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Diversity Awards Article

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Diversity Awards honor commitment to multicultural involvement

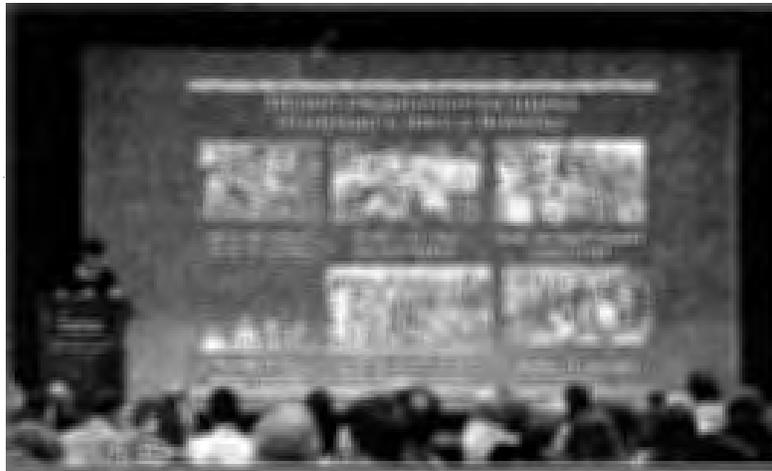
BY NANCY LAVIN
News Editor

The University of Rhode Island celebrated its students, faculty, staff and organizations' commitment to multicultural inclusion at the URI Diversity Awards Banquet last night in the Memorial Union.

The event recognized 13 students, clubs and faculty members who have made unique advancements to URI's commitment to campus diversity. The winners were selected after being nominated by themselves or another member of the URI community, according to Mailee Kue, assistant director of the Multicultural Center.

"Anybody can nominate someone, and you can even self-nominate," Kue said. "Our process is that it's not the number of nominations you get, but what you have actually contributed to the community."

The Multicultural Center let out a call for nominations in late fall of 2011, according to Kue. After all the nominations were in, nominees were asked to fill out a supplemental form



Lauren Trad | Cigar

The nominees for Student Organization Excellence are presented at the 14th Annual URI Diversity Awards Banquet.

explaining more about themselves "so we could get a full picture of the individual," Kue said.

"It was a complete surprise [to be nominated]," senior Narvan Hilliard, who was awarded for Undergraduate Student Excellence in Arts and Culture for his commitment as president of the URI Capoeira Club, said. "I was minding my own business and I got an email from Mailee, and she told me I was nominated for an award. It was actually my instructor who nominated me

works in collaboration, so we really shoot for consensus," Kue said. "If there's disagreement, I try to remind the group to look at how we impact the community on a larger level, and just keep the group focused on that."

Kue said since the committee does not really operate by a majority vote, coming to decisions can be difficult in some instances. Other times, however, there is clear agreement on the winner.

"Typically you'll find patterns of individuals who are ranked pretty high consistently across groups," she said. "Choosing a more flexible approach is appropriate, particularly in the work of diversity."

The event featured keynote speaker John Ramos, who is known for revitalizing urban education in Connecticut and promoting educational reform for students of all backgrounds. Ramos urged URI students and faculty to be pro-active in reaching the university's

"We are a group that

Students to light lanterns for Africa in annual event

BY KIMBERLY DELANDE
News Reporter

University of Rhode Island's Students for the Welfare of Africa (SAWA) is planning to hold their third annual Lights for Africa event, which was originally scheduled to take place this week, but has been rescheduled due to issues SAWA had with ordering lanterns for the event.

While the group does not have a concrete date as for when the event will take place, SAWA president Tete Joseph said that it should occur "in about two weeks."

Lights for Africa is an event where students gather on the Quadrangle and light a lantern for Africa. Joseph said the lanterns are a symbol of the optimism for a future where Africa is "liberated

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