Selected Coverage April 2008

National

WHAM TV 13 (April 11)
Kodak Giving $10 Million to Renovate Eastman Theatre (video)
University of Rochester President Joel Seligman announced Friday morning Kodak is donating $10 million to help expand the Eastman Theatre. Work on the expansion, announced last fall, will begin in July. The cost of the project is $35 million. The state contributed $13 million. (Also reported by WHEC TV 10 (video), WROC TV 8 (video), R News, WXXI, WCAX TV Vermont, Staten Island Advance, Rochester Business Journal, Messenger Post, City Newspaper, Democrat and Chronicle)

Forbes (April 21)
Common Chemotherapy Drug Linked to Memory Problems
Researchers from the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York and Harvard Medical School say they’ve discovered how the chemotherapy drug 5-fluorouracil -- or 5-FU -- affects the central nervous system even long after treatment ends. The hope is this discovery will lead to ways to decrease or eliminate the damage so cognitive functioning is preserved. “What we found is the damage done short-term is much less than the damage that occurs long-term,” said Mark Noble, senior author of the study published in the April 22 issue of the Journal of Biology. “After the drug is stopped, the cellular damage gets worse.” (Also reported by U.S. News & World Report, BusinessWeek, New Scientist UK, Atlanta Journal Constitution, Austin American-Statesman Texas, China Post Taiwan, NewKerala.com India, BBC News UK, WebMD, The Star United Kingdom, MSN UK News, Science a Go Go and many others)

R News (April 5)
U of R Rated Among Top in Engineering
The University of Rochester’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences ranked among the top private engineering schools in the nation. U. S. News & World Report rated the school among the best. It is home to the nation’s first doctoral program in optics, and the most powerful ultraviolet laser in the world.

New York Times (April 8)
A Fear That the Market’s Watchdog Is Losing Its Bite
Since Christopher Cox, a former Republican congressman from California, took over as S.E.C. chairman in 2005, spending on enforcement has fallen from $316.3 million to $298 million in 2007. “He was more moderate in his approach on many issues at the start of his chairmanship,” said Joel Seligman, president of the University of Rochester and author of a book on the history of the S.E.C. “He worked very hard to build consensus to an extent that many people thought was appropriate and wise.” (Also reported by International Herald Tribune France, Austin America-Statesman Texas)

Local

Democrat and Chronicle
R News
Rochester Business Journal
WHAM TV 13
BusinessWeek (April 13)
Rochester's Intimate Program
Gregory MacDonald is the executive director of admissions and administration at the William E. Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester. Prior to joining Simon in July, 2005, MacDonald spent 15 years working in undergraduate enrollment, including six years in the undergraduate admissions office at Rochester. MacDonald says that Simon is the perfect size to provide students with a highly personalized experience from the start of the admissions process through graduation day and beyond.

New York Times (April 5)
Pataki Slow to Release Documents to Archives
The paper, microfilm and, beginning with the Pataki administration, digital records are often unsurprising but can be peppered with letters, memorandums and handwritten notations that offer penetrating insights into how government works, or does not. A lot of it is pretty routine, said Mary M. Huth, assistant director of rare books and special collections at the University of Rochester, which houses Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's papers and where his biographer, Richard Norton Smith, spent months doing research. But there are also letters of historical importance and personal interest. That's why we keep the stuff.

Rochester Business Journal (April 1)
UR group gets perfect score
The National Committee for Quality Assurance has given the University of Rochester Medical Faculty Group a perfect score for its credentialing and privileging systems, and recertified it as a physician organization. The UR group is comprised of 982 physicians. Through its medical staff office, the group serves as a central resource for credentialing physicians, coordinating privileges for all health care professionals working within the University of Rochester Medical Center, and negotiating payment rates with third-party payers.

