

# Spotlight on *Diversity*

Office of Minority Student Affairs <http://rochester.edu/college/OMSA/>

The mission of the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA), which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2009, is to provide support services to 600 students, including participants in the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) and the Early Connection Opportunity (ECO) program, by creating an environment that ensures the achievement of their academic, personal, and career goals. To support this mission, OMSA provides counseling, disseminates information, initiates programs, and serves as a liaison with other departments and divisions of the University.

Since 1969, the College and the New York State Education Department have jointly sponsored HEOP to help students with low socioeconomic and educational status from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to succeed. The program currently serves 113 students and achieved a 2009 five-year HEOP graduation rate of 90 percent.

OMSA also manages the ECO program, a four-week, tuition-free academic and residential prefreshman summer enrichment program that assists students in the transition from high school to college. More than 200 students currently enrolled have participated in ECO and have transitioned effectively into the University community, a process that is crucial for academic success.

OMSA proactively supports the University's efforts to build diversity awareness by promoting an inclusive community for students, faculty, and staff. OMSA celebrates diversity and its students with numerous events, initiatives, and programs such as Enrichment and Enhancement Studios, Freshman Welcome Reception, Academic Achievement Reception, Emerging Leaders Program, the OMSA Chronicle and Abstract, and the Senior Dinner Commencement Celebration. Through these initiatives and more, as well as numerous cosponsorships and collaborations with student groups and University departments, OMSA prides itself on supporting and retaining students as they navigate their undergraduate careers.



Left to right: Thomas Crews (assistant director of HEOP/counselor), Jessica Guzman (counselor), Linda Colburn (administrative assistant), Carmela Barbagallo (counselor), Walisa Griffin (coordinator of ECO/counselor), and Norman B. Burnett (assistant dean and director)

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*"Nothing in the world has ever been  
accomplished without passion"*  
Anonymous

UNIVERSITY OF  
ROCHESTER



SPRING ISSUE  
2010

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## Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery delivers Martin Luther King Address by Jerome Nathaniel

President Barack Obama has only awarded sixteen people — sixteen civilians, people among you and me — with a Presidential Medal of Freedom. The Presidential Medal of Freedom honors civilians who have significantly contributed to the security or national interest of the United States, world peace, cultural or other pivotal public or private endeavors. It is not often that one may claim to have had an opportunity to hear a Medal of Freedom recipient speak in person. Yet, as a junior at the University of Rochester, I not only had the opportunity to hear one speak, but also the chance to meet, greet, and chat with him.

On January 22, the Honorable Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery addressed an audience full of community members, faculty, staff and University of Rochester and surrounding college students in Strong Auditorium for the University's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Address. In a 45-minute speech that was mixed with serious tones and humorous pop culture references, Lowery was able to engage the audience in ways that other public speakers could only admire. In one instance, Lowery would praise King for his transcendence from Black-American civil rights to civil rights for Vietnam, while in the next breath he would make reference to American Idol's "The General," whose rap "pants on the ground, you look like a fool" earned him a presence on Youtube.

In a speech that constantly shifted from tones of seriousness to tones of comedy, Lowery's down-to-earth persona was met with numerous standing ovations and hearty amens. He concluded his speech with a decree for citizens to sincerely take action in honor of King.

"Our celebration must move from charity to love," he said, "if we are serious about honoring Martin Luther King and the march to justice, ceremony is insufficient to lead us to a new level of stewardship."

If Reverend Lowery's visit to the University were to be compressed into a one-line theme, it would be fair characterize it as an attempt to encourage today's youth to actively engage the future of our nation. Although he clearly addressed the youth in his public speech, it was hardly as special and heart-to-heart as the intimate Student Leaders Dialogue with twelve students in the Gandhi Reading Room of Rush Rhees Library prior to the commemorative address. I am still highly thankful that I had the opportunity to be



(see MLK ADDRESS, page 08)





*Norman Burnett*  
Norman Burnett  
OMSA/HEOP Director

The OMSA Staff would like to congratulate you on a job well done and encourage you to keep up the good work!

KUDOS  
2009-2010

Kashawmma Wright '10 will be attending Columbia University to pursue a Ph.D in Developmental Psychology!

Renea Fualknor '10 will be attending Rutgers University to pursue a Ph.D in Biomedical Engineering!

Danielle Jones '10 will be attending the Chicago School of Professional Psychology for her Psy.D!

Marisa Lester '10 will be pursuing her MA in Criminal Justice at Penn State!

