

OMSA Inside This Issue CHRONICLE



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SHPE Conference '02 Technology in Everyday Life

By Ninah Pretto '05

On October 25, 2002 the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) hosted its Third Annual High School Outreach Conference. SHPE prides itself as an organization that promotes leadership, mentoring, and the recruitment of minority students in engineering, mathematics, and science related careers. The Conference was founded by one of SHPE's very own members, Guillermo Vidal. It was created to expose Rochester area students in grades 9-12 to engineering and, more importantly, college life. The conference was geared towards the Latino Community, providing them with the opportunity to witness others like themselves succeeding in college and working to make a difference in the world. The theme for this year's conference was "Technology in Everyday Life." It was chosen to stress the importance technology, even in the simplest form, has on our daily lives. President Moises De Jesus, Vice President Erica Jimenez, Secretary Rene Herbert, Publicity Chair Arlene Peralta, Treasurer Danielle Beyer, High School Coordinator Ninah Pretto, and Senior Advisor Guillermo Vidal worked together with many others to provide this valuable experience.

The High Schools that participated in this year's conference were East High School, Edison Tech, Franklin High School, Saint Aquinas, and Marshall High School. Recruitment was done through outreach programs organized by SHPE in which members worked closely with the high school counselors to find talented and driven students that would best benefit from the conference. On the day of the conference the students were welcomed



with opening remarks from University of Rochester Vice President Paul Burgett, and Lisa Norwood, Assistant Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The students then proceeded to a financial aid workshop and an Admissions workshop. During lunch several professionals from companies in the Rochester area including Xerox and Kodak ate with the students. SHPE's professional chapter in Rochester (SHPE-ROC) recruited the professionals. The students were able to experience networking and gain knowledge of the hard work and effort it requires to become successful. After lunch the students were broken up into groups to take part in engineering team builders. The

(continued on page 12)

NORMAN B. BURNETT, Asst. Dean



Welcome to our final edition of the OMSA Chronicle for the 2002-03 academic year. This issue is replete with provocative articles, campus events and co-curricular activities that showcase the wide range of interests and opportunities open to students at the University. As in past issues, we hope that the newsletter will serve as an important forum for students to share ideas, learn about College and University resources, and highlight some of the ways in which our students interact with the UR and the greater Rochester community.

In my role as director of OMSA, I have the unique opportunity to observe, and, in many instances, contribute directly towards the overall growth and development of our students. In working with my colleagues in OMSA, we often marvel at the overall success of our students and their willingness to embrace learning by trying new experiences outside the realm of their so-called comfort zones. Moreover, many of our students are products of challenging and often difficult personal circumstances which frame and shape their worldview; nonetheless, they consistently overcome personal obstacles and contribute tremendously to the academic and co-curricular vibrancy of our campus community. As you are aware, collegiate life is about immersing one's self in a variety of new experiences; in doing so, it is important to remain open and flexible in order to think new thoughts and acquire new skills. Learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom. Perhaps now is the time to think about studying abroad, searching for the right internship experience, participating in community service, or seeking a summer research opportunity. The UR provides a great number of unique opportunities to augment classroom learning—but often it may mean thinking differently from the past and expanding your reach to include new experiences.

Again, taking advantage of opportunities, being open to change and stepping outside of familiar boundaries are all part of the educational process, and prepare students for the challenges associated with living, working and contributing to a pluralistic society. Therefore, my hope is that all of you will enthusiastically embrace opportunities to build leadership skills and to interact with others different from your selves. You are the leaders of tomorrow—and there are many avenues to building your leadership credentials.

Please enjoy the newsletter and best of luck with your upcoming finals. Meliora!

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STUDY ABROAD

“Opportunity *Not* Lost”

by Errol Fernandez '03

One sunny afternoon while sitting outside a Barcelona coffee shop, coolly drinking a beer, an overwhelming happiness ran through me. Just think, if I hadn't followed my impulses the semester before, I would've been in Wilson Commons, drinking a coffee, complaining about the layout of an exam.

