

## UPDATES: PAST & UPCOMING '09 EVENTS

### MASTER OF HIS FATE:

#### CHILD OF WAR, MAN OF PEACE

by: Nadine S. Nicholson

A powerful lyricist propelled by incomprehensible personal wrath, recording artist, Emmanuel Jal overcame certain adversity and many times near death experiences to emerge an unconquerable soul.

Through his passionate lyrics, he exposed the Strong Auditorium at the University of Rochester to the corruption and greed of the Sudanese government. They were central to the themes of his songs which is the campaign for peace of opposing sides in Sudan and

the clear message that children have no place in wars.

As a member of his audience, I felt humbled and the purest sense of inspiration. Like me, I believe others came to a slow introspective stage, where we questioned ourselves as to our purpose and who are we to be petulant about our difficulties in lieu of his staggering trials? His story of hope, faith, amnesty, and preaching undertones raised significant awareness about the debauchery of war, which hopefully in turn signaled that we as students and people as a whole will be motivated to act, support the cause and do better.



- Jan. 8** OMSA 40th Anniversary Reception in New York City for alumni, current students and parents.
- Jan. 16** Deadline for the Denise Y. Giles Scholarship Application presented by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Jan. 16** Deadline for the OMSA Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) Application
- Jan. 16-17** MSAB/CDR Spring 2009 Student Leadership Conference. Invite Only.
- Jan. 19** Martin Luther King Day (classes canceled)
- Jan. 19** University of Rochester Campus Climate Conversations. Various locations, 1-5:30 PM. Sponsored by the College Diversity Roundtable. This event is free and open to the public.
- Jan. 20** Presidential Inauguration
- Jan. 23** A Dream Fulfilled? Identity, Leadership, and Empowerment for the 21st Century. MLK, Jr. Commemorative Address featuring Nikki Giovanni. Strong Auditorium, 6:30 PM. Sponsored by the College Diversity Roundtable and the Office of the President. This event is free and open to the public.

- Jan. 23** Annual Study Abroad Expo. Hirst Lounge
- Jan. 28** ELP Workshop
- Jan. 29** Deadline for Early Connection Opportunity (ECO) Program 2009 Program Assistant Application
- Feb. 2** Proposal Deadline for students who wish to study abroad during the Fall 2009 semester or the full 2009-2010 academic year
- Feb. 2** Deadline for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Summer Program Application
- Feb. 11** ELP Workshop
- Feb. 25** ELP Workshop
- March 7-15** Spring Break
- March 25** ELP Workshop
- April 15** ELP Workshop
- April 29** ELP Workshop
- May 16** OMSA Senior Dinner
- May 17** Commencement Ceremony

### MESSAGE FROM FINANCIAL AID

At the beginning of the spring semester, you will receive instructions from the Financial Aid Office on how to complete your returning student application materials. These materials will help to determine your financial aid for the 2009-2010 academic year and are due by April 15th, 2009. Returning students who do not submit their financial aid application with all supporting documentation by April 15, 2009 should be aware that they are not guaranteed full consideration for need-based assistance and may have their aid reduced due to limited funding. If you have questions please contact your financial aid counselor to set up an appointment.

Financial Aid Office website: [www.enrollment.rochester.edu/financialaid](http://www.enrollment.rochester.edu/financialaid).

University of Rochester  
Office of Minority Student Affairs  
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*"Nothing in the world has ever been accomplished without passion"*  
Anonymous

## OFFICE OF MINORITY STUDENT AFFAIRS

Fall Issue  
2008

# OMSA Chronicle



University  
of  
Rochester

### ILLUMINATING AN INVALUABLE LEGACY:

RONALD THOMAS & FREDERICK JEFFERSON

By: Nadine S. Nicholson



Forty years since the historical sit-in, the Faculty Lounge, now Salon D in Meliora, was the site of a b u n d a n t appreciation a n d celebration of a rich Black legacy – an antithesis of the turbulent late 1960's.

The Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA), the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), and the Black Students' Union (BSU) commemorated its 40th Anniversary during Meliora Weekend with a warm and welcoming tribute luncheon. In a room energized by an unequivocal family spirit, enshrouded by strength, success and gratitude, keynote speaker Ron Thomas delivered powerful and reflective, yet strangely anecdotal messages about his tenure and role as an African American student in the 1960's- 70's.

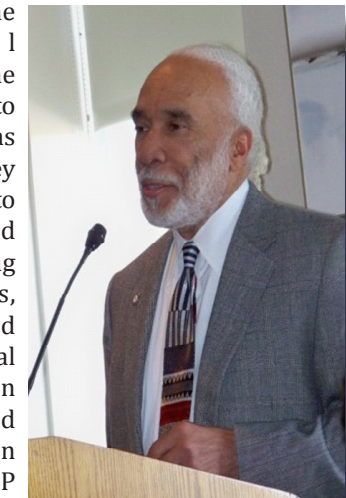
Thomas, a native of Buffalo, New York graduated from the University of Rochester in 1971 with a degree in political science. It is not difficult to trace the roots of his interest in politics. When he succeeded Steven Clay as the second president of the BSU in the fall of '68, he entered his term with a vision to realize the importance of Black culture. In a school that hosted less than twenty Black students in that period, there was also little to no diversity in the faculty. Thomas felt that the status quo subverted their struggle for self-determination and self-identification, therefore, re-evaluation of the Black student psyche needed to take place. The whole concept of Black identity had not crystallized in the minds of the student body, and Thomas accordingly stated that students, even Black ones, had to unite over some of the issues. It was not about color or

where you came from.

