

UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS!!!

DECEMBER

- 4 "Entrepreneurship, Politics, Hip Hop, and Mos Def" has been post poned due to weather.
- 9 Volunteer at the Finger Lakes First Lego League Championships
<http://www.seas.rochester.edu/SEAS/FLL.html>
- 12 Emerging Leaders Program Application Deadline
- 21 Ronald E. McNair Academic Year Application Deadline

JANUARY

- 18-19 CDR/MSAB Leadership Retreat
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day & Commemorative Address with Andrew Young
- 23 Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) Workshop Series
- 25 Study Abroad Expo 2 PM - 4 PM Hirst Lounge

FEBRUARY

- 2 Ronald E. McNair Achievement Summer Program Application Deadline
- 6 ELP Workshop Series
- 14 Application Deadline for Susan B. Anthony Institute Research Grants for Associates, Graduate and Undergraduate Students
- 20 ELP Workshop Series
- TBA Academic Achievement Reception

MARCH

- 2 ELP Workshop Series
- 8-16 Spring Break
- 19 ELP Workshop Series

APRIL

- 2 ELP Workshop Series
- 5 Black Students' Union and Lambda Upsilon Lambda's Health Fair
- 16 ELP Workshop Series
- 17 Application Deadline for Susan B. Anthony Institute Research Grants
- 18-20 MVP Weekend
- 19 Spanish and Latino Students' Association Tropicana
- 30 ELP Workshop Series
- TBA ECO Battle of the Classes

MAY

- 17 OMSA Senior Dinner
- 18 Commencement Ceremony

University of Rochester
Office of Minority Student Affairs
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*"Great heights built and kept
are not attained by sudden flight,
but while your fellow sleeps
you must toil upward throughout the night."*

"Anonymous"

FDI HIGHLIGHTS

January:
Judith Weisenfeld, Princeton University

March:
Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado, University of Miami
Ennis Edmonds, Keynon College
Dianne Galve, Morehouse College

April 18: (time/location: TBA)
Frederick Douglass Lectures with Lani Guinier and Gerald Torres.
entitled: "Linked Fate: A Theory of Democracy for Social Change"
Co-sponsored by the U of R and Oxford Press
For information please go to < <http://www.rochester.edu/College/AAS/> > or
contact the FDI at (585) 275-7235 fdi@mail.rochester.edu.

"Religious Cultures of The African Diaspora: New Trajectories of Inquiry" Sponsored by the Humanities Project of the University of Rochester, the Frederick Douglass Institute for African & African American Studies and the Religion Department.

SPRING
2008

Fall
Issue
2007

OMSA

OFFICE OF MINORITY STUDENT AFFAIRS

CHRONICLE

University
of
Rochester

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THE FRONT LINES OF DIPLOMACY

"One day you are the number one diplomat in the world," explained former Secretary of State Colin Powell, "the next day you're just another guy." Thus began General Colin Powell's Keynote address before the hundreds of students, alumni, and parents that packed the Palestra during this year's Meliora Weekend.

Powell is most renowned for becoming the first African-American to be chosen by the President of the United States to serve as Secretary of State. Before that, he had risen to the highest position in the U.S. military when appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1991, only 40 years after the military was officially desegregated.

"I was a 'C' student in college", said Powell as he described his humble beginnings as a university student in New York City.

Though he was an average student in the classroom at The City College of The City University of New York, he excelled in the Army-sponsored Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program, which proved to be his gateway to a career in the military.

His service in Vietnam, West Germany, and South Korea would earn him a total of 11 decorations, including a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Soldier's Medal, and Legion of Merit. However, Powell's superior performance during military missions could only be matched by his astuteness in the halls of Washington that would earn him respect and recognition among powerful politicians.

The pinnacle of his military career came in 1991 when he became chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff during the Gulf War. Ten years later he would return to the Middle East, but on a different mission. This time, he was to command American foreign policy through the front lines of diplomacy in the war on terror.

While the country was undergoing some of the most pressing times in history, he was making ties with key allies in the Middle East to fight the controversial war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The straightforward and honest manner, which characterized his years in the American spotlight, shined through during his speech as he described his transition into retirement. One of his first shocks came when he took a commercial flight from New York to Washington D.C., and he was forced to endure the standard procedures that passengers go through before boarding a flight. "I put this system in place, it's a system that annoys all of us and it's an inconvenience, but it's necessary."

When reflecting upon his career, he did not attempt to circumvent the controversy that surrounds the war that was initiated during his time in office.

"We made serious errors in the war in Iraq," admitted Powell. "We are paying too high a price for our security," said Powell in reference to the drop in the number of international students in universities around the country after tighter restrictions were imposed on visas. In terms of diplomacy, "we need to speak a little softer; that arrogance around the world has to change in order to take back what we lost."

The face of United States policy to the world during his time in Washington was one of an African-American who came from a family of Jamaican immigrants in the South Bronx. His intelligence and perseverance allowed him to ascend to the highest offices in both Washington and the military. General Powell made it clear that the America he envisioned would not lose its fundamental elements. "This is the same America that welcomed my parents here 80 years ago. As long as we don't lose that, we will prevail."

