

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

"Linked Fate: Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."



All photos courtesy of Richard Baker

Upcoming events:

April

ECO Battle of the Classes

April 27, 2007 3:00

Academic Achievement Reception

Hawkins-Carlson Room; April 30, 2007

4:00-5:00

May

Emerging Leaders Program Award Ceremony

Havens Lounge; May 4, 2007 4:00 - 5:30

Senior Dinner -- May 19, 2007;

Frederick Douglass Dining center 5:00 – 8:00

Commencement – May 20, 2007;

Eastman Quadrangle 9:00

University of Rochester
Office of Minority Student Affairs
310 Morey Hall, Box 270445
Rochester, NY 14627-0445

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."

~Langston Hughes~

Spring
Issue
2007



University
of
Rochester

Inside this issue

Cover Story:
Students receive a lesson
in civil activism from the
Reverend Jesse Jackson.



Photo courtesy of Richard Baker

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Photo courtesy of Richard Baker

INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS

By Omar Figueredo

On Tuesday February 13, 2007, Reverend Jesse Jackson provided an inspiring address to an enthusiastic crowd in Strong Auditorium at the University of Rochester.

Jackson is the founder and president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, a grassroots and political organization that is dedicated to improving the lives of all people by focusing on cures for social, economic and political ills.

Jackson is also world-renowned for his involvement in the Civil and Human rights movements both in the United States and abroad.

As the speaker for the sixth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Address, his speech was entitled: "Linked Fates: Injustice Anywhere, is a Threat to Justice Everywhere"; a theme inspired by a line from Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." Jackson spoke on a variety of topics concerning issues of civil and human rights from yesterday and today, and in many instances, transformed his podium into a proverbial pulpit from which he preached to his parish of University students, faculty, staff, and members of the Rochester community. His repetition of certain phrases and careful use of pauses created a cadenced speech that kept his audience attentive throughout the evening.

Speaking on the question of diversity, Rev. Jackson cautioned people

from getting too close to what he called "skin worship." He stressed the belief that character, and not race or ethnicity, should be the defining quality of a person. "You don't choose culture," Rev. Jackson explained, "but you do choose character." He pointed out that George Holliday, the white photographer who captured the beating of Rodney King by four LAPD officers, was a hero because he was able to transcend color lines by videotaping what he perceived as an injustice.

Reminiscing on his participation with Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the 1960's, Reverend Jackson noted, "Let us not just admire [Dr.] King, but follow his example." As he fielded questions from student members of the audience, Jackson instructed them to "do well and be brave...Pick up

a newspaper and read about the world [and] combine theory from college with practice."

Perhaps what was most remarkable of Rev. Jackson's address, was what he did afterwards. In an effort to address the ways young adults can learn from the Civil Rights movement and its achievements, Jackson asked those members in the audience who were not registered voters to stand up. He then invited them to come down to the stage and get registered on the spot. "This is your Selma March," Jackson noted. "This is how you keep the tradition going."





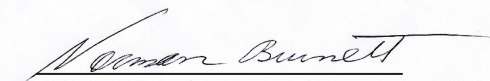
Welcome to our final edition of the OMSA Chronicle for the 2006-2007 academic year. As in previous issues, it is our expectation that the articles presented will reinforce our belief in the University's vibrant and intellectually stimulating environment where students, staff, and faculty make a difference and contribute in significant ways.

As you will glean from many of the featured articles, the UR has proved to be fertile ground for allowing students to find their voice, where they define and articulate their goals and objectives as they relate to issues to both themselves and the greater community.

In my role as Director of OMSA, I have had the unique opportunity to observe, and in many instances, contribute directly towards the 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 "comfort zones." As you are aware, collegiate life is about immersing one's self in a variety of new experiences, remaining open and flexible, and acquiring those skills needed to competently live in a diverse world. Since learning takes place both inside, and outside the classroom, perhaps now is the time for you to begin thinking about studying abroad, searching for the right internship experience, participating in community service, or seeking a summer research opportunity within (or outside) your field of study. As an additional resource, our office has also re-introduced the Emerging Leaders Program, which aims at facilitating the development of leadership skills, promoting excellence, individuality and group cohesiveness among current and emerging leaders. Through a series of structured workshops and team builders, participants will have opportunities to discuss important social, personal, multi-cultural and other current issues. The centerfold in this issue provides you with the details and successes of our first semester launch.

