Selected Coverage December 2007

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**Newsday (December 5)**
**Univ. of Rochester offers annual scholarships to city students**
Fewer than four of every 10 students in Rochester’s beleaguered public schools earn a high school diploma. Those who do have slim hopes of enrolling in the University of Rochester, a prestigious private school where tuition is $35,000 a year. That prospect looked a little brighter Wednesday when the 157-year-old school said it would waive up to $100,000 in tuition costs over four years for any Rochester school district graduate who qualifies for admission on academic merit. The Rochester Promise program, among a handful of similar initiatives at campuses around the country aimed at accommodating struggling urban school districts, “is our way of celebrating our close relationship to a city we love,” said the school’s president, Joel Seligman. (Also reported by Houston Chronicle, Hemscott UK, The Buffalo News, R News video, WHAM TV ABC, WXXI News, Rochester Business Journal, Democrat and Chronicle and others)

**Time Magazine (December)**
**Top Ten Medical Breakthroughs**
#3. First Human Vaccine Against Bird Flu:
*Time Magazine* this week cited the approval of a bird flu vaccine earlier this year as the top medical development in 2007. Key testing of the vaccine, the first ever approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to prevent bird flu, was done by doctors and nurses at the University of Rochester Medical Center. More than 750 people in the Rochester area have taken part in studies of bird flu vaccines at the University. (Also reported by WROC TV8, Democrat and Chronicle)

**Washington Post (December 11)**
**Nanotech Firms Find Room on Campus**
Mark Zupan, dean of the University of Rochester’s Simon Graduate School of Business Administration in Rochester, N.Y., sees the tradeoff as promoting innovation. He said he worried only that businesses might try to use the universities’ names or reputations to enhance the credibility of their research. (Also reported by USA Today, BusinessWeek, Forbes, Miami Herald, San Francisco Chronicle, Philadelphia Inquirer, Houston Chronicle, Boston Globe, Newday, MSN Money, CNN Money, Associated Press, GMA News, Fox News, Denver Post, Brisbane Times Australia, WHEC TV and many others)
**New York Times** (December 29)
Harvard’s Aid to Middle Class Pressures Rivals
Jonathan Burdick, dean of admissions and financial aid at the University of Rochester, where costs are nearly $45,000, said: “Harvard has made it harder for everybody. They’ve given fuel to the argument that colleges are charging more than they should.” (Also reported by *Tuscaloosa News* Alabama)

**Boston Globe** (December 7)
Weems explore issues form both sides of the camera
The “All About Eve” exhibition originally appeared at the University of Rochester earlier this year. How did Weems come up with the name for the show? Weems begins to explain that it was inspired in part by the Bette Davis film of the same name, but she becomes distracted by a male acquaintance calling out to her and holding up a photo to the glass wall of them posing together.

**New York Times** (December 25)
Hazards: More Transfusions Mean More Risk for Women
Dr. Neil Blumberg, a co-author of the study and a professor of laboratory medicine at the University of Rochester, said patients should insist on leukoreduced blood if they needed transfusions. “Our study doesn’t prove that transfusion is the main reason that women have higher mortality rates,” Dr. Blumberg said. “But it’s a pretty good guess.” (Also reported by *International Herald Tribune*)

**CBS News** (December 31)
Busting Up Germ Gangs To Find Treatments
“We’re finding new ways to prevent disease without killing the microbial agent … rather, neutralizing it somehow,” says University of Rochester dentist Hyun Koo, who is using compounds left over from vineyards’ wine-making to bust up gooey bacteria masses known as biofilms. (Also reported by *MSNBC, Washington Post, LA Times, Forbes, Miami Herald, Baltimore Sun, Philadelphia Inquirer, Denver Post, Fox News, Associated Press, Newsday* and many other publications/ broadcast)

**Democrat and Chronicle** (December 30)
What to Watch for:
PEOPLE - Joel Seligman: As president of the University of Rochester, the area’s largest employer, he may make a lasting impact on the Rochester community and economy.

**Democrat and Chronicle** (December 17)
Bringing city’s Jefferson Ave. in from rain of decay (essay)
New anchor developments now encircle Jefferson Avenue, ranging from Providence Housing’s Olean/Kennedy development on Plymouth Avenue to an improved Genesee Street and Brooks Landing hotel and office complex in the south, to a $25 million student apartment complex across the river from the University of Rochester. This has created ripples of excitement in southwest Rochester. … With leadership from Mayor Robert Duffy, city staff is assessing improvements to the area’s infrastructure, and UR expects that the Simon School can contribute its business talents to this process.

