Selected News Coverage August 2006

Highlights

About the University

Newsweek (August 21)

25 New Ivies

The demand for an excellent education has created an ever-expanding supply of big and small campuses that provide great academics and first-rate faculties. . . . The colleges on the following list—the “New Ivies”—are beneficiaries of the boom in top students. We selected them based on admissions statistics as well as interviews with administrators, faculty, students and alumni. . . . University of Rochester: Over the past decade, this small, private university has dramatically changed its curriculum. “We threw out general education,” says Jonathan Burdick, dean of admissions. Students now pick all their courses. As a research institution, Rochester is particularly strong in science and engineering, but liberal arts are also popular, along with music and nursing. About 70 percent of humanities students study overseas, and about 80 percent go to grad school. Most students live on campus, which is some distance from downtown Rochester. Overlap schools: Cornell, Brown, Tufts, NYU and Northwestern. (Also reported by Yahoo! News, Syracuse Post Standard, Charlotte Observer, WCAX-TV [Vermont], WSTM-TV [NBC] [Syracuse], WSYR-TV [ABC] [Syracuse], WROC-TV [CBS], 13WHAM-TV [ABC], WHEC-TV [NBC], and Democrat and Chronicle.)

Publisher’s Weekly (August 18)

Dalkey Moving to U of Rochester

Dalkey Archive Press . . . is moving to upstate New York. The indie non-profit press, known best for its literature in translation list, is moving to the campus of the University of Rochester located in Rochester, NY. (Also reported by Inside Higher Ed, Critical Mass, Rochester Business Journal, Democrat and Chronicle, and others.)

About Students

UPI (August 17)

Scientists Design an Advanced Transistor

U.S. scientists say they have designed a better transistor that’s as far removed from traditional transistors as are tubes. “Everyone has been trying to make better transistors by modifying current designs, but what we really need is the next paradigm,” said Quentin Diduck, a graduate student at the University of Rochester who developed the new design called a “Ballistic Deflection Transistor.” (Also reported by Information Week, Guardian [U.K.], PhysOrg.com, Science Daily, Daily India, CCN Magazine, and others.)
National Coverage

About the University

WCAX-TV 3 (Vermont) (August 18)
Upstate Colleges on Magazine List
Listed in the national universities category [in the U.S. News & World Report] are Columbia University in Manhattan, tied for 9th; Cornell University in Ithaca, tied for 12th; New York University in Manhattan and the University of Rochester, tied for 34th; and Syracuse University, tied for 52nd place. (Similar reports by Democrat and Chronicle, 13WHAM-TV [ABC], WSTM-TV [NBC] [Syracuse], and WKBW-TV [ABC] [Buffalo].)

Washington Monthly (August 10)
College Rankings
The second annual Washington Monthly College Rankings places the University of Rochester 21st on its list of national universities. The magazine bills itself as a guide that answers these questions: “Are our colleges making good use of our tax dollars? Are they producing graduates who can keep our nation competitive in a changing world? Are they, in short, doing well by doing good?”

Business Week (August 7)
B-Schools: You Don’t Have to Wait
And while the number of college seniors admitted to top B-schools will likely remain a tiny percentage of the total (the University of Rochester is one exception), many admissions directors hope the renewed focus on younger applicants will eventually help expand the entire applicant pool by bringing in more people (and in particular, more women) applying one to three years into their careers.

About Research and Faculty

Utne Reader (August 30)
Meditation on War
In the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Tana Grady-Weliky, an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, explains some of the science behind meditative practice. “Mindfulness meditation practice, in which one focuses on ‘staying in the present’ during meditation as well as other activities, appears to play a role in positive mood and attitude,” Grady-Weliky writes. “Interestingly, imaging studies of individuals during meditation show higher activity in the left prefrontal cortex, which is the brain area associated with positive mood and attitude.”