You are the leaders of tomorrow! There are many avenues to building your leadership credentials, so take advantage of them. We welcome your feedback regarding the content, format, and quality of the OMSA Chronicle, and wish you all the best with upcoming finals.


Norman Burnett
OMSA/HEOP Director

OMSA/ HEOP STAFF

Phone: 585-275-0651 Fax: 585-473-6494
UR River Campus, Morey 310
e-mail: OMSA@mail.rochester.edu
web: www.rochester.edu/college/OMSA

Director
Norman Burnett norman.burnett@rochester.edu

Administrative Assistant
Linda Colburn lico@mail.rochester.edu

Secretary
Collette Kettles ckettles@admin.rochester.edu

Counselors
Thomas Crews tcrw@mail.rochester.edu
Walisa Griffin walisa.griffin@rochester.edu
Jessica Guzmán jessica.guzman@rochester.edu
Marla Britton mbritton@mail.rochester.edu

Graduate Assistant
Makini Walker-Sharpe mwalkersharpe@gmail.com

OMSA CHRONICLE MISSION

To provide students with timely information about opportunities and event that support the mission of OMSA; to serve as a forum for students to present ideas, issues and solutions to problems and or issues that exist in our community; to act as an on-going communication resource for students, faculty and staff alike.

CHRONICLE STAFF

Editors-in-Chief
Makini Walker-Sharpe
Jessica Guzmán

Student Editors
Omar Figueredo '08
Nadine Nicholson '09



*Not pictured: Nadine Nicholson

The OMSA staff would like to congratulate you for a job well done and encourage you to keep up the good work.

Spring 2006

Dean's List

Latrice Akuamoah	Diana La Torre
Nathan Alves	Haoting Liang
Mauel Alves	Gert Llojaj
Gener Augustin	Camille Madison
Jessalyn Ballerano	Maria Manni
Irina Barahona	Joseph Martinez
Claudia Berrondo	Alma Matos
Brandon Best	Keila Mayes
Alexa Bodman	Carly Mendoza
Seth Bohler	Hayley Miskiewicz
Mariana Bojaca	Natali Modzelewski
Jason Bultrago	Ashley Moore
Ana Calleja	Lindsay Mulgrew
Alejandro Campos	Asnaketch Negussie
Marie Carmouche	Michael Noble
Isabela Carvalho	Onika Noel
Libet Chang	Ebiere Okah
Danyra Chavez	Nathan Osorio
Francisco Corbalan	Meredith Parmer
Martin Cozens	SalvadorPena
Ana Dechtiar	Chavon Phelps
Phillip Dumouchel	Tonie Phillips
Edgard Duque	Joseph Point Du Jour
Amanda Duran	Chin Ho Poon
Jomo Omari Edwards	Mariana Pugliese
Sara Fagan	Jamila Ray
Eileen Fay	Ebony Richards
Angie Fayad	Jason Robin
Martin Fernandez	Kevin Royo
Oscar Figueredo	Devin Ruiz
Aaron Figueroa	Ernancelis Santana
Calle Fitzgerald	Brett Stark
Elizabeth Garcia	Seth Stein
George Gilmore	Samantha Stern-Leaphart
Elisabeth Ginsburg	Ashley Van Vechten
Sara Goico	Anthony Vargas
Arthur Goldfeder	Jazmine Venegas
Selenid Gonzalez	Todd Venning
Henry Henderson	Ana Villarreal
Stephanie Hernandez	James Viveros
Oscar Herrera	Matthew Wampler-Doty
Laura Holtzman	Janelle Watford
Adrienne Horne	Christina Wehbe
Melinda Huang	Victoria Wells
Kellie Iletto	Anthony Williams
Tyreek Jackson	Molly Williams
Joshua Jaramillo	Michael Yee
Christopher Jennings	Lauren Yu
Sebastian Jobson	Brandon Zimmerman
Marianna Kuttothara	