I looked around the table. Nikolas the Norwegian, Daniel the Floridian, Pere the Catalanian and Frances the German were all arguing about the origins of Budweiser. Nikolas, screaming and foaming at the mouth, claimed it was created in the Czech Republic but Anheuser-Busch stole the name. Daniel, in defense of his cherished drink, brought up the fact that the can's colors are red, white, and blue. While watching my diverse group of friends squabble, I realized how fortunate I was to be there at that moment, to witness this failure of diplomacy.

The day I considered the possibility of studying abroad didn't come until the second semester of my sophomore year. I felt that another year of classes at the U of R would be just as exciting as my first two, which consisted more or less of the same repetition of events: rolling out of bed to face the bitter cold, writing papers at CLARC, going to the gym, and watching countless Simpsons episodes. It was time for a change. I headed straight for the study abroad office only to have my hopes of dodging another Rochester winter quashed. It was time to pay for getting by with a 2.5 G.P.A. If I expected to see sunny Spain, I was told, I needed a 3.0.

After two semesters of guzzling coffee, late nights, and eye-twitches, my G.P.A. was finally high enough to apply. Thankfully, my friends and family were very supportive of me at this point, helping me keep focused on one thing at a time. My buddies would come by my house to pick me

up on a Saturday night, find me with my head buried in textbooks, and quietly leave without disdain. There were times when I needed advice or encouragement, and my advisor, Yvonne, would always be there for me. I couldn't have failed, plain and simple.

By now, you may be thinking, “So what, I have been doing hard work since coming to this university”. You see, this isn't only a story of a slacker who finally realizes what his role as a student is. It is also a testament to the ease of going abroad when it is desired. Many people I spoke to after I studied abroad told me, “Yeah, I think I should've gone abroad. It's too late *now*, though.” Granted, going abroad may not be an option due to the stringent course acceptance policies of their departments. For many students, though, it would be a missed opportunity.

Study abroad gave me an opportunity to experience what many don't – total immersion in a foreign country. Valuable friendships were made with foreign intellectuals, provoking me to reconsider my political views, personal ambitions, and beer dogmas. The culture shock I experienced early in the semester turned out to be the most rewarding aspect of my trip. Today I enjoy my new global outlook and pride myself with having this experience under my belt. There isn't a day that passes that I don't congratulate myself on making study abroad a reality.



OFFICE OF MINORITY STUDENT AFFAIRS (OMSA) and HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (HEOP)

“A home away from home” is how many students feel about the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA). Four years ago OMSA received the prestigious Goergin Award--a testament to the tireless and seemingly endless work by the office on behalf of the students who use the services provided. Staff in the office find it an extremely rewarding experience to work with and on behalf of our beloved students--freshmen clear through to seniors and graduate students.

Who are the students who settle in OMSA? In general, they are students just like you or the person next to you. They could be students of color, or they could be friends of students who have found a niche in OMSA. Whoever they are, they are welcome and they make all our lives richer as they enhance their own experiences. Over the years OMSA has built a strong foundation of support that embraces the spirit of diversity and has built strong relationships with many divisions of the University. In the long run, our students find that our friends are their friends and vice versa. We are thrilled to read about our students' election to student government positions, to other leadership positions among student clubs and organizations, or students participating in demanding original research or actively engaging in community activities like Little Buddies or tutoring their fellow students or elementary students in neighboring schools. In fact, in a later page, you will read about their activities in Kudos Korner.

When asked, “What does OMSA mean to you?” Moises De Jesus '04 immediately said “It means ‘help.’” Will Beasley '99 and current graduate student in the Colgate Rochester Divinity School says he was referred to Thomas Crews for assistance. He knew Ben Ojala from Academic Support, and others he got to know by his continued relationship with other members of OMSA. Once he made the connection, he's never let it go. Ileah Welch '05, who participated in the ECO (Early Connection Opportunity) program as a freshman, says the people in OMSA are knowledgeable, resourceful, and encouraging. For Ileah, knowing that the staff have confidence in her

is a powerful motivator. She comes in to OMSA to talk about financial aid or residential life issues--to talk about her summer activities and sometimes just to chat. Taneka Murphy '04, also a participant in ECO, commented that OMSA's friendliness is what kept her coming back. She emphasized that she felt it was vital to have OMSA on campus. Her perception is that minority students see

OMSA as providing a sense of comfort and common ground where their cultural needs and interests are met. All three stated that students didn't have to be a minority student to partake of the services OMSA provides--Tanika liked the fact that OMSA doesn't close its doors to non-minorities. Taneka laughed softly as she said “...being a minority is kind of a perk.” Will called this being a resource to the other side of the coin--to those who may have attached a stigma to utilizing OMSA's services--something he had to overcome himself.