Scientific American (August 30)
Blood Transfusions Might Aid Treatment of Bird Flu
Should the world be caught without an effective vaccine or antiviral treatment for an avian flu pandemic, a last-ditch option may be to inoculate the sick with antibodies from the blood of those who are able to recover from the disease, according to a review of studies published after the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic. . . . “[T]he concept is important and it should be explored further, especially given our lack of proven interventions to prevent or treat illness due to H5N1 influenza,” writes John Treanor, an infectious disease expert at the University of Rochester, in an accompanying editorial. (Similar reports by NPR, BBC News, Medical News Today, Med India, Southwest Nebraska News, and others.)

The New York Times (August 29)
How a Vaccine Search Ended in Triumph
[The new [cervical cancer] vaccine approved in June by the Food and Drug Administration could be a lifesaver. But creating it was no easy task. It took decades for scientists to even figure out the cause: the papillomavirus. . . . William Bonnez, who was part of the University of Rochester’s vaccine development team . . . had to make a blood test for the virus. A control group of people who had never had sex was needed. Once again, nuns were at the fore of cervical cancer research. The Sisters of St. Joseph in Rochester were “really very supportive,” Bonnez said, answering questionnaires about their sexual histories and giving blood samples. (Related story in Journal News [New York], International Herald Times, Spartanburg Herald Journal, Reno Gazette Journal, and on 13WHAM-TV [ABC].)]

The State (South Carolina) (August 29)
The Diet Detective: Lifestyle Changes Don’t Have to Be Drastic
“Health-related behavior changes must be integrated into one’s existing lifestyle and interests if they are to be sustained over time. And a review of strengths and skills might reveal some tie-ins for this purpose, helping to identify routes to change wherein a person can
feel some competence,” says Richard Ryan, a professor of psychology at the University of Rochester in New York. (Also reported by Miami Herald, and related story in Advocate [Norwalk, Conn.])

Post-Standard (Syracuse) (August 29)
Local Musicians Perform Concert at SU Quadrangle
Instead of performing at only one spot, the ensembles and choruses will be stationed at various locations, playing, in sequence, Sound/Path/Field, a 90-minute piece composed by Robert Morris, professor of composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. “He’s got it all timed out,” says Neva Pilgrim of the Society of New Music, which has commissioned the piece. “It ends with four trumpeters on top of Link Hall.”

UPI (August 28)
Brain Cancer Linked to Work Lead Exposure
University of Rochester Medical Center researchers say those routinely exposed to lead on the job are 50 percent more likely to die from brain cancer. (Also reported by Medical News Today, Red Nova, and EmaxHealth.com.)

PhysOrg.com (August 24)
New Lab Technique Churns Out Fungus’ Potential Cancer Fighter
For the first time, researchers have developed a way to synthesize a cancer-killing compound called rasfonin in enough quantity to learn how it works. . . . “In 2000, scientists in Japan discovered that this compound [derived from a fungus] might have some tremendous potential as a prototype anticancer agent, but no one has been able to study or develop it because it’s so hard to get enough of it from natural sources,” says Robert Boeckman, the Marshall D. Gates, Jr. Professor of Chemistry at the University of Rochester. (Also reported by Science Daily, Medical News Today, CCN Magazine, Emax Health, and others.)

The New York Times (August 22)
The Fame Motive
[In recent years, a small number of social scientists have begun to study and think about fame in a different way, ranking it with other goals, measuring its psychological effects, characterizing its devoted seekers. . . . In a 1996 study, Richard Ryan, professor of clinical and social psychology at the University of Rochester and psychologist Tim Kasser, then at Rochester, conducted in-depth surveys of 100 adults, asking about their aspirations, guiding principles, and values, as well as administering standard measures of psychological well-being. (Also reported by Houston Chronicle, Spartanburg Herald [South Carolina], and KPCC [Southern California Public Radio] [NPR].)]

Jackson Sun (Jackson, Tennessee) (August 21)
Add Costs, Doctor’s Opinion to List of STD Vaccine Concerns
Gardasil offers parents the chance to protect their daughters from the most common sexually transmitted infection, human papillomavirus, which causes 90 percent of genital warts and 70 percent of cervical cancer cases. But they will be asked to decide when their daughter is just 11 or 12, because the vaccine works best before sexual activity has begun. Gardasil—whose early development occurred at the University of Rochester (N.Y.) Medical Center—was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in June for girls and women ages 9 to 26. (Similar reports by Ithaca Journal, Niagara Gazette, and Tonawanda News.)

