Message From the Executive Director

Seventeen years ago this Program was at its beginning—there was excitement as well as a measure of anxiety. But today, a strong team of Ron Brown Scholars, advisors, staff and the many friends who have joined this family make it unbreakable.

So we are at the end of the birth-to-college cycle and about to step into the new and I feel as excited as I did when our founder and primary benefactor, Tony Pilaro and I were just putting our thoughts together, imagining what a group of Scholars could accomplish in terms of self realization and then paying it forward. I can report that they have exceeded our expectations in terms of their international presence, creativity, sensitivity and accomplishments. All of our Scholars continue to amaze with their impactful achievements and dedication to service and philanthropy. In addition, they have a 99% graduation rate—more than double that of the national average for African American college graduates.

Now is the time to build upon what we have learned, and to grow the Program, and for the most important reason: Investment in the Ron Brown Scholar Program has paid dividends. Greater investments will fund more Scholars—this will have the “multiplier effect”—the greater the number of Scholars, the more challenges and opportunities Scholars tackle, the more we can effect positive changes. This increases the scope and depth of our impact, which will grow exponentially. We believe that one great leader can impact hundreds if not thousands of people.

On March 28, 2014 we were honored to pay tribute to Mr. Kenneth I. Chenault at our Fifth Annual American Journey Awards. Mr. Chenault’s leadership, work ethic and focus on measurable achievements in order to obtain success are a model for what young people should aspire to, both personally and professionally. His American Journey inspires us and challenges us to discover and demonstrate the very best in ourselves. Ken and his wife Kathy’s generosity epitomizes Ronald H. Brown’s visionary leadership, his selflessness and passion for building a better world community: goals directly aligned with our purpose to advance the collective aspirations and impact of extraordinary young leaders who defy the odds.

On the same evening we were delighted to award the Program’s first American Journey Award for Emerging Leadership to Ron Brown Scholar Jason Young. Jason’s talent for enabling others to realize their dreams has been repeatedly demonstrated since he was thirteen years old. Recently, President Obama announced the appointment of Jason as a member to the President’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans.

This year we hired an independent consultant to review and evaluate our support and services to Ron Brown Scholars. These services include, but are not limited to, mentoring, counseling, leadership development activities and high intensity interactions. What differentiates this review is that we have included a control group of past scholarship competition semifinalists to better compare the impact of our services to our Scholars versus those that did not receive that same type of support. We want to evaluate how our direct support might be multiplied and shared with other students from similar backgrounds.

There are many things I could continue to tell you, but most you will read about throughout this newsletter. The past year has been exceptional and I want to thank each of you for your support, financial and otherwise. We cannot be successful without your genuine interest in our Ron Brown Scholars.

Warmest regards,

Michael A. Mallory
President, Ron Brown Scholar Fund
Executive Director, Ron Brown Scholar Program
Selection Weekend Reflections
By: Sojourner Abeebe, 2014 Ron Brown Scholar

Upon my arrival for Selection Weekend, I was greeted with feelings of excitement and fear. I knew that I was on the brink of being surrounded by an exceptionally talented group of young people, but I didn’t know what this occasion would bring and how I would be changed by all this. From the moment I met the other finalists, we fell into the depths of conversation, talking about our favorite cities, our studies, our dreams, our music, our lives, the schools we came from, the people that touched our lives for the better, and the reasons why we keep doing what we do. It was truly magical, in every sense of the word, to be talking amongst some of the best African-American minds in the country, to feel at home again with voices and narratives that carried so much power and drive.

Friday evening we had the opportunity to meet with guests at the American Journey Awards dinner and reception, including RBSB Board members, current Ron Brown Scholars and donors. As I made my way around the room, I was witness to all the fabulous and exhilarating stories that various guests carried with them, and I was touched by the overwhelming yet thrilling experience of meeting them. During dinner, Mr. Kenneth Chenault gave the most inspiring and memorable presentation. He talked about giving back to your community, not as a moral duty, but as a means of losing yourself in the service of others. He reminded us not to turn our backs on those who are less fortunate, but to lend a hand, to place a ladder down for those in need. I will never forget that.

The rest of the weekend was nothing short of amazing. I remember sitting in a room at Patton Boggs Law Offices, and as finalists went in and out for their interviews, various Ron Brown Scholars came into the room and shared their experiences and their journeys. I remember sitting back and thinking, wow, not only are Ron Brown Scholars extraordinary in their actions, but they are consciously thinking about others, and what they can give back. The sense of selflessness and intellectualism that pervaded the weekend was simply enchanting.

In 2014 Sojourner will serve as one of five National Student Poets, the nation’s highest honor for youth poets presenting original work.

