

2010
Robert A. Bland Award in Engineering
and Applied Science
(Presentation to *Carolyn A. Vallas*)

To recognize extraordinary contribution to the field of engineering and applied science by a University of Virginia Engineering School African-American student, faculty member, or alumnus/alumna, or by a University of Virginia Engineering School student, faculty member or alumnus/alumna whose contribution to the field is of particular significance to African-Americans. This award is given in honor of the personal challenges and accomplishments of Robert A. Bland, EE'59, the first African-American to graduate from the University of Virginia and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

- **Carolyn received her undergraduate education at Seattle University, and her Master's Degree from California State University, Fullerton and came to SEAS in 1998 after working in the multicultural and minority programs areas for a number of years at major California institutions including UC Irvine and UC Berkeley.**
- **As a faculty member and director of the SEAS Center for Diversity in Engineering for the past 13 years, she has devoted her energy and talent tirelessly to bring African-American students to SEAS and then to ensure that they find a welcoming and supportive environment.**

- **The impact of her organization has been to create a graduation rate of African-American engineering students that doubles that of other engineering schools and is a piece of UVa's success in becoming the top university in African-American graduation rate in the nation.**
- **A few examples of her Center's activities that promote African-American recruitment in engineering both here at UVa and at other institutions are: the LEAD-Summer Engineering Institute aimed at middle and high school students and promoting science, technology, engineering and math education...the Bernard Harris summer camp for middle school students...and the Bridge program that helps entering UVa SEAS first year students to make a smooth transition into college from high school.**
- **She has been very successful in raising the funds necessary to run her programs...as an example, in 2007, her Center received a \$5 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation's Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Programs...these funds enable SEAS to focus on recruitment and enhancement activities by sharing best practices with other institutions.**
- **In 1999, her Center for Diversity in Engineering was an institutional recipient of a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring...an outstanding achievement!**
- **For these exemplary contributions, her dedication, and her leadership, the School of Engineering and Applied Science recognizes Carolyn A. Vallas with the 2010 Robert A. Bland Award.**