UPI (August 20)
Ped Med: Antidepressant Use Needs Watching
Whatever the views on treating sad adolescents with antidepressants, everyone agrees all minors taking the pills should be closely watched for signs of any ill effects. “In general, the positive followup to all the attention (resulting from federally ordered warnings of suicidal behaviors in some young users) is now we’re mandating if a patient is on (a newer class of antidepressants called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors), he must be followed closely,” said Donna Palumbo, associate professor of neurology and pediatrics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, N.Y.

News 10 Now (Syracuse) (August 20)
Meth and Its Effects on the Body
The dry mouth and meth’s acidic nature cause rampant tooth decay. . . . After just months of using meth, the teeth just fall out. . . . “No, it’s not fun to go without teeth,” Gene Watson, an associate professor at the Eastman Dental Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said.
“People without teeth actually have problems eating, end up with digestive problems.”

*CBS News (August 18)*

**Braving an HIV Test**

Many younger people don’t get tested because they feel healthy. But it often takes several years until people with the HIV virus develop the first signs of AIDS, says Amneris Luque, director of the HIV clinic at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y.

*Atlanta Constitution Journal (August 11)*

**Knight Out: Royal Treatment at Medieval Times**

We asked two medieval history experts, Wofford College professor Timothy Schmitz and University of Rochester history professor Richard Kaeuper, to separate fact from fiction.

Q: Would they have been served by serfs and wenches?
A: No. “That’s kind of make-believe Middle Ages,” Kaeuper said. Servers at banquets would have been members of the household staff, perhaps even holding positions of honor, Kaeuper said. Often, the servants were training to be knights.

*Xagena Medicine (Italy) (August 10)*

**Astrocytes Play a Direct Role in Controlling Blood Flow in the Brain**

Researchers at the University of Rochester Medical Center demonstrated that star-shaped brain cells known as astrocytes play a direct role in controlling blood flow in the brain, a crucial process that allows parts of the brain to burst into activity when needed. . . . “For many years, astrocytes have been considered mainly as housekeeping cells that help nourish and maintain a healthy environment for neurons. But it’s turning out that astrocytes may play a central role in many human diseases,” said Maiken Nedergaard, professor of neurosurgery.

*Washington Post (August 7)*

**Good Fish, Bad Fish**

Two studies—one in England, the other a continuing 20-year study among residents of the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean—show no adverse effects in children whose mothers are fish frequently during pregnancy. “In fact, some children actually did better on tests,” notes the Seychelles study’s lead investigator, Gary Myers, a professor of neurology and pediatrics at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. “We don’t think that is related to mercury consumption, of course, but to fish consumption” and the higher amount of omega-3 fatty acids it contains. Similar results were reported in October from a continuing study in England.

*USA Today (August 7)*

**Diagnoses at the Click of a Mouse**

The Acute Pulmonary Infections program is the latest addition to VisualDx, a computer software system . . . made by Logical Images of Rochester, N.Y., [which] provides instant access to nearly 13,000 medical photos that can help doctors diagnose more than 700 diseases, drug reactions, or infections. . . . The system aims to give general practitioners the diagnostic expertise of specialists, says Art Papier, an associate professor of dermatology and informatics at the University of Rochester.

*Vision Systems Designs (August 7)*

**Brain Controls Color Perception**

In the first imaging of living human retinas, researchers at the University of Rochester have found that the number of color-sensitive cones in the human retina differs dramatically among people—by up to 40 times—yet people appear to perceive colors the same way. The findings, published in the *Journal of Neuroscience,* strongly suggest that the perception of color is controlled much more by brains than by eyes. . . .

David Williams, the William G. Allyn Professor of Medical Optics and director of the Center for Visual Science, and his research team used a laser-based adaptive-optics system to image the topography of the inner eye and precisely count the color-receptive cones in a living human eye for the first time.

