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Road Scholar Contact:  
Despina Gakopoulos  
(617) 457-5502  
newsmedia@roadscholar.org

Media Contact:  
Bunnie Jackson-Ransom  
(404) 505-8188  
bjr@fclassinc.com

ROAD SCHOLAR PRESENTS AWARD FOR LIFELONG LEARNING TO DR. SHEILA S. WALKER

Dr. Asa Grant Hilliard’s Legacy Honored with Award Sponsored by Road Scholar at Annual NABSE Conference

BOSTON (November 23, 2010) — Road Scholar is pleased to award the Asa Grant Hilliard III Award for Lifelong Learning to Sheila S. Walker, Ph.D. The award provides $5,000 toward a learning adventure offered by Road Scholar, and honors the late Dr. Asa Grant Hilliard III, world-renowned Pan-Africanist, educator, historian, psychologist, and advocate for learning through travel. Kathy Taylor, Associate Vice President at Road Scholar presented the award on behalf of Road Scholar and the Hilliard family during the National Alliance for Black School Educators (NABSE) Annual Conference recently held in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dr. Walker, a cultural anthropologist and filmmaker, is the Executive Director of Afrodiaspora, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., that is developing a documentary series and educational materials about the global African Diaspora. In 2010 she co-produced a documentary, “Slave Routes: A Global Vision” for the UNESCO Slave Route Project, and published the edited volume, Conocimiento desde adentro: Los afrosudamericanos hablan de sus pueblos y sus historias (Knowledge from the Inside: Afro-South Americans speak of their Communities and their Histories), in La Paz, Bolivia. She also edited the volume, African Roots/American Cultures: Africa in the Creation of the Americas, and produced the documentary film, “Scattered Africa: Faces and Voices of the African Diaspora.”

A longtime member of the Association for the study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Dr. Walker served as Director of the Center for African and African American Studies, and was the Annabel Irion Worsham Centennial Professor in the College of Liberal Arts, and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. More recently she was the William and Camille Cosby Professor in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor of Anthropology, and Director of the African Diaspora and the World Program at Spelman College.
“Education and lifelong learning are crucial to African Americans,” says Dr. Walker. “I am thrilled to receive the Road Scholar Hilliard Award. Researching African American culture and its historical and contemporary links has been and continues to be my life project. Participating in a Road Scholar program to an area where there are little-known Afro-descendant populations — such as the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Turkey — would give me an opportunity to research these populations in advance so as to learn more about them during the program. I look forward to developing lectures and documentaries about my experience and sharing my newfound knowledge with my community and with others.”

Road Scholar awards this competitive scholarship annually to an educator with at least 10 years of experience in education, who is a member of NABSE; a member of ASALH; is on the faculty of a Historically Black College or University; is a professor of African American studies; or is a supporter of lifelong learning. The scholarship provides an opportunity to experience a Road Scholar program anywhere in the world.

“Through the Asa Grant Hilliard Award, Road Scholar recognizes the contributions of educators with a longstanding commitment to lifelong learning,” says James Moses, president and CEO of Road Scholar/Elderhostel. “We look forward to welcoming Dr. Walker on a Road Scholar learning adventure.”

The Asa Grant Hilliard III Road Scholar Award for Lifelong Learning is part of a national outreach initiative Road Scholar launched to build awareness of its educational adventures in the African American community and to promote the benefits of learning through travel. For more information, visit www.roadscholar.org/hilliardaward.

**About Road Scholar and Elderhostel**

Road Scholar is the name for the programs developed and offered by Elderhostel, Inc., the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning since 1975. Our mission is to empower adults to explore the world’s places, peoples, cultures and ideas, and in so doing to discover more about themselves. A fellowship of learning and the joy of discovery are the hallmarks of the Road Scholar experience.

Road Scholar programs bring together instructors and participants from diverse backgrounds to foster dynamic interaction, engaging discourse and warm camaraderie. In a world that seems to shrink smaller by the day because of technology, we believe that true insight and understanding are still sparked by hands-on experience and open discussions that stimulate the senses, energize the body and challenge the mind. We are committed to continually developing new program destinations, topics and formats to reflect the shifting realities and emerging trends of our ever-changing world.

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