ronald H. Brown American Journey Awards

Friday, March 22, 2013
6:30 pm—9:30 pm
JW Marriott
1331 Pennsylvania Ave

Dr. Wanda M. Austin
President & CEO
The Aerospace Corporation

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.

For additional information and tickets visit our website www.ronbrown.org

The Ron Brown Scholar Program is an independent public 501(c)(3) charity.
Ron H. Brown
American Journey Awards
March 22, 2013
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
JW Marriott
1331 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC

HONOREES:

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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Ron Brown Scholars
Message From the Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association President (Continued From Page 4)

Going forward, your board members, fellow alums, and I intend to pursue the issue of scholar connectedness with a renewed sense of urgency. In this vein, we are creating a framework for RBS chapters committed to regular activities and mentorship. We hope that by forming more tightly-knit clusters, scholars and alums will feel more comfortable seeking out one another to celebrate, collaborate and commiserate. It goes without saying that we enthusiastically welcome your participation in these groups, but also, if you have any ideas about how to maximize their effectiveness, speak up and let us know!

Best,
Ashley Hayes
2012 President, Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association

Alumni Scholars Who Presented Talks at 2012 Summer Meeting

Peter Boyce, RBS 2008 gave a talk on “The Learning Revolution—Rethinking Education in the 21st Century”, where he shared his experiences at Skillshare (www.skillshare.com), an education startup based in New York. Inspired by personal experiences with education at Harvard enabled by the Ron Brown Scholar Program and other community supports, in contrast to the student debt and education crisis the country faces, the Ron Brown community has a role to play in addressing the lack of accessible education. Given how central education is to solving some of the largest problems in health, employment and safety in society: how can we use technology & the skills of our communities to democratize education access? Through mentorship, skill sharing, affordable access to classes and new online platforms open to anyone regardless of income and location, they are beginning to create important innovation in education.

Dorian Dargan, RBS 2007 discussed best practices for building a product that customers love when starting from nothing. YouNow (www.younow.com) a social live video website with game elements, where users can engage with live videos, or broadcast live themselves and interact with an audience in real time. It provides a unique platform for users to meet new friends, expand their social reach & grow their following.

Ihotu Jennifer Ali, RBS 2003, recently took the plunge into self-employment after several years of work in international policy, community education, and maternal and newborn health in Africa and communities of African descent. Ihotu’s struggle to find work-life balance and creativity in major cities led her three years ago to found the Speakeasy Collective: A multicultural community and mentoring space for budding artists and creative individuals seeking diverse cultural arts and a channel for positive self-expression and relationship building for social change. She now supports this creative community full-time in addition to working as a “local food” health coach and birth doula in order to support women’s self-care and holistic wellness practices during major life transitions, from starting a new job to starting a family. To learn more about her work and how to bring more wellness into your own life, visit www.FertileConcrete.org.
The Consumer Electronics Association chose the Ron Brown Scholar Program as the sole charity beneficiary of their annual Digital Patriots Dinner held on April 25, 2012 at the Newseum in Washington DC. Ron Brown Scholar Program Executive Director, Mike Mallory, Scholars Danielle Andrews-Lovell (2002), Miya Cain (2004) and Ade Sawyer (2006) joined Gary Shapiro, President of the Consumer Electronics Association as he honored: David Rubenstein, co-founder and Managing Director of The Carlyle Group (the largest private equity group in America), Senator Ron Wyden (OR), and Representative Jason Chaffetz (UT) as the CEA 2012 Digital Patriots. The Program was awarded $50,000 as the charity beneficiary.

Danielle Andrews-Lovell and Mike Mallory were included in a video dedication to honoree, David Rubenstein. Miya Cain sang the National Anthem at the commencement of the dinner reception. Both Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Rubenstein were long-standing, close friends of Secretary Ronald H. Brown. Mr. Rubenstein, who grew up in Baltimore, Maryland as the only child of a postal worker who never earned more than $8,000/year, is today a billionaire who has pledged to donate the majority of his wealth to philanthropic causes or charities as part of The Giving Pledge. Mr. Shapiro, who has become a new and valued friend of the Ron Brown Scholar Program, was a leader in America’s transition to high definition television and author of the bestselling 2011 book, The Comeback: How Innovation will restore the American Dream.