Early Connection Opportunity Program Assistants '08

Catherine Nguyen '08 Keith James '08
Porschea Lewis '08 David Choy '09
Randolph Pena '09 Nadine Nicholson '09

National Conference on Undergraduate Research 2007

Omar Figueredo '08, Oscar Herrera '08, Michael Castro '07 and Joseph Point Du Jour '07 were all accepted to participate in NCUR and will present their research at Dominican University in California.

Imoh Ikpot '10 is a McNair Scholar and will attend Yale University's Summer Medical and Dental Education Program.

Martin Fernandez '08 was accepted to Barclays Bank for an investment banking internship.

Omar Figueredo '08 was accepted to the Leadership Alliance Summer Research Program at Cornell University.

Joseph Point Du Jour '07 was accepted to the University of Rochester Medical School and Stony Brook University. Joseph was also awarded a full-tuition Fellowship at Stony Brook

Tony Vargas '07/T5 was accepted to Graduate School at Columbia University and the University of Michigan School of Public Health for Graduate School.

Samantha Stern-Leaphart '07 was accepted to Rutgers' PhD program for English and plans on attending Rutgers in the fall.

Crystal Lane '07 was accepted to the Immunology & Molecular Pathogenesis Ph.D. program at Emory University

Pierce White '07 was awarded the Fifth Year in Teaching Scholarship at Warner and was also admitted to Syracuse University School of Education.

Michael Castro '07 received the American Political Science Association Minority Fellowship.

Mlen-Too Wesley '07/KEY'08 was accepted as a Kauffman Entrepreneurial Year Scholar. He will be traveling to Ghana to study entrepreneurship during the first semester of the next academic year. He also plans on interning at the Ministry of Economic Development and PSI while in Ghana.

Mariana Bojaca '07 received the Fannie M. Bigelow Award from the Susan B. Anthony Institute.

Jessica Guzmán, OMSA Counselor, was accepted into the Ed.D program in Higher Education at the Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

Kearns Center Scholarship Recipients

Named in honor of David T. Kearns, former CEO of Xerox Corporation (1982-1990), Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education (1991-1993), and founder of New American Schools, the David T. Kearns Center for Leadership and Diversity in Science and Engineering supported fifteen University of Rochester sophomores, juniors and seniors with scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. Thanks to grants recently awarded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), The David T. Kearns Center was able to award twenty-nine additional scholarships to University of Rochester freshmen, sophomores and juniors in February 2007. The two NSF programs are the STEM Scholars Program, and the Science and Technology Expansion Program (STEP); both are aimed at improving the educational experience and retention rates of low-income students in science, math and engineering majors at the University of Rochester. This year's David T. Kearns Scholarship recipients include:

<i>Katrine Ferguson</i>	2008	<i>Ashley Orillion</i>	2010
<i>Yvonelle Moreau</i>	2008	<i>Allison McComb</i>	2010
<i>Camille Madison</i>	2008	<i>David Cioufo</i>	2010
<i>Chamarra Coward</i>	2008	<i>Jennifer Rafferty</i>	2010
<i>Daniel Harris</i>	2009	<i>Katie Litts</i>	2010
<i>Mayra Gonzalez</i>	2009	<i>Sze Wong</i>	2010
<i>Ferdous Zannat</i>	2009	<i>LaShonda Brenson</i>	2010
<i>Diane Navarro</i>	2009	<i>Imoh Ikpot</i>	2010
<i>Monica Patel</i>	2009	<i>Stephen Supoyo</i>	2010
<i>Diana LaTorre</i>	2009		
<i>Christina Wong</i>	2009		
<i>Brian Palmisano</i>	2009		
<i>Ezra Milby</i>	2009		
<i>Kathleen Mulvaney</i>	2009		
<i>Marya Shuksta</i>	2010		
<i>Wilmer Estevez</i>	2010		
<i>Aleksy Mankowski</i>	2010		
<i>Kashika Sahay</i>	2010		
<i>Lam Wing Yan</i>	2010		
<i>Danielle Wedde</i>	2010		

