Second Annual University-wide Diversity Conference: Why Diversity?

On April 29, President Joel Seligman, in coordination with the Office of Faculty Development and Diversity, will host the second Annual University-wide Diversity Conference. The purpose of the conference is to build a more diverse and inclusive community through improved communications, sharing of best practices, and encouraging innovations and programs that strengthen diversity and inclusiveness.

More information on plans for the conference can be found at www.rochester.edu/diversity/annualconference/.

Spotlight on Diversity: Youth Apprenticeship Program

This month’s Spotlight on Diversity features the Healthcare and Technology Youth Apprenticeship program, a partnership of the Office of Human Resources–Multicultural Affairs and Inclusion, the Science and Technology Entry Program in the School of Medicine and Dentistry, and the Rochester City School District. Read more about the program in this flier, which can be posted in offices and on bulletin boards. Learn about diversity at the University in future installments of Spotlight on Diversity in @Rochester.

Faculty Spotlight

Wendi B. Heinzelman (Arts, Sciences, and Engineering)

Wendi B. Heinzelman is an associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and she holds a secondary appointment as an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science. Wendi also currently serves as dean of graduate studies for Arts, Sciences, and Engineering. Wendi received her PhD degree in electrical engineering and computer science from MIT in 2000. Her research is in the areas of wireless communications and networking, mobile computing, and multimedia communication, with recent projects focusing on the use of wireless sensor networks for behavioral research in collaboration with faculty in the Department of Clinical and Social Sciences in Psychology and on the use of RFID systems for inventory management. Wendi is an associate editor for several journals in her field, and she is cofounder of the Networking Networking Women group, a discipline-specific community for researchers in the communications and networking research fields. In her spare time, Wendi enjoys sailing, skiing, squash, biking, and traveling around the world with her wonderful husband Steve and her two amazing children, Nate (7) and Molly (5).

Wakenda Tyler (University of Rochester Medical Center)

Wakenda is an assistant professor in the School of Medicine and Dentistry and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, specializing in the surgical care of benign and malignant bone and soft tissue tumors. She is a recent transport from New York City, where she did her residency training at the Hospital for Special Surgery (Cornell) and fellowship training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Prior to that, she lived in Baltimore, Maryland, where she obtained her medical degree and master’s in public health from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and School of Public Health. She is a clinician scientist, whose research focus is on the control of vasculogenesis (large vessel formation) in metastatic carcinoma to bone. She is currently working on several cell line and animal models looking at various agents that impact this process, with the hope of eventually moving towards clinical testing of such agents. In her spare time, she is an avid runner (last marathon, the 2010 Boston Marathon), a snow boarder, and rock climber (yeah, she likes to climb up walls).

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

Mentoring at the University of Rochester

The Office of Faculty Development and Diversity celebrated National Mentoring Month (January) with several ways for members of the University to thank and honor their mentor. We provided thank you cards, an online e-thank you website, and recorded faculty and staff thanking their mentors. More details on this successful initiative can be found at www.rochester.edu/diversity/mentoring.
Additionally, the office, in collaboration with CTSI, is hosting a half-day mentoring conference on March 28. We would like your help in determining which specific topics to focus on; please complete the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/RV6YC2F. Scheduled speakers include Thomas Pearson and Douglas Portman. If you would like to attend the conference, please contact Trina Viggiano at tviggiano@ur.rochester.edu or 273-5664.

Micromessaging

Each year the Office of Faculty Development and Diversity hosts a faculty workshop related to changing the climate of our University. This year’s topic was on micromessaging—the small behaviors and gestures in which individuals may be either singled out, overlooked, ignored, or otherwise discounted based on an unchangeable characteristic such as race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion. Ed Brockenbrough, from the Warner Graduate School of Education, opened the workshop by laying a conceptual foundation of micromessaging. There were exceptional presentations focusing on micromessaging in the LGBT and Muslim communities from Scott Fearing, Program Director of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, and Dr. Muhammad Shaﬁq, Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Studies. For more information about this workshop, please visit www.rochester.edu/diversity/faculty/workshops/index.html.

2011 Presidential Diversity Awards

The Department of Microbiology and Immunology, led by chair Stephen Dewhurst, and the undergraduate student group University of Rochester Genocide Intervention (URGI) have been named the 2011 Presidential Diversity Award recipients. They were both honored at a reception hosted by President Seligman and were publicly recognized as part of the University’s Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Address.

Both awardees were chosen for their exemplary contributions to the University’s diversity and inclusion efforts. The Department of Microbiology and Immunology was praised for its commitment to mentoring minority students while URGI was recognized for its success at increasing meaningful campus dialogue about diversity through creative programming.

For more information on the Presidential Diversity Awards, click here www.rochester.edu/diversity/awardrecipients.

Office for Faculty Development and Diversity

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Upcoming Events

February Is Black History Month

www.rochester.edu/diversity/celebrations/blackhistory/index.html

March Is Women’s History Month

www.rochester.edu/diversity/celebrations/womenshistory/index.html
Highlights include the Annual Susan B. Anthony Lecture in conjunction with the 18th Annual Gender and Women’s Studies Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference entitled Precarious Spaces: (Dis-)Locating Gender with keynote speaker Laura Kipnis. Season of Nonviolence keynote speaker Naomi Tutu presents her lecture, “Our Shared Humanity: Creating Understanding through the Principles of MLK.” [THIS TAKES PLACE IN APRIL]

Women in Music Festival, March 21–25, 2011

www.esm.rochester.edu/wmf/
The Women in Music Festival is proud to welcome Hilary Tann as its guest composer for 2011. Tann will be in Rochester for a four-day residency, March 20–23, 2011, which will include open rehearsals and coachings, school presentations, a Neilly series lecture, and a lecture-presentation at the Eastman School of Music. A concert of her music will be held on Monday, March 21, at 8 p.m. in Downtown United Presbyterian Church (121 Fitzhugh Street North).