Faculty Spotlight

Tobie Olsan ’03 (PhD)

Tobie H. Olsan, associate professor of clinical nursing, joined the School of Nursing faculty in 2004, and over time her research has developed as an integration of geriatrics, learning collaboratives, performance improvement, interdisciplinary teamwork, and health policy advocacy. Her recent continuation funding of the Greater Rochester Nursing Home Quality Consortium (GRNHQC), which was established in 2009, is part of a national effort of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration to develop the nursing workforce in underserved communities. The GRNHQC is composed of 21 regional, predominantly rural, nursing homes committed to advancing the quality of care provided to older adults through the implementation of Lean Six Sigma performance improvement projects and through continual sharing of best practices and solutions to problems. Her research demonstrates the role of leadership, collaboration, and interdisciplinary teams as key factors in improving health system quality. Additionally, Olsan oversees nurse traineeships for graduate nurses interested in becoming adult-geriatric nurse practitioners and is on a team of researchers led by Helena Temkin-Greener, PhD, in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Rochester Medical Center testing the impact of palliative care teams on risk-adjusted outcomes in nursing homes. In addition to her research, she teaches in the Clinical Nurse Leader and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs. Her practice site is the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, a regional health planning organization, as the director of Aging and Long-Term Care Services. Her community service includes long-distance charity bike rides to support HIV/AIDS care and diabetes research.

Bianca Jackson

J. Bianca Jackson is a University of Rochester postdoctoral fellow for diversity and academic excellence working for the Institute of Optics at the University of Rochester, under Xi-Cheng Zhang, director of the institute. Born and raised in East Orange, N.J., she received her bachelor’s degree in applied physics from Columbia University’s Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science in 2000. After a brief stint teaching math and physics at a Connecticut boarding school, she moved on to receive her MS (2005) and PhD (2008) in applied physics from the University of Michigan under the supervision of John F. Whitaker at the Center for Ultrafast Optical Science. There she specialized in nondestructive applications of time domain terahertz imaging and spectroscopy, with particular interest in the measurement and diagnostics of multilayered material systems. Under the advisement of Gerard Mourou and Michel Menu, she became the first to demonstrate the utility of terahertz reflectometry to cultural heritage conservation science. In 2008, she became a postdoctoral research scientist in Paris, France, working through Ecole Polytechnique’s Institut de la Lumière Extrême and Laboratoire d’Optique Appliquée, as well as the Laboratoire du Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France to construct a terahertz imaging and spectroscopy laboratory specializing in cultural heritage conservation science at the research facility located at the Louvre Museum. Her terahertz research application interests include fresco wall paintings, wood panel paintings, wooden objet d’art, ceramics, and corroded metal artifacts. In her free time, she considers herself a bit of a comedy nerd and enjoys cooking and reading novels.

If you know new or early-career faculty who should be part of “Faculty Spotlight,” please contact Maggie Cassie (maggie.cassie@rochester.edu).
2013 Annual Diversity Report
As our seventh annual report highlights, diversity continues to be a strategic priority at the University of Rochester. Our work is driven by a common core vision—a University that strives to reflect and celebrate the richness of diversity among individuals and groups. We strive to achieve this vision through promoting academic excellence, through inclusive community building, and through supporting professional development across schools and divisions. Read more at www.rochester.edu/president/assets/pdf/DiversityReport2013.pdf.

The Meliora Challenge—The Diversity Initiative
The Diversity Initiative is an integral part of The Meliora Challenge: The Campaign for the University of Rochester. The Diversity Initiative is a University-wide endeavor and has three specific goals: scholarship and fellowship support to ensure that the best and brightest can attend Rochester; attracting and retaining a diverse faculty who can teach on issues salient to a diversifying world; and improving the culture and climate on campus by supporting outside speakers, panels, workshops, and conferences that address diversity. Trustees Lance Drummond ’85S (MBA) and Kathy Waller ’80, ’83S (MBA) serve as co-chairs of the Diversity Initiative and provide valued leadership to the campaign efforts.

Fourth Annual Diversity Conference
The annual University-wide diversity conference took place on April 12, bringing together faculty, staff, students, community members, and local alumni. This year’s keynote speaker was Lani Guinier, civil rights attorney and the first tenured African-American woman professor at Harvard Law School. The conference was preceded by an evening reception for 150 alumni and community members at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Alumni attending the reception were able to visit the RACE, Are We So Different? exhibit. There were 425 registrants for the conference itself, which included 15 peer-reviewed breakout sessions and a poster session featuring 19 posters. More information about specific workshops and posters can be found here: www.rochester.edu/diversity/annualconference/2013/index.html.

GLMA Liason Announced
Sharon J. Glezen, MD, has been selected as the American College Health Association’s primary liaison to the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA). This three-year term appointment began in May. The American College Health Association partners with other national health and higher education organizations to help enhance resources for the college health field and integrate college health into the national agenda. GLMA’s mission is to ensure equality in health care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and health care providers. Glezen, medical chief at the University Health Service (UHS), joined the staff of UHS in 1990 after completing her residency in Rochester’s Primary Care Program in Internal Medicine. She also holds the position of clinical assistant professor in the University’s Department of Medicine in the School of Medicine and Dentistry. Glezen has also recently been accepted into the first class of a graduate certificate program in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health at the George Washington University.

Office for Faculty Development and Diversity
Vivian Lewis, MD
Deputy to the President and Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity
vivian.lewis@rochester.edu
(585) 273-2760

Maggie Cassie
Assistant Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity
maggie.cassie@rochester.edu
(585) 275-0792

Kurt Zeller
Director of Diversity Programming
kzeller@ur.rochester.edu
(585) 276-5668

Trina Viggiano
Administrative Assistant
tviggiano@ur.rochester.edu
(585) 273-5664

Upcoming Events
Justice Involved Women Conference, Friday, June 21, 2013
Join us for this exciting conference where researchers, practitioners, and policymakers will present their work to disseminate evidence-based practices and interventions for justice involved women. Other discussion topics will include the state of the science, difficulties for informing practice, funding challenges, and solutions for justice involved women. For more information, visit www.rochester.edu/sba/events/Justice%20Involved%20Women%20Conference.html.

Summer Labyrinth Walks
Enjoy a meditative walk on the labyrinth on the river level of the air-conditioned Interfaith Chapel. Return to work refreshed and centered after a few minutes of contemplative walking. Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 2, June 20, July 11, July 25, Aug. 8, and Aug. 22. Free and open to all.