Kearns Center Staff can be reached at: (585) 275-7512
717 Hylan Building, University of Rochester, NY 14627-0415
Website: <http://www.rochester.edu/College/Kearns>

NEW STAFF Hysha Robinson



Hysha Robinson is the newly appointed Associate Director of Outreach and Customer Service in the Financial Aid Office and is the liaison to the HEOP program. Hysha is an alumna of the Rochester Institute of Technology where she also served nearly ten years in Higher Education. During her time at RIT she worked as a Financial Aid counselor and a college liaison in the North Star Center for Academic Success and Cultural Affairs. To her credits, Hysha was listed as one of the top 40 African Americans in Rochester under 40, and was cited as one of the up and coming businesswomen of the year (2006) by the Rochester Women's Network. She also serves as the Graduate Advisor and Academic Advisor within her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Hysha is truly thrilled to be at the University of Rochester. Also, she firmly believes that education is the foundation to success, and by helping those access college through Financial Aid she is able to make a difference. If you would like to reach Hysha visit the Financial Aid Office or contact her via e-mail at hrobinson@finaid.rochester.edu

Exploring the Unfamiliar

By Mariana Bojacá '07

How many of us travel overseas only to stay at resorts and perhaps visit a few tourist attractions? It seems we could easily visit any country and still feel at home. "Don't eat anything from hole-in-the-wall places," I was told. My choices were thus limited to McDonald's or costly Egyptian restaurants. I could even have their food delivered to my apartment. But I opted for kushari, a cheap but filling bowl of noodles, rice, lentils, chickpeas, fried onions, and a spicy tomato sauce. However, exploring the unfamiliar could transform our views and actions to benefit more than just our own lives. My semester in Egypt last year proved to be one such experience.

I arrived in Cairo with modest knowledge about that region of the world. Nevertheless, I was excited to live in a different culture where I could improve my basic Arabic proficiency. Whether I was grocery shopping or hailing a taxi, I forced myself to speak in Arabic as best I could. At the American University in Cairo (AUC), I enrolled in courses specific to political and social thought in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

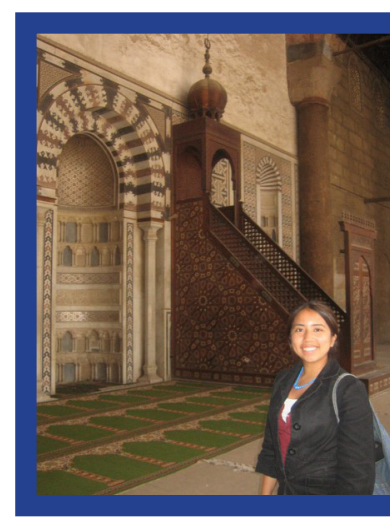
By far my most memorable experience was outside the classroom. For a class on Gender Issues in the Middle East, I had the chance to visit three non-profit organizations that attempt to empower local women in legal, economic, or social frameworks. These were the

when they're on vacation.

During these field visits, our class had the chance to meet with several women who had sought the services provided by these organizations. For example, the Development for the Local Society helps women to obtain legal documentation needed to receive government assistance and to vote. The Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women (ADEW) distributes micro-credit to female heads of households who wish to start their own businesses. Finally, the social approach of the Coptic Association concerns parenting and partner advising that emphasizes general respect for the female sex. We were privileged to listen to a group discussion where Egyptian women, from diverse backgrounds, shared their stories with one another. Despite the hardships these women face, the chance for each one to gather in a room with other women who have similar experiences seems therapeutic in itself.

Beyond the tears and the laughs, these women are determined to change their circumstances. They asked about our lives as women in the U.S. and this culminating exchange seemed to trigger all our senses. Even though we may not agree on certain lifestyle choices, we are still the same – women in different stages of a common struggle for equality.