Jorge Quiroz '04 says “I think it's a great place because it helps minority students. In high school I didn't use my advisors--and in college, I know I haven't explored all the resources available to me. OMSA is a great place to help me learn about things. It really helps students get adjusted to the environment which is completely different from high school. My friends brought me along to the office--I didn't even know it existed. Today as an engineering student, I have made better connections with faculty because I am empowered to do so.”

As a final set of perceptions, Moises De Jesus commented that OMSA means diversity and professionalism. “It is a place where people know what I should do in terms of achieving my goals.” According to Will Beasley “The challenge is for the office to help diversify the education of today's students who are here only for academics--which is

important and pertinent--but they also need a well rounded education.” “I just love this place. I'm just lucky to be a minority,” said Taneka with a big smile on her face. The general assessment of OMSA is that the office is there for the students--minority or not, undergraduate or alumni and that OMSA works with students in a professional manner tinged with genuine care.





OMSA/HEOP Academic Achievement Award

Awarded to students who received a 3.4 or higher with a minimum of 12 credits the previous semester.

Abrams, Angus
Antionious, Raquel
Appleby, Jacques
Ballard, Allison
Barber, Gregory
Barnes, Thomasene
Barrientos, Stephan
Baughman, Amy
Beyer, Danielle
Brown, Denise
Burgess, Angela
Caesar, Scott
Ceres, Charlesa
Chen, Dan Xia
Chen, Yude
Colon, Samantha

Cornelison, Rebecca
Cruz, Vanessa
Cuji, Edgar
Dong, Ling
Du Pont, Carl
Echevarria, Francisco
Edwards, Kenessa
Escutia, Simon
Faber, Emily
Ferracina, Fabiana
Fitzpatrick, Stephanie
Fraser, Odetta
Fullwood, William
Garcia, Catherine
Germosen, Jhovanny

Goico, Jeremy
Gomez, Geoffrey
Gordon, Twylla
Grabenstetter, Patricia
Hammer, Sarah
Haynes, Antonio
Hernandez, John
Hernandez, Rebecca
Hernandez, Telva
Hunter, Cory
Iskhakov, Edward
Jaffe, Jessica
Jones, Tamara
Kleene, Morgan
Kleene, Stephen
Kuttothara, Joanna
Lackey, Quincey
Latimer, Ashley
Lewis, Carmen
Lioy, Daniel
Liu, Rong

Lopez, Marilyn
Ma, Kenneth
Manasra, Ahmad Ismael
McDowell, Wynesha
Melendez, Nicholas
Mensah, Kofi
Moreno, Eric
Neil, Adrian
Nguyen, Vyna
Osoba, Opemipo
Park, Mi Young
Patterson, Dianne
Peralta, Arlene
Pericas, Danielle
Phillip, Sharmin
Ponce, Cecilia
Ramos, Cecilia
Reyes, Shannan
Rifaey, Hisham
Rivera, Alexandra
Rozak, Valerie

Rozet, Nadia
Rutherford, Camisha
Searle, Craig
Sherry, Kevin
Simms, Carson
St Vil, Maritza
Stenger, Julie
Taub, Marisol
Taylor, Nicholas
Thomas, Nina
Tipton, Richard
Toribio, Jose
Trevino, Ivan
Vargas, Tatiana
Vidal, Guillermo
Warner, Kenan
Wilson, Elizabeth
Zayas, Jacqueline
Zhang, Yanrong
Zheng, Lin

Almost Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Working In A College Financial Aid Office

by Olga Medina '04

For students who need to work on campus, there are many opportunities to choose from. I chose to work in the Office of Student Financial Assistance—most people call it the financial aid office. I have been employed there as a part-time student worker for just a little over a month. What an eye-opener this month has been. Working there enables me to see the procedures involved in putting together students' financial award packages. Three other part-timer workers and I are in charge of maintaining the file areas, creating the files for new or incoming students, and performing a variety of tasks to assist the staff.