Meanwhile, the 60's and 70's spawned unspeakable pandemonium and shocking displays of violent acts as the Civil Rights movement was afoot. Black intellectuals, the Black Power and Nationalism movements were fuelling the fires of change that were molding the mindset of radical Black students during the period. The Vietnam War, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and former president J F. Kennedy served as catalysts for swift action. However, as student protestors in the nation responded to the maelstrom of violence, Thomas opted to approach the University of Rochester with non-violent methods of protest. Under the tutelage and fierce leadership of Charlie Dickens – a graduate student – he urged the young pioneers to execute a plan that was both psychologically empowering and tactfully sound. Assertive opposition to an oppressive school of thought would substantiate the need for a strong Black presence on the campus.

A modest group with an iconoclastic vision, the BSU took over the faculty lounge for one week as an excellent symbolic way of saying more Black students and faculty were needed. The BSU then put forth 25 recommendations and engaged in dialogues and negotiations with the administration and the Deans to attend to their requests. Thomas contended that the c e n t r a l message he wanted to convey was that they wanted to be accepted as young intellectuals, accredited as equal students on merit and not based on their HEOP statuses.

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## 40th Anniversary Issue

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CORNER



Please join us in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA), the Higher Education Opportunity Program, and the Black Students' Union at the University of Rochester. A special word of gratitude goes to the Alumni Relations Office and members of the Black Students' Union, for their assistance in planning the festivities held in October during Meliora Weekend. The OMSA/BSU Celebration was highly successful with many attending the Speed Networking event, the Recognition Luncheon, and the Old School/New School Dance party. There were large numbers of OMSA students, alumni, and parents who were in attendance throughout the weekend celebration.

In recognition of this special occasion, we are dedicating this special 40th Anniversary Issue of the OMSA Chronicle to alumni, students, faculty, staff, and parents who have interacted with our office, utilized our services, and helped to shape and lay the groundwork for the comprehensive student-services office we are today. As I reflect back on my fourteen-year tenure with the OMSA, it is gratifying to observe both the maturation of our students and the numerous and impressive achievements of our alumni. Moreover, it warms my heart to know alumni continue to give back to their Alma Mater in a wide variety of ways. For example, OMSA Alumni have mentored current students, served as guest speakers at university-sponsored programs/

events and assisted with formal and informal networking initiatives. Likewise, it has been rewarding to see current OMSA students interact with alumni and become even more engaged and passionate about their collegiate experience and preparation for their future.

As you are well aware, this academic year was also historic for our nation as the United States' political climate was fierce, exciting and inspiring for many. Just a short time ago, we both celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday and, on the next day, the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Our students were among the million or so people from all walks of life who flocked to Washington, D.C. in freezing weather to be a part of history in the making. Although the inauguration was the culminating event of this historic political season, a significant number of our students were actively involved in local, state, and national political campaigns designed to encourage students to take advantage of the political process. This highly charged level of civic pride and engagement has carried forward during the academic year as we continue to have high levels of support for student clubs and organizations that address community service and civic engagement. This is indeed an exciting and inspiring time for us all.

As always, we look forward to your feedback as it pertains to this issue of the OMSA Chronicle, and hope that the content will motivate you to become even more involved in all aspects of campus life. Meliora!

*Norman Burnett*

Norman Burnett  
OMSA/HEOP Director

OMSA/ HEOP STAFF

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**OMSA CHRONICLE MISSION**  
To provide students with timely information about opportunities and events 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



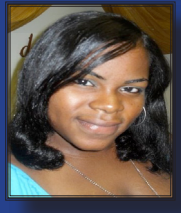
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ILLUMINATING AN INVALUABLE LEGACY:

RONALD THOMAS & FREDERICK JEFFERSON  
CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Moreover, they were the landscape upon which their race was defined.

Consequently, the effects of that sit-in were far reaching. Once the seeds of change had been planted, the shade of change was fruitful as the BSU proceeded to host its first "Black Week" featuring huge names such as Miles Davis and Dionne Warwick. Thomas ended on a standing ovation as he acknowledged each person in the room as the best memory of his attendance at the University.

He was succeeded by Dr. Frederick Jefferson, who delivered the closing sentiments which melded well with Thomas' message that triumph rises out of tragedy. He asserted that to truly fathom our next step and be in a position to influence change, it was critical to examine our steps with triad lenses. We must acknowledge the past, reflect on the present and envision a future which defines our actions and participates in and produces sustainable possibilities.