Now back in the U.S., I contemplate on how I can help others with the privileges I have and the opportunities available to me as a citizen of the world's most developed and influential nation. We all should meditate on this because others can only hope for us to take action. Just a thought for us to consider as we travel abroad.



UR CELEBRATES MLK

Re-framing Injustice

Exhibit Inspires Forgiveness

By Jennifer Keating-Miller

As part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Week at the University of Rochester, "The 'F' Word: Images of Forgiveness" was housed at the Interfaith Chapel from January 18th to the 31st, 2007. This exhibition, developed by journalist Marina Cantacuzino and photographer Brian Moody, is a meditation on human capacities for forgiveness and the power of non-violence.

In an effort to "reframe the debate about how individuals and communities can learn to overcome



difference and division to achieve social cohesion," the collection displays striking photographs and testimonials from individuals who have fallen victim to or been perpetrators of violence, in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Northern Ireland, Romania, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine and the United States.

In the spirit of the Commemorative Week's theme, "Linked Fate: Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere," "The 'F' Word" exhibit serves as a testimonial to the national and international implications of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s commitment to non-violence in the face of oppression, violence and injustice. The Forgiveness Project "believes that by listening to the voices of people who have experienced reconciliation and renewal after trauma and unrest, it is possible to see alternatives to endless cycles of conflict, violence, crime and injustice."

As we bear witness to wars on multiple fronts, from Iraq to Afghanistan, and the nightly news reports violence on our Rochester streets, this exhibit demands pause. It challenges us to consider the prevalence of perpetual cycles of violence and compels us to act with King's resolve, to end injustice, violence and oppression everywhere.

PROTESTING FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

By Alison Delpercio

On Tuesday, January 23rd as part of the week long series of events leading up to the MLK Jr. Commemorative Address, the Pride Network hosted an event entitled "Boycotting Marriage in Support of the GLBT Community?" The highlight of this program was a talk given by Reverend Scott Tayler of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester on the topic of marriage equality.

Echoing the week's theme of "Linked Fate: Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," Rev. Tayler explained that a reflection upon the Civil Rights Movement lead to his current actions in support of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. As the title suggests, Rev. Tayler has decided to boycott marriage altogether until equal marriage rights are granted to the LGBT community.

What does this mean exactly? Well, when Rev. Tayler receives a call from someone inquiring about having his/her wedding at First Unitarian, he explains that he would be happy to perform a spiritual ceremony; however, the church is no longer signing marriage licenses. Therefore, heterosexual couples wishing to be married by First Unitarian will need to also have a legal ceremony at city hall in order to be officially married in the eyes of the law. There is no extra cost for these couples as the cost of the spiritual ceremony is reduced by that of the fees charged at city hall.

What does this have to do with the Civil Rights Movement? Well, Rev. Tayler drew parallels between the separate but equal status of African Americans in the segregated south and the status of LGBT individuals wishing to get married. Reflecting on the past, he stated that he'd like to think that he wouldn't have sat at a Whites-only counter. In the same light, choosing not to sign marriage licenses, as explained by Rev. Tayler, is an "act of conscience--our feeling that we can no longer in good conscience serve as an arm of a government practice that is so blatantly and harmfully discriminatory."

According to Rev. Tayler, responses to this boycott have been positive. Some heterosexual couples have even viewed their extra trip to city hall as an opportunity to reflect upon the much greater burdens unequal marriage creates for the LGBT community.

In addition to this boycott of marriage, First Unitarian Church of Rochester is considering other more political strategies in the support of change. These ideas include signing the marriage licenses of gay couples then legally challenging the rejection of these licenses and creating a fund to help offset the financial burdens faced by gay couples that wish to get married (i.e. travel expenses for going to Canada).

Professor Jeffrey Tucker:

An Enlightened Visionary

By Nadine Shelly-Ann Nicholson

The Frederick Douglass Institute (FDI) welcomes Professor Jeffrey Tucker as its new director. A man of many facets: stellar professor, loving, and devoted father, and husband, Tucker now adds this new prestigious title amidst his already impressive portfolio. Highly recommended for the position by the Dean of Faculty and his affiliates, Tucker in an interview, expressed that his appointment came as a surprise.

