Remarks from the Associate Dean for Diversity Enhancement

It is a new year and I am excited to embark on the journey of medical school along with you. Having graduated from Einstein, in 1990, I am in the best position to not only understand the rigors of medical school, but to offer you support and guidance.

The Office of Diversity Enhancement was created over thirty years ago. The mission of our office is to oversee all diversity activities involving Einstein students and faculty. In support of our mission, Dr. Milton A. Gumbs, Associate Dean Emeritus and Ms. Nilda I. Soto, Assistant Dean have served in their respective positions for the past 22 years.

“Fostering a community that shares, supports and celebrates their own” was identified as a core value of the diversity community as we explore new and inventive ways of supporting our diversity students. To that end, we present our first monthly newsletter, and encourage you to share your news with the diversity community. Submit your entry to Maddy at Madeleine.ebanks@einstein.yu.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yvette Calderon, MD, MS
Associate Dean

“Find the difference and celebrate it.”
Shabazz

We exemplify multiculturalism, and diversity.

Additional Resources for You

In January an email was sent out announcing the arrival of Dr. Maria Marzan, Ed.D, MPH.

Dr. Marzan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Social Medicine, Co-Director of BxSHOP, and is a core faculty member at the Hispanic Center for Excellence.

Dr. Marzan will be available at the Office of Diversity Enhancement to meet with you regarding HCOE resources, community service opportunities and provide general advisement. Her dedicated time will be Tuesday and Thursday from 12 Noon to 5pm. An appointment is not needed. Feel free to stop by Belfer—507, or call Dr. Marzan at (718) 430-3419. Her email address is maria.marzan@einstein.yu.edu.

ATTENTION
Diversity Students

> First monthly edition
> Share your activities, photos, poetry, accomplishments and more, with us for publishing
> Stop by our office (B-507) for a cup of coffee, tea, hot chocolate and a snack.

Inside this issue:

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Our offices seeks to celebrate the successes of our students.

Congratulations to Patricia Diaz, MS-2, on having the following two abstracts accepted: “New York State Pediatricians Start Transition Process Later Than Recommended,” and “Transition Policies Amongst New York State Pediatricians.” This was done under the tutelage of Dr. Lynne Davidson.

We are pleased to announced that Utibe Esi-sien, MS-3, was elected the national delegate to Community and Diversity for the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), He is the first Einstein student to serve on the national level with the AAMC.

Utibe will be leading the four regional delegates in a collaboration aimed at increasing diversity in medical schools which includes both ethnic and gender.

Let us know what is new and exciting so we can celebrate you.

Submit your entry to Maddy at Made-line.ebanks@einstein.yu.edu.

The topic of the Lecture is Institutional and Legal Nuances of “isms” (racism, sexism, and classism).

The lecture is scheduled for Wednesday, February 29th at 8:00am, Board of Overseers conference room, in the Forchheimer Building.

All Diversity students are welcomed, RSVP to Maddy at Made-line.ebanks@einstein.yu.edu.

Attention SNMA Chapter Members

The Tour for Diversity in Medicine (TDM) is looking for energetic SNMA members to join them in this new initiative. As a way to reach out to pre-meds a 5-Day tour of Historically Black colleges and universities will take place in the month of February from the 20th through the 24th. Interested students may join for one day or more. The goal of the tour is to bring pre-medical enrichment activities to underrepresented minority undergraduate students.

If interested send an email to: klmmdjd@gmail.com.

“Only a life lived for others is worthwhile”

Albert Einstein
You’re not ready for promotion, she said.

I believed her and with that belief I wrapped myself with a subduing shroud of acceptance, mediocrity, and defeat. Pensive and downtrodden, I mulled over and tried to tease out any possible role or interplay of race in her edict. No evidence, just an internal almost obligatory step, an added lens and burden, to try to reconcile racially discordant historical pasts and a collective present.

In and out of focus, over and over, my thoughts shifted like a fitful tango. Once more I wandered into a zone familiar still undefined, filled with uncertainties and ambiguities.