The Inquirer, United Kingdom (April 2)
Scientists compress music files 1000 times smaller than MP3s
Scientists at the University of Rochester have come up with a way to reproduce music into a computer file that's 1,000 times smaller than a comparable high-quality MP3 file. The researchers demonstrated their methods by encoding a 20-second clarinet solo in less than a single kilobyte. “This is essentially a human-scale system of reproducing music,” says Mark Bocko, professor of electrical and computer engineering and co-creator of the technology. (Also reported by Democrat and Chronicle, The Cheers Estonia, PhysOrg.com Virginia, NewKerala.com India, Audio DesignLine New York, ZD Net, TG Daily, Gizmag Australia, Malaysia Sun and others)

USA Today (April 7)
Community college all-stars: Busy, brainy students branch out
More than 1,500 students from 849 community colleges in 50 states and beyond were nominated to the All-USA Community College Academic First Team, which recognizes outstanding two-year college students. Included on the list is Mary Mansfield, 38, of Victor, N.Y., who is a married mother of four who had always planned to go to college. But “once I had children, they were my No. 1 focus.” When her youngest entered kindergarten two years ago, she went to school, too: Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, her closest and least expensive option. The first in her family to go to college, she will transfer this fall to the University of Rochester, where she eventually hopes to earn a doctorate in epidemiology.

New York Times (April 2)
Overweight Kids Have Fewer Cavities
Overweight children have healthier teeth than normal weight kids, a new study shows. The surprising finding, published this month in the journal Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology, comes from researchers at the Eastman Dental Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center. They analyzed data from nearly 18,000 children who participated in two separate major surveys that were part of the large and ongoing National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. “We expected to find more oral disease in overweight children of all ages, given the similar causal factors that are generally associated with obesity and caries,” said Eastman Dental Center's Dr. Dorota Kopycka-Kedzierawska, the lead author. Our findings raise more questions than answers. Research to analyze both diet and lifestyle is needed to better understand the results. (Also reported by Xinhua China, People's Daily Online China, The Cheers Estonia, Thaindian.com Thailand, Top News India and others)
R News (April 21)
College Presidents Talk Future (video)
They are no longer just colleges. They are being called powerhouses when it comes to turning Rochester around. Nowhere is that more evident in Rochester than at the University of Rochester and RIT. Combined, the two schools pump three billion dollars into the local economy. The U of R is Rochester’s largest employer. It employs 19,000 people, 31,000 indirectly, supporting 30 spin-off companies. U of R President Joel Seligman says Rochester can look to Pittsburgh and Baltimore as two examples of what could lie ahead. (Also similar reports by WHEC TV 10 video, Democrat and Chronicle)

US News & World Report (April 2)
Persistent Insomnia Leads to Depression in Young Adults
Insomnia is more common among elderly people. According to a separate Sleep study from University of Rochester researchers in New York, elderly patients being treated for depression were almost two to four times more likely to remain depressed if they had persistent insomnia, compared with patients with no insomnia. Elderly patients receiving standard care for their depression fared worse than those receiving more enhanced care. (Also reported by Washington Post, Forbes, Atlantic Journal Constitution, Scientific American, Austin American-Statesman Texas and others)

Fortune Magazine (April 8)
The man who would be Robbins, Covey, and Chopra
Let’s face it: Ours is a society looking for answers, or at least a good pep talk. People are working harder and longer, and the media are filled with muddling imagery of tough times and high-living celebrities. “All of us, to some degree, are wandering around the world, having had sapped from us the kind of interest, vitality, and excitement that we are born with,” says Edward Deci, a psychology professor and director of the human motivation program at the University of Rochester.

Scientific American (April 14)
Red wine compound may kill pancreatic cancer cells
A compound found in the skin of red grapes and red wine may help induce pancreatic cancer cells to malfunction and die, a lab study has found. In the new study, researchers at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York treated human pancreatic cancer cells with resveratrol, either alone or in combination with radiation. (Also reported by Reuters, National Post Canada, The Vancouver Sun Canada, TVNZ New Zealand, R News, The China Post Taiwan)

Scientist Live, United Kingdom (April 7)
ALS toxic assault
Leaky blood vessels that lose their ability to protect the spinal cord from toxins may play a role in the development of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as ALS or Lou Gehrig’s disease, according to research published in the April issue of Nature Neuroscience. “We believe these changes contribute to or possibly initiate the onset of ALS,” said lead author Berislav Zlokovic, M.D., Ph.D., of the University of Rochester Medical Center. “It’s clear that these changes occur before the loss of neurons, and it’s well known that the types of changes we are seeing certainly injure or kill these types of cells, which are extremely sensitive to their biochemical environment.” (Also reported by News-Medical.net Australia, Science Centric Bulgaria, UPI, NewKerala.com India, The Cheers Estonia, Thaindian.com Thailand, The Money Times India)

