Selected Coverage February 2012

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New York Times (February 3)
No Rust in Rochester (op-ed)
Written by Duncan Moore
AFTER years of decline, Eastman Kodak, once the largest employer in Rochester, filed for bankruptcy protection last month. But rather than following Detroit, Cleveland and other once-bustling industrial cities into decay, Rochester continues to grow at a healthy clip. Why? It also helps that Rochester has a strong higher-education sector, which has likewise been supported by Kodak. The University of Rochester became a leading research center through gifts from Kodak’s founder, George Eastman, who also gave generously to the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Duncan T. Moore is a professor of optical engineering and the vice provost for entrepreneurship at the University of Rochester.

BBC (February 12)
‘Starvation tactics’ used on HIV
Viruses cannot replicate on their own; they must hijack other cells and turn them into virus production factories. A study, published in Nature Immunology, showed how some parts of the immune system destroy their own raw materials, stopping HIV. It is uncertain whether this could be used in therapy, experts caution. Prof Baek Kim, one of the researchers from the University of Rochester Medical Center, said: “It makes sense that a mechanism like this is active in macrophages.” Macrophages literally eat up dangerous organisms, and you don’t want those organisms to have available the cellular machinery needed to replicate and macrophages themselves don’t need it, because they don’t replicate. (Also Reported in: Science Daily)

ABC News (February 6)
Online Dating: Popular and Stigma Is Gone, but Don’t Pay for It
Now researchers confirm that romance and dating has gone digital. It is the second most-popular way of connecting, surpassed only by meeting people through friends. “There is no particular reason for people to use sites that charge a lot of money to offer something they cannot deliver,” said co-author Harry Reis, a nationally known relationship expert and professor of psychology at the University of Rochester. As for what makes a good match, “You can’t quantify it,” Reiss said. “You can define it, but we do not know how it occurs and where it comes from. … Science isn’t there yet.” (Also Reported in: Daily Mail, Yahoo! News, New Glasgow Newspaper, Winnipeg Free Press, Amherst Citizen, CNN, Globe and Mail, CBC, The Guardian, The Telegraph, WebMD, TIME, Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post, and others)

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The Atlantic (February 8)
The Misunderstood Power of Michael Jackson’s Music (guest post)
by Joseph Vogel
More than two and a half years after his untimely death, Michael Jackson continues to entertain. Cirque du Soleil’s crowd-pleasing Michael Jackson Immortal World Tour is currently crisscrossing North America, while a recent Jackson-themed episode of Glee earned the show a 16 percent jump in ratings and its highest music sales of the season. Even Madonna’s halftime Super Bowl spectacle harkened back to a trend first initiated by Jackson. Joseph Vogel is the author of Man in the Music: The Creative Life and Work of Michael Jackson. He is a doctoral candidate and instructor in the Department of English at the University of Rochester.

HealthDay (February 16)
Weekend Delivery Doesn’t Hurt Babies With Birth Defects: Study
Infants with birth defects who are born on weekends or at night do just as well as those delivered on a weekday, a new study says. Both groups of infants stayed at the hospital for the same amount of time, had the same rates of admission to the neonatal intensive care unit, and required antibiotics or breathing assistance the same number of times, said the researchers from the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. (Also Reported in: MSN, U.S. News & World Report)

New York Times (February 12)
Here’s Looking at You (but I’m Still Texting)
So while you’re writing on your pocket, you can maintain polite eye contact with the group, no longer betrayed by those telltale downward gazes necessary to text with a standard screen. (Unfortunately, you will still need to look down, and be possessed of X-ray vision, to view any response.) “There are a lot of situations where this technology could be useful,” said Jeffrey P. Bigham, an assistant professor in the computer science department at the University of Rochester, who chaired a conference panel on computer user interfaces where PocketTouch was demonstrated. “It’s a way to send short messages when it is not socially appropriate to fish out your device,” he said, or in many other instances when people simply don’t want to go to the trouble of removing a device from a pocket. (Also Reported in: Sydney Morning Herald, Times of India, Yahoo! News, Brisbane Times)