**Democrat and Chronicle** (December 12)
UR men’s basketball team ranked first in the nation
Mike Neer isn’t complaining about his University of Rochester men’s basketball team being ranked No. 1 in NCAA Division III, but he’s keeping it in perspective. “How many runners who lead a marathon after seven miles win it?” he said. “But hey, it beats the alternative.” UR (8-0) moved up one spot to No. 1 in this week’s D3hoops.com national poll. The Yellowjackets supplanted Amherst (Mass.) College, which fell to fourth after losing to current No. 2 Brandeis. (Also reported by *Ithaca Journal*)

**Democrat and Chronicle** (December 18)
Panel: Spare a dime for SUNY?
UR’s Seligman said that the $3 billion Empire State Innovation Fund could help attract prestigious faculty members and create jobs with research projects. But the money should not be treated strictly as a...
regional economic development program, he said. “The key to it from my perspective was that it would be a rigorous, peer-reviewed system similar to what you have with the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation at the federal level,” Seligman said. “Non-merit-based considerations are potentially significant, but it ultimately does not create the most potential to attract the best scientists and resources,” he said. (Also reported by WHAM TV 13)

LA Times (December 17)
Suicide: holidays’ darkest myth?
“Holiday blues?” asks Dr. Eric Caine, co-director of the center for the study and prevention of suicide at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. “I’m not sure. I just know I get a lot fewer admissions [to the psychiatric ward] over the holidays.”
(Also reported by News Journal Delaware, Manhattan Mercury Kansas, Casper Star Tribune Wyoming, Morning News Arkansas)

Democrat and Chronicle (December 21)
Vaccine royalties generate big bucks for UR
University of Rochester brains and labs helped create the Prevnar and Gardasil vaccines and made discoveries that have spawned numerous small and mid-sized local companies. In return, the university took in $38 million from those inventions it licensed to companies, putting UR among the top schools in the nation for royalty revenue received. UR President Joel Seligman has said that one priority of the university’s research is to help create companies out of discoveries with commercial applications. But UR has not put the same emphasis on turning discoveries into royalty generators for itself, said Gail Norris, director of the College Office of Technology Transfer.

International Trumpet Guild (December 11)
Eastman’s Rachel Kincaid wins Marshall Scholarship
Rachel Kincaid, a 21-year-old trumpet player and composer at the Eastman School of Music, part of the University of Rochester, New York, has been awarded a prestigious Marshall Scholarship to pursue two advanced degrees in the United Kingdom. She will begin a one-year master’s degree program in trumpet performance next fall at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England, and start work on a second master’s degree in composition the following year at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow.

Democrat and Chronicle (December 5)
UR gives donors new investment option
University of Rochester’s $1.7 billion endowment, which helps pay for everything from professors’ salaries to the electricity bill, now can also be a source of investment income for some donors. The school is among a small cadre of schools such as Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology offering the investment option. And UR, having received Internal Revenue Service approval a year ago for the investment strategy, now has started trying to attract new Charitable Remainder Trust donors with the promise of potential high returns to them if the money is invested alongside UR’s endowment. Prior to the IRS approval, UR would invest those Charitable Remainder Trust funds in mutual funds, said Douglas Phillips, UR senior vice president of institutional resources.

R News (December 14)
Shaw Honored by University
The Rochester woman killed at a city intersection back in September will be honored by the University of Rochester. That is where Latasha Shaw worked. University of Rochester President Joel Seligman named Shaw the recipient of the first Presidential Staff Community Service Award. Seligman personally funded the annual award of $2,500 for a University of Rochester non-management staff member whose career best exemplifies service to the university or greater Rochester. (Also reported by WHEC TV 10, Rochester Business Journal, Democrat and Chronicle)

Democrat and Chronicle (December 7)
Eastman grads among Grammy nominees
The Eastman School of Music had an impressive showing in nominations for the 50th annual Grammys, led by grads Renee Fleming and Maria Schneider. Eastman’s string quartet-in-residence, the Ying Quartet, also brought in two nominations. Early-music specialist Paul O’Dette, a faculty member at Eastman, was nominated for best opera recording as a conductor for his performance of Lully’s Thse with the Boston Early Music Festival Chorus and Orchestra. (Also reported by Rochester Business Journal)
Fox News (December 20)
Pivotal Patent Issued to VirtualScopics
VirtualScopics, Inc. is a provider of advanced medical image analysis services. The company evolved from research first carried out at the University of Rochester Medical Center and School of Engineering. VirtualScopics has created a suite of image analysis tools used in detecting and analyzing specific structures in volumetric medical images, as well as characterizing minute changes in structures over time, providing vital information to support clinical trials and diagnostic applications. (Also reported by CNNMoney.com)

