

NSBE

THE



TORCH

Volume 5 Issue 5 February 2009

RENSSELAER

THE NSBE-RPI TORCH

A Message From Your PCI Chair



Greetings NSBE-RPI Fam!!

For those of you who don't know me be now, my name is Marquia Farmer and I am the 2008-2009 Pre-College Initiative (PCI) Chair. PCI is one of NSBE's initiatives that falls under "Positively impacting the community" in our mission statement. This academic year our PCI has had some wonderful workshops that benefitted both collegiate and Pre-college members. With that said we need your continued support and participation to make PCI even better and help us end the '08-'09 year with a bang! If you have any ideas for workshops or would like a more active role, feel free to contact me at farmem@rpi.edu or come to any of our PCI meetings on Tuesday s from 3:30pm-5:00 pm. I hope to hear from and see you all soon!!

One Fiyah! More Fiyah!!
Marquia Farmer

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Black Inventor—Philip Emeagwali



Philip Emeagwali was voted the greatest African scientist in history. He helped give birth to the supercomputer, which is the basis of the internet. In fact, Professor Emeagwali came up with the formula that enabled many different computers to communicate at once. In this way, he is a father of the internet.

Emeagwali was born in Akure, Nigeria. He was a gifted mathematics student, but his family became refugees of war and he had to drop out of school because his parents could not afford schooling any longer. However, Emeagwali persevered through adversity and went on to the University of London, George Washington University, the University of Maryland and the University of Michigan where he received a doctoral fellowship. His first exploration with the supercomputer was with his doctoral dissertation in which he discussed how to stimulate the detection of oil reservoirs using a supercomputer. He opted to determine how to use thousands of microprocessors to do the computation. The machine he developed was able to perform 3.1 billion calculations per second. The major discovery was that he was able to program each of the microprocessors to talk to six neighboring microprocessors at the same time.

Emeagwali developed a practical and inexpensive way to use machines to speak to each other all over the world. The oil industry adopted his idea to create the Hyperball International Network, creating a virtual world wide web of ultrafast digital communication. Professor Emeagwali won the Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers' Gordon Bell Prize in 1989, and he was also considered for the Nobel Prize of computing. On the Internet, Emeagwali says that, "...as we know it today did not cross my mind...I was hypothesizing a planetary-size supercomputer and, broadly speaking, my focus was on how the present creates the future and how our image of the future inspires the present."

NSBE's Mission is "To Increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community."



VIVA LAS VEGAS!!!

Convention FAQ's

What is the purpose of the National Convention?

The purpose of the National Convention is to bring together officers, leaders, and members in a centralized location to conduct the business of NSBE by reporting the year's accomplishments, and to disseminate information to the membership at large.

What happens at the National Convention?

In addition to business meetings, there are competitions, keynote speakers, banquets and luncheons, entertainment, college test preparation, professional certifications, workshops, and a two-day career fair.

How can I volunteer at National Convention?

Sign up for volunteering is now active under NOL under 2009 convention Events Happening. If you have any questions regarding volunteering please contact Shannon Bouldin at sbouldin@nsbecpc.org.

What is the attire for National Convention? What should I bring?

NSBE National Convention is a business meeting; therefore, business attire is required. This includes but is not limited to suits, dress shoes, ties, and khakis. However, there will be less formal events where business casual and casual attire is appropriate. Participants should also bring jeans, Polo-style shirts, tennis shoes, sandals, and after-five attire.

What is there to do in Las Vegas?

Shows, restaurants, shopping, tours, attractions, and much more. Check out the Las Vegas Tourism site www.visitlasvegas.com

Tech Time



The GSMA along with 17 mobile operators and manufacturers announced a new initiative to create and adopt a universal charger for mobile phones last week. Finally! The group believes that a majority of mobile phones will support the universal charger by the year 2012.

This means a number of positive things will happen. Waste will definitely decrease because users now need only one charger. Those of us who have had to buy new cell phones because we've either lost or broken our old ones know how annoying it is to keep all the chargers that come with the cell phones. Chargers can now be an optional accessory! This also means that the price of mobiles will go down because a charger does not have to be thrown in automatically by the manufacturer. And of course, a universal cell phone charger also means no more dead cell phones after forgetting your charger back at your place. Convenience, environmental protection, and savings all in one!

The only bad part of this initiative is that Apple is not a part of it. An initiative like this needs all major manufacturers to be a part of it to truly be effective. So come on iPhone users, pick up your phone and tell Apple to join the initiative!