I have an opportunity to interact with the counselors who are available throughout the day to assist students with all their financial needs. Counselors help students explore payment options as well as help them file their FAFSA, complete their Direct Student Loan applications, and fill out their TAP forms to name a

few. One of the counselors I work with is Andie Mravlja who is responsible for preparing freshmen, graduate and returning undergraduate student packages as well as the PELL and SEOG grants and the study abroad program. Incidentally, Andie is also the person who imports and exports all federal data from the FAFSA.

Working at the Office of Student Financial Assistance has taught me the importance of not rushing the work to get it over with, but instead, working at a decent pace to produce efficient work that the counselors will use. Staying on top of things is one byproduct of working in the office—so many things to juggle and to be timely about. This is only a small snapshot of what goes on here. Student financial aid is complex and a good package is dependent on students providing accurate and timely information to the office.

The FREDERICK DOUGLASS CONFERENCE

Frederick Douglass, a Man with a Hold on Rochester

March 27-29, 2003

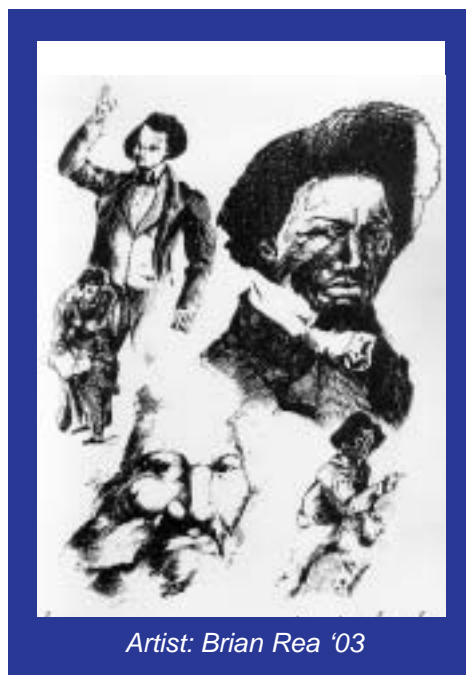
The FDR Conference Attracted Scholars, Leaders who examined his life and work. For three days of events on March 27, 28 and 29, Rochesterians embarked upon a fuller understanding of the multifaceted Frederick Douglass, who escaped from slavery to achieve great distinction in life and death.

Organized by the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies at the University of Rochester, a dozen programs developed the theme of "The Public Life and Work of Frederick Douglass."

The Saturday sessions examined such topics as Douglass as an American icon and black Americans at war. The Rochester-Monroe County Freedom Trail Commission host a related conference titled "Men of Color to Arms," focusing on Civil War themes and the contributions of African-American soldiers. A special luncheon and dinner program featured former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, on March 28.

Historian David W. Blight, an expert on Douglass and one of the nation's foremost authorities on the Civil War and its legacy, opened the sessions at the University of Rochester on March 27 in Hoyt Hall. Specialists from other academic disciplines examined Douglass (1818-1895) through the lenses of literature, gender, and international relations as well as other perspectives in the Friday and Saturday programs.

An exhibit of important documents on Douglass, who spent 25 years in Rochester, is open in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University's Rush Rhees Library.



The second half of this conference, **"Frederick Douglass: An Intimate View"** will be held at Howard University in Washington, D.C., in September, 2003. Douglass lived the later part of his life there.

Professor Larry Hudson, Director of the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies commented that "the conference goal was to raise important questions about Frederick Douglass as we, today, locate him in the nineteenth century world of social, cultural and political reform. One of the greatest servants to his country, our work highlighted and reassessed Douglass' performance in the many roles he occupied during a long life of activism and service."