With light humor, he noted that he is not quite certain his daughter, Elizabeth, who is almost a year old, "notices a difference in her father's life;" his wife on the other hand, he notes is very supportive of his appointment. Tucker divulges with pride that she lends him unconditional support, thus, reaffirming his belief that he is the right person for the position.

The change in his schedule is undeniable. The first and major change he noted was how quickly time goes by. In addition to time constraints, his responsibilities have also increased ten-fold. "It is not that faculty members are not busy," he states. "It is just that now more than before I have an active role. It is a different type of work - building a program, following initiatives, conferences, and choosing the next pre-doctoral fellows." Yet, with much humility Professor Tucker credits his assistant, Ghislaine Radegonde-Eison, whom he lauds for her invaluable knowledge and skill. He acknowledges her pleasant attitude and devotion to her tasks, which makes his job easier.

When asked what FDI meant to him, with passion and eloquence he stated that African American studies is an interdisciplinary field, to which he has committed himself since being a PhD student at Princeton. While initially he was interested in other subject areas such as romantic English literature, he became indubitably interested in the field of African American studies. He particularly wanted to understand the significance of being black in America. Tucker explained that identity is seen through the study of history and its reconstruction



and wanted to understand how identity could be seen from an intellectual standpoint i.e. cultural, social, and political narratives. And it is this knowledge that Professor Tucker hopes to bestow upon students through FDI.

On this note, it is Tucker's aspirations for the FDI to have a positive and enlightening effect on the minds of students, faculty, and the Rochester community. Currently, there are several interesting events going on in FDI. These range from classes, lectures, to opportunities for the Rochester community to learn

more about institute, as well as the significance of the African American culture.

Additionally, he hopes that students and faculty will continue to participate in the intellectual lectures, speeches, and readings given by the FDI. For these lectures are opportunities to listen to scholars present key issues stemming from their research and discuss upcoming works.

Moreover, Tucker is working steadfastly to build study abroad opportunities, and start relations with universities in Africa and the West Indies. He is also working to encourage Graduate Certificates in African American Studies that will allow students to have qualifications in the field. Ultimately, he wants FDI to be known as the place "where it is happening." "I want to be part of that," he adds with a chuckle.

It is beyond a shadow of a doubt that with the dedication and enthusiasm of our new director, Professor Jeffrey Tucker, the aspirations for the Frederick Douglass Institute will come to fruition.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Christine Daves whose input helped significantly with this article.

The Chronicle Staff would like to congratulate Professor Tucker on his appointment as FDI Director and wish him well in this new endeavor.

RECOGNIZING AN INTELLECTUAL

W.E.B. DUBOIS AWARD PRESENTED TO PROF. MOORE

The following is a transcription of the remarks made by Professor Jesse T. Moore upon receiving the W.E.B. DuBois Award for Educational and Intellectual Excellence, presented to him by the Black Students' Union at its 3rd Annual Black Tie Affair on Saturday, February 24, 2007. The award recognizes an individual whose academic work has been significant in advancing the ideals of intellectualism put forth by W.E.B. DuBois. We have reproduced it here to both re-articulate BSU's commendation of Prof. Moore and also for the benefit of those who were unable to attend the Black Tie Affair.

-The Chronicle Staff

I am humbled by and most appreciative of being chosen by the Black Students' Union of the University of Rochester to receive the W.E.B. DuBois Award for Educational and Intellectual Excellence. Enough said about me. I shall now direct my remarks at the young African-American men and women who are enrolled at the University of Rochester. Permit me to begin my tribute to you young, gifted and black men and women with a quote from Dr. W.E.B. DuBois:

The Negro Race, like all races is going to the saved by its exceptional men [and women]. The problem of education then, among Negroes, must first of all deal with the "Talented Tenth." It is a problem of developing the best of this race that they may guide the Mass away from the contamination and death of the worst.