The Ron Brown Scholar Program Newsletter 2014
Spring 2014
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(Ron Brown Scholar 2008)
Entrepreneur

2014 Spring 2014
Spring 2014
RBNSD 2014 Annual American Journey Awards
RBSP Hosts Fifth Annual American Journey Awards
2014 Spring 2014
Spring 2014
RBSP Hosts Fifth Annual American Journey Awards
In 2014 Ron Brown Scholar Program newsletter, 2014 Ron Brown Scholar Program newsletter
Selection Weekend: Reflections by Sojourner Abeebe, 2014 Ron Brown Scholar
Selection Weekend Reflections: Sojourner Abeebe, 2014 Ron Brown Scholar

O n Friday, March 28, 2014, 500 friends and supporters of the Ron Brown Scholar Program gathered at the JW Marriott in Washington, D.C. for the Fifth Annual Ronald H. Brown American Journey Awards. Mrs. Sharon Epperson, Senior Commodities & Personal Finance Correspondent, CNBC, was our enthusiastic host for the evening, welcoming guests and highlighting the importance of the Program and the scholarship support it provides to students.

Established in 2009, The Ronald H. Brown American Journey Award seeks to honor those individuals who exemplify the vision and transformative ideals of the late Secretary and serve as models, to which the Scholars should aspire. It was powerful and fitting to honor the legacy of the late Secretary by celebrating the accomplishments and service of Mr. Kenneth L. Chenault, Chairman & CEO of American Express.

When the first class of twenty Ron Brown Scholars graduated from college in 2001, we created an Alumni Association. Mr. Chenault’s name was then often mentioned as a leader most admired by alumni, one they would most like to meet and whose life’s trajectory they would hope to emulate. None of us could have guessed then that Mr. Chenault would one day become a friend and strong advocate for the Ron Brown Scholar Program.

Mr. Chenault’s presence and words brought the audience to its feet as he reminded us that leadership has many dimensions, but that one enduring hallmark of a leader is recognizing a personal accountability to give back, to bring the next generation forward and to make the world around them a better place.

“Commitment, dedication, courage, compassion, the pursuit of excellence – these are all qualities I look for in leaders,” Mr. Chenault said. “This award means a great deal to me because it has his name on it. And I know how strongly Ron felt about providing opportunities for our young people.”

Mr. Chenault concluded the evening with a message to the Ron Brown Scholars and Finalists, who were all dreaming of where their own American Journey might lead them. “Keep pushing forward. Be driven to succeed, to make a difference, but never leave your people behind. Remember, you are leaders and never forget that the role of a leader is to define reality and give hope.

And you can only fulfill this role by your actions.”

Ron Brown Scholar Damiam Williams presented the 2014 American Journey Award to Mr. Chenault. “It’s an honor to present the American Journey Award to Mr. Chenault. He’s been a hero to so many Ron Brown Scholars and a symbol of what we should strive for in life. We’ve blessed to have him as part of our scholarship program and we hope to continue to make him proud.”

On the same evening we were delighted to award the Program’s first American Journey Award for Emerging Leadership to Ron Brown Scholar Jason Young. Jason’s talent for enabling others to realize dreams has been repeatedly demonstrated since he was thirteen years old.

“An awesome event and such a great cause! Michael Mallory’s commitment to this program is so inspiring. I was very honored to be a part of the evening.”

–Sharon Epperson, AJA Host and Senior Commodities & Personal Finance Correspondent, CNBC

(Continued on Page 16)
Ron Brown Scholar Program Fundraising Update 2014

As an organization our goal is to secure funding that will allow us to increase the number of scholarships awarded, while at the same time offer the support network and safety nets that lead to the success of Ron Brown Scholars and Captains.

We continue to make great strides with our fundraising efforts and have steadily been gaining ground to get back to awarding the number of scholarships per year prior to the financial downturn in 2009. We are pleased to report that we offered twenty-six new scholarships this year. We recognize we still have much to accomplish to meet our ultimate goal of a total of 400 Ron Brown Scholars by our twentieth anniversary.

In order to achieve this we have established a fundraising goal of $1 million for fiscal year 2014 and $22 million in endowment by 2020. We are on our way. Our endowment grew from $10.2 million at the end of December 2012 to $13.5 million at the end of 2013. 2013 was an exceptional year for fundraising as well. In addition to the American Journey Awards, which serves as our primary annual fundraiser, the Program established an Endowed Scholarship at Harvard in honor of David L. Evans. We raised $630,000 in general funds for the Program and $350,000 for the endowed scholarship at Harvard.

We added 450 new friends to the Program and our total number of donors rose 35%, from 226 in 2012 to 305 in 2013. Most satisfying was the fact that 62.4% (196) of our Scholars donated financially to the Program and all enhanced their service efforts. Collectively, Ron Brown Scholars themselves donated nearly $24,000 to the Program in 2013.

Our 2014 Ronald H. Brown American Journey Award fundraising event was a huge success raising $740,000 before expenses, an increase of over $300,000 compared to 2013. Each scholarship awarded is $50,000 which includes $10,000 a year for four years towards educational expenses and an additional $10,000 in services which support Scholar mentoring and leadership development.