Science Magazine (December 14)
Simple Scheme Stores Light by Converting It Into Vibration and Back
To find another way, Zhaoming Zhu and Daniel Gauthier of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and Robert Boyd of the University of Rochester, New York, opted for an optical fiber. They fed a “data” pulse in one end and a short, intense “write” pulse in the other. When the two collided, the data pulse disappeared and was replaced by a vibration crawling along at just 1/40,000 the speed of light in a fiber. To convert the vibration back to light, the researchers hit it with a “read” pulse identical to the write pulse. (Also reported by Innovations Report Germany)

R News (December 11)
Eastman Dental Fights Early Decay
While tooth decay is decreasing in most of the population it’s on the rise in toddlers. The Eastman Dental Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center hopes a major grant will help it take a bite out of what can be a painful childhood problem. The National Institutes of Health awarded the Eastman Dental Center a 5-year, $500,000 grant to expand its teledentistry program. (Also reported by WHEC TV, WXXI News, Rochester Business Journal, Democrat and Chronicle, Tampa Bay 10 Florida, WCAX Vermont, KSBY California, KLAS TV Nevada, WAND Illinois, KRTS TV Texas and others)

CBS News, The Early Show (December 14)
“A Cappella Quest” Down To Five Finalists (video)
The best-selling artists in Motown history, Boyz II Men, are helping The Early Show in its search for the next great a cappella group.

FINALIST #5: ON CALL
This six-member a cappella group can not only sing, but they’ve got brains! They’re all medical students at the University of Rochester Medical School of Medicine and Dentistry in upstate New York. Through word of mouth and an e-mail or two, they knew that they had been in singing groups before.

Forbes (December 17)
RCT Licenses Ultrasound Tissue Harmonic Imaging Technology to General Electric
Tucson-based RCT manages the THI technology for its partner, the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. Seminal work in the early 1990s by P. Ted Christopher, Ph.D., at the University’s Center for Biomedical Ultrasound resulted in a new mode of ultrasound imaging that has become an essential part of diagnostic ultrasound today. Christopher’s invention showed that the second and higher-order harmonic response of native tissue to a propagated ultrasound beam could be employed to produce a sharper, higher-contrast image than that of the fundamental emitted frequency. (Also reported by News and Observer North Carolina)

LA Times (December 10)
War on cancer moves to a new front
Another leukemia remedy poised to enter human trials comes from the lab of Dr. Craig Jordan of the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York state. Based on a chemical from the feverfew plant, the drug causes leukemia stem cells to undergo a kind of programmed death, known as apoptosis. In studies on leukemia cells grown in the lab, the drug proved toxic to leukemia cells, including cancer stem cells, but nearly harmless to normal blood cells. The drug also showed anti-leukemia stem cell activity in dogs, Jordan says.

ABC News (December 10)
Chemical in Infant Formula Cans Sparks Concern
“Those of us who do research on brain and behavioral development believe the public needs to be concerned,” said Dr. Bernard Weiss, professor in the department of environmental medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. “BPA acts like an estrogen, and infants are being exposed to this hormonelike chemical at a particularly sensitive time, when estrogen-dependent development is occurring rapidly,” said Dr. Shanna
Swan, director of the Center for Reproductive Epidemiology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in New York.

*Reuters* (December 6)
FDA Advisory Committee Votes Unanimously to Recommend Approval of Tetrabenazine for …
“Patients and physicians do not have any approved treatments to alleviate this disorder or any aspect of Huntington disease,” said Frederick Marshall, MD, chief of the geriatric neurology unit at the University of Rochester, who presented data on behalf of Prestwick. “We are hopeful that the FDA will adhere to the recommendations made by the committee to quickly bring tetrabenazine to the patients for whom we care.”
(Also reported by Earthtimes.org UK)

*CNNMoney.com* (December 13)
Wimbush Leads Norfolk Southern’s Sustainability Efforts
Norfolk Southern Corp. has named F. Blair Wimbush vice president real estate and corporate sustainability officer, effective today. Wimbush earned degrees in political science from the University of Rochester and in law from the University of Virginia. (Also reported by Earthtimes.org UK)

*Atlanta Journal Constitution* (December 10)
Stereo mammography makes false positives less likely
Typically, false positives go up as a test becomes more sensitive, so one that actually reduced false positives would be significant. “Those are awesome numbers,” said Dr. Avice O’Connell, a researcher at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Dr. O’Connell has been experimenting with another technology called cone beam breast computed tomography, which takes a series of breast X-rays in a 360 degree arc and allows the resulting images to be viewed together.