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CLAIRE COHEN • STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

I'M OFF TO SEE THE RAMBLERS

The enthusiastic Midnight Ramblers, including senior Matt Myers, brought the "Wizard of Oz" to a packed Strong Auditorium last Saturday. They were accompanied by an all-female a cappella group from Cornell University.

UR, other local colleges convene to tackle 'brain drain' dilemma

BY JUSTIN FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

It's been called the "brain drain" in upstate New York — in the class of 2009 alone, almost three-quarters of UR graduates have left the greater Rochester area.

Last weekend, college students from UR, Cornell University and Syracuse University came together in Syracuse to discuss potential ways to curb this trend.

"Brain drain," if left unattended, can result in severe consequences for the economy, including less tax revenue, innovation and fewer skilled workers.

The idea for this discussion, known as a charrette, came from Assistant Pro-

fessor of Clinical Entrepreneurship Neil Tarallo, at Syracuse's Whitman School of Management.

From each university, 12 students of various academic interests and backgrounds and a faculty member were in attendance. During the first two days of the three-day event, students from the three colleges worked together to come up with creative new solutions to the "brain drain" problem, which they presented on Sunday.

Several major factors contributing to this issue were addressed at the charrette. Among these, one of the most strongly emphasized was the perception people

have about the upstate New York area.

"I feel like the main cause is a lack of positive image associated with New York," junior April Hu, one of the students from UR to attend the charrette, said. "Like 'there's nothing to do, it's cold and dreary.'"

The poorer economic climate was brought up as well, in addition to the effect it is having on the availability of funding for entrepreneurship. Poor communication was also frequently addressed, as universities often encourage looking to major cities for work, while simultaneously coming up short when it comes to communicating the benefits of working in a more

local environment.

"[University Career Centers] are kind of pushing Fortune 500 companies, but with the recession and everything, that landscape is changing," Natalie Yager Antal, who attended the presentations on Sunday, said. "You don't get a job and stay there 60 years anymore. You're at small companies and startups. You move around a lot more."

At the charrette, the teams were charged with the difficult task of developing ways to limit the "brain drain," and they did not disappoint. Unique reform measures were suggested in such areas as

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Woodlands a valuable resource

BY ANDREW OTIS
OPINIONS EDITOR

Under rain and dreary skies, Professor of Biology Robert Minckley's Ecosystem Conservation and Human Society class trudged through UR's Woodlands near Whipple Park in Brighton. Teaching Assistant and sophomore Margaret Ball gave instructions to the students from the front of the line, asking them to consider the function of each individual part of the woodlands as a part of the class assignment to measure the woodlands' dollar worth.

Part of UR's master plan involves an extension south into this very spot — the Whipple Park area. UR, under the leadership of Chief Financial Officer Ronald Paprocki and Director of Facilities Richard Pifer, is exploring options for housing, research and renovations to existing buildings in the woodlands area.

The woodlands may be threatened by development.

The area contains various plant and animal species that are rare within upstate New York. The fact that the woodlands play host to many stages of natural growth increases overall diversity — some of the land can be categorized as mature woodlands, which occur on sites that were never converted to agriculture and are over 150 years old. The area includes over 90 bird species and 40 tree and scrub species,

several of which (American chestnut, Freeman's maple, black cherry) are quite rare in upstate New York.

Vernal pools — wet shallow depressions — provide breeding sites for amphibians. There are a large variety of animal species as well. Drainage, recreation and carbon sequestration are examples of ecosystems the Woodlands provide.

Students and classes currently use the woodlands as lab space, such as to evaluate ecosystem services — that is, quantifying what the woodlands provide for humans and determining the costs and benefits of converting it.

According to Professor of Biology Tara Ramsey, the area's proximity to the River Campus increases its utility.

"It's close by — we take classes there," she said.

About 14 undergraduates have independent projects in the area as well.

Ball, who completed an independent study in the area, now uses the space for research.

"The value of it is tremendous because there is no other opportunity for students to see a natural area like that and study it," Ball said. "And it's so close to campus. There's nothing else like it... I think it's a great resource for the University."

Minckley had students value ecosystem services for the woodlands, such as the

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MARK FLEMING • PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

UR Woodlands near Whipple Park, which are used as a classroom for several UR biology classes, are in the targeted development area of the University's master plan.

Freshman Senator impeached

BY EMILY BERKOWITZ
STAFF WRITER

Students' Association Senator and freshman Chizoba Umesi was impeached and removed from office at the Senate meeting on Monday, Nov. 16, for an attendance violation, as well as a lack of involvement in his governmental duties.

The next person in line for the Senate seat is freshman Rohini Bhatia and, within the next two weeks, the SA will know if Bhatia's schedule will allow her to fill the seat.

In addition to acting as a senator, Umesi was a member of the Steering

and Projects and Services committees. It was Umesi's absences from the Projects and Services committee meetings that subjected him to being put on the agenda for impeachment from the Senate.

In Article V of the Senate By-Laws, the attendance policy, which can be found on the Hive Web site, states that repeated absences from the committee meetings is grounds for removal. In addition, the co-chairs of the committee determine the number of repeated absences, which are justifiable for removal.

"We wanted to be a bit

more strict on the attendance this year because the Senate has been taking on more and more responsibilities every year, [which is] done in committees," Speaker of the Senate and senior Kierstin Hughes said. "So we really wanted to emphasize this year that being a Senator also carries this commitment of participating."