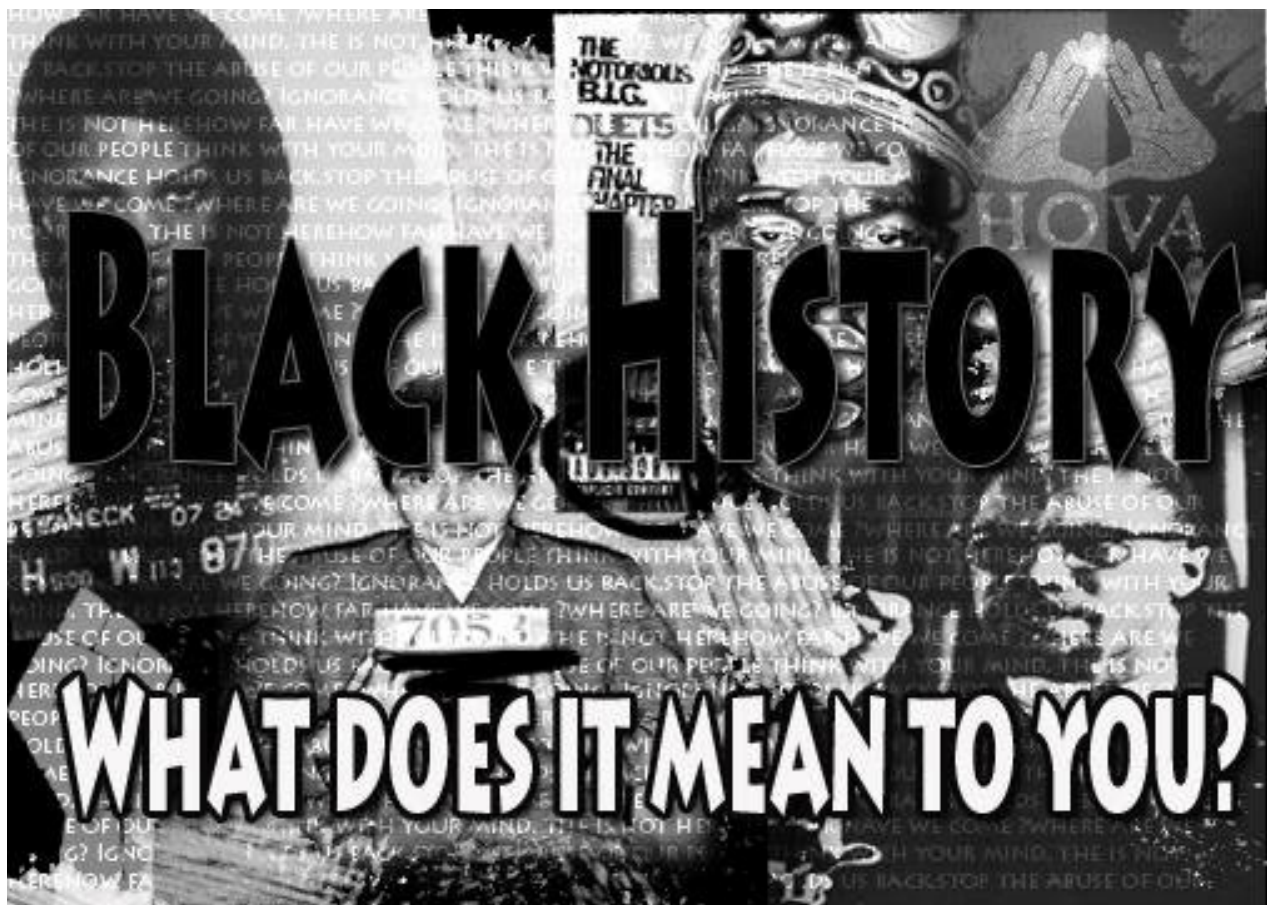
Ralph Martinez
Class of 2011

NSBE Facts

- Has more than 26,000 collegiate and professional members, including over 3,500 pre-college students
- NSBE produces two publications: *NSBE Magazine* and *The Bridge Magazine*
- NSBE is supported by a Board of Corporate Affiliates and major sponsors of Fortune 500 Corporations
- A professional staff of 21 operate the NSBE World Headquarters Office. Located in Alexandria, VA, headquarters serves as the central point of operations

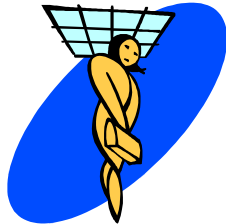
Important Websites:

- NSBE National website <https://nol.nsbe.org>
- NSBE-RPI website www.nsbe.rpi.edu
- NSBE Region 1 www.nsbe.org/region1/



Artwork By: Anonymous (NSBE-RPI member)

Highlight: Breaking Barriers Workshop



To the women of NSBE, you are cordially invited to the NSBE/SHPE/SWE Breaking Barriers workshop on March 4th from 5:30 to 7 pm in the Alumni House. You will be able to hear the stories of successful women who have made significant achievements in the corporate and academic worlds. This is a prime opportunity to share your thoughts and aspirations and ask questions and advice of women who have gained the wisdom of experience. We hope to see you there!

Announcements..

Nationals Convention

When: March 25th—March 29th
Where: Las Vegas, The Flamingo Hotel
convention.nsbe.org
Contact: billya@rpi.edu

Contribute to the Torch for points!!

Though Nationals is finalized, your points are still working towards something *rewarding*.

Want to be Published??

Contribute to the **NSBE-RPI Torch**, the **NSBE National Magazine** or **NSBE Bridge Magazine**
E-mail Thisha Glover at glovet@rpi.edu for more information.

NSBE Study Jam

Get your study on to keep those grades up!

When: Every Wednesday

Where: Low 4040 & 4034

Time: 7pm - 11pm

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Executive Board Meeting	2	3 PCI (3:30pm-5:00pm Union 2124)	4 NSBE Study Jam (7pm - 11pm) College Bowl	5	6	7 Black Family Technology Awareness Day
8 Executive Board Meeting	9	10 PCI NSBE General body Meeting #9	11 NSBE Study Jam (7pm - 11pm)	12	13	14
15 Executive Board Meeting	16 President's Day	17 PCI	18 NSBE Study Jam (7pm - 11pm)	19	20	21 Exploring Engineering Day
22 Executive Board Meeting Sunday Dinner	23	24 PCI	25 NSBE Study Jam (7pm - 11pm)	26	27	28