Greetings from Rochester!

On behalf of the University, we would like to congratulate the Class of 2016! The Rochester alumni community is so proud of all that you have accomplished, and we are excited for the opportunities that await you. We would also like to congratulate Dr. Frederick Jefferson on receiving the Frederick Douglass medal at this year's Diversity Conference. We are thankful for Dr. Jefferson's steadfast commitment to diversity and inclusion, and his unyielding spirit of service to our community.

In early May, the College released a "Report on College Initiatives on Race and Diversity," describing the steps taken to tackle racism on our campus. The final report from the Presidential Commission on Race and Diversity is expected in early fall.

President Seligman notes in the 2016 Annual Diversity Report, that while "we have much of which to be proud...we still have far to go." I encourage you to read both reports to learn how we are working to "change our culture to become the multicultural inclusive University we aspire to be."

Meliora,

Cristin Monahan ’11
Assistant Director, Alumni Relations

OMSA Senior Award Winners
The Office of Minority Student Affairs held its annual Senior Dinner Commencement Celebration on Saturday, May 14 in the Field House. Congratulations to this year's award winners!

- Frederick Jefferson Award for Outstanding Student Achievement: Yasmeni Sandridge '16
- Francis Price Student Leadership Award: Shenice Morris '16
- Edward Chafart Award for Civic Engagement: Lisamarie Roman '16
- Olivia Hooker Academic Achievement Award: Johnnathan Martinez '16 and Deontae McLachlan '16
- Kesha Atkins Citation for Student Leadership: Kiara Cruz '16 and Sequoia Kemp '16

News

Eastman announces new partnership with Gateways Music Festival
Dean Jamal Rossi '87E (DMA) hopes new relationship will help attract a wide diversity of students and faculty to the Eastman School of Music.

Black Students' Union honored for campus contribution
BSU among the four groups and 19 individuals honored at the annual Student Life Awards dinner.
Nursing professor presents research at the White House
LaRon E. Nelson '02N, '04N (MS), '09N (PhD), a specialist in the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, served as a panelist at a Presidential symposium on reducing the stigma around HIV/AIDS.

Two undergraduates receive Davis Projects for Peace grant
Ian Manzi '18 and Derrick Murekezi '19 were selected for a $10,000 grant to fund their project titled "Critical Thinking for Peace: Sustaining Peace in Post-Conflict Regions," in Rwanda this July.

Trevor Noah headlines Meliora Weekend 2016
The host of The Daily Show will perform on Saturday, October 8 at this year's Meliora Weekend. Registration and ticketing opens this summer.

Irfan Bashir '19 wins undergraduate anti-racism video contest
Bashir notes that he wanted "to show that although this is a diverse campus, racism does exist. But together, we can stop it."

PhD candidate takes disease tracking app to Berlin competition
Solomon Abiola, a dual PhD candidate in translational biomedical sciences and computer science, believes it is well within our reach to predict the spread of infectious diseases like Zika and Ebola with the same accuracy we predict catastrophic weather events. And this fall, he will have a chance to make his case on an international stage in Berlin, Germany.

Alumni in Action
Justine King '15 wins Rangel Fellowship
Lizette M. Pérez-Deisboeck '87 elected as University trustee
Pedro Vallejo-Ramirez '16 named Gates-Cambridge Scholar

Helpful Links

University Alumni Page
Diversity at the University
College Diversity Roundtable
Office of Minority Student Affairs
The Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies
The Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center
The David T. Kearns Center for Leadership and Diversity in Arts, Sciences and Engineering

For questions, comments, submissions, and requests to remove yourself from our distribution list, email Cristin Monahan '11, assistant director of affinity and diversity engagement, at cmonahan@admin.rochester.edu.