By Martin Fernandez '08



Courtesy of Richard Baker



On behalf of the Office of Minority Student Affairs, welcome to the Fall 2007 edition of the OMSA Chronicle. As in past publications, it is gratifying to note that this issue focuses on our students and some of their amazing achievements and experiences. This issue is also unique in that it highlights some new initiatives within different departments on the River Campus. Moreover, the information covered throughout the newsletter continues to showcase the many positive contributions that our students make to both the curricular and co-curricular aspects of student life at the University of Rochester.

During the 2007-08 academic year, The College continues to focus its energies and resources on creating and maintaining a diverse and inclusive community for all students. In this spirit, I am delighted to announce that during the Spring 2008 semester, the College Diversity Roundtable (CDR) will be implementing a climate survey of the undergraduate student population, as well as a series of focus groups on a variety of topics. The survey will help us to come to a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities that face our student body in addition to providing us with comprehensive self-assessment information that will guide us in making informed decisions about future programs and initiatives that support diversity and enhance the quality of life for undergraduate students.

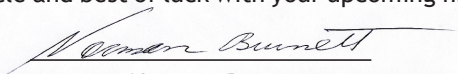
Some of the areas covered in the climate survey will focus on the following:

- ~ Prior experience with regard to: race/ethnicity, gender, religion, political/social ideology and economic standing
- ~ Diversity programs on campus
- ~ Peer and inter-group relations
- ~ Classroom environment
- ~ Expressions of insensitivity and prejudice
- ~ Learning and developmental outcomes

In order to make this climate survey a success, we need your enthusiastic support and help with encouraging all students to complete this on-line survey. Your participation in this process will assist tremendously in helping to create a clear understanding of students' concerns—both positive and negative.

To learn more about the work of the College Diversity Roundtable and the activities planned for the 2007-08 academic year, please feel free to contact co-chairs Beth Olivares (bolv@mail.rochester.edu) and Norman Burnett (nbbt@mail.rochester.edu) or visit our website at <http://www.rochester.edu/College/roundtable/>

As always, we look forward to your feedback regarding the newsletter and hope that the content will motivate students to become more involved in all aspects of campus life. Please enjoy the Chronicle and best of luck with your upcoming finals. Meliora!



Norman Burnett
OMSA/HEOP Director

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OMSA CHRONICLE MISSION

To provide students with timely information about opportunities and events that support the mission of OMSA; to serve as a forum for students to present ideas, issues and solutions to problems and or issues that exist in our community; to act as an on-going communication resource for students, faculty and staff alike.

CHRONICLE STAFF
Editor-in-Chief
Jessica Guzmán

Student Editors
Martin Fernandez '08
Nadine Nicholson '09



The OMSA staff would like to congratulate you for a job well done and encourage you to keep up the good work.

Dean's List
Spring 2007

<u>Class of 2007</u>	<u>Class of 2008</u>	<u>Class of 2009</u>
Latrice Akuamoah	Nazmia Alqadi	Manuel Alves
Nathan Alves	Jamila Aubain	Tristan Barrueco
Gener Augustin	Ana Calleja	Sarah Batts
Tyan Barnard	Marie Collette	Alejandro Campos
Mariana Bojaca	Carmouche	Brittany Carter
Kathleen Bourdeau	Christabell Catala	Isabela Carvalho
Jason Buitrago	Paulette Cooke	Martin Cozens
Jamie Cage	Francisco Corbalan	Edgard Duque
George Gilmore	Eileen Fay	Sara Fagan
Adrienne Horne	Aaron Figueroa	Tammy Garcia
Maria Erika Ilagan	Daniel Fisher	Elisabeth Ginsburg
Crystal Lane	Kevin Lee	Sara Goico
Maria Manni	Amanda Mack	Selenid Gonzalez
Natali Modzelewski	Graciela Mohamedi-Smith	Henry Henderson
Onika Noel	Michael Muhammad	Diana La Torre
Ebiere Okah	Gregory Meditz	Thomas Lebeau
Yurely Ramirez	Maiz Musah	Carly Mendoza
Ebony Richards	Ana Pena	Lindsay Mulgrew
Jena Robertson	Salvador Pena	Roger Smith
Brannon Sam	Tonie Phillips	Anthony Williams
Ernancelis Santana	Chinn Ho Poon	Yordanosse Yenenh
Brett Stark	Yahaira Quinones	
Samantha Stern-Leaphart	Jason Robi	
Anthony Vargas	Michael Russell	
James Viveros	Patricia Santos	
Molly Williams	Anna Solomonik	
Mlen-Too Wesley	Todd Venning	
	Matthew Wampler-Doty	

<u>Class of 2010</u>	
Jessalyn Ballerano	Deborah Obebeduo
Lashonda Brenson	Fabiola Paredes
Alyea Canada	Roman Posyavin
Amanda Case	Mariana Pugliese
Ana Dechtiar	Camillia Redding
Phillip Dumouchel	Kevin Rosario
Renea Faulknor	Devin Ruiz
Calle Fitzgerald	Seth Stein
Sylvia Guerra	Cristin Stephens
Laura Holtzman	Victoria Wells
Lori Mullins	Michael Yee
Michael Nobel	Lauren Yu



INTERNSHIPS

Yorda Yenenh '09 interned in Washington, D.C. during the summer and worked for Senator Harry Reid [D-NV].

Ashanti O'Steen '08 - summer internship in the forensic lab of the Chicago Public Defender's Office.

