



### Advocate & Liaison

The Office of Multicultural Affairs at SUNY Upstate Medical University serves as an advocate for, and liaison to, all four colleges on issues that impact historically underrepresented students.

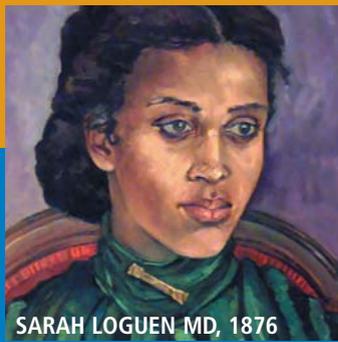
### Academic Support & Other Services

The office offers a program of academic support for all students, including faculty- and student-run tutorials.

OMA makes every effort to help students feel welcome. Our support includes identifying local resources (minority businesses, community and religious organizations, etc.) so that students may better connect with the local community while enrolled at SUNY Upstate.

### Diversity Education & Special Events

The Office of Multicultural Affairs promotes optimum health in a multicultural society by training students, faculty and staff to be culturally competent. Through cultural experiences and education, the office supports a diverse environment in the Upstate community.



SARAH LOGUEN MD, 1876

Our College of Medicine is proud to count among its graduates Sarah Loguen Fraser MD, class of 1876. The daughter of a former slave and leading abolitionist, Dr. Loguen Fraser was one of the nation's first African American women physicians and the first woman physician in the Dominican Republic. On her 150th birthday, SUNY Upstate honored her with a street renaming, the establishment of an annual scholarship, a commissioned portrait (above) and a series of lectures and celebrations. In 2008, an Upstate building is being named in her honor.



Margaret Tandoh, MD, Assistant Dean, Multicultural Affairs

Nakeia Chambers, MS Ed, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs

### For More Information

Please feel free to contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 315-464-5433

### Staff Contacts & Email

SUNY Upstate Medical University  
766 Irving Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
oma@upstate.edu



Office of Multicultural Affairs  
State University of New York  
Upstate Medical University

UASPIRINGDOCS.ORG



State University of New York  
Upstate Medical University

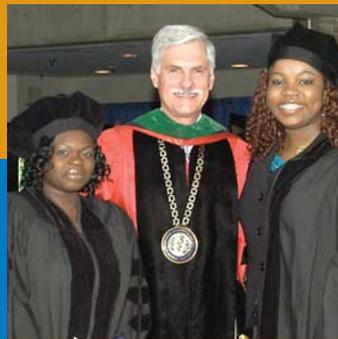


## Office of Multicultural Affairs

# Engaging Excellence & Embracing Diversity



Syracuse • New York



“Excellence through diversity positions us to successfully embrace all individuals within the community we serve.”

—Excerpt from the commitment to diversity, Office of the President

### Mission Statement

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) at SUNY Upstate Medical University works to enroll and retain historically underrepresented students and provides an educational environment that supports the development of all students to become culturally proficient healthcare providers and researchers.

SUNY Upstate Medical University strives, through the Office of Multicultural Affairs, to: Promote training in cultural proficiency among students, staff, residents, and faculty who are caring for all patients irrespective of ethnicity, culture, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation, religion, educational background or disability.



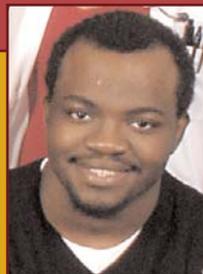
OMA assists the offices of student admissions by representing SUNY Upstate at various programs throughout the Northeast to recruit students from underrepresented populations. OMA also provides pre- and post-advisement for those students.

OMA connects applicants and other interested students with current underrepresented students, alumni, faculty and staff who can offer insights into the campus and community environment.

SUNY Upstate Medical University provides a variety of elective course offerings that explore healthcare as it relates to culture, literature and ethics.

