







The 2005 Audre Lorde Scholars

	<p>Lukwana Littlejohn, the recipient of the Kelley D. Alexander Award is an English Major studying at Consumnes River College in Sacramento, California. Littlejohn completed her first novel, <i>Dear Reader</i>, four years ago and after numerous rejection letters from publishers, decided to take matters into her own hands and started her own imprint, Black Pen Press and made <i>Dear Reader</i> the first title. Her goal is for Black Pen Press to be a platform for talented African-Americans, as well as lesbians and gay men who otherwise may be unheard in American society. Littlejohn funds Black Pen Press by working full-time at an emergency Veterinary hospital while also attending school full-time.</p>
	<p>Sybille Ngo Nyeck is the recipient of the Pat Hussain Social Justice Award. Her friends describe her as an African lesbian leader, activist, organizer and scholar. They would also say that Ngo Nyeck is the first woman to initiate a dialogue beyond hetero-normative discourse in her native Cameroon. They may not disclose that she accused a male family member of raping a younger female relative in 2000, and was denounced as a lesbian during a police investigation into the allegations. At that time, her life was threatened and she was arrested and confined with several men for a night in a tiny, dirty cell. Ngo Nyeck fled Cameroon in May 2003 and sought asylum in the U.S. Her numerous publications and speeches on human rights abuses have helped win asylum for others in the U.S. Over 75% of the information related to Cameroon and human rights abuse of sexual minorities posted on the U.S. State Department website are from Ngo Nyeck. Because of her political situation, Ngo Nyeck had difficulty getting her college transcripts mailed to her so she started college again and finished her associate degree in three semesters. In September 2005, she began study at Swarthmore College where she is majoring in Comparative Literature/Political Science with a concentration on International Affairs. Ngo Nyeck is also working on a video documentary featuring the lives of gays and lesbians in Cameroon.</p>
	<p>Karen Williams, a recipient of one of the Sheryl Burke Awards, is in her first year of a Ph. D. program at The Graduate Center, CUNY focusing on Cultural Anthropology. Growing up in a household where neither parent attended college, education and expression have always been central to her goals. Since 1998, with support from grants and community organizations, Williams has used her writings and performances to illustrate the embedded physical and psychological pain of incarceration. At CUNY, she will analyze the cultural and economic construction of women in prison and on death row. She is hopeful that her research will have a positive impact and help change society's representation of women in prison to images that "more accurately reflect their complex identities and experiences".</p>
	<p>Kyle Waddy, the recipient of the Tony Daniels Ally Award, recently began his first year of study at New York University where he is pursuing a major in French and Linguistics. During his freshman year of high school in Chicago, Waddy spearheaded a program to tutor students in French and as a senior, he initiated two new programs: one to teach English to French-speaking students and another to teach kindergarteners French at a day-care center in his neighborhood. He came out to his family and friends in 2003 at the age of 16 and immediately began to organize against the homophobia that he encountered by joining the school's PRIDE club and writing articles in the school's newspaper against bigotry. Waddy is determined to continue his crusade against the ignorance that he has encountered daily since he was labeled a "fag" in the fourth grade. He does not want another generation of gay youth to grow up expected to hide and feel shame.</p>
	<p>Marcus Gunn, recipient of one of the Cherie Caldwell Awards, was given an ultimatum by his mother at age 14 when she discovered that he was gay, "either live the way that I want you to live or leave my house". He left and found a supportive family at Youth Pride, the only organization in Atlanta that serves all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Gunn is currently a sophomore at Albany State University in Albany, Georgia where his area of study is Political Science and Social Work. He is known around campus for his lectures against oppression and is working hard to establish an organization for the queer population. Gunn wants to develop the skills needed to establish safe housing for l/g/b/t/q youth. "The most difficult time in my life was when my mother disowned me asserts Gunn. My family thought because I was queer, that I couldn't accomplish anything. They just gave up on me and everything that I believe in. All of my previous accomplishments did not even matter. No one cared, no one called and no one looked after me. I was forced to seek what life had in store for me by myself."</p>
	<p>Preston Shumaker, the recipient of the Sandra Jones Award has played an active role in the Chicago area for over a decade by establishing HIV support groups for African American Men who have sex with Men (MSM) in addition to providing mentoring, teaching and psycho-educational services to HIV prevention and treatment programs serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folks of color. According to Shumaker, he has to work full-time and carry a full-time course load as a third year doctoral student at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology because there's not much academic support for African American gay students who look like him." I no longer play the image game. I am not willing to alter, bleach, color, cut, enhance, extend, reconstruct, shrink, tuck or weave anything upon my body for no correction is needed. The deep treacherous waters of life comfort me in the land of false distortions and ever changes images for I know who I am. The anger once projected upon others has subsided. I have discovered an affirmative identity beaming, reminding me that I am fine, just as I am."</p>