'06 - '07 RONALD MCNAIR SCHOLARS

C	Manuel Alves '09	Jennifer Franco '08
O	Jamila Aubian '08	Sara Goico '09
N	Lydia Awuku '08	Francesca Guzman '09
G	Livnat Blum '09	Oscar Herrera '08
R	Tony Broyld '08	Joseph Hines
A	Colette Carmouche '08	Porschea Lewis '08
T	Isabela Carvalho '09	Amanda Mack '08
S	Jessica Chery '09	Ashanti O'Steen '08
!!	Jina Chung	Christopher Palomino '08
	Paulette Cooke '08	Yahaira Quinones '08
	Chamarra Coward '08	Maria Rosa '09
	Christelle Domercant '08	Keenan Swain-Morris
	Robert Duran '09	Christina Wong
	Oscar Figueredo '08	Shawna Worth '09
		Brandon Zimmerman '09

Jessica Chery '09 on her Ronald E. McNair Scholar summer research project in the Virology and Immunology Department at the University Of Rochester Medical Center.

Christelle Domercant '08 on her Ronald E. McNair Scholar summer research program where under the guidance of her mentor, Prof. Maryann McCab.

STUDY ABROAD

Fall 2007
Colette Carmouche '08 - Dakar, Senegal
Omar Figueredo '08 - Lima, Peru
Yahaira Quinones '08 - London, United Kingdom
Christina Wehbe '09 - Paris, France
Mlen-Too Wesley KEY07/08 - Legon, Ghana

Fall 2007-Spring 2008
Lindsay Mulgrew '09 - Dublin, Ireland

Isbela Carvalho '09 in her nomination as an outstanding Writing Fellow

Carlos Tejeda appointed Students' Association 2011 Senator.

Malik Sams '09, Camille Madison '08, and Myra Mathis '09 on their completion of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program at the University of Rochester School of Medicine

Congratulations to the 1st Executive Board of the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS)

- Jessica Chery'09 and Myra Mathis'09 - Co-Coordinator
- Camille Madison'08 - Secretary
- Jamila Aubain'08 - Public Relations Chair
- Wilmer Estevez'10 - Community Service Chair

"I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent." ~ Mohandas K. Gandhi

*Interview with Mr. Arun Gandhi
By: Jessica Guzman*

The University of Rochester welcomed The M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence this past summer, relocating from the University of Memphis, Tennessee to its new home in Wilson Commons. Mr. Arun Gandhi and his late wife Sunanda founded The M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence in 1991. The M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence is dedicated to promoting peace and nonviolence to the University of Rochester campus, the greater Rochester Community and to society and humanity.

I had the distinct pleasure of sitting down with Mr. Gandhi, grandson of the late Mohandas K. Gandhi, on a one-on-one interview regarding The M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence and their mission and goals for the upcoming academic year. As you walk into his office located on the 5th floor of Wilson Commons, you will see a beautiful picture



of his late wife on his desk. In the background, you will see a poster of his late grandfather hanging on the wall. Initially, I found myself somewhat nervous and anxious to ask such a humanitarian and seeker of truth to answer a few questions I had jotted down earlier. As I fumbled through my introduction and welcomed Mr. Gandhi to the University of Rochester, I noticed that Mr. Gandhi was soft spoken and had a way about him that eased my nervousness, leaving me with a feeling of tranquility and calmness. My interview with Mr. Gandhi was an enlightening experience and I was also able to gain new knowledge about some exciting new initiatives. The following is an excerpt of our conversation.

ROLL OUT THE WELCOME MAT

Jessica Guzman: What are some of academic year goals for the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence?

Executive Director, who manages the daily programs, and Patricia "Trish" Goodman as the Administrative Assistant.

Arun Gandhi: We are looking to offer credit and non-credit courses and a Non-Violence Cluster to be offered in the spring semester.

J.G.: What is the vision or mission of the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence?

A.G.: To educate on the philosophy of non-violence via credit and non-credit courses, conferences and workshops. In April 2008, there will be a non-violence conference to be held in the Interfaith Chapel. I am looking forward to working with the students and the Rochester Community on this initiative.

J.G.: What types of resources are available to students at the University of Rochester?

A.G.: The M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence is a new resource on campus. In addition to taking academic courses, students will have access to our extensive library collection of research materials, videos, audiotapes, photographs and numerous volumes of Mohandas Gandhi's writings. Students will also be able to attend our conference in April and, in the future, be able to participate in internships at the Institute. We are always looking for volunteers!

J.G.: Who are the key staff members of the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence?

A.G.: The Institute is relatively small and is comprised of myself as the Founder and President, the Reverend Allison Stokes, as the

J.G.: Where are the staff members currently located?

A.G.: Currently, we are split up into two locations. Rev. Stokes and Trish are located at the Interfaith Chapel. This is somewhat worrisome because when I need something or if they need my signature on a document, Trish has been so kind to walk across campus to give it to me. At least the weather has been nice and this has been working out for us, thus far. I am not sure how it will be once it starts getting colder outside. Currently, we communicate through the phone and e-mail. Another thing is that both positions are part-time and I am hopeful that in due time, we will be able to move at least into the same building and that both positions may become full-time.

J.G.: What do you think about the recent span of violence in the Rochester Area?