The conference was sponsored by The Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies, University of Rochester, and Howard University, Washington, D.C. Additional support was provided by the Rare Books & Special Collections Department of Rush Rhees Library, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the History Department, and the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women Studies.

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT FOR HEOP

by Patricia Grabenstetter '03, Rene Herbert '04,
and Domingo Moronta '04

On February 11th 2003, five HEOP students, LaShara Evans, Patty Grabenstetter, Rene Herbert, Domingo Moronta, and Marcia Bailey accompanied Norman Burnett and Thomas Crews from the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA) to Albany, New York to lobby against Governor George Pataki's proposed cuts to financial assistance for higher education. Organized by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU). The purpose of the day was to allow students to meet directly with Assemblymen and Senators from districts that represent our students and the University of Rochester. The goal for meeting with these elected officials such as Susan John (Rochester/U of R Assemblywoman) was to discuss the economic impact of the proposed cuts on students, specifically that of TAP and HEOP programs. Many students from universities from all over New York State--Northern, Central, Western (that's us) and NYC--would churn out onto the streets of Albany to fight the proposals. Hundreds, if not thousands of students, were there to present what the cuts would mean to each one.

Governor Pataki's administration proposed significant cuts to programs like HEOP (Higher Education Opportunity Program) and TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) without considering the effects on the larger student population and the economy. TAP, HEOP, and similar other programs support financially underprivileged students in their efforts to get a higher education. These programs present an opportunity for children of low-income families to go to college, create future funding sources and support networks. Student Lobby Day was meant to put faces and personal stories to these financial aid numbers.

Pataki's cuts seem to ignore the fact that many students are dependent on these financial aid sources for their college career. Essentially, the proposal is a short-term solution to the current economic crisis in New York State. However, the Governor's administration does not want to see the future, long-term effects of these financial aid cuts: increased unemployment, unequal opportunity for poorer individuals, as well as the financial burden that young people will have on the economy due to their inability to attend college. Personally speaking, without this necessary aid, current students of HEOP and TAP would seek other ways of life, including dropping out.

In many communities education is not seen as the primary goal for one to improve their lives. Education takes a back seat to more immediate ways of surviving, mainly menial jobs that ask for little to no



skills from the applicant. This does not improve our society, to have the privileged get an education while other disadvantaged individuals who are willing to travel down that road are held back by bureaucratic-not-interested-in-what-you-think-unless-you-are-rich-and/or-propose-some-advantage-to-me-knowing-you, ways of government. The senators and the assemblymen are here because of us, the people of yours and my community; those of us who can must exercise our voting power and let them know who exactly it is they are representing, "My wish is that they would listen to the people they think they are speaking for in order to allow everyone to have a fair chance at education," said Domingo Moronta '04. "It is a right many of us do not receive and just as important as any other constitutional rights for as many know it is what opens doors. "In my disadvantaged community, education is the only way to step out of that in hopes of making myself into someone that I could never find on 135th street," said Domingo Moronta. The education we receive will allow us to go back and help those in the next generation to break the stereotypes, the racist practices and the misguided prejudices placed unfairly on minorities. The only way to grow is to let them, those Senators and Assemblypersons hear us--no--to listen to us."

The struggles that an urban student faces in order to get "to the top of and surpass the educational barriers by working hard and learning to use the system in positive ways will be taken away from many students who depend on TAP and HEOP funding for college" said Rene Herbert '04. "The urban community, typically depicted as being on welfare, on drugs, and/or in a rehab center, would not be allowed to revolutionize the minds of people who think of it in this way," she continued. "Education would allow one to get out there and show other individuals of this country what the truth is. Pataki and his administration should not run for

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Susan B. Anthony Scholarship and Fanny R. Bigelow Prize Winners: Then and Now

AGENTS OF CHANGE



In the early 1980s the University opened a program in women's studies to address issues important for understanding the role of women. Each year since 1980, the Institute has honored young women at the university who embody the spirit and characteristics that are important to the mission of the Anthony Center for Women's Leadership. This year the Anthony Center honored **Stephanie Fitzpatrick '04** with the 2003 Susan B. Anthony Scholarship. A past winner of the Fanny Bigelow Prize turned up in our very own **Lisa Norwood '96, MS '96**, Asst. Dean, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

STEPHANIE FITZPATRICK

2003 Susan B. Anthony Scholarship Winner

by Brenda Myrthil

"Stephanie is a dynamic and intelligent student whose contributions do not go unnoticed. She fast became involved on campus and has held many leadership positions," said Brenda Myrthil, her nominator.