In addition to the honor and exposure gained by being the CEA’s chosen charity, the evening provided an enjoyable chance for the Program to interact with creative entrepreneurs and build further relationships with the Consumer Electronics Association, the Carlyle Group and many affiliated companies.

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**Board of Trustees Member: Kathy Thornton-Bias**

*(Continued From Page 3)*

we found it. Our family lives by the scripture, to whom much is given, much is required. It is the rudder that guides my life.”

Michael Mallory, a UVA acquaintance, provided Kathy’s introduction to the RBSP, but her solid devotion to the Program grew as a result of experiences with Ron Brown Scholars.

Kathy remarked, “A few years ago, I was asked to participate in the interview process for the Ron Brown Scholar Selection Weekend. Let’s just say that after my tearful embrace of each candidate that crossed my path, I was not invited back to participate in the Selection Process! But, what struck me most about the weekend were not just the stories that each candidate told about their experiences or the obstacles that they had overcome. It was the sense of selflessness and attitude of, ‘we’re all in this together’ that impressed me the most. When the students found out that two from the group would not be receiving a scholarship, they organized a secret meeting and unanimously agreed to take less scholarship money, so that everyone could earn a scholarship. At the age of 18, these phenomenal young people who had only met two days before, had come together and hatched a plan that was absolutely altruistic. Congress could learn a lesson from these students! It was then that I realized that this was more than a scholarship program, more than money changing hands; it was the beginnings of a family- where its members protect the entire group, leaving no one behind, and making sacrifices so that they could all thrive, together.”

Kathy’s primary goal as a Trustee is to help create a substantial endowment that preserves and expands the scope of the Program. She would love to see RBSP with a scalable revenue model that would allow 100 scholarships per year to be awarded. Her message to RBS: “You are individually and collectively the best that our community has to offer. Know that you will change the world.”

Thank you Kathy Thornton-Bias for your hard work and dedication to the Ron Brown Scholar Program.
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The Ron Brown Scholar Program wishes to thank all of the foundations, organizations and individuals who have supported our mission.

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Raymond Vickery
John H. Vogel
Sabine Von Sengbusch
Lawrence R. Walker, MD
Dr. Colleen Wallace
Thomas A. Waller
Katie Washington
R. Kenly Webster
Damon White
Frederick (Fred) W. Whitridge
Ambassador Sharon P. Wilkinson
Benjamin F. Wilson

(Continued on Page 15)
Financial Gifts November 1, 2011 to October 31, 2012

(Continued from Page 13)

Tyrone Woodyard
Ricardo Woolery
Pandit Wright
Charles Wynder, Jr. &
Bethany Dickerson Wynder