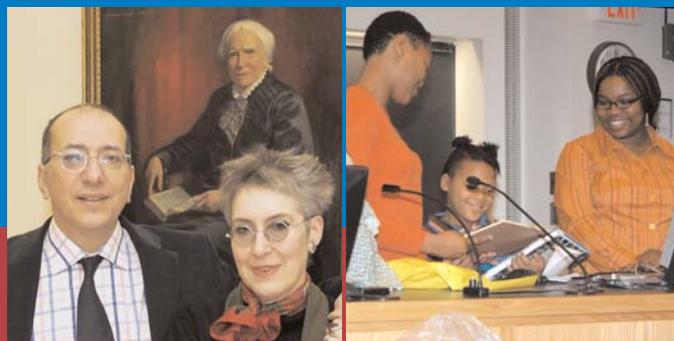
"SUNY Upstate Medical University has expanded me intellectually as well as culturally. The diverse dynamics of the student body not only sets the foundation for unique relationships but also exciting experiences. The relationships and friendships I've developed here create a warm atmosphere which constructs a comfortable environment suitable for learning. The instructors are approachable and accommodate all different types of students from all different types of backgrounds. Students share a common bond for obtaining knowledge to utilize and advance to the next exceptional level. The SUNY Upstate student body represents a family. For me, it's a home away from home."

—Ikenna Anaka (Ike)  
College of Medicine; co-vice president,  
Student National Minority Association (2008-2009)



"From the second I stepped into the admissions office on my interview day, I knew that that SUNY Upstate could become my home away from home. The admissions office was friendly and genuine and this echoed throughout the day. Since I have arrived, Upstate has not only sustained, but exceeded my expectations. From the president and dean, to faculty members and my peers, Upstate has made me feel welcome. Upstate wants me to succeed and become the best physician I can be – this is the impression I got from them and it is the impression that continues to resonate."

—Amrish Patel, College of Medicine



### Events co-hosted by OMA

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Black History Month            | Women's History Month       |
| Native American Heritage Month | Elizabeth Blackwell Day     |
| Latino Heritage Month          | Sarah Loguen Fraser Day     |
|                                | International History Month |

### SUNY Upstate Statistics\*

- |                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Total number of students:</b> | <b>1,364</b> |
| <b>Multicultural Students:</b>   | <b>14%</b>   |
| <b>Male students (510):</b>      | <b>37%</b>   |
| <b>Female students (854):</b>    | <b>63%</b>   |
| <b>States Represented:</b>       | <b>30</b>    |
| <b>Countries Represented:</b>    | <b>26</b>    |

\*Matriculated students attending classes Fall 2008

### Community Outreach Initiatives

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Team Upstate     | Blanket Drive for New Immigrants                    |
| Adopt a School   | Syracuse Community Health Center                    |
| Vera House       | Community Outreach, Prevention and Education (COPE) |
| Helping Hands    | Dunbar Center                                       |
| Samaritan Center |   |
| Amaus Clinic     |   |

"I feel it is important to help others, so I chose SUNY Upstate Medical University because of its dedication to the community. There are many examples of how we help the community at large, including career fairs in local elementary schools, community health fairs, exercise classes in local retirement communities, and more. The faculty and staff here at SUNY Upstate foster this commitment, making it a goal for us all to give back to our surrounding community."

—Caroline Kamunge, College of Health Professions,  
Doctor of Physical Therapy program

### Health, Fitness & Activities

SUNY Upstate's Campus Activities Building houses a swimming pool, sauna, gymnasium, squash courts, handball/paddleball court, weight-lifting area with a Universal Gym and a full Nautilus room, billiards, table tennis, television room, bookstore, snack bar, and lounge. Conference rooms are also available for student use.

The CAB also hosts special events, including (mostly free) concerts, movies and comedy shows. For details, go to: [www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/campuslife/activities/](http://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/campuslife/activities/)



"Here, you're not a number. You get personal attention. Our dean and the president know me by name, and I'm sure that they know most of us. It feels great to spend five years of your life here and find yourself a member of a big family."

I can't imagine a better situation for a graduate student. You get a stipend to do your own research. The work hours are very flexible, and working in lab is fun.

I had offers from five well-known schools in the US. I took everything into account and made my choice. I am very happy about my decision to attend SUNY Upstate. It's not the college name, the size of the department, or the big stadium on the campus that matters. What matters is being in the company of good, talented people and having their attention which helps you succeed.

People in my lab are from eight different countries; this is the meaning of diversity. You have the opportunity to learn about different cultures in such an environment. We have several cultural events throughout the year, and my favorite is the annual international food festival."

—Mohammad Haeri, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Department

### What's Close By

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Adirondack Mountains | New York City |
| Albany               | Niagara Falls |
| Boston               | Toronto       |
| ...and Even Closer   |               |

Syracuse has plenty of ethnic restaurants in the heart of downtown, in Armory Square, in the Westcott neighborhood near Syracuse University, and on Erie Boulevard East. Check out <http://visitsyracuse.org/restaurants/cuisine/> and [www.armorysquare.com](http://www.armorysquare.com).