We have no statistical proof of this, but think there are very few, if any philanthropic organizations in the country that can equal us when it comes to minimal spending on administrative costs and actual giving to those they serve.

If you have not made a donation to the Program this year, it is not too late to make a difference. Please take a few moments and consider filling out the enclosed gift envelope or make a donation online at www.ronbrown.org. We cannot achieve our objective of creating a network of high-achieving leaders for service, justice and a thriving world community, without your help.

American Journey Award for Emerging Leadership
Presented to
Jason W. Young, RBS 2000

Jason Young has a record of turning dreams into achievements. As a 13-year-old in 1995 he founded the J. Young & Associates travel agency, and once it was running he started (and mostly was) the New World Tutorial service. The first black valedictorian at Pacific Hills (CA) High School, Jason went to Harvard, where he doubled membership in the Harvard Black Men’s Forum and turned the club into the third-highest-grossing student organization, at the same time increasing ten-fold attendance at its flagship event, the Celebration of Black Women – and establishing a scholarship for young black women of exceptional talent.

While an undergraduate, Jason spent two summers with PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Graduating with a degree in Economics, Jason went from Harvard to Merrill Lynch. But idealistic entrepreneurship had become an addiction, and in 2007 he left to join the founding team of Wikinvest.com, an early-stage technology startup that helps normal people to make better investment decisions. While there, he also volunteered on the side helping young adults with their personal finances. Through this work, Jason came to understand that financial illiteracy had reached epidemic proportions in our country.

In 2011, while working as a Kauffman Entrepreneurial Fellow, he founded MindBlown Labs, an education technology company that creates captivating, mobile, game-based solutions that empower young people through financial capability. MindBlown’s goal is to impact 20M lives by 2020. He and co-founder and fellow Ron Brown Scholar, Ty Moore, moved to Oakland to launch their new company and were immediately struck by the need to enable more blacks to enter the Bay Area’s signature industry: high technology. Along with several other black technology entrepreneurs, they founded the Hidden Genius Project, a multi-year program that trains underserved black youth in software development and entrepreneurial thinking.

Jason has served on the boards of the Harvard Club of San Francisco, the Harvard Black Alumni Society, and, a first for us, the Ron Brown Scholar Program’s Advisory Board. His talent for enabling others to realize dreams has been repeatedly demonstrated, and the Program is delighted to have awarded Jason its first American Journey Award for Emerging Leadership.

White House Advisory Council Appointment

Congratulations to Ron Brown Scholar Jason W. Young on the announcement by President Obama of his appointment to serve as a member on the President’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans.

“I am humbled to have been asked to participate on the President’s Advisory Council, and I look forward to helping to ensure that the council leverages technology to deliver financial education in the most effective manner possible. As always, I remain grateful to my Ron Brown Family. I never would have been able to take advantage of this opportunity without their support.”

–Jason Young, RBS 2000
**Scholar Spotlight: Crystal Boyd RBS 2006**

**RBS Chapter Delegate - New York**

Crystal Boyd is a multi-media artist, researcher, and producer who began her career at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Drama. It was at Tisch where Crystal gained experience with actors, filmmakers, and producers alike. Upon leaving school, Crystal co-founded 1990 Lex Productions, a multi-media entertainment company that deconstructs modern experiences, explores relationships, and celebrates women. With the company Crystal has cast, produced, and edited various film projects in the NYC area, including the SAG-AFTRA New Media series, “Downtown Girls.” She has used the creative arts to teach literacy internationally for young students in Ghana, India, and New York City. Her next chapter will take her to Berlin, where she will shoot a film, teach students, and research creative pedagogy for migrant youth.

The partners for Crystal’s work in Berlin include the International Rescue Committee in New York City, the Sunshine Children’s Development Centre in Accra, Ghana, the Shanti-Bhavan Boarding School outside of Bangalore, India, and FEZ-Berlin, Europe’s largest non-profit children, youth and family center offering creative play and focus on global learning. Her research will culminate in a thesis paper that will include case studies of individual students at FEZ-Berlin. In addition, Crystal will create video of children from Shanti-Bhavan and the International Rescue Committee, as well as further video and media that explore the development of migrant youth in Berlin. Crystal plans to use this research to engage with educational systems in the United States, including Michigan public schools as well as charter schools that specialize in educating youth in underdeveloped areas with dense immigrant and impoverished populations.

**Ron Brown Scholar Outcomes Survey in the Works**

We are pleased to share early results of our outcomes study that has been in development over the past year with Barry Nagle, a senior researcher with Evaluation and Action Research Associates. Currently we have 250+ pages of raw data that Barry will be working hard to analyze in creating a summary report which should be available in the coming weeks. This report evaluates the personal and societal impacts of the Ron Brown Scholar Program and satisfies a five year follow-up study requirement.