Candice Frazer '10 was accepted at Hofstra University to pursue a M.S.Ed in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies with a concentration in Higher Education!

Allison Reiman '11 was accepted as 3-2 MBA candidate to William E. Simon Graduate School of Business '12. She is also a 2010 Alice DeSimon Award Recipient and an intern with the Boeing Company: Contracts Department.

Rainie M. Spiva '10 obtained a position as Community Assistant for the Rochester Center for Community Leadership. She will be working with the Urban Fellows Program and Planning Wilson Day!

Milagros Rodriguez '11 will be interning at NBC Local Media as Assistant to the Directory of Community Affairs!

Sasha Wade'10 obtained a position as a Branch Teller for ESL Bank!

Rachelle De La Cruz '10 and Diana Hodgson '10 were accepted into the 2010 Teach for America Corporation in Houston, Texas!

Kenneth Johnson '10 was accepted into the 2010 Teach for America Corporation in Alabama!

Jessica Guzman, OMSA Counselor, will be graduating with her Ed.D in Higher Education from the Warner School!

OMSA's Emerging Leaders  
Program Spring 2010  
Participants  
Chan, Lai '12  
Colorado, Jessica '12  
Cooper, Charlene '12  
Gaitan, Melissa '13  
Jain, Neha '12  
Jimenez, Anthony '13  
Jordan, Stephanie '13  
Mendez, Patricia '12  
Miranda, Ivette '13  
Obi, Tagbo '13

2010 Early Connection  
Opportunity Program Assistants  
Bickford, Christopher '12  
Gaeta, Alma '12  
Lorenzo, Stephanie '12  
Dick, Benjamin '13  
Dualeh, Shukri '13  
Oladoyin, Oladeru '13

Kearns Scholars  
Class of 2013  
Ade-Brown, Chandra  
Ballard, Diamonique  
Childers, Karlyssa  
Chowdury, Ripa  
De La Cruz, Diego  
Francis, Zoey  
Lynch, Ashanna  
Marozas, Ian  
Nicholas, Tyler  
Obi, Tagbo  
Ogunbor, Tololupe  
Oladeru, Oladoyin  
Parker, Taureen  
Santiago, Felipe  
Tejada, Omaira  
Umesi, Chizoba

Xerox Class of 2012  
Archer, Steven  
Barbash, Daniel

Bulaon, Jacy  
Carvalho, Jasmine  
Chen, Darcy  
Chrzanowski, Garritt  
Coughlan, Anna  
Karo, Tom  
Lam, Eric (Ho Tal)  
Maloney, Kathleen  
Martuscello, Karen  
McCrossen, Timothy  
Menson, Paul  
Sanehira, Erin  
Soto, Luis  
Watkins, Hannah  
Yu, Elliot  
Zakrzewski, Aaron

McNair Class of 2012  
Baudin, Vicky  
Davis, Dayanna  
Fusco, Raffaella  
Isales, Raechel  
King, Sharese  
Rodrigues, Sean  
Sola-Garcia, Emilia

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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.

Editor-in-Chief .....Jessica Guzman  
Student Editor .....Maureen Dizon





# Senior Spotlight: Lashonda Brenson



**Hometown:** Rochester, NY  
**Major(s):** Mathematics and Political Science

## What activities have you been involved with on and off campus?

During my tenure at Rochester, I have been heavily involved in student organizations. Some of which include the Black Students' Union (BSU), National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Minority Student Advisory Board (MSAB) and the College Diversity Roundtable (CDR). In addition to being involved on campus, I continuously volunteer in the Greater Rochester community through organizations such as Youth Voice, One Vision (YVOV) and Youth as Resources (YAR). YVOV is a council that was created by youth to bridge the city with the county and to encourage youth interests in civic planning, developing youth/adult partnerships, building the skills to interact with public officials, and creating activities to educate one another on the importance of civic involvement. YAR is a youth philanthropy board that funds projects that target social problems, addresses community improvement, and significantly contributes to participant's involvement in their neighborhood.

## What do you do in your spare time?

When I'm not studying, I love to spend time with my family and friends, reading and listening to music.

## What is your favorite inspirational quotation?

*"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?" -Marianne Williamson*

## What is your fondest memory at the University of Rochester?

My fondest memory of University of Rochester are the countless discussions that I help to plan, develop and attend on the diversification and inclusion of faculty and students.