A.G.: It is distressing and expands beyond the Rochester Community. There are issues of access to medical care, easy availability of guns, breaking down of family ties, extreme poverty and hopelessness associated with this poverty. There is also a drug problem and many people see selling drugs as an easy way to make money. With all of these combined, there is a serious issue. As human beings, we need to have respect for human life, and in order to address these issues, we need to have the desire and dedication. There is no magic wand, but anything can be accomplished if people want to change it.

J.G.: Is there a role for the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence to play in the Rochester Community or are you solely focused on the University campus?

A.G.: We are focused on many things and would like to work with both the Rochester Community and the University of Rochester. We would like to help build bridges between the two. The Institute plans on reaching out to the local community with programs and events, but this partnership will take time, money, volunteers and support from city officials and administration. People should also not expect that our presence would have an overnight affect, because it is going to take time. Currently, there is some pressure to get involved. Although, this is the good kind of pressure and people are aware that we now exist and want human guidance. People have been protesting without knowing the philosophy behind protesting and have grief because they haven't used this philosophy properly. I would like to educate people on the proper use of this philosophy in order to assist them with their protesting.

J.G.: Do you have any words of wisdom?

A.G.: As the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence becomes a center for learning to become better human beings, we must keep in mind that we don't need to tolerate others; we simply need to respect them. Although one cannot demand respect, it must be earned. With this respect many positive and enlightening situations may occur. We as human beings should be able to overcome intolerance and have an exchange with society and humanity.

Internship in the Middle East

By Edgard Duque '09

This past summer I lived in Bahrain, a country in the Persian Gulf, for a month and a half on my own where I interned with Shamil Bank, a leading Islamic commercial and investment bank. It was an incredible and unforgettable summer. The offer for this amazing opportunity originated in December of last year through a friend who works in the banking field in Europe and the Middle East, whom I have known since my junior year in high school. Since then, I have continuously kept in contact with him and I consider him my mentor. He is the person who advises, guides, and motivates me in my educational and professional paths. I want to strongly emphasize that it is essential to keep in touch and follow up with all the people you meet in life and not to lose contact with them. This was certainly significant in developing the great friendship and connection that I have with my mentor.

Meanwhile, back at the U of R as the spring semester rolled out, I continued to stay connected with my mentor as the plans for my summer developed. Although I received other internship offers from banks back at home in Miami and also in New York City, the opportunity in the Middle East was the one that I desired the most. About a week before leaving Rochester for the summer, I received the great news that my internship in Bahrain was finally confirmed. At the end of May, I embarked on my adventure to the other side of the world, with no expectations, but an open mind and eyes to all experiences.

In Shamil Bank, I worked with the Private Banking Department and the bank's management team at the main branch in Bahrain's capital, Manama. I worked from Sunday through Thursday, with my weekend being Friday and Saturday; this is one of the interesting cultural differences. The key aspect of my internship was completing intensive research and training on Islamic banking and finance practices. Studying and learning about this booming industry first-hand while being in the financial center of the Middle East was the most fascinating to me. The concept of Islamic banking and finance,

which is founded upon Islamic principles, was also very interesting. In addition I studied the components and structure of investment products and completed rotations through several of the bank's departments. I also studied the development of the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Bahrain economy and researched local competitors in the Islamic banking and finance field. While at Shamil Bank, I also made many extraordinary friendships with the great group of individuals from different backgrounds that I worked with. I always looked forward to work each day and to interacting with everyone that I met. To this day, our friendships have remained strong, despite the thousands of miles separating us.

Aside from the professional experience in Bahrain, it was also a priceless social and culturally-enriching one. I truly loved the country, the people, their friendliness, their warmth and hospitality, the diverse cultures, the delicious Middle-Eastern food, and everything magnificent that Bahrain has to offer. Every day was a new beginning for me, another opportunity to experience as much as I could from the wonderful Arab culture and learn about it. I did not let any misconceptions of any kind stand in my way of intermingling with those around me. During my stay, I felt that I was part of a family with the friends that surrounded me, despite the fact that I lived completely on my own. Since I had my own car, every day I made plans to go explore a different exotic place in Bahrain and see as much as possible. Although I did not have a map, I ventured out on my own and always made it to where I wanted to go. Getting lost was all part of the experience and simply made it more exciting and memorable.

One of my most adventurous memories was when I visited the Tree of Life. I decided to visit this famous tree that grew and survived in the middle of the desert without any known source of water. On my way back, I decided to make a turn on the tiny, two-lane road in the middle of the desert to take pictures of the sand dunes, but I missed the road by a couple of inches and my car sank into the sand. Despite the breathtaking sunset on the horizon before me, I was completely alone in the desert with temperatures soaring above 110 degrees Fahrenheit and, not to mention, my car was stuck. After waiting for what seemed an eternity and unable to control my nerves, I was finally rescued. A truck was finally able to pull my car out of the sand with a rope and I was safely on the road again.

Being back on campus this fall semester has been a new beginning for me in many different aspects. To continue learning more about the Arab culture, I am now taking Arabic and want

Continued on Pg. 4



to continue to do so during the remaining two years at the U of R. I came back extremely energized, enthusiastic, and motivated from my summer. What effectively worked for me to acquire and experience the most from my experiences abroad was optimism. I am a firm believer that “Life is 10% what happens to you, and 90% how you respond to it.” I respond to it in a positive way. I took charge



of my opportunity abroad to make the most of it and I believe this is what we should do with our educational, professional, and personal goals. As a Colombian, I am very proud to accomplish what I did on the other side of the world. We all have the potential to do so in our lives and grow as great individuals. Motivation and high aspirations for what we want to realize is the key to achievement.