In the early results, we were pleasantly surprised to find that an overwhelming majority of Scholars report forming friendships with other Scholars during college. Over 80% of our alumni solidly identify as being a leader in some aspect of their lives. And further, well over half of all Scholars reported being involved in weekly community service activities and nearly all Scholars out of college donate a portion of their annual salary to charity. Results like this seem to validate our mission of connecting service-minded leaders for a lifetime. And although this comes as no surprise, we are still delighted to report that the graduation rate of Ron Brown Scholars continues to more than double that of the national average for African American college graduation rates.

**Spotlight: Dr. Nicole Bates, Board of Trustees Member**

Dr. Nicole Bates, a graduate of the University of Virginia, is currently Deputy Director of Global Policy and Advocacy at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Early experiences with healthcare motivated her to give voice to the silent and advocate for improved local and global public health. Inspired and empowered to make a difference, she served on the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Dissertation Committee, the Decades of Vaccines Collaboration and is currently serving on the Ron Brown Scholar Fund Board of Trustees.

“What I do now is give a voice to children because they are not walking the halls of congress or parliament.”

Dr. Bates currently serves as the Deputy Director of Global Policy and Advocacy at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She has embraced the opportunity to bring life-saving vaccines to children in developing countries and, with her flagship in D.C., help effect important global policy change to aid youth. In 2013, through her work at the Foundation, Dr. Bates gathered the world’s leaders at the first Global Vaccines Summit to discuss polio vaccination and eradication. Additionally, partnered with the GAVI alliance she worked to bring sustainable health resources to the world’s poorest countries to provide withstand good health. Recently, she helped raise 8.3 billion dollars to help children receive the necessary vaccinations.

“The true blessing in my profession is I have the opportunity to work for people who are passionate and powerful and put that all towards a good cause.”

Dr. Bates began her journey through public health as a sociology and biology double major at the University of Virginia, where she first met Ron Brown Scholar Fund President, Mr. Michael Mallory. Since then, her mentors have included Senator Edward Kennedy and advocates at the Center for Disease Control. Under Senator Kennedy she was able to effect change through her work on welfare reform, family medical leave, and early care and education. What she credits as her greatest experience during her career, however, was the opportunity to have mentors who took a personal interest in her and exposed her to things she wouldn’t have sought otherwise. This enlightenment helped her shift her focus to global health and providing clean parks and eating practices to those of all races, communities and socioeconomic status.

Her work in global health has taken her to myriad of developing countries and exposed her to children in dire need of life-saving vaccinations, sterile facilities and the funds to thrive. Traveling to Tanzania, Vietnam, Cambodia and Mali where sick babies were warmed by space heaters in hospitals the size of utility closets, she finds the strength to survive as her greatest motivation.

“What the kids were just beautiful and fantastic. It was a different setting with the happiest and most generous people.”

Drawing on the inspiration she derives from today’s youth, Dr. Bates is excited to join the Ron Brown Scholar Program Board of Trustees. She hopes to do for the younger Scholars what her mentors did for her: introduce new concepts and opportunities to help shape the promise in young individuals.

“Through this program the world’s future leaders are crossing in your path.”
Congratulations to the 2014 Ron Brown Scholars!

Sojourner S. Ahebee
Hometown: Philadelphia, PA
High School: Interlochen Arts Academy
College: Duke University
Academic Interest: History/International Relations

Mathama M. Bility
Hometown: Cary, NC
High School: Salem Academy
College: Princeton University
Academic Interest: Anthropology

Morgan T. Brewton-Johnson
Hometown: Smyrna, GA
High School: Interlochen Arts Academy
College: University of Pennsylvania
Academic Interest: Psychology

Devon K. Cash
Hometown: Houston, TX
High School: Episcopal HS
College: Stanford University
Academic Interest: Political Science/African American Studies

Tyronne D. Clay
Hometown: New Orleans, LA
High School: Sci Academy
College: Swarthmore College
Academic Interest: Political Science/English

Nancy E. Coleman
Hometown: Tampa, FL
High School: H.W. Blake HS
College: Washington and Lee University
Academic Interest: Chemical Engineering

Joshua L. Davis
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
High School: James A. Garfield HS
College: Dartmouth University
Academic Interest: Psychology

Shanelle Davis
Hometown: Jamaica, NY
High School: Benjamin N. Cardozo HS
College: Brown University
Academic Interest: Undecided

Lisa R. Francois
Hometown: Albany, NY
High School: Emma Willard School
College: Yale University
Academic Interest: Political Science

Leonard A. Golmon
Hometown: New Orleans, LA
High School: Latin School of Chicago
College: Yale University
Academic Interest: Visual Arts

Quintin M. Hall
Hometown: Chicago, IL
High School: Latin School of Chicago
College: Vanderbilt University
Academic Interest: Engineering

