In just a few short weeks, you will be starting your four years here at the University. You may be nervous about this new adventure you will be embarking upon and unable to think of anything else. Or you may not be: relaxing on the beach, hanging out in the sun, and enjoying your summer before college. Whatever you’re feeling, anxiety or excitement or a little of both, we’re excited for you to get here!

We know you’ve received a ton of forms, surveys, questionnaires, and information packets, and we hope you’ve signed up for everything and filled out what you need to! The Orientation staff decided that we wanted to give you a break from the forms about where you’re going to live, what you need to bring, and where you’re taking your classes, to share some cool facts, history about the University, lists of things to do here during the next four years, as well as a countdown calendar to Orientation.

About our motto, Meliora... In 1851, the University adopted its motto, Meliora, Latin for ‘better’ with the connotation of ‘ever better,’ or a belief in the concept that the world may be better by human effort, a meaning adopted by the University. One of Rochester’s original faculty members, Asahel Kendrick, a professor of Greek from 1850 to 1888, reportedly came up with the motto, likely taken from the passage in Ovid: ‘video Meliora proboque,’ which translates to ‘I see and appreciate better things.’

About the School Colors... Dandelion Yellow and ‘Rochester’ Blue are the University’s official colors, adopted in 1954. These have not always been our official colors; magenta and white, light blue and gray, and gold and yellow have all had their turn as well.

About the Class Roll... First-years sign the class roll after Convocation on their first day on campus to symbolically join the University. The class roll is housed in Rush Rhees Library and is displayed at Commencement and class reunions.

About the Flower, the Dandelion... Before Azariah Boody donated the land that became the Prince Street Campus, the field was used as a grazing pasture for his cows. The well-fertilized field was covered in dandelions, which made the flower an integral part of student life. It is rumored that after the River Campus was completed in 1930, a sentimental graduate made it his purpose to preserve the tradition by transferring a copious supply of puff ball seed heads to the University’s new home beside the Genesee.

Get excited! Because UR Almost Here!

You started at the University!
Here are some things to do during your first year:

- Get lost in the tunnels...
- Watch a movie in Hoyt...
- Sled down the hill behind Sue B.
- Paint the tunnel under the academic quad...
- Enjoy Pittsford Wegmans in all its glory...
- Eat at Jay’s Diner after 1 am...
- Go to a concert at Eastman...
- Get coffee at Java’s or Spot...
- Take a tour of the library tower...
- Stay up all night in Gleason or ITS...
- Go to Genesee Valley Park...
- Get a Garbage Plate at Nick Tahou’s...
- Tour Mt. Hope Cemetery...
- Go to the little Theatre...
- Get fresh food at the Public Market...
- Stargaze in the fields...
- Bike the Canal Trail...
- Go to an a cappella concert...
- Watch engineering students launch pumpkins on Halloween...
- Put a scarf or hat on the George Eastman statue...
- Ice skate at the Genesee Valley rink...
- Make snow angels in Fauver stadium...
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