SUMMER ON THE STREET

By Martin Fernandez '08

“You are the dirt underneath the totem pole.” These were the words spoken to an audience of 316 anxious interns who were about to begin their internships on Wall Street. This was my first day as part of the Sponsors for Educational Opportunities (SEO) program.

The SEO program, which aims to prepare minority undergraduates for successful careers in the financial industry, is one of the most competitive and demanding internship programs on Wall Street. Training begins long before you arrive at your first day on the job. From online Finance courses to guest speakers and countless hours of Excel training, the program aims to prepare its interns with all the tools necessary to have a successful internship and a full-time offer at the end of the summer. Each student is required to bring *The Wall Street Journal* to every training session and they are expected to know the top stories of the day. In addition to the technical skills, they instill the values of discipline and hard work that are essential to survive the long hours, the tedious tasks, and the stress that is typical of the internships. The direct, no-nonsense approach that mentors take towards the interns is similar to the work environment that is found in most investment banks.

After about two weeks of training with SEO at the beginning of the summer, I was ready to begin my ten-week internship at Barclays Capital. Armed with the SEO training and one semester of Finance and Accounting, I walked into a battlefield full of veterans of the financial industry making six- to seven-figure salaries. On my first day on the job, I was seated at a station with four computer screens and a telephone that had more buttons than the elevator in the Empire State Building.

My job, as was described to me on my first day, consisted of “analyzing” companies in the airline industry. This meant pouring over financial statements and reading every piece of writing that had the word “airline” in an effort to understand how the companies function. Ultimately, the goal was to advise my manager whether or not a company was a good credit in which to invest.

The task seemed challenging enough, but the in-

teresting part was that I was to do this amidst the commotion of the trading floor. For those who have never set foot inside a trading floor of an investment bank, it is the epitome of organized chaos. With millions of dollars exchanging hands every day, it is not uncommon to hear arguing, profanity, and conversations that would be far too inappropriate for me to describe in this publication. This summer in particular was one of the most tumultuous times that the credit market has ever experienced, so it made it even more exciting to be surrounded by the people at the front lines of the markets.

While the program places its interns under great pressure to perform, it does provide its participants with perks. One of the aspects of the SEO program that makes it stand out from any other internship is their strong partnerships with the major firms on Wall Street. This meant that two times per week, a different investment bank hosted us for either dinner or cocktails to give us an opportunity to network with managers from their respective firms. The Waldorf Astoria, the Rainbow Room and The Pierre were among the list of luxurious venues where they hosted the interns. I was able to mingle with professionals from each firm and compare the cultures in each bank.

After spending ten weeks in this environment, I began to understand why an environment like this was suitable for this industry. This is the place where the world’s money exchanges hands, where fortunes are made and lost, and where decisions can make or break a career. The knowledge I gained this summer was only a drop in the deluge of complicated financial models, formulas, and spreadsheets that attempt to make some sense of this complicated and seemingly chaotic industry. This is the perfect environment for me to begin my climb on the totem pole.

Frederick Douglass Post-doctoral Fellows

Joseph Hill, Ph.D.

(Yale '07, Anthropology), the post-doctoral fellow at the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies at the University of Rochester, is an anthropologist studying religious knowledge and authority in mystical Islamic movements in West Africa. Hill’s dissertation is entitled “Divine Knowledge and Islamic Authority: Religious Specialization among Disciples of Baay Nās.” This publication discusses how several kinds of largely informal religious educations contribute to establishing centers of authority, governance, and globalization outside, beyond, and hidden to any nation-state.

Hill is currently revising, for publication, several articles that develop the themes from his dissertation. One examines the use of discursive and practical paradoxes in mysticism to mediate, yet preserve, contradictions between competing principles and interests. Another discusses how private relationships of Sufi discipleship in Senegal complicate the notion of secular state sovereignty. Joseph Hill’s current book project combines ethnographic methods with a study of Arabic manuscripts from private libraries, presenting Islamic specialists as organic intellectuals mediating between local African practices, nation-states, and larger Islamic literary traditions and communities. Before studying Islam, Hill studied musical performance in Senegal and this long interest in aural culture continues to inform his examination of how mystical practices such as chanting produce religious and communal experiences.



Joseph Hill teaches about digital photography in a Mauritanian tent.

Julia Rabig, Ph.D.

(UPenn '07, History) is the post-doctoral fellow at the Center for the Study of African-American Politics. She recently earned her Ph.D. in history from the University of Pennsylvania. Julia’s dissertation, entitled “The Fixers: Devolution, Development, and Civil Society in Newark, New Jersey: 1960-1990,” surveys the city’s high rates of unemployment, dismal public health, intense segregation and failing public schools that led one major magazine to declare the city “the worst of all cities” in 1975.