<p>Amy Myers, a recipient of one of the Sheryl Burke Awards, is a graduate student at Fordham University in New York pursuing a degree in Social Work. Growing up as one of six African- American families in a rural Connecticut town of 20,000, Myers witnessed discrimination and institutionalized racism up close and personal. Thus, she is committed to building a career in social work that will allow her to work on social justice issues within the system. Myers is currently facilitating a youth coming out group at the local lesbian and gay community center and recently mentored teens in her church youth group as the only LGBT group facilitator. She also sings in a women's chorus that raises funds for the lgbt community and is active in letter writing efforts in the Connecticut Chapter of Love Makes a Family which was recently instrumental in passing a civil union bill.</p>	
<p>Angela Britt, the recipient of the Gloria Anzaldua Human Rights Award, is a freshman at Seattle Central Community College studying Environmental Studies and Cultural Anthropology. For the past three years, Britt has dedicated her summers to restoring wilderness areas and teaching other young people about environmental issues and sound ecological habits through her participation in the Wilderness Volunteer Corps and the Urban Wilderness Project. She was also active in the Gay Straight Alliance throughout high school and was elected President her senior year. Her leadership skills and outreach efforts greatly increased the representation of youth of color at meetings and more than tripled the number of students who participated. Britt was homeless throughout her freshman year of high school but getting through that challenge increased her resolve to become the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college in order to build a life for herself where she would never be homeless again.</p>	
<p>Pamela Goodrich is the recipient of the the Yulanda Ward Memorial Award. Goodrich's decision to return to school in 2004 at the age of 51, and work toward a degree in Sociology is the key to opening the door to the rest of her life. As a freshman at The College of New Rochelle in Brooklyn, New York, she has led seminars and represented the school on cross cultural issues and ethical concerns. Moreover she is known at New Rochelle as a strong advocate on youth, women and transgender issues. A self-described "butch", Goodwin works in a male prison and believes that her sexual orientation and the fact that she has been living with HIV/ AIDS since 1989 enhances her ability to interact and provide HIV Health Education and Prevention Training to not only the prisoners but to members of the community at large. Her future plans are to open her own Community Based Organization providing services for women diagnosed with HIV/ AIDS, history of substance use, incarceration, domestic violence and other related issues that place them at risk.</p>	
<p>Doreen Watson, a recipient of one of the Sheryl Burke Awards, is a doctoral student in Sociology and Master's student in Women's Studies at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. Coming of age in Jamaica, West Indies, Watson feels that she has been silenced most of her life based on her gender and sexual orientation. As a Co-Founder and Co-President of an organization aptly named Bridges: Making Connections, she strives to bring equality for all people across categories of race, gender, and sexuality. Currently, three new chapters of Bridges are under development in Ohio, New York and North Carolina. As a mentor for African American lesbians on her college campus, she has focused her energies toward helping to empowerment those young women who are facing the challenges of being black and lesbian in a white and heterosexually dominant society.</p>	
<p>Christel Serena Miller, a recipient of one of the Cherie Caldwell Awards, is a three time Audre Lorde Scholarship recipient. After graduating from Rice University in the spring of 2005 with numerous awards, Miller is now in her first year of graduate school at UCLA studying film producing. Her vision is to produce films that give voice to the global community, "I grew up surrounded by negative, stereotypical, or tokenized media portrayals of minorities and we still have a long way to go. I want to become a producer that will be able to bridge the gap between the independent film and the blockbuster film to create well made, big budget, and successful films about minorities, that aren't necessarily a minority film."</p>	
<p>Justin Brogden is the recipient of the James Baldwin Humanitarian Award. He came out at age 12, almost six years ago and was subjected to vicious verbal harassment by some of his peers and had to attend three different schools in three years. Although his situation was painful, Brogden said that it instilled in him a desire to succeed and the motivation to accomplish his goals. During his high school tenure, Brogden committed 30 hours a week for 18 months to GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) where he knocked on doors and talked with voters about gay issues and trained new volunteers for door to door work. He also answered over 300 questions from gay teens as a volunteer on the website" allexperts.com and played a leadership role in his school's Gay/ Straight Alliance. Brogden is an entering freshman at Oberlin College and believes that to make a difference, he has to be educated.</p>	
<p>Cindy Pierre Louis is the recipient of the Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award. She is a student at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio where her area of study is Criminal Justice. Pierre Louis is a HIV/ AIDS activist and has been doing this work since she was 17 years old. Her life and work has been consumed with educating and organizing around HIV issues and speaking on behalf of homeless queer youth. At eighteen, Pierre Louis' mother threw her out of the house for proclaiming her sexual identity. She remained homeless for three years but sometimes was able to stay in transitional living programs until going away to Antioch this September. Pierre Louis states that as a queer, homeless Haitian woman, she faces a number of obstacles and hasn't been able to deal with the emotional impact of having no home because she's often concerned with where her next meal is coming from. She finds solace in dance where she challenges mainstream body images while learning to love her own.</p>	



The Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award: Margaret Ntombi Howell (1951-2003) Nton national spokesperson transformed the concept of recovery into a universal human experience for all people. She was an ac and activist for the rights of women, people of color and the poor.



This award is funded by **Rhesa Jenkins** and **Ama Saran**. Jenkins is a Stanford educated scientist with a commitment to cor education in community settings, such as CAU and ANDP's Ford Foundation program in Community Economic Develc Saran's work is best described as a social ministry that teaches the importance of researching community health, mental and j to support the efforts of non-profit organizations in creation of sustainable institutions.