Photo from Campus Times



ATTENTION SENIORS!!!!!!!

It's not too early to start thinking about honoring a loved one. You are invited to enter the OMSA Family Essay Contest and nominate a family member for the 2009 Family Pillar Award. The Family Pillar Award is given in honor of the significant contributions, sacrifices and support that family members

make in the lives of University of Rochester students supported by OMSA. Recognition of the winning essay and the award recipient(s) will occur during the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA) 36th Annual Senior Dinner on Saturday, May 16, 2009.

2008 OMSA Family Essay Contest Winner: Paulette Cooke and 2008 Family Pillar Award Recipient: Deborah Willi

Essay submissions and nominations are being accepted NOW through April 17, 2009 at 5:00 PM.  
Visit: www.rochester.edu/college/OMSA for more information and to submit essays online.



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

Dean's List Spring 2008

CLASS OF 2008

REYES, BRENDON  
LUZOLO, BLAISE LWANZAMBI

Class of 2009

ALONGI, ANTHONY  
ALVES, MANUEL  
BARRUECO, TRISTAN  
BATTS, SARAH  
CAMPOS, ALEJANDRO  
CARTER, BRITTANY  
CARVALHO, ISABELA  
CHANG, LIBET  
CHERY, JESSICA  
COZENS, MARTIN  
EWEN, ALANA  
FAGAN, SARA  
GONZALEZ, SELENID  
HENDERSON, HENRY  
LLOJAJ, GERT  
MATHIS, MYRA  
MENDOZA, CARLY  
PARKER, JORDAN  
REESE, AVIS  
REYES, BIANCA  
RODRIGUEZ, JENNIFER  
RUIZ, SAMANTHA  
SAMS, MALIK  
SMITH, ROGER  
VILLARREAL, ANA  
WEHBE, CHRISTINA  
WEST, KYRA  
WILLIAMS, ANTHONY  
YENENH, YORDANOSSE

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BALLERANO, JESSALYN  
BROADUS, BRANDON  
CANADA, ALYEA  
CASE, AMANDA  
CHELCHOWSKI, HAROLD  
DAVIS, MONTOIA  
DE LA CRUZ, RACHELLE  
DEJAGER, ADAM  
FAYAD, ANGIE  
GIBSON, JUSTIN  
GUERRA, SYLVIA  
ILETO, KELLIE  
JOBSON, SEBASTIAN  
KATIC, EDWARD  
LIANG, HAOTING  
LUEBS, JOHN  
NAVAS, SHANIS  
NOBLE, MICHAEL  
PAN, DI  
READE, DANIEL  
REDDING, CAMILLIA  
REID, DEIDRE-ANN  
RIPP, SARA  
STEIN, SETH  
VELARDE, CARLA  
VENEGAS, JAZMINE  
VIDAURRE, ELIZABETH  
YEE, MICHAEL  
YI, YOON JIN  
YU, LAUREN

CLASS OF 2011

ABUKAR, SULEKHA  
BAIG, AMBER  
CAMPOS, MARIA  
CARVALHO, JASMINE  
CERON, NATHALY  
DICK, MICHELLE  
ESPINOZA, TANANAUGH  
GE, YANEVE  
GERIN, SARAH  
GIAMBRA, JESSICA  
GILLMER, STEVEN  
GINSBERG, ALEXIS  
GONZALEZ, LUISA  
GREEN, KESHIA  
LYNCH, ZACHARY  
MASSIE, VICTORIA  
MELEGY, MAZIN  
MELGAREJO, SOFIA  
MORALES, MARIO  
MORAN, ANDREW  
OCAMPO, CAMILO  
PEDRIN, HEATHER  
PERROTTA, JACLYN  
REIMAN, ALLISON  
RIVERA PECUNIA, GUSTAVO  
ROBBINS, JAMES  
ROBERTS, MEGAN  
ROSENBLATT, SETH  
SIMCHAK, CECILIA  
SOSA, BRANDON  
STEELE, CATHERINE  
VILLA-CASTILLO, MICHELE  
WILSON, ROBIN

STUDY ABROAD

Ashanti O'Steen '08/Take Five – Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Andrew Zarski '09 – Seoul, South Korea  
Libet Chang '09 – St. Petersburg, Russia  
Sara Fagan '09 – Quito, Ecuador  
Carly Mendoza '09 – Tokyo, Japan  
Bianca Reyes '09 – Madrid, Spain  
Malik Sams '09 – Sydney, Australia  
Christopher Aguilar '10 – Vienna, Austria  
Kristen Garfield '10 – Madrid, Spain  
Diana Hodgson '10 – Arezzo, Italy  
Libia Jimenez '10 – London, United Kingdom  
Seth Stein '10 – Seville, Spain  
Sara Ripp '10 – Arezzo, Italy

Yaneve Fonge'11 will be honored as a 2008 Iota Book Award Recipient.  
Imoh Ikpot and Renea Faulknor had accepted abstracts to the Biomedical Engineering Society Conference in St. Louis



## Frederick Douglass Pre-Doctoral Fellow

### Lily Mabura

Ms. Lily Mabura is the 2008-09 Pre-Doctoral Dissertation Fellow at the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies. She is a Kenyan writer currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Fiction and Africana Literature at the University of Missouri-Columbia, USA. Her research interests are in Africana Literature and Africana Feminisms. Her essay "Breaking Gods: An African Postcolonial Gothic Reading of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Purple Hibiscus and Half of a Yellow Sun" is featured in *Research in African Literatures* 39.1 (Spring 2008).