"Stephanie has proven her timeliness, organization, and confidence in our community. Her leadership skills shine through when a group needs direction. She has exhibited great maturity and the ability to plan and perform under pressure. As Co-President of BSU, she dove in and established a connection with fellow executive board officers and members of BSU. She is not hesitant to ask for help when needed and accepts suggestions openly. My interactions with Stephanie have always been positive and educational in nature. I have learned as much from her as I hope she has learned from me. She has always been willing to provide me with assistance when needed. Her energy coupled with her intellect make for interesting and enlightening discussions. I have enjoyed seeing her grow and mature as a student and a leader.

Stephanie's best qualities include a great deal of reliability, sensitivity, emotional maturity, and the ability to identify issues. In addition, she is not judgmental and does not dictate solutions to students in need. She always makes herself available to fellow students for support and as a resource.

When thinking of a well-rounded individual, I think immediately of Stephanie. Her involvement in Student Activities, as a McNair Scholar, and on the College Diversity Roundtable shows me that her contributions extend well beyond the classroom. She is a trail-blazer, motivator, helper, leader, follower, and teacher."

Stephanie is a Psychology major and Health and Society minor. An academically gifted student, she has earned a place on the university's Dean's List. Stephanie says "Academics have helped me to develop as an intellectual leader, but extra-curricular activities have helped me to become a more people oriented, multi-task creative individual."

LISA HARDY (NORWOOD)

1986 Fanny R. Bigelow Prize Winner

"The University's highest awards for student service by women, the Susan B. Anthony Scholarship and the Fanny R. Bigelow Prize, are given annually to members of the junior or senior class from Upstate New York, in recognition of distinguished achievement in both academic and extracurricular activities."

Writing for *Notes for Parents of University of Rochester Students, Spring 1986*, Shinji Morokuma '84 said "Lisa Hardy, coordinator of the 1985 Freshmen Orientation Program, 'was cited for her energy, gregariousness, and organizational skills.' A geomechanics major and a Wilson Scholar, she has done research at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts and at the West Indies Laboratory in St. Croix. She is also a minority peer counselor, a member of the Meridian Society, a veteran of the cross-country team, and a record holder--and co-captain--on the track team." The dinner program added that Lisa was from Kingston, NY and was "characterized as a 'doer' not a talker."

Today, students at the University of Rochester know Lisa Hardy as Lisa Norwood, Assistant Dean, SEAS



in The College. “Winning the Fannie Bigelow award was one of the highlights of my collegiate career. I always felt privileged to be able to attend a school of UR’s caliber, knowing full well that Black and female students were not always welcome here. It was really cool to win an award named after someone who fought so hard to get students like myself admitted to Rochester. I still feel a sense of pride each year when these prizes are given to hard-working undergraduate women, and believe that it’s an obligation on my part to make sure deserving students are nominated.”

Other recent prize winners include **Melissa Diaz ‘99** who won the 1999 Jane Plitt Scholarship, which helps recognize and foster the progressive traditions of Rochester women. The Plitt family endowed a scholarship to be awarded to an undergraduate woman who is a leader dedicated to constructive social change in her community. Melissa coordinated the Susan B. Anthony University Center’s Young Mother’s Program which brought UR students together with pregnant or parenting teens to explore women’s life choices and opportunities for leadership.

The 2001 recipient of the Susan B. Anthony Scholarship was **Claudia Guiterrez ‘02** who wrote “I have a responsibility to preserve my culture...but still shape a better future for myself, my family, and future generations.” Claudia worked hard to foster equal opportunity for children from financially needy and troubled homes. As High School Outreach 2002 Program Coordinator for SHPE, Claudia counseled high school students to “rise up through education.” Like all the young women award winners, she is an agent of positive change for our community.

