Faculty Spotlight

Laron E. Nelson
LaRon E. Nelson is an assistant professor and the inaugural Dean’s Endowed Fellow in Health Disparities in the School of Nursing. He is also the associate director of international research for the University of Rochester Center for AIDS Research. Nelson earned his PhD, master’s and bachelor’s degrees from the University of Rochester. He rejoins us from the University of South Florida College of Nursing where he served as assistant dean of global and community affairs. Prior to that he lived in Toronto, Canada, where he was an assistant professor at the University of Toronto Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing. Nelson is a public health nurse scientist whose work is primarily concerned with investigating social and structural factors that influence HIV prevention and treatment outcomes for men who have sex with men in African (Ghana) and African Diaspora (US and Canada) communities and the real-world public health impact of implementing and evaluating integrated social/structural, behavioral, and biomedical HIV/STD intervention strategies within local health departments. When not working abroad, he enjoys spending time with family and friends in his hometown of Savannah, Georgia.

Susan McDaniel
Susan McDaniel is the Dr. Laurie Sands Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Family Medicine, director of the Institute for the Family in Psychiatry, and associate chair of family medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry. Susan has recently been elected 2016 president of the American Psychological Association, the largest psychology profession organization in the country. Her main focus for her time as president will be further melding psychology into other areas of health care, breaking down the distinctions between mental and physical health. Susan is known for her publications in the areas of behavioral health and primary care, genetic conditions and family dynamics, and doctor-patient communication, as well as being a frequent speaker at meetings of both health and mental health professionals. Susan moved here in 1980 for what was supposed to be 2 years, after growing up in Fort Lauderdale and receiving her higher education and training in North Carolina and Texas. She is married to David Siegel MD MPH; they have two daughters who speak with Rochester accents-Hanna, who is an immigration reform advocate in Manhattan and DC, and Marisa who is getting her MBA at Columbia. The family also includes Phredd, their 26 yr old water turtle, now experiencing his annual 3-month hibernation.
were seven impressive nominations this year, and all nominees were recognized at a reception on January 22. We are happy to acknowledge these exceptional accomplishments, leadership, and dedication to diversity at the University. The 2015 award recipients include Kristin Hocker, a member of the organizational development and staff diversity team in the Office of Human Resources. Hocker has consistently advocated for the inclusiveness of all people on all campuses at the University. Through her research on diversity in higher education staff leadership, involvement in the Latino Professional Alliance, and passion for LGBTQ equality, her dedication to diversity extends far beyond any one program or cause. The Eastman Pathways Program is also a recipient of the award this year. The program, a partnership between the Eastman Community Music School and the Rochester City School District, provides music instruction to talented students. Launched in 1997, the program provides scholarship aid to between 60 and 70 outstanding 5th through 12th grade students for private lessons, classes in music theory and history, and participation in ensembles. Underrepresented minority students account for more than half of the graduating classes in the past 15 years. For more information about all the nominees and Presidential Diversity Award recipients, please visit www.rochester.edu/diversity/awardrecipients.

Khalil Gibran Muhammad Delivers MLK Commemorative Address

Khalil Gibran Muhammad, director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, an archive repository for information on people of African descent worldwide, delivered the University of Rochester’s 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Address on Friday, Jan. 23. This address is the start of the University’s celebration of Black History Month (see events for more information). The title of the address was “The Conventional Legacy of an Unconventional Man: MLK’s Legacy in the Age of Ferguson”. Muhammad spoke about the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and encouraged participants to move beyond the icon of the man and embrace the entire life of King. To see an overview of Dr. Muhammad’s talk please visit http://tinyurl.com/jvqy5jh

New Program Examines Women in the Workplace

The Susan B. Anthony Center has created a new program that will keep a conversation going about gender equity issues at the University. “Women in the Workplace” is a 6-week program that began on Jan. 21. Eight individuals are currently participating with three new groups planned in the future. The Center is considering a men’s group as well given the recent interest from student groups on campus. If you would like to attend a future series, or be put on their email distribution list, please contact sbac@ur.rochester.edu.

Upcoming Events

Intercultural Competency Workshops, February 11th, 18th & 25th

The Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center presents the Intercultural Competency Workshop Series. The first session on “Critical Reflection of Self” is Wednesday, Feb. 11. The Feb. 18 event covers “Exploring Other Identities” and “Creating a Cohesive Community” is the topic of the Feb. 25 workshop. All workshops will meet in Goergen Hall 108 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP online or email icc@ur.rochester.edu by Monday, Feb. 9.

www.rochester.edu/college/icc

The Black Extravaganza, February 19, 11:00-2:00pm

A forum that promotes black and minority-owned businesses. The event is presented by Sankofa at the University and will take place in Flumm Atrium. Open to all. Lunch served at noon.

SBAI: International Graduate Research Conference, March 20

The theme is “Between Identities and Environments.” Presentation schedule will be released closer to the conference. For more information about this year’s theme, read the call for papers.

www.rochester.edu/college/wst/grad/conf2015

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