Lily has received International Fellowships from AAUW and P.E.O International. In addition, she has been awarded the John D. Bies International Travel Scholarship (UMC Graduate School) and the Ellen Meloy Desert Writers Award for her work-in-progress novel titled *Finding Anam Ka'alakol: A Jade Sea of Many Fish*, an excerpt of which is forthcoming in *Stand Magazine*, UK. Her literary awards include the Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature and Kenya's National Book Week Literary Award. Lily's short stories have appeared in literary journals such as *PRISM International*, *Wasafiri*, *Callaloo*, and the 2007 *Fish Anthology*. Other publications include a novel, *The Pretoria Conspiracy*, and three children's books: *Saleh Kanta and the Cavaliers*, *Seth the Silly Gorilla*, and *Ali the Little Sultan*.

### Paula Boone

Ms. Paula Boone is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of Chicago and the Northeast Consortium for Faculty Diversity visiting fellow at the University of Rochester. Paula Boone's dissertation is entitled: "Politics of the Apocalypse: The Effect of Premillennial Eschatology on Politics." Premillennialism, as popularized in bestselling novels, some denominations, and by prominent religious leaders, has become prevalent in both Black and Anglo-White Evangelical circles.



Premillennialism is potentially politically significant because proponents suggest that this eschatology forecasts the rise of a political and religious leader (the Anti-Christ) who sweeps over the geopolitical and economic landscape ushering in the end of days. Premillennialists argue that the disasters and political turmoil of the present put us on the cusp of the final era in human history. A close reading of Premillennialism warns against globalization, decline of religion, authoritarianism, opposition to Israel, and argues against the need for environmental reform. However, race may alter the frames through which theology is understood and thus may, in the case of African Americans, produce different political outcomes for Premillennial doctrine. Paula Boone's work demonstrates, through the use of network analysis, content analysis, ethnography, and experimentation, the causal relationship between and the boundaries of theology and policy.

## Post-Doctoral Fellow

### Dr. Julia Rabig



Dr. Rabig graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Ph.D. in history in 2007. In 2007-08, Dr. Rabig has held a postdoctoral fellowship the Center for the Study of African American Politics at the University of Rochester. She says, "I'm honored and excited to be back at UR this year with the support of a teaching fellowship from the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African American Studies." Dr. Rabig is currently revising her dissertation, a historical analysis of community economic development strategies in Newark, New Jersey between 1960 and 1996, for publication. Dr. Rabig's research reveals the influence of local civil rights and black power organizations on federal urban policy in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. This fall, she published an article on the relationship between Newark's established community development corporations and its new mayor, Cory Booker, in *Shelterforce*, the Journal of the National Housing Institute and next month, she'll be the featured guest in a webcast discussion of the article. She is also presenting a paper at the Urban History Association conference that she refined with the valuable feedback of participants in FDI's work-in-progress seminar. Next spring, Dr. Rabig will teach the second half of the African-American history survey and a course on the Black Arts Movement. Dr. Rabig is also looking forward to the publication of her article on early protests against racial discrimination in the building trades, which will appear in a collection called *Black Power at Work*, edited by David Goldberg and Trevor Griffey and under contract at Cornell University Press.

## DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS: THE COLLEGE DIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE CAMPUS CLIMATE RESULTS

BY: CHRISTINE DAVES

A wave of anticipation and curiosity swept through the College and Eastman School of Music last semester as the campus climate assessment was launched on March 19, 2008. More importantly, the mission of the campus climate assessment was to have a glimpse into the lives of students rather than a focus on faculty. The campus climate study was a beneficial means to assess how students viewed concerns of diversity not only within the classroom, but also outside the lecture room as well. With 1,381 students in total submitting the questionnaire (130 from the Eastman School of Music and 1,251 from the College), the data compiled, surveyed the students encounter with matters of diversity, occurrences within groups, peer relationships, friendships among racial/ethnic groups, attitudes towards diversity programs, and academic and co-curricular experiences within the university. The questionnaire of 174 items concerned diversified matters such as political outlook, disability, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

In regards to the classroom environment, items used were to measure various aspects of the level of comfort within the classroom. For the most part, students view the classroom as one liberated from racial tension (97.3%) and felt that

varying viewpoints were encouraged (97.2%). Yet there proved to be an unsettling finding that responses changed depending on racial background. Almost ten percent (9.7%) of Black respondents felt isolated whenever group work was assigned and there wasn't a selected partner versus the 3.7% of White students. Also, 31.7% of Black, and 17.5% of Hispanic students reported feeling that they needed to speak on behalf of their race or ethnicity in comparison to less than 1% of White students. Based on the data, it was not evident if the respondents experienced positive or negative effects of being representatives of their race and ethnicity. How will students better understand their surrounding and have the opportunity to get to know others with different viewpoints than themselves, if these aforementioned feelings exist?