*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette (Indiana) (August 6)*

**Clock Keeps on Ticking**

Since 2000, no one who made a pledge and ran anyway has been defeated, said Richard Niemi, a University of Rochester political scientist who studies term limits. Two senators and 17 House members have abandoned their term limit promises in the past three elections, Niemi said. Each was re-elected.

*Easy Bourse (France) (August 3)*

**SEC’s Cox Gets Mostly Positive Views of Job Performance**

Securities and Exchange Commission chairman Christopher Cox is getting mostly favorable reviews of his first year on the job. . . . University of Rochester President Joel Seligman, an author of a history of the
SEC, said Cox’s critics shouldn’t forget “he had a serious illness in the midst of all this.” . . . Seligman credits Cox for getting the once-divided SEC to achieve consensus and avoiding any “reckless” moves that could be second-guessed by the court. Still, he said it isn’t clear what Cox will do to resolve the controversies he’s inherited, or how ambitious he’ll be in pursuing his own agenda. “Even after a year, the jury is still out on Chris Cox,” Seligman said.

Good Morning America (August 2)
The Changing Face of Cystic Fibrosis
In the last few decades . . . more extensive research has led to new treatments that have improved the length and quality of life for cystic fibrosis patients. . . . Today, patients on average live until age 38. “Now, somewhat around 40 percent of the people with CF are over 18 years of age,” said Rob Horowitz, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics and pulmonology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. “So yes, it’s a childhood disease, but the majority of children with cystic fibrosis become adults with cystic fibrosis.” . . . New research has also changed the way doctors approach treating CF patients . . . “All of these things are [here] not necessarily to treat someone after they are acutely ill, but to help them remain healthy,” said Ann McMullen, a certified pediatric nurse practitioner at the University of Rochester Medical Center. “It’s no longer treat them when they’re sick, sick, sick, but help them to stay well.”

Science Daily (August 2)
Tiny Inhaled Particles Take Easy Route from Nose to Brain
In a continuing effort to find out if the tiniest airborne particles pose a health risk, University of Rochester Medical Center scientists showed that when rats breathe in nano-sized materials they follow a rapid and efficient pathway from the nasal cavity to several regions of the brain, according to a study in the August issue of Environmental Health Perspectives. (Also reported by UPI, The Hindu [India], Medical News Today, MedIndia.com, MonstersandCritics.com, International News Service, DailyIndia.com, and PhysOrg.com.)

Medical News Today (August 2)
Test Can Save Lives and Reduce Expense
Another recent study has proven that screening reduced bladder cancer mortality. Results of the long-term study were reported at the 2006 annual meeting of the American Urological Society by Edward Messing, chairman of the urology department, University of Rochester Medical Center. His 14-year followup of patients screened for bladder cancer showed that no patients who underwent screening died from bladder tumors, whereas 20 of unscreened patients did die from bladder cancer.

About Alumni
Buffalo Business First (August 31)
Gisel Promoted to Rich Products CEO
William Gisel Jr., Rich Products’ chief operating officer, has been appointed president and chief executive officer of the Buffalo-based manufacturer of frozen foods and non-dairy products. . . . He also has an M.B.A. from the University of Rochester’s William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration. (Also reported by Washington Business Journal.)

Daily News and Analysis (India) (August 30)
Sify’s Surya Mantha Is CEO of Web 18
Mumbai Television 18 has named Surya Mantha the CEO of Web 18, its internet arm. Mantha [obtained] an M.B.A. from the Simon School at the University of Rochester.

Bangor Daily News (Maine) (August 25)
Bucksport Panel Hires New Superintendent
The school committee has hired a former state deputy education commissioner as the next superintendent of schools. On Wednesday, committee members voted to hire Judith Lucarelli to fill the post. [S]he holds . . . a doctorate in education from the University of Rochester in New York.

Atlanta Business Chronicle (August 23)
Georgia Tech Names New Provost
Georgia Tech has named Gary Schuster provost to replace Jean-Lou Chameau. . . . He received his . . . Ph.D. from the University of Rochester. (Also reported by WXIA-TV [NBC] [Atlanta] and others.)