Ron Brown Scholars
Sheila Adams
Amanda S. Alexander
Ihotu Jennifer Ali
Danielle M. Allen
Naomi B. Andebrhan
Amanda C. Bass
Chaz M. Beasley
Thomas Berrings
Michael A. Billings
Peter A. Boyce
Crystal N. Boyd
Eleanor Branch
Sharlene M. Brown
Jasmine M. Browne
Joseph P. Browne
Robert L. Brutus, III
Justin Bullock
Traci R. Burch
Stefon Q. Burns
John A. Burton
Brent E. Cash
Lowell D. Caulder
William S. Chichester, III
Jade A. Craig
Douglas H. Cunningham
Dorian D. Dargan
Shirley Delaleu
Salmana Diallo
Cameron W. Drake
Marco F. Ellis, MD
Matthew H. Espy
Sebastian Flores
Wendy F. Francois
Caleb I. Franklin
Travis A. Gayles
Lisa E. J. Gordon
Caprice H. Gray
D. Andre Green, II
Frederik Groce
Derick A. Gross
Lucas S. Habte
Kara P. Hamilton
Karla J. Hardy
Ashley V. N. Hayes
Austin J. Henderson
Kristian J. Henderson
Brandon R. Hill
Malcolm X. Hines
Alvin E. Hough, Jr.
Christopher A. Hunter
Margaret D. Ivey
Tristan D. Ivory
Tiffany R. Jackson
Maikha Jean-Baptiste
Amanda Johnson
Miles Johnson
Luis Jones
Maris S. Jones
Mondaire Jones
Kory Kantenga
Christopher Khan
Sarah LaBrie
Diarra Lamar
Sade M. Lawrence
Yann G. Le Gall
Kara M. Lee
May L. Lugemwa
Jay R. Lundy, Jr.
Neveen Mahmoud
Ivy M. McCottry
Michael A. McDaniels
Jeremy M. McGee
Marquise McGraw
Ku McMahan
Daren W. Miller
Ethan G Monreal-Jackson
Desiree C. Montgomery
Tracy T. Moore, II
Donielle N. Newell Buie
Melanie Newell
Brandon Nicholson
Sean P. R. Nolan
Catherine C. Ntube
Kalonji Nzinga
Chrystal N. Obi
Esther O. Owolabi
Crystal Paul-Laughinghouse
Geraldine Pierre
Qaren Q. Quartey
Maia Roberson
M. Michelle Robinson
Aliya J. Sanders
Carolanne Sanders
Errol C. Saunders, II
Ade A. Sawyer
Jamel C. Seagraves
Angela Smedley
Dorothy Smith
Nicholas A. Smith
Robert J. Smith, III
Ryan A. Stewart
William A. Tarpeh
Victoria Tate
Kiah Thorn
Veronica H. Threadgill
Ronald C. Tisdale
Dr. Carmelle T. Norice Tra
Maria I. Velazquez
Aubrey J. Walker
Alan Wesson
Askia Tariq West
Alexandra C. Wood
Ellen Yiadom
Jamaal A. Young
Jason W. Young

Special Gifts:
Kathie and David Morris in honor of Vanessa M. Evans and Michael A. Mallory; Twila R. Stofer in honor of Steven Rubin

In Memory of:
Lois J. Sandy in memory of Grace Tinsley
Scholar Program Launches Ron Brown CAPtains Initiative to Support More Students (Continued From Page 1)

Whether the business is technology, law, medical health sciences, manufacturing, energy or real estate, knowledge is the most valuable asset a company owns and a company’s knowledge assets reside in its employees. Employers know this and competition for good motivated employees remains fierce even during this economic downturn. Historically, companies spend between 20% and 33% of a new employee’s first year salary in search costs to find that employee. The RBS CAPtains Program creates a virtual community and information marketplace for students and companies to find and learn about each other. Students who participate in the CAPtains Program have their relevant academic and employment information entered into a database. Participating employers, who are searching for highly qualified undergraduate interns to participate in and someday possibly join their companies or academic programs after graduation, pay a sponsorship fee to cover the costs of the program. These employers are then entitled to connections to CAPtains who are interested in them. The student and the employer form a community that interacts:

• Posting jobs, resumes and student background information
• Searching for pre-screened talent
• Introducing students to a company or organization for service or employment
• Discussions through e-mail, bulletin boards, chat rooms, webinars
• Advertising and face-to-face discussions

The economics of the program are compelling and very promising for sponsors and for the Ron Brown Scholar Program. In 2011, 550 African American undergraduates at our nation’s top universities signed up to participate. In 2012, an additional 161 freshmen became RBS CAPtains. We anticipate extending the program each year, further growing the pool size. We have successfully connected several of our CAPtains with our sponsors; the feedback from both CAPtains and corporate sponsors has been overwhelmingly positive to date.

There are approximately 5,000 large and mid-market companies in the US. A per annum sponsorship fee could be a bargain for them since the cost of hiring one student every several years yields a positive return. To date, our corporate sponsors include: Siemens, Time Warner, Morgan Stanley and CareFirst; in addition, several corporate partners are currently pending.

The RBS CAPtains website is underway and will be the primary online communication link between the Program and the CAPtains. A detailed handbook that includes advice about writing resumes, interviewing, requirements necessary for success in various fields, etc. has been developed and is available to our CAPtains. We anticipate a sophisticated website linking students, companies and administrators as they update employment information, match students to opportunities and administer the site to keep it vibrant and current.

The Ron Brown Scholar Fund is participating in the COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN ID #60590

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