

## **Annual Black History Month recognition and celebratory event hosted by African-American Network (AAN)**

Over 300 University staff, faculty and students attended the annual Black History Month recognition and celebratory event hosted by African-American Network (AAN). The event held February 10, 2010 in the School of Medicine and Dentistry, Flaum Atrium was sponsored by Office of Human Resources, Multicultural Affairs and Inclusion (MCAI).

The event featured displays by twelve area minority own businesses that included spas, clothing, art, make-overs, telecommunications, self defense and martial arts, jewelry and hair design. The event began with a black history storyteller and was followed by a self defense and martial art demonstration. Every fifteen minutes there was a performance by a local African and Caribbean American artist which included a spiritual dance, jazz, R & B, and gospel. The event concluded with a dance interpretation by a current University of Rochester graduate student. Starting at 12 noon a complimentary Caribbean lunch buffet was served which included, jerk chicken, ox tails, plantains, rice and beans, curry chicken and cabbage.

Shaquana Divers, Health Project Coordinator for the Well-U program and one of the event participants stated, "This event is quite energizing for me as I try to beat the Winter Blues."

The African-American Network an affinity group at the University of Rochester. The mission of AAN is to establish representation within the University community that will foster and strengthen workplace effectiveness and leadership abilities; enhancing professional development and promoting career growth and success within the University; achieving this goal through recruitment, retention and mentoring.

The University continues to place importance on programs and community engagement that focuses on multiculturalism and inclusivity; whose goal is the recognition and celebration of the many contributions that diverse faculty and staff make to the University environment. To learn more about these initiatives, please visit the Diversity website at <http://www.rochester.edu/diversity>