Moreover, harassment was also a focal point within the assessment; 12% reported having a harassment experience usually via verbal comments from other students. Gender and racial harassment were also discussed, finding gender harassment to be more common (27.7%) in comparison to racial harassment (16.1%). Unfortunately, a great deal of recorded instances were

labeled as other (31%) due to a feeling that harassment could not be classified into one section. While the numbers for which harassment are recorded is not exceeding high, it should not have to exist at all.

Furthermore, misunderstandings of many students believe that there are special considerations even to a minority population regarding admission. About 20% of students report "highly resentful" of special consideration for minority students in admissions, financial aid, and academic support programs. There is no existing quota system to fill for admissions in regards to diversity. In my opinion, all students that are part of this university are certainly qualified to be a student. If there are any special considerations, it is for those that have financial difficulty in paying tuition. It is necessary that there is an equal chance for anyone who wishes to better their lives if they are willing to dedicate the energy needed to complete a degree.

Equally important, students noted that there is a disparity between the people of color in service as compared to faculty. This aspect of social justice is akin to the necessity of having equal representation of faculty and staff at the university. It would certainly be well advised to have a greater number of faculty members to have diverse backgrounds to better educate the University of Rochester student. After all, the world that each student enters after college life is diverse. The University should reflect the world for which students are being prepared to live and work.

## The University of Rochester's Campus Climate Survey



A great deal of students, 78%, indicated that their experiences on campus have assisted in developing a belief that learning about people who happen to be different is a valuable aspect of the college experience. Furthermore, 85% believe that their experiences with diversity on campus have equipped them to work in diverse areas. In response to the concerns highlighted by the study, there will be training sessions and educational programs for the students. Additionally, a series of workshops during the MLK week in January are open to all in the University of Rochester community and is sponsored by the CDR. Also the University has decided to have a climate study biannually to account for the progress of student outlook in regards to matters of race, gender, and culture. Despite any issues that the University is currently working on to resolve, most students are glad to be a University of Rochester student.

Information provided by: Beth Olivares  
Assistant Dean for Diversity Initiatives





Separated by an almost three decade age gap from his opponent, many refer to him as the ultimate come back, dredging his way from Lincoln(esque) defeats. He faced innumerable and what was perceived to be insurmountable adversities to emerge a true victor of the Republican Party in the primaries. Although, he fit the bill of the traditional White Anglo Saxon Protestant mold, he conceded defeat in a gracious manner in the most enthralling Presidential electorate race in history.

Regardless of the outcome, I believe that Senator John McCain attacked this race with gusto and presented cutting audacity that rivaled his opponents'. From the inception, John McCain was the apple that fell near the presidential tree as he displayed a remarkable record of leadership and experience that embodies his unwavering lifetime commitment to service. First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Arizona in 1982, McCain has led the fight for reforming Washington, eliminating wasteful government spending, and strengthening our nation's armed forces. In the Senate, McCain continued to demand that Congress put an end to loopholes for special interests and fix the broken system in Washington that too often allows lobbyists to write legislation and members of Congress to waste taxpayer money.

On July 29 1967, McCain narrowly survived the first of many near-death experiences during his lifetime while preparing to take off on a bombing mission over North Vietnam from his ship, the USS Forrestal. A missile accidentally fired from a nearby plane struck the fuel tanks on McCain's plane and created a deadly inferno aboard the ship. He barely escaped the fiery disaster that killed 134 men, injured hundreds more and destroyed 20 planes.

Instead of taking the option to return home after the Forrestal disaster, Senator McCain volunteered for more combat duty. During his 23rd bombing mission on October 26, 1967, a missile struck his plane and forced him to eject, knocking him unconscious and breaking both his arms and his one leg. McCain was then taken as a Prisoner of War into the now infamous "Hanoi Hilton," where

## WHY COURAGE MATTERS: A DREAM WORTH FIGHTING FOR

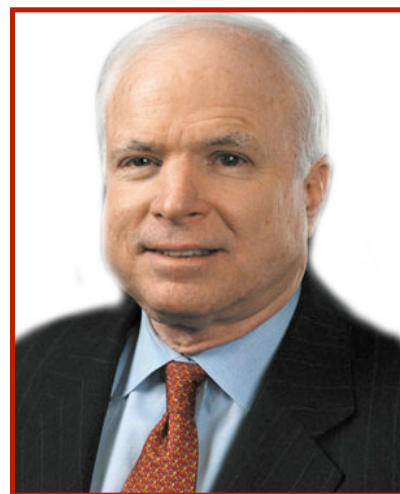
Nadine S. Nicholson

he was denied necessary medical treatment and often beaten by the North Vietnamese and spent much of his time as a prisoner of war in solitary confinement.

