COVER PAGE
Ronald Thomas & Frederick Jefferson

PAGE 3
Climate Survey Results

PAGE 4
John McCain

PAGE 5
Barack Obama

PAGES 6 & 7
Exploring New Majors

PAGE 8
40th Anniversary Tribute

PAGE 9
BME Conference Wall Street Internship

PAGE 10
Pre/Post Doctoral Fellowships

PAGE 11
Kudos

PAGE 12
Upcoming Events

40th Anniversary Issue

ILLUMINATING AN INVALUABLE LEGACY:
Ronald Thomas & Frederick Jefferson

By: Nadine S. Nicholson

Forty years since the historical sit‐ in, the Faculty Lounge, new 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 d anti‐nness 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, enthroned 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 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 unacceptable pandemonium and shocking displays of violent acts as the Civil Rights movement was afoot. Black intellectuals, the Black Power and Nationalism movements were setting the fires of change that were molding the mindset of radical Black students during the period. The Vietnam War, the assassination of l/cb Martin King Jr, and former president J F Kennedy served as catalysts for swift action. However, as student protestors in the nation responded to the malstrom 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 campus.

A modest group with an iconic 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 central 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.

[continued on page 11]
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 40th 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 to 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 CAMPUSES

Ple e 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, members of the Black Students’ Union, for their assistance in planning the festivities held in October during Melissora Weekend. The OMSA/BSU Celebration was highly successful with many attending the Special 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 offices, utilized our services, and helped to shape and lay the groundwork for the comprehensive student-services office that exist in our community; to act as an on-going communication vehicle to present ideas, issues and solutions to problems and or issues 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 that exist in our community; to act as an on-going communication vehicle to present ideas, issues and solutions to problems and or issues that address community service and civic engagement. This is indeed an exciting and inspiring time for us all.

RUTHERFORD

KUDOS

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

Dean’s List Spring 2008

Reyes, Brendon
Luzolo, Blaise Lwanzambi

CLASS OF 2009

ALONG: ANTHONY ADAYE, MANUEL BARRUECO, TRISTAN BATTs, SARAH CAMPO, ALEXANDRO CARTER, BRITTANY CARVILLO, ISABELA CHEEKS, JESSE CHEJNE, JESSICA COZEN-MARTIN EPPS, ALANA FAGAN, SARA GONZALEZ, SELENDI HENDERSON, HENRY LLOJA GERT MARTINS, MYRA MENDOZA, CARLY PARKER, JORDAN REESE, AVI REYES, BLANCA RODRIGUEZ, JENNIFER RUIZ, SAMANTHA SARMI, MAI SHIHT, ROGER VILLARRAEL, ANA WEHRE/CHRISTINA WEST, KRYA WILLIAMS, ANTHONY YENEMI, VORDANNOE STUDY ABROAD

Aschiti O’Steen ’08Take Five – Buenos Aires, Argentina
Andrew Zarzki ’09 – Seoul, South Korea
Libet Chang ’09 – St. Petersburg, Russia
Sara Fagan ’08 – Quito, Ecuador
Carly Mendoza ’09 – Tokyo, Japan
Bluece Reyes ’09 – Madrid, Spain
Malik Sams ’09 – Sydney, Australia
Christopher Aguilar ’10 – Vienna, Austria
Kristen Garfield ’10 – Madrid, Spain
Dianna Hodgson ’10 – Arezzo, Italy
Lisa Jimenez ’10 – London, United Kingdom
Seth Stein ’10 – Seville, Spain
Sara Ripp ’10 – Arezzo, Italy
Yaneen FongT11 will be honored as a 2008 Iota Book Award Recipient.

Imoh Ikpot and Renea Faulkner had abstracts accepted to the Biomedical Engineering Society Conference in St. Louis.

OMSA ALUMNI AWARDS


CLASS OF 2010

AGUIAR, CHRISTOPHER BALBANNO, JOSUAI BROADUS, BRANDON CANADA, ALYSA CARE, AMANDA CHELCHOWSKI, HAROLD DAVIES, MONTANA DE LA CRUZ, RAHELLE DEGRAGA, ADAM FAYAD, ANGIE FERNANDEZ, Tylor GIBBINS, REGGIE GINSBERG, ALEXIS GONZALEZ, LUISA GRIEB, KATHRYN LYNCH, ZACHARY MASSEI, VICTORIA MELOS, MAEVE MENDEL, SOFIA MORALES, MARIO MOYANO, ANDREW OCAMPO, CAMILO PEDREN, HEATHER PEROTTI, JACLYN REIMAN, ALEXIS RIVERA PICUNCA, GAVIN ROBINS, JAMES ROBERTS, MEGAN ROTHSTADT, LAYETTE SIMCHAK, CECILIA SOYA, BRANDON SYFRE, CATHERINE VILLA CASTILLO, MICHELE WILSON, ROBIN
Dr. Julia Rabig