Innovations Report (Germany) (August 21)
UBC-Led Team Uncovers Faintest Stars Ever Seen in Ancient Star Cluster
An international team of astronomers led by University of British Columbia professor Harvey Richer has uncovered the faintest stars ever seen in any globular star cluster. . . . Richer obtained his doctorate in physics and astronomy from the University of Rochester.
**Wall Street Journal (August 5)**

**Bench on Fire: KPMG Judge Grills Prosecutors**
No-nonsense judges who pepper lawyers with tough questions are known as ruling from a “hot bench.” Nowhere are federal prosecutors feeling the heat more than in the lower Manhattan courtroom of U.S. District Judge **Lewis Kaplan**. Judge Kaplan was born in the Staten Island borough of New York City. Now 61 years old, he graduated from the **University of Rochester** and Harvard Law School.

**Pink (August/September issue)**

**The M.B.A. Factor**
For **Lucy Perez ’05** winning a slot in Xerox Corp.’s 18-month executive M.B.A. program has helped to crash open a door of endless possibilities. After getting her M.B.A. from the **University of Rochester**’s William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration, she was tapped as the product manager to lead four of Xerox’s high-speed, continuous-feed printing systems.

**About University-Related Businesses**

**MSN Money (August 8)**

**VirtualScopics Reports Second Quarter 2006 Results**
VirtualScopics, a leading developer of image-related biomarkers, today announced sales for the second quarter ended June 30, 2006, rose to nearly $1.3 million, a 27 percent increase over the prior year’s comparable period and a 23 percent increase over the first quarter ended March 31, 2006. . . . The company evolved from research first carried out at the **University of Rochester Medical Center and School of Engineering**. (Also reported by PR Newswire, Finanz Nachrichten [Germany], Rochester Business Journal, and Democrat and Chronicle.)

**Local Coverage**

**About the University**

**Democrat and Chronicle (August 23)**

**Changes Abound at Area Colleges**
University of Rochester students, for example, may be able to make some purchases off campus using the same Flex plan they currently use on campus for everything from buying textbooks to activating laundry machines. . . . UR is trying to arrange a deal with 15 to 20 off-campus businesses so that students can use their Flex plans by later this fall, said **Cam Schauf**, director of campus dining services and auxiliary operations.

**Democrat and Chronicle (August 13)**

**Medical Tourists Boosting Health of Economy**
In the five years ending June 30, 2005, there has been a 46 percent increase in inpatients from outside the 12-county coverage area for the **University of Rochester**’s flagship hospital, Strong Memorial. . . . Out-of-area people account for 8 percent of Strong’s total inpatients and 4 percent of outpatient visits.

**Rochester Business Journal (August 10)**

**URMC Gets $1 Million for Research**
The founder of Henrietta’s Eldre Corp. and his wife have given $1 million to the **University of Rochester Medical Center** for stem cell research. . . . “The gift by Jack and Norma [Erdle] is not only generous, it is a vote of confidence in our research programs and in our belief in the potential of stem cells,” said **Bradford Berk**, Medical Center CEO and the University’s senior vice president for health sciences, in a statement. (Also reported by Web Wire Georgia and Democrat and Chronicle.)

**13WHAM-TV (ABC) (August 9)**

**$5 Million for Wilmot from Feds**
The federal government kicked in to help the new **Wilmot Cancer Center at Strong Memorial Hospital**. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter announced a $5 million grant in federal funds Wednesday. (Also reported by WXXI, WHEC-TV [NBC], and Democrat and Chronicle.)

**Democrat and Chronicle (August 6)**

**The Heart Overrules the Head in MAG Exhibit**
Exotic vistas, a taste for ruins, and a touch of savagery meet in a star-studded new exhibit at the **Memorial Art Gallery**. “Romanticism and the Politics of Taste” draws a concise group portrait of European Romantics, great and obscure. The museum raided its storage vaults for 28 pieces of art—mostly works on paper—by 17 masters such as Turner, Delacroix, and Goya.
Democratic Senator Charles Schumer was visiting the University of Rochester’s Autism Spectrum Disorders Program, a treatment and research facility, one of only a few in the nation. Schumer announced senate approval for $860 million dollars for federal autism research and education over the next five years. (Similar reports by R News, 13WHAM-TV [ABC], and Democrat and Chronicle.)