## What are your future plans?

Next fall, I will be enrolled in a political science Ph.D. program where I plan to study the role that race and gender play in legislative politics. By studying institutions in terms of the race, gender and the intersection of the two, I hope to offer a better understanding of how institutional dynamics affect the ability of minority representatives to legislate. Upon earning my doctorate, I hope to become a political science professor.

## Who is your role model?

Dr. Valeria Sinclair-Chapman and my mother, Ella Brenson, are very influential in my life. Dr. Sinclair-Chapman has served as both my professor and my advisor. I know that I can always count on her to be there for me with her warm smile and encouraging words. My mother is by far the strongest person I know and she often believes in me even when I don't believe in myself.

# Women's Leadership Awards

## 2010 Susan B. Anthony Scholarship

Sponsored by the Women's Club of the University of Rochester, this scholarship is awarded to two undergraduate women who are of junior status and who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment in co-curricular activities and academic achievement. This need-based scholarship is applied to the recipient's senior-year financial aid package; applications will only be sent to students with financial need as determined by the financial aid office.

Recipient: Yaneve Fonge ('11)

## 2010 Fannie Bigelow Prize

This prize is presented to an undergraduate upperclassman chosen on the basis of her individuality and ability to form and express fearlessly, with conviction and sound judgment, her own opinions on vital topics. She also participates in extra-curricular activities because she sincerely believes in their value to the college community beyond their purely social worth.

Recipient: Nadine S. Nicholson ('10)

# OMSA Family Pillar Award

by Robert Duran

Cynthia German is my guardian. She is my foundation, she is my sister. I've had a lot of things happen in my life, a lot of hard times, but there has always been one thing which has been unbending, unbreakable; her love and dedication to me and my future.

Cynthia German is my oldest sister and sibling, she is 14 years my elder, but in my eyes can never be anything but a second mother, similar to how in her eyes I can never be anything but her baby brother (no matter how annoying the baby brother thing is...). You see, Cynthia has been my legal guardian since I was 8 years old. It was at this time in my life where our mother Norma had passed on due to a heart attack. This was also the time where the family I had known for those eight years crumbled. My father decided to move to the Dominican Republic, giving me the decision of whether or not to stay in the US or move with him. I stayed.

I stayed not knowing who I would live with. Was it to be my godmother, with her 1 bedroom apartment, two kids and a dog? In addition to this what was going to happen to my other sister who was 12 years my elder? My father abandoned us for a family he had started in the Dominican Republic, a family he had before he met my mother. This was the "storm" of hard times I alluded to previously. Luckily for me, I had Cynthia. I always had a sense that what Cynthia was doing, becoming my guardian, was an act that that I could never repay and I was grateful. But it isn't until now, as I get closer to my 22 birthday, the same age at which she assumed the responsibility of raising me, her baby brother, that I understand the weight of the decision.

What's ironic is that her daughter, my niece, is the same age I was when my sister took to raising me. Recently I tried to imagine what raising my niece, an eight year old, would be like. Then I realized something important, I owe Cynthia my life, I always believed that for my sister taking on the responsibility was hard. But I cannot imagine the stress, financially and emotionally, that was placed on a 22 year old, by taking on, willingly, the role of mother to her 8 year old brother. For this reason I know, that without my sister's strength, my foundation, I would not be here today.

Throughout my life she has never made me feel as though I was a burden. I can not remember a time when she didn't stress the importance of an education. I can not remember a time where she wasn't teaching me the value of hard work, of honesty, and most importantly compassion. Everything that I have, that I've gained, I owe to her. Even in college she kept me grounded and focused, informing of the happenings in the family and letting me know that she loved me and believed in me. Cynthia, I love you with all of my heart and I hope that this award goes to you because there is no one that has sacrificed and continues to sacrifice more for their family than you; at least in my eyes.

Robert Duran '09 was the 2009 winner of the OMSA Family Pillar Award Essay Contest.



The Family Pillar award is an award 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.

**\*\*All OMSA Supported graduating seniors (ONLY) may enter the contest\*\***

About the essay: Author Gail Lumet Buckley wrote, "Family faces are like magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present and future." Using this quote as a guide, please explain how your parent, grandparent, or other family member has positively influenced your past and present. Share how this influence has contributed to your personal growth and academic success at the University of Rochester and how you plan to use this influence as you look toward your future. The family member referenced in your essay will be nominated to receive this year's Family Pillar Award.

All nominees receive a congratulatory letter and a copy of the essay submission. Recognition of the winning essay and the award recipient(s) will occur during the Office of Minority Student Affairs 37th Annual Senior Dinner on Saturday, May 15, 2010. The student who wrote the winning essay will be presented with a UR Alumni gift basket and the winner(s) of the Family Pillar Award will be presented with a plaque. The winning student will also be highlighted in the OMSA Chronicle.



