

## State honors U. for work with GLP

By Maribel Rivera, Staff Writer

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The state General Assembly presented a resolution commending University community members for their participation in the Global Literacy Project at a ceremony yesterday at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center on the Busch campus.

Since its 2000 inception, the project — a nonprofit charity organization founded by Olubayi Olubayi and Denniston Bonadie — has shipped donated books to African and Caribbean countries, facilitating community development initiatives and helping to improve literacy rates, according to the project's Web site.

This year, several University and community groups — including the Robeson center, New Brunswick/Rutgers Libraries Global Outreach Services, GOYA Student Volunteerism at Rutgers, West Indian Student Organization and TWESE: Association of Africans and Friends of Africa — collaborated with the project, shipping over 70,000 books to East Africa as part of a Black History Month book drive.

The project has also developed academic competitions in these countries, and intends to expand the program into high schools, Olubayi said, noting that the project's donations are like awarding "10 scholarships for 10 years."

"Olubayi Olubayi had a relatively simple idea, and it turned into something powerful," Bonadie said. "We're here to create a culture of literacy worldwide."

Prosper Godonoo, director of the Robeson center, noted the power of the project. "Literacy, as we all know it, is nourishment. Nourishment of the mind, nourishment of the body and nourishment of the family."

Sivan Yosef, GOYA co-president and a Rutgers College junior, agreed with Goodnoo, expressing her dedication to the literacy cause. "I think literacy is so important especially to kids who don't have the same resources, and I would like to share the resources that I have," said

State Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, D-17, who developed the resolution, said, "One of the things we need to learn is we need to build the bridges for global literacy."



**GLP was recognized for its literacy activism**

*From left to right:* Edward Ramsamy, GLP Secretary; Thelma Tate, GLP Vice President-Outreach; New Jersey Assemblyman Upendra J. Chivukula; Olubayi Olubayi, GLP President; Sivan Yosef, GLP Volunteers Coordination; Denniston Bonadie, GLP Vice President-Program Development