A 2004 report found that about half of all women heading households in the region didn’t make enough money to cover basic living expenses such as housing, food, and child care. “They’re partly the most disadvantaged because they have young kids,” said Cathy King, who also is a professor at the University of Rochester’s School of Nursing. “A lot of times, female heads of households with young children are young mothers themselves and do not have as much education as it takes to get a decent job.”

Three research projects at the University of Rochester Medical Center are among programs funded by the NYS Department of Health. The program uses fines paid by speeding motorists to fund research into spinal cord injury. (Also reported by Medical News Today, Web Wire, and MedIndia.com.)

Rochester stands out as a unique community known for its volunteerism and can-do attitude. . . . More people have taken part in Alzheimer’s studies at the University of Rochester Medical Center than at any other site in the nation. . . . The University of Rochester is a leader in the evidence-based movement, which is improving patient care by insisting on proven treatments. . . . Chadwick is director, Office of Human Subject Protection, University of Rochester Medical Center.

Local energy expert Mark Zupan, the dean of the University of Rochester’s Simon School, paints a grim price picture. “As consumers, it won’t be pleasant. We could see on the order of a 10 percent increase in prices at the pump,” said Zupan. (Similar report by Democrat and Chronicle.)

Students presented water quality research they’ve conducted over the past week as part of the “Get Real Science Investigation” camp sponsored by the University of Rochester’s Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development. . . . The camp is part of an education course at UR that teaches graduate students how to incorporate real research into their classrooms—making science relevant to daily life by getting students personally involved. “You’re not just shoving information into the kids’ heads, you’re drawing it out of them,” said Kate Kuholski, who is just starting her graduate work at UR.

In a transaction valued at $3.4 billion, Rite Aid Corp. is entering a merger with the Jean Coutu Group USA, owners of Eckerd drugstores. . . . Michel Coutu, a graduate of the University of Rochester, will become Rite Aid cochairman and president of the Jean Coutu Group’s U.S. operations.

Local Doctor Paves the Way for Future Medical Students

Robert Brent and his wife Lillian have donated $1 million to the University of Rochester. . . . The university recognized the couple at its annual white coat ceremony this morning. . . . Brent attended medical school at the U of R and also earned a Ph.D. at the University, so he knows first hand how expensive it can be. (Also reported by Democrat and Chronicle and R News.)
About Students

*Democrat and Chronicle (August 30)*

Student at Warner School to Teach English in France

Alexandra Quinn, daughter of Jay and Nancy Quinn of Pittsford, has received a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship to France for the 2006–2007 school year. Quinn is currently studying at the University of Rochester’s Warner School of Education for a master’s degree and certification to teach French.

*I3WHAM-TV (ABC) (August 18)*

Students Honor Harrison’s Legacy

When students at East High School in Rochester were told a popular teacher had been killed, they were stunned. Steven Harrison died in a car crash two weeks ago. . . . “He inspired me because I’m actually going to be a freshman at the University of Rochester, and that’s where he went,” Lashonda Brenson said. “I want to be a math teacher in the RCSD.” (Also reported by *R News.*

*Democrat and Chronicle (August 17)*

New UR Med Students Get First Taste of Outreach

Wednesday marked the first “Community Service Day” for incoming University of Rochester med students, with teams of students having created different activities for city youths for an afternoon. “We wanted students to know community service is an important part of their education,” said Adrienne Morgan, director of community outreach, international medicine and student research at the School of Medicine and Dentistry. (Also reported by *R News.*

*Democrat and Chronicle (August 15)*

Young People with Ideas Are Rochester’s Strength

Andrew Slominski is our future. And that is a good thing. The 21-year-old University of Rochester student is developing a plan for the re-use of Ss. Peter and Paul Church on West Main Street at Bulls Head.