Dr. Rabig graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Ph.D. in history in 2007. In 2007-08, she was a visiting 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 Afircana Literature at the University of Missouri-Columbia, USA. Her research interests are in African Literature and African 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 AAUP 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 Finding Anam K'ralakol: A Jade Sea of Many Fish, an excerpt of which is forthcoming in Stand Magazine. 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 Petoria Conspiracy, and three children’s books: Saleh Ali the Little Sultan, Pretoria Conspiracy, and three children’s books: Saleh Ali the Little Sultan, and Frederick Douglass Institute’s Student Anthology. In 2008, 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. In 2009, she will 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 Greffity and under contract at Cornell University Press.

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 Afircana Literature at the University of Missouri-Columbia, USA. Her research interests are in African Literature and African 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).

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Paula Booke

Ms. Paula Booke is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of Chicago. Her 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 Writers’ Century. 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 Booke’s work demonstrates, through the use of network analysis, content analysis, ethnography, and experimentation, the causal relationship between the boundaries of theology and policy.

The University of Rochester’s Campus Climate Survey

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 survey was to have an impact on the life of the campus by giving students 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 classrooms 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 9.7% of Black respondents felt isolated whenever group work was assigned and that there was a disparity partner versus the 3.7% of White students. Also, 31.7% of Black, and 17.5% of Hispanic students reported feeling as if they were expected 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 expected to be positive or negative 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 gendered harassment to be more common than 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 is recorded is not exceedingly high, it should not have to exist at all.

Farrthermore, misunderstandings of many students believe that there are special considerations even to a minority population regarding admission. About 20% of students report “highly essential” of special consideration for minority students in admissions, financial aid, and academic support programs. There is no existing quota system to fill in admissions for regard 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 the Admissions Office in comparison 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 evoke the University of Rochester student. After all, the world that each student enters after the life at diverse. The University should reflect the world for which students are being prepared to live and work.

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, 88% 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, an online survey and a series of workshops 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 the issues that the University is currently working on to resolve, most students are glad to be a University of Rochester student.

The University of Rochester’s Campus Climate Survey

Diversity on Campus: The College Diversity Roundtable Campus Climate Results

By: Christine Davies
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(ese) defeat. He faced innumerable and what was perceived to be inescapable challenges 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 rivalled 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 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 accept 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, dehumanizing 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 skill 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 support for an entirely different analyst, Mr. Dr. Chad Mirkin specifically spoke of Dip-Pen Nanolithography as a novel tool to explore this science. Many presentations focused on emerging technology, bringing research findings to practice. Senior and UR BMES president Nicole Ruszczak states, “The most interesting aspect of the conference was a beneficial experience which allowed us to showcase their findings while gaining input from others for future research.”

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

Have you heard about the students for Education Opportunity? Also known as SEO, it aims to incorporate minority students, generally the sophomores and juniors in the workforce in order to acquire hands-on experience in their field of study.

By working with the Career Center, senior Edgard Duque was selected through SEO for an internship at USB Investment Bank on Wall Street in New York City. As a top student in the program and 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 compiled 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 activities in business after graduation. His other research projects were 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 corporate life, Bank 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 corporate life, and learning from everyone.” Socially, “I’ve been able to meet and work with the analyst, 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 will greatly value.”

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 graduation. 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 and get advice are what could lead to something phenomenal at the beginning of a career.
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 ardently earned American Dream.

On November, 4th 2008 former Illinois Senator, now President-Elect Barack Obama, walked across the world’s stage as the 44th 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 that delineated the fight for freedom extending as far back as the Emancipation Proclamation professed by President Abraham Lincoln. Tears which harbored the relentless pursuit of Black empowerment from W.E.B. Du Bois 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!

For more details about the new Business Major and Minor, please visit http://www.econ.rochester.edu/UG/businesseconomics.html

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 foreground 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 gain many of the contacts in the 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.
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. Within minutes and expertly, 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 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 possible current 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.

Happy 40th Anniversary

by: Christine Daves

THE OFFICE OF MINORITY AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Black Students’ Union

HEOP and the BSU on celebrating 40 years of progressive achievement. 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.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

COLLEGE DIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE

by: Christine Daves

The College Diversity Roundtable (CDR) co-chairs, Assistant Dean and Director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs, Johnathan Burdick, and Assistant Dean for Diversity Initiatives, Beth Ollivierre, 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 successful 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 Upward Bound 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.

THE OFFICE OF MINORITY STUDENT AFFAIRS