Although, it is easy to point fingers after the results, and accentuate reasons for his defeat, I think anyone will be hard-pressed to disagree that McCain ran a flawed campaign. McCain's greatest demise was that he focused far too much on his POW experience, and oftentimes spewed vituperative, debilitating campaign advertising at the Obama campaign and not doing enough to inform and strengthen the public perception of his stance in potential Presidential policies. Unequivocally, I believe that McCain had a fair chance of winning, until he presented a running mate who might be better prepared for the second highest office in government in a few years. Additionally, McCain seemed his best more so in unscripted situations, speaking sincerely from the heart, when addressing the audience in front of him. Alas, that candor in front of crowds, large or small, when not humored, rarely made the national news which has hurt Senator McCain. His rhetorical strength did not lend itself well to the current media age.

In spite of it all, his fight and perseverance at 72, commanded my respect and gratitude as he helped define an historical presidential race. Even though his supporters may weep at his defeat, McCain, I applaud you because your *p e r t i n a c i o u s* pursuits illuminated the quintessential adage that "age is nothing but a number."

*Opinions expressed are reflective of the author and not the Chronicle.*



## ST LOUIS HOSTS THE 2008 BME CONFERENCE

by: Imoh Ikpot

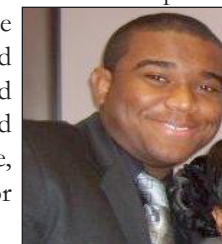
The 2008 annual Biomedical Engineering Society conference brought over 2,400 professors, graduate students, undergraduates and practicing engineers to the Midwest Gateway, October 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. The participants visited from all over the world and represented a wide array of specialties ranging from biomedical, electrical, chemical and mechanical engineering, as well as many facets of the medical field. In addition, several graduate school representatives were in attendance and provided a plethora of information regarding their school's programs.

opportunity to explore a domain that escapes conventional techniques but where complex interactions that govern many cellular processes are present. Dr. Chad Mirkin specifically spoke of Dip-Pen Nanolithography as a novel tool to explore this science." Many presentations focused on translational engineering, bringing research findings to practice. Senior and UR BMES president Nicole Ruszczak states, "The implantable devices series was particularly interesting. It displayed the criterion needed to successfully design technology that will greatly improve the quality of life for many people." Furthermore, the implantable devices presentations mirrored some of the objectives of UR's senior design curriculum.

The conference hosted over 1000 scientific posters and 600 oral presentations that explored a wide variety of research topics. Some of the presentations were particularly interesting to UR students. Senior, Martin Wegman says, "Parallel etching at the nanoscale provides an

Nicholas Huang, Imoh Ikpot, *Senior*: Martin Wegman, *Graduate Students*: Ut-Bing Giang, Sarah Lancianese and several others. These students continued to display the wide range in the biomedical engineering field with topics ranging from variations in knee biomechanics, quantum dot cytotoxicity, to red-blood cell simulations. UR presenters agreed the conference was a beneficial experience, which allowed them to showcase their findings while gaining input from others for future studies.

The event encompassed multifaceted activities, giving further confirmation that biomedical engineering is a diverse and interdisciplinary field. Collectively, the UR students enjoyed the event and would unanimously attend next year's conference, which is scheduled for Pittsburgh, PA.



## STANDING ON THE FRONTLINES OF WALL STREET

by: Christine Daves



Have you heard about the Students for Education Opportunity? Also known as SEO, it aims to incorporate minority students, generally sophomores and juniors in the workforce in order to acquire hands-on experience in their field of study. By working with the Career Center and alumni, senior Edgard Duque was selected through SEO for an internship at UBS Investment Bank on Wall Street in New York City this past summer as an analyst. Mr. Duque's duties during his internship were two-fold. As an analyst in the Latin America Group of Investment Banking, he researched different industries and company products, performed financial analyses, and prepared detailed company presentations. One of his main projects during the summer focused on the coffee industry in Latin America and acquisition activity. In addition, his other research and projects centered on the wireless telecommunications, infrastructure, and pharmaceuticals sectors in Latin America. Much time and energy were placed into studying the financial statements and reports of the company and creating company overviews.

Despite the long work hours that are notorious for characterizing the Investment Banking analyst position, Mr. Duque says that the most valuable aspects of the

experience was the "priceless firsthand experience with corporate finance in one of the financial centers of the world, the exposure to its corporate life, and learning from everyone." Socially, "being able to meet and work with the analysts, associates, and directors was an amazing opportunity." Also, "the friendships that I made during the summer with my group and the other interns that I worked with are ones that I greatly value." The greatest part of networking was "the chance to meet and hear from the CEOs and top executives of several major investment banks during SEO's weekly seminar events. It was like meeting the Hollywood stars of Wall Street."