Charles Augustus Thompson, 1858-1934

First Alumnus of Color

A student of theology, Charles Thompson entered the University of Rochester at the age of 29. Upon graduation, Thompson went on to study theology in Memphis, Tennessee, first at the Memphis Theological Seminary (1892-92) and later at the prestigious Howe Institute (1906-07).

During the interim, Thompson served as principal of the Porter School in southern Memphis (1892-1907). Upon completion of his studies at the Howe Institute, Thompson went on to Howard Medical College where he studied chiropractic medicine. Thompson left Howard Medical College in 1909, when he joined the Washington D.C. Clerk’s Office.

In 1913, Thompson left the City Clerk’s Office in order to become the pastor of the Fairmont Heights Presbyterian Church. He remained at Fairmont until 1915, when he returned to the study of medicine.

In 1924 Thompson opened his own private practice in chiropractic medicine, a practice he ran successfully until his death in 1934.



*Photograph is from the Class of 1891 Album
in Rush Rhees Library*

Civil Right Lawyer Morris Dees to Speak at University

Morris Dees, a civil rights attorney famous for his legal victories against white supremacist groups, delivered the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Address at the University of Rochester this semester.



His talk, "Responding to Hate: Voices of Hope and Tolerance," was presented at 6 p.m. on Friday, January 24th, in Strong Auditorium on the River Campus. Having taken on domestic terrorists for two decades, Dees also promoted a message of hope and tolerance in the wake of the September 11 tragedy to stem hate crimes against those who resemble the terrorists.

The son of an Alabama farmer, Dees graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law and opened a law practice in Montgomery in 1960. In 1967, he began taking controversial cases, including a suit to integrate the all-white Montgomery YMCA. In 1971, he co-founded the Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit group that specializes in lawsuits involving civil rights violations, domestic terrorists, and racially motivated crimes.

Dees and the center have launched several historic and successful lawsuits against hate groups. After the lynching of an African-American man in Alabama by Ku Klux Klan members in 1981, the Center sued the Klan for inciting violence and won a \$7 million judgment. In 1990, Dees won a \$12.5 million verdict for the family of an Ethiopian murdered by Skinheads, a white hate group, in Oregon. In 1998, he obtained a \$37.8 million verdict against the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan for the burning of the Macedonia Baptist Church in South Carolina. In 2000, he won a \$6.3 million award for a woman and her son who were shot at by Aryan Nation guards.

In addition to taking on hate groups as chief trial counsel for the center, Dees also works on promoting diversity and developing ideas for the center's education project, "Teaching Tolerance." He also pushed for the creation of the Civil Rights Memorial, a monument engraved with the names of the people who died in the movement and key events of the period, that is found at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Dees has received numerous awards for his work. He was named Trial Lawyer of the Year by Trial Lawyers

for Public Justice and received the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award from the National Education Association and the Young Lawyers Distinguished Service Award from the American Bar Association. The University of Alabama gave Dees its Humanitarian Award in 1993.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Address was instituted at the University of Rochester to promote issues of diversity, freedom, civil rights, and social justice. The event was sponsored by the College Diversity Roundtable and the Office of the President.

Other activities are listed on the opposite page.





ALUMNI KUDOS

Megan Sesma '02 wrote to let us know that she would attend the University of Southern California's Thorton School of Music on a full-tuition scholarship to receive her Master's degree in music and harp performance. Another honor on Megan was her selection to perform at Bard College for the Computers/Conductors Institute.

Karl Wright '02 wrote to say he was enrolled in a Ph.D. program in the Political Science Department at University of Illinois.

Jevell Graham '01 called to say he was in a graduate program for Public Health Administration at the University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign.

Shani Jimeta '98 is an Assistant Director for Alumni and Parent Relations Program in the Office of Institutional Advancement (formerly known as the Alumni Affairs Office) here at the UR.

Brian Fredericks '00 has been accepted to the Law School at Boston University.

SENIORS ON THE MOVE

Accepted to the Fifth Year in Teaching at the Warner Graduate School of education: **Brian Rea** and **Culretta Hird**.