Your admission to the University of Rochester means that you are among the Talented Tenth, on whose shoulders, DuBois believed, rested the future of African Americans and of America as a nation. Therefore, you should study hard, learn much, and develop your unique talents while here so you will become productive citizens in the years ahead but, more important, serve as living proof of what African Americans are capable of doing and achieving. Indeed so, the struggles and determination of earlier generations to right America's wrongs, in addition to your talents, drive, devoted parents and teachers, and your ambitions, stand out among the reasons why you were offered admission to one of the nation's top research institutions of higher education. You are a fulfillment of one of many of DuBois's dreams and hopes.



Photo courtesy of David Falconieri

DuBois's teachings had and made an important impact and influence on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Was it a happenstance that he died on the eve of the historic March on Washington in 1963? Actor and playwright Ossie Davis read an announcement of his death to the 250,000 Americans of different races, religions and classes gathered the next day at the Washington Memorial.

Why do I point out the 1963 March on Washington? That day marked an instance in our history when Jews, Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and members of other religions came together as one, reminding people everywhere that the wise people of The United States of America are guided by an eternal belief in liberty and justice for all.

To you, members of Rochester's Black Students' Union, and to the other Rochester's undergraduates present here tonight, I say, don't hesitate to remind us of the over fifty generation by your actions, deeds, ideals and accomplishments of what American is capable of becoming, which is One Nation, Indivisible, With Liberty and Justice For All.

Again, my sincere thanks to the Black Student's Union for honoring me with this award. It is one of the highlights of my thirty-plus years of service to Rochester students and the Rochester community. I thank you.

Jesse T. Moore, Jr.
February 24, 2007

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - Catalina Berry '07

Home Town: The Woodlands, Houston, TX

Date of Birth: September 15, 1985

Major(s): Linguistics and Spanish

Activities: Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Spanish and Latino Students' Association, Minority Students Advisory Board, Multicultural Greek Council, Black Students' Union

Hobbies: Working in the community, dancing, listening to music, soccer, arts and crafts

Future Plans?
To be happy.

In what ways has UR influenced you the most?
I have truly found myself here at UR. I have learned leadership skills, the importance of academics, time management and the importance in standing up for what one believes no matter what.

Fondest memory:
The weekend of April 1-3, 2005: I secured an internship that gave me the ability to work in Puerto Rico; I became a sister of Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and I won the position of president for S.A.L.S.A.

What has been your most significant contribution to UR?
I feel as though my participation in various organizations on campus has helped inspire others to do the same.

Who has been your role model at UR or elsewhere?
To choose one role model is very difficult. Many people have influenced me: My cousin, Erika, for not being afraid to voice her opinion, my sorors for being confident women and instilling that confidence in me, Marquis Harrison for being so competitive and pushing me to never settle, my Mami for supporting me and my daddy for always telling me how proud he is of me, therefore pushing me to make him prouder.



New Staff Spotlight

Collete Kettles

Secretary, OMSA and McNair Offices



Collette Kettles started her employment at the University of Rochester in September 2007 in Strong Staff. Collette started as a full time Secretary in January 2007 and currently can be seen at both the Office of Minority Student Affairs and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, where she splits her time. Collette is also part of the Campus Diversity Roundtable.

Born and raised in Rochester, Collette enjoys

spending time with her husband, two daughters and her Pomeranian dog Nico. In addition, Collette enjoys being a cheerleading coach and going out dancing with her friends.

If you see Collette on the UR campus and say hi and you don't get a response or she looks at you strangely...it just might be her twin sister!! Collette always has candy on her desk at both locations and may be contacted at cketles@mail.rochester.edu.

MISSION

The mission of the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is to facilitate the development of leadership skills, promote excellence, individuality and group cohesiveness among current and emerging leaders affiliated with the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA) at the University of Rochester. Through a series of structured workshops and team builders, participants will have opportunities to discuss important social, personal, multi-cultural and other current issues.