Shayla Harris
Hometown: West Orange, NJ
High School: Kent Place School
College: University of Chicago
Academic Interest: Public Policy/Urban Studies

Hasan Y. Hassen
Hometown: Marietta, GA
High School: South Cobb High School
College: Dartmouth University
Academic Interest: Neuroscience

Gomian N. Konneh
Hometown: Philadelphia, PA
High School: Julia B. Mastenman HS
College: University of Pennsylvania
Academic Interest: Neuroscience

Sean T. Means
Hometown: Charlottesville, VA
High School: Monticello HS
College: Stanford University
Academic Interest: International Relations

Idris N. Mitchell
Hometown: Columbia, MD
High School: The Park School of Baltimore
College: Yale University
Academic Interest: Global Affairs/Economics

Diasia S. Moore
Hometown: Raleigh, NC
High School: Chatham Hall
College: Yale University
Academic Interest: Global Affairs/International Relations

Andrew D. Ntim
Hometown: Zion, IL
High School: Zion-Benton Township HS
College: Stanford University
Academic Interest: Undecided

Victoria Offie-Dua
Hometown: Huntsville, AL
High School: Huntsville HS
College: Vanderbilt University
Academic Interest: Pre-Med

Odemi E. Pesu
Hometown: Lawrenceville, GA
High School: Archer HS
College: Brown University
Academic Interest: International Relations/Economics

Michael C. Reid
Hometown: Dalton, IL
High School: Mount Carmel HS
College: Harvard University
Academic Interest: Economics

Castle V. Rousseau
Hometown: Hamilton, NJ
High School: Nottingham HS
College: Amherst College
Academic Interest: Biology

Oghenetegbi “T.G.” Sido
Hometown: Montgomery, AL
High School: Loveless Academic Magnet Program
College: Stanford University
Academic Interest: Computer Science

Herbert Spurlock, III
Hometown: New Orleans, LA
High School: Jesuit HS
College: Fordham University
Academic Interest: English/Spanish

Marjada F. Tucker
Hometown: Starkville, MS
High School: The Mississippi School for Math and Science
College: Rice University
Academic Interest: Chemistry (Pre-Pharmacy)

Colin O. Webb, II
Hometown: Lawrenceville, GA
High School: Gwinnett School of Math Science & Technology
College: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Academic Interest: Engineering

SPECIAL NOTE: Of the more than 5,000 applications received this year, 26 were awarded this honor in the Class of 2014.
Ron Brown Scholar Program Recognizes Steven H. Rubin

What makes the Ron Brown Scholar Program stand out has been our keen focus on being more than simply a scholarship program. Our success relies heavily upon volunteers and support staff extending themselves to our Scholars which is priceless.

Steven H. Rubin started volunteering with the Program in 1997 and has since devoted many hours and considerable energy to cultivating and supporting the Scholars. It was our pleasure to recognize Steve for his commitment to the Program and our Ron Brown Scholars.

“Steve Rubin, in short, is a mentor, uncle and friend. He nurtured a talent I didn’t get to explore; he challenged, encouraged and made me better. He cared enough to read between the lines and connect on a personal level. He encouraged me to pass it on. His impact is multiplied when we carry on the lessons from our interaction. I feel lucky to know Steve.” — Stefan Q. Burns, RBS 2004.

“The true gift of being a Scholar is not the scholarship itself but the opportunity to have people like Steve along for the journey. He truly embodies the spirit of the Program and I am blessed to have him as a friend and mentor.” — Geraldine Pierre, RBS 2004.

We are immensely grateful to Steve for his intense personal involvement, wisdom, generosity and unwavering belief in the boundless potential of Ron Brown Scholars and the Program.

Ron Brown Scholar Program Endowed Scholarship at Harvard in Honor of David L. Evans

The establishment of the Ron Brown Scholar Program Endowed Scholarship at Harvard in honor of David L. Evans was created to pay tribute to the remarkable legacy of Mr. Evans as a pioneer in higher education. Beginning in July 2014, the endowed scholarship will fund at least one undergraduate student at Harvard. Each recipient will receive funding and be mentored and advanced throughout his/her career via internships and the network of friends and advisors who admire David Evans. As of October 2013, of the 314 Ron Brown Scholars, 105 matriculated at Harvard and 8 were enrolled in the freshman class.

A celebration for Mr. Evans was held at the end of October, honoring his more than four decades serving students in the Harvard community and beyond and paying tribute to his long-standing leadership and dedication to helping the Harvard community to truly represent our nation’s diversity and multiculturalism. The event raised over $350,000 for the endowed scholarship. The undergraduate student at Harvard selected for the 2014 scholarship will be announced shortly.