While documenting the conditions that contributed to Newark’s decline, her research also explores the dynamic civic life that flowered before and after the 1967 riot, as civil rights activists, black power advocates, corporate executives, and religious institutions reconstituted urban civil society through a series of contentious alliances. By focusing on resident’s

relationships with state and federal officials, she shows how grassroots experiments in housing and economic development cultivated new political constituencies and shaped the course of urban policy. Newark’s story, I believe, sheds light on conflicts over gentrification, citizenship and the persistence of racial and class segregation in our cities today. During my year at Rochester, Julia plans to revise her dissertation, present work at the Frederick Douglass Institute and teach a course entitled “The Civil Rights Movement and its Legacy”. She also plans to investigate the rich historical archives of Rochester.

PRE-DOCTORATE FELLOW

Ayana Weekley is a doctoral candidate in the Feminist Studies Program in the Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies Department at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri in May 2002. Ayana’s dissertation, entitled “Now That’s a Good Girl: Discourses of African American Women, HIV/AIDS, and Respectability,” examines popular discursive representations of African American women and HIV/AIDS, beginning in the 1990’s. The thesis argues that this time period is particularly important for several reasons. First, during this time period, there is a perceived shift in the trajectory of the HIV/AIDS epidemic from affecting mostly gay

white men to impacting poor communities of color, often discussed as the “changing face of the epidemic”. Second, in the mid 1990’s, there is a marked rise in discourse of black gender and sexuality couched in issues of respectability and the need to rebuild black families with strong black male patriarchs at the lead. This concurrent shift in HIV/AIDS discourses and a reinvestment in black politics of respectability create the paradox her dissertation interrogates. Drawing upon black feminist theory, black homosexuality studies and cultural criticism about HIV/AIDS, this research examines discursive representations of African Americans and the epidemic through both national and local black publications and popular fiction.

200 FEET ABOVE THE OCEAN By Paulina Mwangi

This summer I worked for British Petroleum (BP) as their petroleum and environmental engineering intern. My office was in the BP's engineering headquarters in Houston, TX, but all my work was done in the Gulf of Mexico. My work was to support the deep water Gulf of Mexico drilling rigs and production facilities and to make sure that we were operating in compliance to all the environmental permits set for the region.

I managed and maintained 4 big projects which resulted in the creation of different procedures that would position BP on the forefront of operating at very high environmental standards in the Gulf of Mexico. For example, my biggest project was the Sedtox Project which resulted in the creation of one procedure that addressed the sediment toxicity test. The sediment toxicity test is a testing procedure that petroleum companies with offshore operations struggle with due to its instability and variability. It was an honor to be able to work on this project and produce one procedure that would help BP avoid the issues that

to start producing by summer of 2008. This was an exciting project because no one had ever worked on what I was doing. Being able to develop an effluent testing procedure for this monstrous unit and having it work was very satisfying.

Simply put, I loved my experience this summer. What attracted me to the petroleum industry were the engineering challenges. The industry is hungry for new technologies

that would help them operate in areas that were never economically feasible before. BP was a great company to work for and gave me an opportunity to work on real issues that impacted people and the economy. I always knew that whatever I was going to do for a career would not be a regular nine to five office job. I love working in the field, working with my hands,

Terror and shock did not even begin to describe my feelings. It was not as if I could say "no," or else my internship would go down the drain...

other petroleum companies have been struggling with for almost 5 years. Second to this project, I created an auditing program to ensure that service companies that worked to support BP in the Gulf of Mexico were in compliance with the permits and regulations set by BP and government agencies. Another fun project was the

Losal Project, where I developed an effluent testing procedure for a brand new desalination unit that no one has ever built before. This desalination unit was specifically designed for a production facility that was expected

One of my favorite trainings was my last training to get my license to operate offshore. They sent me to a "water survival training" and everyone conveniently forgot to explain what it was. I showed up one morning to this

huge facility outside of Houston, Texas, only to find out that they were literally going to teach me how to survive a helicopter crash or oil rig explosion. This meant one of two things: either someone was going to demonstrate everything and I would watch, or I was



going to be doing everything and hope that I really did survive. The latter was true and this was bad news for me since I swim like a rock. The training was simple as

my instructor said, "Paulina, we are just going to strap about four of you in that fake, plastic chopper you see in front of you. We will raise it up, dump you into the water while you are still strapped in, flip the chopper around, then you have to just simply get yourself out. Oh, by the way, you have about ten seconds to get out. And when you master this, we will have you do the same thing blind folded."

Terror and shock did not even begin to describe my feelings. It was not as if I could say "no," or else my internship would go down the drain, especially since I needed to successfully complete (aka survive) the training for me to get my license to operate offshore. After 12 hours of trying my best to survive, I successfully finished and got my license to operate offshore. My summer was filled with experiences such as this. If someone ever predicted what I had done this summer, I would have totally disagreed with them. However, my limits were pushed and I learned about my strengths and weakness. Overall, I found out just how much I loved doing what I did.

Student Spotlight - *Edwar Estrada '08*

Birth Place/ Hometown: Bronx, NY

Age: 21

Major: History

Hobbies: Playing football and mentoring.

Plans after College: Law School

How have you matured at U of R?

I have matured a lot since coming to the U of R. My experiences on different executive boards and organizations have taught me when to take initiative and when to just be a part of the team. My participation in campus organizations, along with school work and a personal life also taught me how to multi-task and the ability to be efficient. These are all skills that I would not have learned without my active participation on campus and the rigorous curriculum at this university. After about three and a half years here, I am confident that I can tackle any task, no matter the complexity or difficulty.