CURRENT STUDENTS

Congrats to the ECO 2003 PAs: **Diana Ramos, Ileah Welch, Laura Porterfield, Thomas Powers, Richard Elliott**, and **Durga Singh**.

Congrats to **Olga Medina '04** for being selected as an RA in Susan B. Anthony Hall for 2003-04. She also will join the summer McNair Program.

Emily Medina '04 has been selected as a McNair Scholar in the 2003-04 academic year.

Sharing "Great News" **Kofi Mensah** has been chosen as a UNCF-Merck Undergraduate Science Research Fellow.

Kudos to this past year's Ronald E. McNair Fellows from OMSA/HEOP, both academic and summer programs: **Sophomores: Yude Chen, Julie Stenger, Mubarek Said, Richard Tipton; Juniors: JR Carter, Long Nguyen, Nina Thomas, Shantiqua Tabron, Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Beverly Guity; and Seniors: Kathy Aligene, Alex Ampadu, Angela Burgess, Allison Dorsey, Catherine Garcia, Kisean Riddick, Baohuong Tran, Roselyn yson, Caresse Campbell, Tia Smith, and James Bradley.**

Stephanie Fitzpatrick '04 will be doing an internship at the University of Pittsburgh with Dr. Thomas Kamarek.

Moises De Jesus '04 will intern at the NYS Attorney General's office this summer.

Other activities that took place during the day--across all the UR campuses:

ALL DAY: Ongoing showing of Martin Luther King, Jr. speeches and documentaries will be shown in Wilson Commons, ITS Center (CLARC), and residential areas.

UR Community Celebration - Interfaith Worship Service Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. 11am in the Interfaith Chapel. Special performances by UR students. Service followed by lunch, dialogue, and thoughts on keeping the dream alive. For more information, contact **Gloria Colls** at **275-4321**.

Dr. Keith Wailoo presentations:

1:00 p.m. in the Arthur Kornberg medical Research Building, G-9425 (Class of 1962 Auditorium).

"Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and health".

4:20 p.m. in the Helen Wood Hall Lounge

"From White Plague to Black Death: The Strange Career of Race and Cancer in 20th Century America".

Prof. Howard Kirschenbaum presents *"Mississippi Freedom Summer and Beyond: a Dialogue about Freedom and Justice, Then and Now"* as he speaks about his experiences as a 1960s civil rights worker at 6:50 p.m. in Dewey 2-162A.

SHPE Conference '02

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engineering societies at the University of Rochester provided the activities that including an egg drop, and a bridge building contest. The students worked with each other and U of R

volunteers during the activities. After learning more about engineering, their peers, and themselves the students went to an activities fair. There were several tables set up by social organizations, academic organizations, and even a real life R2D2. Gladys Pedraza Burgos of the OMSA office provided the closing remarks.

SHPE learned a great deal through this year's conference. It took an enormous amount of work by not only the members but also for staff advisors Gladys Pedraza-Burgos and Lisa Norwood. It is SHPE's hope that every year the conference will expand to include more students, activities and volunteers.

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

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over by making quick and thoughtless changes. Yes, we are in a financial crisis, but cutting education would only pass on the economic crisis to the backs of those individuals whose financial aid he is cutting. This cannot be something that is allowed to be quietly enacted but instead we need to reject it with the highest effervescence within us as a people under a democracy."

The journey to Albany was coordinated to allow the voice of the people affected by the rash decisions of the Pataki administration to be heard. Patricia Grabenstetter '03 asked "Do they care? Did they listen? On the scheduled lobby day, present Senators and Assemblymen who supported the programs were there, yet opponents (Pataki's administration/supporters) were *conveniently* NOT available. They flat-out lied to our faces, running away as if they were the ones who had everything to lose." In other words, we were "preaching to the choir." Some administration officials "ran from our voices on this day, but now our outcry must be even louder to force those who represent us to not ignore us but instead hear our voices through the walls of their bureaucracy. Speak out against the killing of your future; speak out for what you deserve. There is no better time than today."

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"One day we shall win freedom, but not only for ourselves. We shall so appeal to your heart and conscience that we will win you in the process, and our victory will be a double victory."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.