# OMSA welcomes new counselor

## Carmela Barbagallo

The Office of Minority Student Affairs would like to introduce you to Ms. Carmela Barbagallo, our newest OMSA and HEOP Counselor.

Carmela earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from the State University of New York at Oswego. Carmela obtained minors in Spanish and Economics and completed study abroad programs in Mazatlan, Mexico and Grado, Italy. Carmela is currently taking graduate courses in The Warner School and plans to apply to pursue her Masters in Higher Education.

As an undergraduate student, Carmela was a Resident Assistant and Admissions Tour Guide. Later, she was employed as a Residence Director at The College for the Business of Fashion in Manhattan and, most recently, at St. John Fisher College in Rochester.

Prior to her work in the Higher Education field, Carmela spent seven years working in Corporate America for Citigroup. She held positions in Project Management, Software Implementations, Travel Procurement, Event Marketing, and Operations. Carmela completed Citigroup Business Services Leadership Development program. During her tenure at Citigroup, Carmela performed extensive international travel, including an assignment in Sydney, Australia.

Carmela is really excited to meet OMSA students and talk about study abroad, academic planning, and career opportunities. Currently, Carmela is enjoying coordinating the OMSA Senior Dinner and working with the Senior Dinner Committee to make the event a memorable occasion. Please stop by OMSA and meet Carmela. You can also contact her via email [cbarbaga@admin.rochester.edu](mailto:cbarbaga@admin.rochester.edu) or phone at (585) 275-3157.



## Student Lobby Day



College students put their words into action on Student Advocacy Day in Albany, which took place on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Approximately 850 students from 55 different college campuses from across New York State gathered to voice their opinions and concerns about higher education funds to state legislators.

The event allowed students to take part in the legislative process concerning higher education. They specifically wished to address New York State Governor David Paterson's proposed budget plan.

# Harold Ford Jr. Lecture Addresses Civil Rights in the 21st Century

by Jessica Guzman

Harold Ford Jr. spoke about civil rights, the importance of volunteerism, making a difference from a student's perspective, and how to prepare students for the challenge of leadership to the University of Rochester community on Thursday, February 18, 2010 in the Interfaith Chapel. The event was sponsored by the Black Students' Union.

Ford Jr. is a Democratic Party member of the United States House of Representatives from Tennessee's 9th congressional district; chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council; visiting professor at New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service; and news analyst for NBC and MSNBC.

Ford serves on the Transformation Advisory Group, an assembly of current and former military commanders, political figures, academics, and business leaders who advise the Pentagon on how to modernize our armed forces to meet and defeat 21st century threats. He is also an overseer on the board at the International Rescue Committee and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. From 1998-2008, Ford served as a U.S. Congressman from Tennessee on the financial services and budget committees. He received a bachelor's degree in American history from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate of law degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

While in Rochester, Ford stopped at Nick Tahou's for a cheeseburger garbage plate and received a t-shirt from owner Alex Tahou. "I read before coming here that I had to come here and have a hamburger, cheeseburger, garbage plate, which has me a little full," Ford said.

(RIGHT) Harold Ford Jr. former Tennessee Congressman and chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council delivered the University of Rochester Black Students' Union Black History Month Keynote Address on Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Interfaith Chapel.



*Pictured: Melika Butcher '12, Rashiana Bowleg '12, Kashawmma Wright '10, Ian Fuertado '12, Charlene Cooper '12, Schae-Akeem Simpson '11, Harold Ford Jr., Renea Faulknor '10, Marisa Lester '10, Danielle Jones '10, Dayanna Davis '12.*



# MLK Address

one of these twelve students. It merely took a quick email response to Academic Program Coordinator Jessica Guzman of the Minority Students Affairs Department to secure a seat.

At age 88, Lowery’s presence was remarkable. As he casually ate his lunch and invited questions, we all hesitated to ask first. Whenever an individual was willing to break the ice, his or her questions were well calculated – no one wants to make a bad first, and possibly only, impression on the man who performed the benediction for the President of the nation.

But Lowery had no problem with creating a more lax atmosphere. He started off by quizzing us on our knowledge of politics and our Supreme Court Justices. Occasionally, he’d throw us a question asking us who said, “I’m Black and I’m Proud,” or, his all-time favorite, “R-E-S-P-E-C-T.” In return, Lowery would relate to us through a reference to pop culture.