Your Favorite Quote or Best Advice received:

"It is not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strong man stumbled or how the doer of deeds might have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with sweat and dust and blood; who strives valiantly;

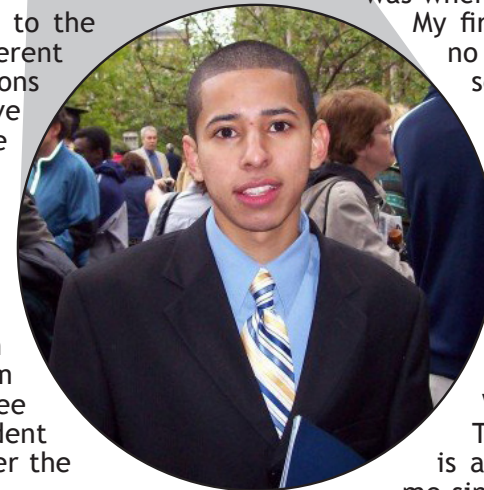
who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, if he wins, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." - Theodore Roosevelt

What is your most prized accomplishment at the UR?

One of my most prized accomplishments at the U of R was when I made the Dean's list my freshman year. My first semester was very frustrating because no matter how much I worked I could not seem to get the grades that I wanted. I felt like my all just was not enough and that I might not be cut out for college. The second semester I told myself that I would try even harder and I would not give up. I used my professors, teaching assistants, and any other resources that I could get my hands on. I finally saw my hard work paying off and it became one of my proudest moments.

Who is your role model and why:

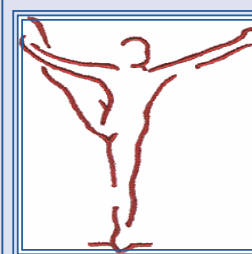
The Honorable Sallie Manzanet because she is a strong Latina woman who has mentored me since I was in junior high school. She taught me that anyone has the ability to overcome all odds and be successful. She was born and raised in the South Bronx and never allowed her surroundings to steer her in the wrong direction. She is one of the kindest and most generous people that I know. I hope that one day I can reach or even surpass her level of success and help out someone else the way she helped me.



Meliora Weekend Highlight

GARTH FAGAN: A DANCE ICON

By Nadine S. Nicholson



On October 18th, Strong Auditorium enjoyed the intense optical surrealism of Garth Fagan Dance. A company celebrated for its strong and virtuous innovation in dance, the methodically precise and undeniable poetic beauty of the performances solidified its position as one of the best in its field. The dancers divergent movement quality comes as a result of years of training in Fagan's technique, developed by Fagan himself, along with his own unique language of dance.

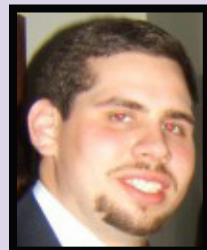
Among the performances of the night, the University received an inaugural preview of a special presentation entitled EDGE/JOY, commissioned particularly in support of Meliora Weekend. A fresh, yet hauntingly appropriate dance for the occasion, EDGE/JOY was described by Fagan as a dance that illustrates that at times, life tosses many obstacles your way and situations are "rough/edgy," but find joy in everything you do.

Oddly enough the performance was a reflection of the didactic aspect of the University.

The dance featured a lead dancer (professor) and a group of dancers (students) who imitated the lead. However, once the group had perfectly imitated the leader, they began "experimenting" with various forms of what they had learned by injecting their own individualized expressions: the core point of the university's liberal arts education. Following the performances, the dancers and Garth Fagan himself were greeted with thunderous applause and open appreciation. EDGE/JOY also featured Eastman music composer Ricardo Zohn-Muldon, as well as Eastman student musicians.

Fagan is most renowned for his choreography of Walt Disney's "The Lion King" for Broadway. He received several awards, as well as honorary doctorates, from many prestigious institutions, including the University of Rochester and Julliard. His company has been indubitably recognized by a host of awards and high honors and is currently in its 37th season.

Dr. Beth Olivares was promoted to Assistant Dean for Diversity Initiatives for the College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Engineering at the University of Rochester. Beth's new position recognizes her role in advising and mentoring a diverse array of students through the McNair Program and Kearns Center. Her further responsibilities include continuing her role as Co-Chair of the College Diversity Roundtable and serving as a member of the University's Diversity and Inclusion Outreach Initiatives Committee. In addition, Beth oversees the College's partnership with the Merchants of Hope: An Education in Entrepreneurship project at Thomas Jefferson High School, and our new Upward Bound projects that were awarded \$2 million from the United States Department of Education for high school students. She is also involved in making recommendations to the Dean regarding policies and programming that would enhance the diversity of the College's curricular and co-curricular offerings, as well as ensure an inclusive, friendly environment for all students on campus.



Anthony Plonczynski '06 '07 (W) is an Academic Advisor for the McNair Program and Kearns Center. Anthony works as a counselor for students who are seeking to pursue graduate degrees in any discipline and work in the areas of science and engineering. Anthony is also the program liaison for the Merchants of Hope. In addition, Anthony works with the Office of Admissions to host the Youth Lifeline America, Free Football and Life Skills Camp at the UR.