The event was co-chaired by Ms. Norma C. Bartfield and Mr. William M. Lewis, Jr., with honorary co-chairs Mr. Kenneth I. Chenault, Chairman & CEO of the American Express Company and Mrs. Kathryn C. Chenault. The evening program included tributes from Mr. Charles J. Hamilton, Jr., Dr. William R. Fitzsimmons and keynote speaker Harvard Law Professor David B. Wilkins. The event opened with a reception for sponsors and friends of David L. Evans and was followed by the celebration dinner hosted by Ms. Deborah C. Wright, Chairman & CEO of Carver Bancorp, Inc.

Generous donations from key sponsors and friends helped to make the event possible. The Ron Brown Scholar Program especially would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth I. and Kathryn C. Chenault, Mr. George W. Haywood, Mr. William M. Lewis, Jr., Mr. Neil Brown, BET Networks, Mr. & Mrs. Frank and Nina Cooper, Ms. Jill Ford and Mr. Diarra K. Lamar, Mr. & Mrs. Jason Bias who recently joined Bang & Olufsen America, Inc. as President of their North America division.

“I am eager to join the Bang & Olufsen team, as the company raises the bar in innovation and design, and possesses strong brand legacy and a worldly reputation for providing incredible customer experiences and state-of-the-art products.”

— Kathy Thornton-Bias
Ron Brown Scholar Regional Chapters Launches

The mission of the Ron Brown Scholar Program (RBSP) extends far beyond financial assistance for college. Our Program seeks to cultivate a family of high-ability African American Scholars for life. This year, we launched an exciting new initiative at RBSP that serves to keep Scholars even more connected to one another: the Ron Brown Scholar Regional Chapters.

Over the past several months, we have worked with Scholars across the country to establish regional chapters in eight metropolitan areas: Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Northern California, Southern California, New York, Connecticut and DC. In areas where there are not enough Scholars to warrant a formal chapter, we have identified Scholars who will serve as Regional Delegates. A Regional Delegate exists where there are few undergraduate and alumni Scholars but the Delegate agrees to be a resource to Scholars who are living nearby or may travel to the area. The Regional Delegates also represent the Ron Brown Scholar Program whenever events or initiatives are happening near them.

Ron Brown Scholar Chapters serve as an added support network for Scholars. Scholars within the chapter are encouraged to come together as often as possible for formal and informal events. These could include community service projects, guest lectures, meals, parties, or attending a special event in support of a Scholar such as a University concert or poetry slam. There is no limit to what the chapter can do as a group. Chapter events over the past few months have included:

- Indoor Rock Climbing (New York Chapter)
- Farm and Winery Tour (DC Metro Chapter)
- Dinner and Conversation with Special Visitor, Michael Mallory (Southern California Chapter)
- Scholar Dinner Gathering (Northern California Chapter)
- Author Talk with writer Paul Tough, author of How Children Succeed (New York Chapter)
- Scholar Dinner Gathering (Boston Chapter)
- Dinner on the Town (Chicago Chapter)

Ron Brown Scholar Program Endowed Scholarship
at Harvard in Honor of David L. Evans (Continued From Page 10)

and Melanie Goins, Mr. Michael Lynton, Mr. & Mrs. Henry and Celia McGee, Ms. Hilda M. Ochoa-Brillembourg, Mr. Franklin K. Katharine Merck, Ms. Deborah C. Wright, and the Verizon Foundation.

Welcome to the Ron Brown Scholar Fund Advisory Board

We thank all members of our Advisory Board for their strategic advice and good counsel as we make steps to ensure the growth and longevity of the Program by providing strong governance and leadership. We welcome the following new members to our Advisory Board:

Melanie Avery is a leader with over sixteen years of experience in the fields of project management, change management and IT and business strategy. She is the Director of Philanthropy at Veterans On The Rise, Inc., a not for profit organization that provides transitional solutions for homeless veterans in the DC, Maryland and Virginia area.

Melanie is an active member of the University of Virginia and University of Maryland alumni associations. She is a youth mentor, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has also served on several advisory boards throughout the Northern VA community. Melanie is a graduate of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. She earned a BA in Economics from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the University of Maryland Smith School of Business. She is also a certified project management professional (PMP). She has also studied executive level non-profit management at Georgetown University.

Cynthia Murray is an author, motivational speaker, attorney and success and leadership expert. She gained much of her expertise from more than sixteen combined years of experience as a prosecutor and as a senior level business management professional for one of the largest and most respected global defense contractors in the United States.

Cynthia has negotiated and managed dozens of multiple million-dollar contracts with more than fifteen nations in North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. She also facilitates seminars for corporate professionals helping to improve skill sets in leadership, effective communication, change management and work-life balance.

She is author of the non-fiction, inspirational books, Seasons of Change: Surviving and Thriving During Life’s Biggest Challenges and The Power of A Plan: Ten Keys to Achieving Your Goals and Winning!” Cynthia received her J.D. and B.A. from the University of Virginia.