After being sworn in as senator on Sept. 21, Umesi missed the first three Projects and Services committee meetings. Co-chairs of the Projects and Services Committee and sophomores Bradley Halpern and Alissa Brill warned Umesi that his

absences from the Projects and Services Committee meetings would result in harsh consequences.

Umesi began to attend meetings again for the next three weeks after his warning. According to Umesi, it was not made clear to him until several weeks into his Senate term that attendance at committee meetings was taken into account for his Senate attendance record.

"How do you explain the punishment for an offense that I did during the earliest stage of my senate run when there was clearly a miscommunication issue?"

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THE IRONIC MR. DIAZ

New York State Senator Rueben Diaz has inexplicable views on gay marriage.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer team lost a heartbreaker to Rowan College.

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Woods: Administration, biology agree on development near Whipple Park

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wetlands' role in cleaning water.

"Some people were really blown away that there was a big old forest so close to campus," he said. "There's a little more traction when you actually see the place. It shows [students] the complexity of [valuation]."

Current concerns

Despite being far from the city's center, people frequently enter the woodlands for potentially harmful activities.

Human interference raises other concerns, particularly for liability.

"If people are doing stuff in there and get hurt, the University could be sued," Ramsey said.

The biology department has proposed to put up signs and trail maps. Many trails already exist in the area — the issue is codifying trails that the University wants people to use to incur minimal environmental damage.

"We want to get people on individual paths rather than wander aimlessly," Ramsey explained.

Invasive species, as well, damage the woodlands' ecological health. Oriental bittersweet, honeysuckle, buckthorn and garlic mustard all comprise threats.

With development, the area can



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RAMSEY LAB WEB SITE

Woodlands' marsh-like areas, as seen in the left photo, are home to rare species such as the Green Heron. The woodlands is also home to several invasive plants, as seen in the right photo.

be better maintained by the University, and the spread of invasive species can be curtailed. The goal is not only to make the area accessible to people, but also to protect the natural ecosystem.

"It should be possible to make it so that people can go and have a good time and use it while also protecting it in the long term," Ramsey said. "The worst thing that can happen is that they tear it down and put a building — that would be worse from a sense of preservation. It would be better to have it be used more by people in an appropriate way than be lost entirely."

There are other concerns in addition to the environmental ones — water drainage from the wetlands

could be a major issue for nearby Brighton residents.

"The woodlands on the South Campus probably play a pretty big role in buffering water," Ramsey said. "And I think this will actually be a big issue in getting any more buildings...if it was altered, it could lead to that water going elsewhere including places that people don't want it to go, like their backyards."

The Town of Brighton conducted its own master plan a few years ago to rezone UR's land on South Campus into an Institutional Planned Development Zone. The University has attempted to allay Brighton's concerns by building for residential purposes near private properties

and leaving buffer zones between it and Brighton. The administration believes that its plan is viable for both Rochester and Brighton, according to Pifer.

"Now it's completing the administrative process to get final approval for both of the rezoning efforts," Pifer said.

The University's rezoning has already been approved by the State Environment Quality Review Board.

"The town has to issue a negative declaration — that is a statement declaring the University's proposed development — has no adverse effects," Paprocki said.

This declaration will probably be made in the coming year. Then,

when UR finalizes definite plans many years down the road, the plan will have to return to the Brighton Town Hall for approval.

Biologists' consensus

Members of the Biology Department are in general agreement over plans for the woodlands.

"What their concerns and interests are, are really compatible to what we have planned," Paprocki said.

Biology Department Chair Tom Eickbush agreed.

"It seems that everybody seems to be on more or less the same page," Eickbush said. "It's kind of a remarkable resource very close to campus and we need to preserve it."

Ramsey saw several potential ways that preservation of the woodlands could be beneficial. Preservation of the area could even be used for advertising or for photos on the Web site to raise UR's profile.

"[The woodlands] could potentially be a focus for fund raising," Ramsey said. "In the West, they'll actually name a grove of trees or a path after the donor. In theory, you could do the same type of thing here."

Otis is a member of the class of 2011.

Zupan: The earlier, the better

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

he or she may not have four to six years of experience. The other traits are harder to replicate.

So we've become more open to the idea of candidates three years [out of college] or less and of college students from UR.

There was a recent study published in an academic journal showing from a net present value perspective. It's an incredibly attractive option to go earlier as opposed to later. When you get older, you give up more of a job prospect for two years. You also have higher switching costs if you are married and have kids.

Are there any new initiatives in the pipeline?

A big puzzle has been getting more people from the College. Thirty years ago, we were drawing twice as many students directly from UR. It could be because the conventional wisdom now is to wait

four to six years, so how do we get the word out better on a college campus that that is counter intuitive? It may make all the sense in the world to pursue the M.B.A. now versus later.

So the general trend nationwide is to encourage M.B.A. students to start later, and you're saying "No, let's start earlier"?

We were the first school to start the reverse [on accepting younger students]. We've been on the innovative edge. We've historically tried to take out ads in college papers and hold information sessions.

We're even experimenting with new technologies like YouTube and MySpace. How do we more effectively do the viral marketing to a generation that maybe doesn't read the Wall Street Journal or the New York Times?

Willis is a member of the class of 2011.

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