Although his summer resulted in a full-time job offer where he worked, Mr. Duque plans to pursue a master's degree in business after graduating. However, the "analyst skills that I have acquired from my experience on Wall Street are ones that I can apply in any position." It was not only a mere internship, but something that provides an opportunity for personal growth. Edgard says, "I would highly recommend the program and doing an internship not only for your career but for personal development." The opportunities to network are numerous and very well could lead to something phenomenal at the beginning of a career.





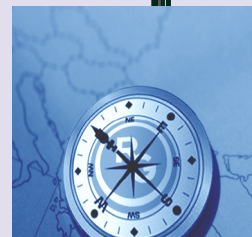
# New Majors and Minors!

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The Department of Economics is pleased to announce the approval by the New York State Education Department of a new major in Economics and Business Strategies. The Economics and Business Strategies major will be the third major available to students studying Economics, joining our existing majors in Economics and in Financial Economics.

The new major will train students in the rigorous analytic methods required for our two existing majors, supplemented by a set of courses that will be of particular interest to students who want to focus on questions of organizational design, marketing, pricing, or other strategic decisions of firms.

Students can pursue 2 different tracks of study: the marketing track which includes marketing courses and advanced statistical analysis, or the strategies track which includes courses on organizational design and strategic decision making.



The College is pleased to announce a new business minor designed to provide significant exposure to business-related academic disciplines for undergraduate students majoring in other fields. A defining feature of the minor will be its inter-disciplinary nature, drawing from several College departments as well as the Simon School.

The structure of the minor has been designed for students in both the Engineering program and in Arts & Science and will provide students with exposure to the core base of knowledge essential for success in the business world.

For more detailed information about the new Business Major and Minor, please visit <http://www.econ.rochester.edu/UG/business/economics.html>

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## Innovation Takes Flight: Exploring International Relations Majors

by: Christine Daves

This fall the Department of Political Science began offering a major in International Relations. Students have long been able to emphasize "IR" courses within the existing political science major, but the new concentration allows even greater emphasis on the topic. Through coursework, required study abroad, and a language requirement, the major in International Relations will introduce students to the complex and fascinating world of politics beyond the United States and provide them with essential tools for understanding and analyzing it.

Rather than constructing a major that offers vague introductions to many different aspects of world affairs, the new major draws fully on the Political Science Department's analytical tradition of undergraduate education. Students will gain great breadth in their understanding of world affairs, but with analytical rigor and depth. This is accomplished through a core set of four courses that introduce the concepts and theories of the subfields of international relations (relations between nations) and comparative politics (political processes and policymaking within nations).

Subsequently, students concentrate on one of three "tracks"—global security, political economy and development, or the governance of nations. Courses in the tracks come from multiple departments, including political science, history, economics, anthropology and religion.

The existence of this new major has already resulted in exciting new course offerings, which are open to all students, regardless of their major. These courses include: American Foreign Policy, the Political Economy of East Asia, International Security, as well as on the politics of Russia and of the Middle East.

More details about the International Relations major can be found on the Political Science Department's website, [www.rochester.edu/college/psc](http://www.rochester.edu/college/psc) (click on "Undergraduate Program"). Students may also consult with any of the undergraduate advisors in the Department (names and office hours are on the website).



## THE AUDACITY OF HOPE:

### THE AMERICAN DREAM RECLAIMED!!!

Nadine S. Nicholson

To hope with humility, is a whisper of a prayer for the impossible banking on the slimmest gossamer thread. To hope with audacity is a powerful shout that obliterates once stagnant barriers, heralding the reclamation of an ardously earned American Dream.

On November, 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 former Illinois Senator, now President-Elect Barack Obama, walked across the world's stage as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America to thunderous applause and a profusion of tears as the world wept.

Tears which held a wealth of meaning, shed blood of a people that preceded him, an injustice that once stained America's soul. Tears which delineated the fight for freedom extending as far back as the Emancipation Proclamation proffered by President Abraham Lincoln. Tears which harbored the relentless pursuit of Black empowerment from W.E.B. Dubois and Frederick Douglass. Tears which held the dream of freedom from mental oppression as per the doctrines of erudite sages, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Impassioned tears from Jesse Jackson, to see his labor come to fruition through a Senator who rose from humble beginnings. Tears for the new found sense of peace, love and security. Unequivocally, an inexplicable, and perhaps indescribable, climate of change enveloped America and the world at large, that began with a simple vision – yes we can!



The dichotomous ideology of Black or White, Democrat or Republican, old or young, rich or poor, homosexual or heterosexual, disable or able-bodied was overshadowed by a perpetuated theme of togetherness

in Obama's campaign. Obama forced his way behind oppression's closed doors driven by the belief, according to his wife, that the world as it is would not do, that we have an obligation to fight for the world as it should be, that each person has an important contribution to make. Her values allude to the decree of enlightenment philosopher, Voltaire, that if each man takes care of his garden, the world would be a better place. Obama could have just given up, but his victory serves as a testament to how great this country is, no longer stagnated by the racially impaired. Obama never used it as an excuse or crutch. He does not have to wear his race on his sleeves to prove himself. His goals of a better tomorrow, of affordable health care for every American, a more secure economy, world class education for every child meshes the current of history with a new tide of hope.