V. Davis Smith provides organizational solutions for businesses and confidential insights to individuals and executives. Known as a fixer with honed skill for process development, Davis offers a leading edge approach to helping organizations manage change and coaching individuals to achieve hi-impact results from the outside in. Results include functional performance improvements, risk mitigation, and leadership development. Clients include energy companies, public sector agencies, small businesses, multinational executives, and individuals.

With fourteen years of experience, Davis has served as corporate counsel focusing in the areas of compliance and ethics, human resources, operations, regulatory audits, and investigations. Her business expertise includes managing upwards of $100 million in monthly energy transactions for a regional electric transmission organization, as one of the youngest and only African-Americans to hold such a position in the country. She began her career in energy solutions, information technology, and change management as a consultant for WIPRO Technologies. Davis holds a Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. She is currently pursuing a Master of Arts degree in organizational psychology. Davis is licensed to practice law in Indiana and Washington, DC. Her passions include teaching and youth mentoring, backcountry hiking and camping, and argentine tango.

Jonice Gray Tucker is a partner with BuckleySandler LLP. Jonice represents corporate and individual clients in matters initiated by government regulators as well as in private civil litigation. She also conducts internal investigations on behalf of corporations and counsels clients on compliance with consumer protection laws.

Jonice is active in the American Bar Association, where she is the Chair for the Retail Banking and Consumer Law Committee of the Banking Law Committee and Co-Vice Chair for the Fair Access to Services of the Consumer Financial Services Committee. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. She also serves on the Board of Directors of The Kolar Charitable Foundation. Jonice received her J.D from Yale Law School and her B.A. from the University of Virginia (Phi Beta Kappa).

Blue Pins: Indicate a Chapter location  
People Icons: Indicate a Regional Delegate  
Ron Brown Scholar Chapters and Regional Delegates

Ron Brown Scholar Program Endowed Scholarship
at Harvard in Honor of David L. Evans

Welcome to the Ron Brown Scholar Fund Advisory Board

We thank all members of our Advisory Board for their strategic advice and good counsel as we make steps to ensure the growth and longevity of the Program by providing strong governance and leadership. We welcome the following new members to our Advisory Board:

Melanie Avery is a leader with over sixteen years of experience in the fields of project management, change management and IT and business strategy. She is the Director of Philanthropy at Veterans On The Rise, Inc., a not for profit organization that provides transitional solutions for homeless veterans in the DC, Maryland and Virginia area.

Melanie is an active member of the University of Virginia and University of Maryland alumni associations. She is a youth mentor, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has also served on several advisory boards throughout the Northern VA community. Melanie is a graduate of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. She earned a BA in Economics from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the University of Maryland Smith School of Business. She is also a certified project management professional (PMP). She has also studied executive level non-profit management at Georgetown University.

Cynthia Murray is an author, motivational speaker, attorney and success and leadership expert. She gained much of her expertise from more than sixteen combined years of experience as a prosecutor and as a senior level business management professional for one of the largest and most respected global defense contractors in the United States.

Cynthia has negotiated and managed dozens of multiple million-dollar contracts with more than fifteen nations in North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. She also facilitates seminars for corporate professionals helping to improve skill sets in leadership, effective communication, change management and work-life balance.

She is author of the non-fiction, inspirational books, Seasons of Change: Surviving and Thriving During Life’s Biggest Challenges and The Power of A Plan: Ten Keys to Achieving Your Goals and Winning!” Cynthia received her J.D. and B.A. from the University of Virginia.

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Corporate Partnership Update

Corporate partnerships are critical to what we do. With the help from partners’ stewardship, mentorship, job and internship leads – we can enhance our professional development services not only to our Scholars but also to the Ron Brown Captains. Captains are the top 3% of applicants who, though not awarded a scholarship, are asked to join our invitation-only professional development program where we provide access to opportunities with our partners and career prep programming.

Corporate partners receive highly customized services to maximize their recruiting efforts among our talented pool of Ron Brown Scholars and Captains. This has been a very successful year for connecting Scholars and Captains to our corporate partners through directed outreach and resume collections. Below is a sample of summer opportunities secured through our recruiting efforts with corporate partners over the past few months.

Deloitte
Michael Robinson, Princeton University

DLA Piper Undergraduate Legal Internship
Nnaem Nwazuequa, Columbia University

Google Bold Discovery Program
Laura Alston, Columbia University
Lea Agabalogun, Harvard University
Joel Bervell, Yale University
Chileu Din, Dartmouth College
Joardan Dorrell, Northwestern University
Avery Fisher, Northwestern University
Halimo Hassn, Dartmouth College
Rajat Kasamu, University of Pennsylvania
Jamae Savoy, University of Maryland, Smith School of Business
Tiffany Onyefuika, Johns Hopkins University

HBO
Kiah Clingman, Howard University, School of Communications

The benefits of our corporate partnerships are best felt when we receive messages like this from the students we serve:

“I am thrilled to be the second scholar, after Brandon Hill, working in the Office of Presidential Correspondence as a part of the Ron Brown Scholars Program this summer. I owe this amazing opportunity to RBSP for referring me to the program.”