Charlana Simmons '02 '04 is an Educational Coordinator for the McNair Program and Kearns Center. For both of the programs, she is responsible for recruiting and working with students on the graduate school application process. She also coordinates the tutoring program for the Thomas Jefferson High School students in the Merchants of Hope program. Additionally, she creates and updates publications for the McNair Program and Kearns Center and represents both programs in speaking and presentation engagements. Charlana currently attends the Margaret Warner School of Education and Human Development. She is studying to complete a doctoral degree in Education with a concentration in Teaching and Curriculum.



Vicki T. Sapp is an Area Coordinator for Residential Life. In her day-to-day job functions, Vicki assists the Assistant or Associate Director for her living area. Her duties include coordinating check-in and checkout, supervising service desk employees and resident advisor staff, maintaining records, advising student groups, and meeting with students to discuss problems. She is a second year doctoral candidate here at the University of Rochester in Higher Education - Educational Leadership.



Jason Buitrago '07 is a Counselor in the Financial Aid Office. He has learned many of the intricacies that come with the financial aid process along with working with a full staff of passionate, responsible and fun people. Jason has fostered a plethora of relationships with students, faculty and staff, delving him into the world of higher education. Jason feels extraordinarily satisfied knowing that he has made an education at Rochester financially feasible for many students. Jason is also excited to experience first-hand the many great initiatives the UR will be undergoing.



COLLEGE CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Monique "Nikki" Terry '02 is an Academic Advisor for the College Center for Academic Support (CCAS). Nikki works with all undergraduates in the College: those pursuing degrees in Arts and Sciences, as well as those majoring in Engineering. She also assists with Orientation and some special programs related to Engineering such as the 2007 FIRST LEGO LEAGUE (FLL) Power Puzzle Championship Tournament. FLL is an exciting international robotics program that ignites an enthusiasm for discovery, science, and technology for children between the ages of 9 to 14. Please contact her at mterry@ur.rochester.edu if you would like to become a volunteer!



FREDERICK DOUGLASS INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

Ghislaine Radeconde-Eison has been promoted to the position of Program Manager. Currently, her goals for the Institute are to develop a communication network of colleges, nationally and internationally, that offer African and African-American studies courses and programming. Ghislaine serves as a liaison to pre-and-post doctoral fellows during their application process and during their academic stay at the University. She manages the Institute's administrative and financial aspects, finalizes plans, including work-in-progress seminars of pre-and-post doctoral fellows and faculty for Institute sponsored lectures. The Institute's programming continues to expand under the leadership of Jeffrey Tucker and is assisted by Gail Figgins, who assures that all Institute operations run smoothly. Ghislaine is pursuing her master's degree in Human Development at the Warner School.

Gail L. Figgins recently joined the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies as their Secretary. Her primary responsibility is providing organizational and administrative support. Gail's most recent support project at the institute "Religious Cultures of the African Diaspora: New Trajectories of Inquiry" involves a speaker series featuring lectures, research and a roundtable discussions on topics of the African diasporas.

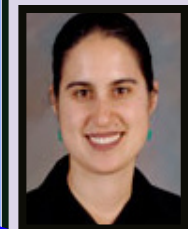


Brad Booke '03 is returning to Rochester after having completed his M.A. in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago. As the Assistant Director for College/Community Programs, Brad is primarily charged with being a postsecondary advocate with 4th - 12th graders in the Rochester City School District (RSCD). He serves as the traditional Admissions Representative to the cities of Rochester, Buffalo, and Chicago. In the Office of Admissions, Brad has begun partnering with local community based organizations and the RCSD to engage local youth and bring them onto campus in meaningful ways. If you are interested in getting involved please contact him at bradly.booke@rochester.edu.

Damian Garcia '07 is a counselor in the Office of Admissions and works with prospective students and families from New York City. In addition to presentations, interviewing and traveling, and most importantly educating, he has taken a personal interest in community outreach in the local Rochester area. Post-secondary advocacy is also large part of his new position and he works alongside his colleague, Brad Booke, in these efforts.



Mira Debs is the Assistant Director in the Office of Admissions and works on several initiatives, including the Renaissance Scholarship program. She has been collaborating with Brad Booke on expanding scholarship offerings to local Rochester public high school students. Mira went to the University of Chicago as an undergraduate and attended the University of Oxford for graduate school on a Rhodes scholarship and joins the University of Rochester after teaching high school History and English for five years in the Boston area.



LEARNING ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Makini Walker Sharpe is a new addition to the Learning Assistance Services office. Coming from the Office of Minority Student Affairs as a Graduate Student Assistant, she now serves as a Study Skills Counselor in Lattimore Hall and the Eastman School of Music. Makini teaches the Methods of Inquiry (CAS 142) course and is a full-time PhD student at The Warner School. Her research focuses on the narratives of Afro-Caribbean women teachers in American urban schools. She hopes to earn her degree in Teaching, Curriculum, and Change in December 2008.



UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER



Ryan P. Niehus is a fifth year doctoral candidate from Pacific University and is currently working as a Pre-Doctoral Intern at the University Counseling Center. He is specializing in the treatment of sexual and physical trauma, eating disorders and group and couples therapy. He is involved in the development of group counseling programs that focus upon interpersonal relationships, depression, and male psychology. Ryan is a UCC liaison for the Office of Minority Student Affairs, Athletics and Recreation, and the Eastman School of Music. Ryan looks forward to continuing to develop close relationships with the students, faculty, and staff at the UR.