Emerging Leaders Program

KEY WORKSHOP TOPICS:

January 24th: Meet your fellow Emerging Leaders
February 7th: What type of Leader are you?
February 21st: Group Dynamics
March 7th: Conflict Management
March 21st: Balancing Extracurricular Activities and Academia
April 4th: Ethics and Values
April 18th: Valuing Diversity
May 2nd: Prominent Leaders will serve to inspire ELP Students

Facilitator's Words:

I was delighted when Assistant Dean Burnett asked me to re-instate the Emerging Leaders Program. I willingly accepted the challenge to create a program whose purpose was to assist current undergraduate students affiliated with the Office of Minority Student Affairs build a solid base of leadership skills. These life-long skills presented through interactive, innovative and culturally oriented workshops, enabled the students to take on a more active leadership role in extra-curricular activities, navigate the University's departments and resources effectively, and engage both their immediate and neighboring communities in a constructive and lasting way.

I would also like to thank my colleague Makini Walker-Sharpe for facilitating two of the workshops. She always brought a fresh and interesting perspective to the topics. In addition, it has been my pleasure to work with 15 highly intelligent, involved, and determined emerging student leaders. I am positive that these young men and women will be able to continue to excel academically, while at the same time contribute to the University community. Needless to say, I look forward to honoring these 15 individuals at the upcoming ELP awards ceremony and welcoming a new ELP class in the Fall 2007 semester.

~Jessica Guzmán, MSSW

Emerging Leaders of 2007

Catherine Nguyen 2008	Kenneth Johnson 2010
Nadine Nicholson 2009	Danielle Jones 2010
Romaine Anglin 2010	Marisa Lester 2010
Lashonda Brenson 2010	Deidre Reid 2010
Madeline Corniel 2010	Milagros Rodriguez 2010
Marlin Harper 2010	Kayann Williams 2010
Kirk Iyua 2010	Kashawmma Wright 2010
Imoh Ikpot 2010	

WILL THE REAL LEADER PLEASE STAND UP!!!

"A leader is not necessarily a person who holds some formal position of leadership or who is perceived as a leader by others. Rather, a leader is one who is able to affect positive change for the betterment of others, the community and society."

~ Anonymous ~



Imoh Ikpot:

Class of 2010

One of my favorite workshops involved a personality test. It allowed me to see my strengths and weaknesses from a different perspective.

Madeline Corniel:

Class of 2010

To me the Emerging Leadership Program helps us to grow, and helps us learn how to evolve as young leaders of the Rochester community. In these meetings, I feel great about sharing my thoughts, with people I know and care about. I believe by learning new things I will evolve not only as a leader but also as an enthusiastic, intelligent and confident individual.

The topics, exercises, and of course the food is something that piques your interest. In fact ELP is so entertaining that it actually demonstrates excellent ways for us to collaborate with one another.

I would recommend this opportunity to new and upcoming leaders so that they would have received the same opportunity I had as a participant of the Emerging Leadership Program.

Catherine Nuygen:

Class of 2008

"Being in ELP makes you think about yourself in different ways that you have not done before, for example, evaluating yourself in terms of strengths and weaknesses as a leader. It also is a great opportunity to work with your fellow classmates in a different and relaxing environment. Besides the workshops the food is great."

Nadine Nicholson:

Class of 2009

"The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is a continued and collaborative effort by the staff of the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA) to recognize and encourage emerging leaders on campus. Specifically, its purpose is to help strengthen existing innate leadership skills of its participants.

Personally, ELP has given me a renewed definition of leadership and enhanced my knowledge of team work dynamics. Thus far we have engaged in invigorating ice-breaking activities, case studies, time and stress management skills and so forth.

ELP requires active participation, interaction and openness toward different opinions and ideologies. We have a lot of fun in a relaxed and highly sociable setting while learning valuable information and also sampling absolutely amazing cultural dishes at each of our bi-weekly meetings.

Above all, my fellow participants and I would like to express our warmest thank you and heartfelt love for our facilitators Jessica Guzman and Makini Walker Sharpe, who both have done a magnificent job. We love you ladies!