Chigozie Akah, RBSP '13 Columbia College ‘16

“Without the Ron Brown Scholars Program, I would not have had access to the many career opportunities, advice, internships, and mentors that I have had the past two years. I am thankful for this program and admire the leadership within it. I am a Ron Brown CAPtain and am proud to represent this program. Knowing that there are people out there who have done what you want to do and are willing to do whatever it takes to help you exceed your potential is comforting and is frankly what I have loved the most about being a Ron Brown Captain.”

Kiah Clingman
Ron Brown Captain
Howard University Class of 2015
HBO Summer Intern 2014

To learn more about our Corporate Partnership Program contact Mrs. Holly Duke, Scholar Development and Outreach Manager – Phone: (434) 964-1588 or Email: hduke@ronbrown.org.

New York Chapter of RBS Hosts Author Paul Tough

The New York Chapter of Ron Brown Scholars hosted author Paul Tough for dinner and conversation at the home of RBSF Trustee, Gavin McFarland on April 26th. Tough is a Canadian-American writer perhaps best known for authoring Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada’s Quest to Change Harlem and America and How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character.

Curious to know what motivated Scholars to achieve, Tough invited the group to discuss their backgrounds and personal experiences with early education as well as college. Crystal Boyd RBSS 2006 observed that the collective sharing of stories proved to be a very powerful experience: “This was the most inspiring nights I’ve had in a long time. It was like I Have Risen in the flesh.” Some Scholars reflected on being mislabeled as remedial learners in childhood and how that created self-doubt even as they consistently exceeded expectations and outperformed peers in school. Others spoke of determined family members or role models who served as fierce advocates for their education. The group also discussed shared challenges during college for students who are not in the majority population on campus.

This topic is of particular interest to Tough as he is working on a new project related to college education. Tough shared his own influences in life. He reflected on experiences in college and career that led him to care deeply about education policy.

We are grateful to Paul Tough for joining us for a night of engaging dialogue and we are eager to see the next project from this new friend of RBSP.

Save the Date

2014 Summer Leadership Retreat
August 8-10, 2014

The Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association invites you to mark your calendars for the 2014 Summer Leadership Retreat, August 8-10, 2014 in Arlington, Va. at the offices of our partner and host, Deloitte.

This year’s conference will focus on Scholars coming together to support one another and strengthening the family bond. A day of dialogue and break-out sessions implementing our motto, “The Value of One, The Power of All”. Exciting ideas for the conference are shaping up right now and friends of Ron Brown Scholars are warmly welcome to participate in the conference.

For more information or to join our planning committee, please contact Holly Duke, Scholar Development and Outreach Manager at hduke@ronbrown.org.
**Selection Weekend Reflections**  
(Continued from Page 2)

words let me know that it is okay to believe in dreams that cannot be scaled down, it is okay to be a seeker of the truth. So, for that, I thank her.

It is truly an honor to have been given the opportunity to become a Ron Brown Scholar. This Program is more than a scholarship, it is a community that I can see myself growing into, becoming a part of, and there is nothing more inspiring and heart-warming than that. So, I thank everyone who has made this honor a reality for me and for the rest of my peers. ■

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**RBSP Hosts Fifth Annual American Journey Awards**  
(Continued from Page 3)

“When it was announced Friday evening that the travel and lodging expenses of the 2014 Ron Brown Scholar Finalists for their trip to Washington were borne by Ron Brown Scholar alumnae and alumni, I was deeply moved. The munificence and obvious gratitude of these young people to the Ron Brown Scholar Program brought to life the following words of rhyme about gifts received and owed.”

It cost me nothing, but it wasn’t free.  
Martin and others paid the bill for me.  
So give me the tab for those yet to come.  
And please don’t tell them where the help came from.

–David L. Evans, Senior Admissions Officer, Harvard University

Additionally, the evening presented the opportunity to meet many new friends and introduce them to our family of Scholars, Finalists, staff, and lifelong friends. We are thankful to all our friends and supporters who made this a particularly memorable night.

Generous donations from corporate sponsors make the event possible. The RBSP especially would like to thank corporate partners American Express, Deloitte, Siemens, Major League Baseball, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Patton Boggs LLP, Weber Shandwick, BET, Viacom, MacFarlane Partners, RLJ Companies, AARP, The Cochran Firm, DLA Piper, Sikorsky, Boies, Schiller & Flexner, LLP, MIM Software Inc., Merck, Verizon, Lockheed Martin, Huawei Enterprise and Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide. ■

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**Coming Soon!**

**Redesigned Program Website**

We have been spending the past few months revamping our website with a new design, improved navigation, enhanced content, information about our Scholars and exciting stories about the impact our Alumni are making around the world. Stay tuned for the launch later this summer.