Washington Post (April 18)
Exercise Combats Cancer Fatigue
The first step in treating cancer-related fatigue is to check for any underlying medical conditions (such as anemia or an underactive thyroid) that can cause fatigue-like symptoms, said exercise researcher Karen Mustian, an assistant professor in the department of radiation oncology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. She was not involved in the review. “There will still be a fair amount of patients dealing with fatigue after we get other situations under control,” Mustian said in a prepared statement. (Also reported by Forbes, Atlanta Journal Constitution and others)

Fox Business (April 8)
Women’s Sports Foundation Names New CEO
The Women’s Sports Foundation, founded in 1974 by Billie Jean King, today announced the appointment of Karen Durkin as its CEO. Durkin joins the Foundation from the National Hockey League where she served as executive vice president of communications and brand strategy. She is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Rochester, where she studied at the Eastman School of Music.
Durkin earned a master's degree from Northwestern University's Medical School of Journalism and she began her career at Cohn & Wolfe Public Relations.

**Democrat and Chronicle (April 10)**

$700 million set for upstate revival
New York State will spend tens of millions of dollars on tearing down the Midtown complex and building up the University of Rochester. Among items included in the Upstate Revitalization Fund is $55 million for the demolition of Midtown and $50 million for UR’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute. The UR money will go toward a 150,000-square-foot building housing labs and offices focusing on commercializing medical research. UR plans to cover about $6 million of the cost. (Also reported by *R News, WROC TV 8*)

**CBS News (April 11)**

New Debate on Human Test of Stem Cells
**Human Testing: Risks vs. Benefits** All medical research is supposed to balance potential risks with benefits. But embryonic stem cell researchers feel their path is especially narrow, given the politically charged atmosphere around their field. “It would take very few patients suffering [cancer] to really put a significant damper on the field for years to come,” says Steven A. Goldman, MD, a stem cell researcher at the University of Rochester and a panel member. (Also reported by *WebMD*)

**Democrat and Chronicle (April 16)**

Cheers greet arriving Benedict
A good financial aid package and an opportunity to learn from great musicians brought Jennifer Pascual to Rochester in 1996 to attend the Eastman School of Music. She used that training to establish quite a career. Pascual will oversee all the music for liturgical events during Pope Benedict XVI’s three-day visit to New York City, including being lead conductor for the Mass at Yankee Stadium. The Mass will have a 200-person choir and 58-piece orchestra behind home plate.

**Scientific American (April 2)**

Premature babies at higher risk for autism: study
In a separate study in the journal, researchers at the University of Rochester in New York found families with an autistic child often faced financial hardship. Besides having to pay more out-of-pocket for medical care and education, parents of the 131 children in the study with autism spectrum disorders lost an average of $6,200 from their expected annual income, or 14 percent. (Also related reports by *National Post Canada, Calgary Herald Canada, WHAM TV 13 video, WHEC TV 10 video*)

**Post Standard, Syracuse (April 12)**

Crash claims gifted musician
Gretchen M. Snedeker packed a lot into her short life. At 24, she was already the principal French horn player in two orchestras. She was three weeks shy of earning a master’s degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. An adjunct music professor at Colgate University, she was being groomed to take over as principal horn player at Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown. (Also reported by *WHAM TV 13, WHEC TV 10, WROC TV 8, Utica Observer Dispatch, Democrat and Chronicle* and others)

**U.S. News & World Report (April 10)**

Researchers Pursuing Nasal Anthrax Vaccine
American researchers have developed a nasal spray anthrax vaccine that provides protection against the potentially deadly bacterium, at least in mice. “This study is an early stage study,” said one of the authors, Mingtao Zeng, an assistant professor in the department of microbiology and immunology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. “It can be administered through the mucosa, and it generated an immune response and protected against anthrax. We’re very excited about this.” (Also reported by *Washington Post, Forbes, Atlanta Journal Constitution, Austin American-Statesman Texas, BusinessWeek* and others)

**Democrat and Chronicle (April 23)**

Election insights on display at UR
Utica-based pollster John Zogby avoided hard-and-fast predictions Tuesday evening with hours to go until polls closed in the Pennsylvania Democratic primary. “What you’re about to hear is for entertainment purposes only,” the founder of Zogby International joked as he took the podium in front of a standing-room-only crowd at University of Rochester’s Rush Rhees Library.