Faculty Spotlight

Niaz Abdolrahim
Niaz Abdolrahim joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering in July 2015 as assistant professor. She recently completed her postdoctoral appointment at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Department of materials science and engineering, where she investigated the computational modeling of interface structure and interface-defect interactions in metallic films. She received her PhD in mechanical engineering from Washington State University where she worked on the multiscale modeling of dislocation mechanisms in nanoscale metals, with scales ranging from the atomistic, to crystal plasticity, to the continuum level via molecular dynamic simulations and mathematical modeling. Her work on computational materials science spans the nanomechanical properties of advanced engineering materials where defects and interfaces control essentially the material macroscopic response. She is currently working on computational simulations of the deformation mechanisms of nanoporous metallic systems such as gold and aims to develop mathematical models to predict the mechanical behavior of nanoporous structures. Her ultimate goal is to be able to design structurally stable nanoporous metals with enhanced strength and ductility to be used in next generations of strong lightweight porous materials for various technological applications. When not doing research, Niaz enjoys hiking, playing tennis and tasting new restaurants.

Carla Beckham
Carla Beckham is an assistant professor in the Department of Urology in the School of Medicine and Dentistry. She is both a surgeon and a scientist. After obtaining her S.M. in Immunology and Infectious Diseases from the Harvard School of Public Health, Carla returned to her home in Tucson, Arizona and received her MD/PhD from the University of Arizona. Carla’s research focus includes using small membrane-bound vesicles called exosomes as potential biomarkers for bladder cancer stage-specific disease, prognosis and prediction for response to chemotherapy. She also investigates the roles that long non-coding RNA play in tumor progression. Her favorite past-time is running with her two Australian Shepherds.
Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations Now Open

Nominations are being accepted for the 2016 Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award, given annually by the Susan B. Anthony Center to “honor and celebrate women whose lives have been enriched by their years at the University and who have, in turn, inspired other women to advance and lead.” Nominees may be faculty, staff, trustees or alumnae who have achieved significant professional stature and influence; have a commendable body of work; and who have used their experience and skills to help other women advance as leaders. Nominees should have a strong affiliation with the University and a “lifetime” of significant achievements. Nominations are due by Friday, Nov. 20.

Save the Date: Annual Diversity Conference

Please save the date April 8th for the Annual Diversity Conference. Our theme this year will be #URDiversity: What do you Stand for? Please keep a look out for a big announcement about our keynote speaker, and then the call for workshop and poster proposals later this month. More information will be posted on the conference website over the next few months! www.rochester.edu/diversity/annual-diversity-conference/2016-diversity-conference/

Upcoming Events

Depression and Social Determinants of Health among American Indians, Monday November 16th, 12:00-1:00pm

Dr. Parker is Associate Vice Chancellor for American Indian Health Research & Education, Associate Professor of Family & Community Medicine and Nursing, and the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. She is also the Director of the Center for Native American Health (CNAH) – Institute for Indigenous Knowledge & Development (IIKD) at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. Dr. Parker is from the Seneca Nation (Beaver Clan) in Western NY. http://www.rochester.edu/diversity/events/calendar/?event&id=103082&from=16November2015&to=16November2015

Neilly Series Lecture: Cristina Henriquez

Wednesday November 18th, 7:00-8:00pm

Cristina Henríquez is the author of Come Together, Fall Apart: A Novella and Stories, The World in Half, and more recently, The Book of Unknown Americans—a dazzling page-turner about a family’s hopes for its new life in America. The hardships and legal battles of immigration are in the headlines every day, yet the nitty-gritty, humor, and heart behind them have rarely been brought to the page. The lecture is free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the Library Lot. http://www.library.rochester.edu/node/36603

Underground Railroad: A Spiritual Journey with Kathleen Battle, soprano, and Cyrus Chesnut, piano, January 30th

The concert, which explores traditional slave spirituals and the writings of abolitionists Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas, also features the Rochester Festival Choir conducted by Eastman alumnus Jason Holmes. For more information, visit http://eastmantheatre.org/events/underground-railroad-a-spiritual-journey

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