Our very own University of Rochester senior, Nicole Obasi, had the privilege of helping to fulfill the dream and of actually shaking hands with the President Elect of the United States. During the summer, she worked with the Obama Organizing Fellows in Jacksonville, Florida. Many of the participants in the program ranged from freshmen in college to older Obama supporters who had seen many historical events. Her life changing experience was accentuated by being in the fore ground of the logistics and strategic planning behind the campaign and drawing people into not only get excited about voting, but to actually regain many of the people who had become apathetic due to previous occurrences in Florida. She saw what it took to actually build the office and get donations from businesses, canvassing, phone banking and working in the office from eight-thirty in the morning to ten-thirty at night. She did it with fervor for a then senator who inspired that fire in his supporters.

For at the heart of his solid victory was his uncanny ability to connect with the American people through his infectious charisma, his warm overt personality and his kindred spirit. **Barack Obama Congratulations!!**

*Opinions expressed are reflective of the author and not the Chronicle.*

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The Chronicle Staff would like to recognize and congratulate OMSA, HEOP and the BSU on celebrating 40 years of progressive achievement. We honor and commemorate this occasion with this tribute page.

## Happy 40th Anniversary



### NETWORKING WITH ALUMNI

by: Christine Daves

As a perfect way of jumpstarting this Meliora Weekend, the networking event on Friday, October 17th, was groundbreaking. Co-sponsored by the Office of Minority Student Affairs and the Office of Alumni Relations, students, parents, staff, faculty, and alumni networked together in a monumental way. With curiosity and expectant glazes, alumni and students exchanged names and scholarly interests. With conversation there was a great deal of advice given and much encouragement to continue to pursue one's goals whether it was a career in teaching, counseling, finance, mathematics, optics, or any area of academia. The layout of the networking event facilitated the maximum level of student and alumni interaction, by having all of the alumni form a circle in the middle of the room and having the current students form an outer circle. The networking event possessed a wealth of knowledge as alumni were able to openly inquire about the status of change in the University of Rochester community. Meanwhile, students were able to question alumni about their own collegiate experiences along with the opportunity to understand options for post-graduate life in a given field. The room truly was filled with people from a diverse set of academic backgrounds and paths. Above all, the event was one that should definitely be continued. Personally, I felt that it was truly a success. There was first-hand experience of networking that had never before been experienced. The excitement and energy in the room was great for making new contacts and I was very appreciative to be a part of the moment

### JAMMIN':

### THE STYLES OF OLD/NEW SCHOOL

by: Christine Daves

The Old School/New School House Party had the feel of a family barbeque with good music to represent the old school and today's blazing sounds. Alumni and students were jamming side-by-side on the dance floor and had a great time doing the electric slide, the cupid shuffle, and generally having just a blast. Of course there were moments for networking and exchanging feelings about life on campus and how these few years truly can be one of the best parts of life. Along with good conversation between alumni and students there were also many reunions among friends. It was good to see that despite the time, the friends made during those collegiate years were still there.



### COLLEGE DIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE

by: Christine Daves

The College Diversity Roundtable (CDR) co-chairs, Assistant Dean and Director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs Norman Burnett and Assistant Dean for Diversity Initiatives Beth Olivares were accompanied by the Dean of the College Richard Feldman, and the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Johnathan Burdick. Together they delivered The State of Diversity Address for the College to a room of aspiring college-bound high schoolers, undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff, parents, and returning alumni.

The CDR has been in existence on campus since 1999, following a peaceful student sit-in outside the President's Office located in Wallis Hall. CDR is a student-centered forum to advise on issues concerning diversity. The operation of the CDR has been modified to mold to the changing times at the University by having open discussion on many diverse topics. Its first presentation of the '08-'09 academic year was entitled "Ouch, That Hurts" which attempts to convey a sense of the negative impact stereotypes can have on the campus community. Along with the College Diversity Roundtable, the University also has taken other measures to give back the community and to affect positive change and the lives of many students. Dean Burnett spoke of the academic resources that the University sponsors to promote diversity and educational opportunity. However, the university does not only have programs to assist its students, but also the surrounding community as well.

The University of Rochester also provides assistance, mentorship, and college counseling to local high school students. Such examples include the Merchants of Hope program located at Thomas Jefferson High School or the Upwardbound tutoring program. These programs allow students to be aware of the scholarships that are provided through the NSF, STEM, and STEP programs on a national level. Additionally, there is a scholarship offered exclusively to graduates of the Rochester City School District called the Rochester Promise. While there have been great strides in ensuring the opportunity to receive a higher education at the University of Rochester, it is certain that there will only be greater accomplishments in the future.