Haltingly, then persistently, I took the strands of defiance, pride and fear, and I braided them. Days turned into weeks as I pursued my archaeological expedition: searching, culling, archiving, categorizing, eventually building a strong, no, an unequivocally compelling case. In my office’s quiet darkness at sunset I tossed the shroud that was given to me, victoriously smiled: a twenty-year teaching trail embossed in a newly minted portfolio.

The committee voted enthusiastically, convincingly, and unanimously in favor of my promotion to full Professor. And I gracefully danced to my own serene music. But in the midst of high fives and congratulatory hugs, I wondered: How many of my people would have accepted the initial decree perhaps less defiant, less confident, beaten down a bit more by life’s legacies and experiences? One would be too many.

For this reason, I mentor, encourage, teach, guide, lead, empower, affirm, and build a nurturing and secure nest for others to confidently spread their wings, soar, and reach their pinnacle.

Alumni News

The Einstein Alumni Association with Nadine T. Katz, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs (’87) and Jack Stern, MD, PhD, President of the Einstein Alumni Association (’74) held a special reception for newly accepted applicants, alumni, parents and friends on January 26, 2012 at the Harmonie Club. This is the first time the Alumni Associated hosts an event in New York City.

Our own, Yvette Calderon, MD,MS, (’90) Associate Dean for Diversity Enhancement and Nilda I. Soto, MS, Ed, Assistant Dean for Diversity Enhancement were in attendance.

We thank diversity alumni and residents for contributing their time and making the event a huge success.

EEP Program

On December 1, 2011 members of the SNMA/BLHO participated in a panel discussion for the high school students of the Einstein Enrichment Program (EEP). We would like to thank Patricia Diaz, Wilfredo Lorenzo, Dayle Hodge, Debby Yanes and Juan Carlos Sanchez for discussing their pathway to becoming doctors.

We offer many opportunities to mentor EEP high school students. If interested contact Ms. Julie Cruz, Coordinator, Ms. Medina Byars, or Mrs. Deborah Cordero at (718) 430-4166, EEP@einstein.yu.edu.

The office is located in Belfer—407. Stop by and meet the
Mission Statement

The Office of Diversity Enhancement was created almost three decades ago to promote increased recruitment, retention and advancement of underrepresented diversity medical students.

The mission of our office is to oversee all diversity activities involving Einstein students and faculty. Our focus continues to be on the needs of our underrepresented students.

Announcement

3rd Annual BxSHOP Youth Conference is scheduled for June 28, 2012 through July 2, 2012. Diversity students have participated in the past.

If interested contact Ms. Ana-Julia Cruz, Coordinator or Dr. Maria Marzan, or at bxshop@einstein.yu.edu.

SNMA & LMSA Officers

We wish to thank the outgoing officers, and congratulate the recently elected incoming officers, of the Einstein SNMA and LMSA chapters.

INCOMING OFFICERS

SNMA President—Tomi Familusi
LMSA President—Cindy Martinez
SNMA VP—Emmanuel Effah-Appiah
LMSA VP—Alison Schmitzler
SNMA Treasurer—Rama Yakubu
LMSA Treasurer—Jonathan Torres
SNMA Secretary—Fa'iz Bayo-Awoyemi
LMSA Secretary—Nathalie Trinidad

OUTGOING OFFICERS

SNMA President Sharon Lawrence
LMSA President Debby Yanes
SNMA VP—Dayle Hodge
LMSA VP—Matthew Barberry
SNMA Treasurer—Amanda Agyemang
LMSA Treasurer—Steven Benitez
SNMA Secretary—Albert Bararwandika
LMSA Secretary—Rafael Frias

The SNMA and LMSA officers work closely with the Office of Diversity Enhancement in a variety of activities such as recruitment outreach, planning activities for diversity medical students, participate in the annual Diversity Student Retreat and alike.

If you have an interest in attending an academic conference, in the future, please contact Associate Dean Calderon at yvette.calderon@einstein.yu.edu.