“She [Beyoncé Knowles] told them that every time she sees him she wants to get smarter, she wants to get more involved.” Lowery said. “Hear Beyoncé, young people. None of her shaking and all that, but hear her thinking.”

When we left the room, we all knew that we had just experienced something special. However, I believe that we can only gradually comprehend how epochal our time with Lowery was and appreciate it with time. Meeting Lowery was certainly a highlight of my college experience.

*Jerome Nathaniel is a member of the Class of 2011.*



(continued from page 01)

## Excerpts from a Reflection on Rev. Joseph Lowery’s Address by Candice Frazer

I never felt so moved the way I did listening to Reverend Dr. Lowery speak. Born in Huntsville, Alabama in 1921, Reverend Dr. Lowery has achieved so much in his lifetime. His most recent and possibly proudest achievement is being presented with the Medal of Freedom, which he wears on his suit jacket. This well deserved honor celebrates his work during the civil rights movement and working with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Dr. Lowery also had the honor of delivering the benediction at our first black president’s, Barack Obama, inauguration, giving him the last word, as he jokes. His speech on Friday was an experience I will always remember. As I watched, chills filled my body as he spoke of his own experience and words of inspiration for the younger generation. I am honored to have had not only the opportunity to meet Rev. Dr. Lowery in person but also to hear him speak; it made me reevaluate my own involvement in my surrounding community.

Although I am not a church-going girl, I found myself saying “Amen” along with the audience as I was hearing his powerful words and thoughts. The room was filled with amens, laughter, and applause, as people were hanging on to Rev. Dr. Lowery’s message that “justice delayed is justice denied”.

I felt this event was definitely a Minority event. Open to the public, Strong Auditorium was filled with a diverse crowd but in celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the minority became the majority. To me this meant a lot. However, I find myself often not doing anything to promote change. Seeing all the diverse faces made me think of Rev. Dr. Lowery’s statement, “All has change and nothing has changed.” I am happy that we were all able to come together to celebrate a black man but is that the only thing we should come together to do for one day or month out of a year? Other University of Rochester events lack minorities and minority interest, and that’s where there is a need for change. Furthermore, what am I doing to help change this? Rev. Dr. Lowery urges us to reevaluate what we have done lately to promote change.

I feel fortunate to have been witness to this address. Rev. Dr. Lowery is a great person and has brought a lot to the black community. Although he may be seen as an “agitator”—another term for a washing mashine—as the woman in one of his many anecdotes explains: an agitator separates the dirty from the clean. That’s what we need in this world.

*This excerpt was taken from a reflection for a course entitled Diversity and Equity in Higher Education. Candice Frazer is a member of the Class of 2010.*

# From the Bottom of the Bottom to the Top of the Top by Nigel Phillip

I will never forget the day I that I first stepped foot onto the campus of the University of Rochester. It was a beautiful Wednesday morning in July and I had recently graduated from high school not more than three weeks prior. I felt as if I could conquer the world and I was filled with enough determination and drive to seize it twice. As I arrived on campus that morning I was overwhelmed with a myriad of emotions ranging from nervousness to joyous anticipation. I finally found Hoeing Hall which was the dormitory that I was assigned to for the remainder of the summer. As I entered Hoeing Hall I was approached by two residential advisors for the HEOP program and almost instantaneously all of my fears, concerns, and doubts were taken away. They were both smiling from ear to ear to brimming with a warm welcoming energy that let me know at that very moment that everything was going to be alright.

The next six weeks were phenomenal and changed my life in a manner that I would have never imagined. I met the greatest counselors, the best of friends, and the food was not all that bad. I was surrounded by individuals that were actually genuinely concerned with not only my academic well being, but me as well and that made a world of difference. HEOP gave me an opportunity to be successful by not only providing me an opportunity to try, but by providing one of the strongest, caring, knowledgeable support networks one could ask for. HEOP truly helped me to get off to a stronger academic start and continued to provide the support I needed when the need was there. No matter how I struggled, no matter how much I succeeded, HEOP was there. They were never there to tear down or to judge, but rather to build up and to motivate.

