Hispanic Heritage Month Packed with Events

The Latino Cultural Fair, Tropicana Dinner and Dance, and other celebrations make for a packed schedule of events to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Highlights include The First Annual 2010 Salud y Sabriedad en la Cultura from 3–10 p.m. on September 25, the Memorial Art Gallery’s Hispanic/Latino Heritage Family Day from noon–5 p.m. on October 3, and A Literary Reading by Pulitzer Prize–winning author Junot Díaz from 6–7:30 p.m. on October 15. Read more . . .

UR Year One

President Seligman opened the 2010 UR Year One program on September 8, with an elegant breakfast in the Eisenberg Rotunda, welcoming new faculty from all parts of the University to the Rochester community. Three days later under sparkling blue skies, over 150 new and early-career faculty and their families gathered for good food and fun activities for all ages and met and mingled with their returning colleagues at the fourth annual New Faculty Family Picnic.

UR Year One, which runs throughout the academic year, is aimed at supporting our newest faculty members’ growth and success while also helping them settle into the Greater Rochester community. This University-wide faculty orientation program combines engaging workshops, seminars, and social events designed to increase knowledge and foster alliances for new faculty at Rochester.

The seminar series address critical factors in faculty success: the promotion process, support for research, and the achievement of excellence in the classroom. Additionally, throughout the year, social and family events introduce new faculty to a rich selection of the University’s "crown jewels," including the music of the Eastman School, exhibitions at the Memorial Art Gallery, and the beauty of River Campus gardens and lawns. First-year faculty also receive a yearlong “season subscription” to the Phelps Colloquium Series, an exciting luncheon seminar series showcasing multidisciplinary research and some of the University’s most compelling scholarship.

For specific topics, times, and dates for UR Year One 2010–2011, see www.rochester.edu/diversity/faculty/uryearone/index.html.

Faculty Spotlight

Mireya Gonzalez-Begne (Center for Oral Biology)

Mireya is a research assistant professor of dentistry at the Center for Oral Biology. She received her PhD from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and completed her postdoctoral training at the Center for Oral Biology under a T32 NIH/NIDCR Oral Cellular Molecular Training Grant. Her former research training in salivary research and in dentistry at the State University of New York at Buffalo and the National Autonomous University of Mexico has led her to use saliva as a diagnostic tool for monitoring different analytes in health and disease processes. Currently, at the University of Rochester, she has been using proteomics technology on whole saliva and salivary labial gland cells for identifying potential biomarkers to be used as candidates for early diagnosis of primary Sjögren’s syndrome; an autoimmune disease characterized by secretory impairment of the lacrimal and salivary glands. Mireya has taken advantage of the many resources offered by the Clinical Translational Science Institute at URMC working in a multidisciplinary research setting aimed at helping to improve the quality of life of those affected by this illness. Mireya enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, gardening, and painting. Her favorite pastime is enjoying the ocean and dancing.

Sheldon D. Fields (School of Nursing)

Sheldon is an associate professor of nursing who has been at the University since 2001. He received his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and completed postdoctoral studies at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. He is a nationally board-certified family nurse practitioner with advanced certification as an HIV/AIDS certified registered nurse. His clinical practice focuses on HIV/AIDS primary health care with underserved and marginalized populations. His research focuses on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment strategies for young men of color. He is currently in Washington, D.C., working in the office of Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD) and the Subcommittee on Aging of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow. Sheldon is a huge fan of all things sci-fi, especially Star Trek.

If you know new or early-career faculty who should be part of “Faculty Spotlight,” please contact Maggie Cassie (maggie.cassie@rochester.edu).
Diversity Spotlight: Healthy Living Programs

The Healthy Living Program and Vida en Salud, both offered by the Medical Center’s Center for Community Health, are individually and culturally tailored programs to improve the physical activity, nutrition, and overall health of the Rochester community including African-American and Latino adults. Learn more about diversity at the University in future installments of Diversity Spotlight in @Rochester.

New Grants Researcher Position in the Office of Faculty Development and Diversity

The Office for Faculty Development and Diversity is charged with a new initiative to research and monitor faculty development and diversity-related grants University-wide. (See recommendation 4 in the Listening Tour Report.) The new grants researcher, Kurt Zeller, began on August 1. The office is developing a new database system that will monitor diversity-related grants and identify opportunities for faculty, graduate students, and residents. The office matches criteria from RFP’s to specific departments, divisions, or centers on campus and sends the funding opportunity via e-mail. Should you wish to receive diversity-related grant or fellowship information pertinent to your office, please contact Kurt at kzeller@ur.rochester.edu or x6-5668.

New Task Force Should Help Deaf Students Enter Health Care Fields

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) announced that two leading universities that serve deaf and hard-of-hearing students will be teaming up with the University of Rochester Medical Center and the Rochester General Health System in an effort to increase deaf students’ participation in the health care field. This path-breaking partnership between the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and Gallaudet University will lead to a detailed set of recommendations for increasing participation by the deaf community in medical school, nursing, and other health care-related fields. The formation of the Task Force on Health Care Careers for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community will have input from the National Center on Deaf Health Research. Read More . . .

Recruitment Packets

Faculty recruitment packets are available from the Office for Faculty Development and Diversity. The packets are constantly being updated and contain information about relevant University policies, brochures, and cultural resources in the Rochester area. Search Committee members, conference attendees, and those visiting other universities are encouraged to distribute these packets to potential faculty. Packets can be customized to your school, department, or specific need. To request packets, please contact Maggie Cassie (maggie.cassie@urmc.rochester.edu). Please keep in mind that we do not keep a large pre-made stock, so please notify us with enough time to satisfy your request before your recruiting event.

Office for Faculty Development and Diversity

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Upcoming Events

2010 M. K. Gandhi Distinguished Lecture Series
Thursday, September 23, 2010, 7–9 p.m.
Ann Wright is a former United States Army colonel and retired official of the U.S. State Department. She is known for her outspoken opposition to the Iraq War and is most noted for having been one of three State Department officials to publicly resign in direct protest of the March 2003 invasion of Iraq.
Host Organization: M. K. Gandhi Institute of Nonviolence
Cost: Free and open to the public

2010 Stanton/Anthony Conversations
Friday, October 15, 2010, Interfaith Chapel, Noon–3 p.m.
Panel Discussion following Keynote and Luncheon from Gloria Feldt, Former President and CEO of Planned Parenthood, Federation of America
Sponsored by The Susan B. Anthony Center for Women’s Leadership

Pride Network 40th Anniversary Celebration Lunch
Saturday, October 16, 2010, The Meliora Restaurant, Ballroom, 12:15–2 p.m.
Formerly known as the Gay Liberation Front, GLBFA, or Gay Academic Union, please join us to share memories and renew friendships.
Sponsored by Pride Alliance

CTSI Event: “Resilience & Mentorship: Tools to Thrive in Academia”
Friday, October 22, 2010, Noon to 1 p.m.
Contact Katie Libby at katherine_libby@urmc.rochester.edu for more information.