After my Junior year at the University of Rochester I had to withdraw from school and almost instantaneously my life as I seen it began to crumble right before my eyes. I was able to find an entry level position working for one of the nation’s largest cell phone carriers. Life was back to okay for now as I could pay bills and survive, but for me that was not acceptable nor was it “good enough” as I was not merely trying to survive, I wanted to live! Without having a college degree I had climbed the corporate ladder as high as I could and I was still very much at the bottom. After leaving that job I went to work as an engineer for a recording studio. After not getting paid on a regular basis and being able to survive

only barely, I had to resign from that position. I now found myself working at Burger King as your friendly neighborhood drive thru person, and I must say this was the most humbling experience of my life!

I loved that job the most because it put so much of life into perspective and I was able to learn so much more about myself. For the entire duration of my employment (about 11 months) all I heard was this little voice in the back of my head saying, “you can do it...it’s okay you can do it”. You see by this point I had pretty much felt as if I had nothing. I had lost most of worldly belongings, which was okay because they were only material possessions, I had been evicted, and financially and socially I was not where I wanted to be in life, and it was at this point I realized what or rather who that little voice in the back of my head was. It was the voice of HEOP. It was the voice of all of my HEOP counselors and advisors encouraging and pushing me. It was the voice of all of my friends that I had met through HEOP telling me not to give up that I can do it. It was the inner voice, the confidence, the strength I had gained through HEOP that I did not even realize was in me and that to me is the greatest attribute that HEOP could give to anyone, because that inner strength, that inner confidence, is something that can never be quantitatively measured and is priceless. It will carry you further in life that any automobile can drive or higher than any plane can fly.

Today is the brightest day of my life and that is the attitude that I keep from day to day. With having experienced so much turmoil and disappoint I am more than elated to say those days are behind me and with the support, encouragement, and guidance of my HEOP counselors, who became like a second family to me, I was able to return to the University of Rochester and I was given a second chance at life. Subsequent to returning to the University of Rochester I began and continue to receive the highest grades I have ever achieved in my entire collegiate career and I am proud to finally be able to say, “I did it! I graduate May 16th, 2010 from the University of Rochester!!!” It was long, it was hard, it was tedious at times, I felt like crawling into a hole and giving up, but I didn’t, and even though at that time it may not have felt like it, it was all worth it. HEOP helped me to go from the bottom of bottoms to the top of the top and it feels GREAT! Thank you HEOP.



# Presidential Diversity Awards

Awarded by the President's Office, the University Presidential Diversity Awards were created in 2009 to acknowledge "exemplary contributions to the University's diversity and inclusion efforts". Each Presidential Diversity Award includes a \$2,500 prize; individual award winners will receive half and will designate half to support the budget of a program or department of the winner's choice. Team award winners will designate the entire \$2,500 prize to the program or department of the team's choice.



(Above) Members of the Latino Professional Alliance accept their award from Dr. Vivian Lewis and President Joel Seligman.

(Right) Dr. John Hansen accepts his award from Dr. Vivian Lewis and President Joel Seligman.



(Above) David T. Kearns Center staff members accept their award from Dr. Vivian Lewis and President Joel Seligman.



# College Diversity Roundtable Launches Second Campus Climate Survey

by Melissa Greco Lopes

On March 15, the College Diversity Roundtable (CDR) launched its second Campus Climate Survey. Sent to undergraduates at the College and at the Eastman School of Music, the anonymous survey aims to evaluate undergraduate students' past and current experiences with issues of diversity including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and disability. The biennial survey was first implemented in 2008, representing the first formal measurement of the campus climate since 1982.

Since its inception in 2000, the CDR has served as a place for dialogue surrounding both campus climate and the quality of student life at Rochester. As a student-centered task force, undergraduates meet monthly with faculty and staff to discuss issues or concerns. Under the helm of current chair Norman Burnett, director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs, and Beth Olivares, director of the Kearns Center and chair of the Campus Climate Survey committee, the CDR

has implemented several initiatives, including increased programming for culture events like the annual Martin Luther King Commemorative Address.

In addition to its programming efforts, the CDR administrated the Survey to collect both qualitative and quantitative data describing the social and educational experiences students have on campus. It serves an important tool as the CDR meets its charge of fostering a more inclusive college experience for undergraduates.

In the fall, the CDR hopes to present results from the survey to the campus community through a variety of forums and panel discussions.

For more about the CDR visit <http://www.rochester.edu/college/roundtable/>

## Kodak Moments from the Campus Climate Survey Finale

- 1,229 college student, 24.3% of the undergraduate population completed the survey in March of this year.
- In 2008, 30.4% of the student population, or 1,251 undergraduates, responded.

Members of the CDR motivated undergraduate students to complete the Campus Climate Survey on the last day of the two-week period with a Finale Party in ITS.