New York Times (February 18)
In Rochester, a Photo Album Like No Other
The Rush Rhees Library at the University of Rochester, in the city where Kodak is based, houses a collection of largely unseen material from Kodak archives, including internal magazines from the 1920s, ’30s and ’40s. It was a time long before the rise of digital photography, which would leave the company in bankruptcy protection, though aiming to rebound. The trove includes images by great photographers, alongside pictures shot by employees. Kodak was also host to camera clubs, picture contests and photo salons – and it sponsored exhibitions of employee photos, including an all-women show highlighting work by 66 female employees.

Wall Street Journal (February 28)
Kertesz, Oz novels nominated for translation prize
The English-language editions of novels by Nobel laureate Imre Kertesz of Hungary and Israel’s Amos Oz are among 25 finalists for the Best Translated Book Awards. The authors and translators of a winning work of fiction and a winning poetry collection each will receive $5,000, money provided through a grant from Amazon.com. The finalists were announced

Chicago Tribune (February 9)
Tiny electrical shocks to the brain enhance memory: study
Lightly shocking a person’s brain just before they learned a new task appeared to strengthen memory in a handful of patients with epilepsy, a tantalizing result that could have implications for Alzheimer’s disease, U.S. researchers said on Wednesday.

Suzanne Haber, a neuroscientist at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York who was not involved in the study, said she was “very excited about the finding,” but she cautioned that the treatment is very invasive, very expensive and unproven in Alzheimer’s patients. (Also Reported in: U.S. News & World Report, MSNBC, Fox News, Yahoo! News, MSN Health, Newsday, Orlando Sentinel, Miami Herald, Baltimore Sun, Reuters, and others)

Huffington Post (February 27)
Can Vitamin D Help With Cramps?
Recent studies have highlighted the potential risks associated with such high intake levels. A study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found a possible link between administering a high-dose of vitamin D, and an increased risk of fractures and falls in older women, while a recent paper in the American Journal of Cardiology suggested that while vitamin D can help with cardiovascular inflammation, too much may do more harm than good. “This is a very large dose. It’s not something that most people in the OB-GYN community would be comfortable using, so if people are going to their OBs to ask for this, it probably would not be given,” said Dr. Kathy Hoeger, a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Rochester.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (February 18)
New highway interchange will help Rochester region (guest essay)
Written by Joel Seligman
Here at the University of Rochester, this project is critical to our future growth. The current road network in and around Interstate 390 is already severely constrained with many intersections approaching failure levels. This has implications for local businesses, our employees, and our neighbors. It also represents a significant public safety issue as these same roads provide access to Strong Memorial Hospital, the region’s only level-three trauma hospital. Eliminating this bottleneck will remove a significant impediment to our growth and enable the UR to create literally thousands of jobs and strengthen our position as one of the leading research universities of the 21st century.

Seligman is president of the University of Rochester.

MSN (February 3)
Epidural Plus Fever in Mom May Raise Risks for Baby
Dr. Eva Pressman, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist at University of Rochester Medical Center, said “epidural fevers” indeed occur. “You can’t tell if the adverse outcome was related to the epidural or an underlying infection that was inadequately treated,” she said. “But it does reinforce that fever in labor is marker for some sort of inflammatory processes, but whether that inflammatory process is related to an epidural or an underlying infectious process, this study doesn’t tell us.” (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, Newsday, U.S. News & World Report)

New York Times (February 23)
For Wallace Stevens, Hartford as Muse
In those rare moments when Hartford leaps to mind, I’m guessing that your head does not then turn to watermelon pavilions, a man with a blue guitar, an old sailor catching tigers in red weather or an emperor of ice cream. “Stevens enjoyed his work very much,” said James Longenbach, a poet, a professor at the University of Rochester, and the author of “Wallace Stevens: The Plain Sense
of Things.” “It was crucial to his achievement. He turned down an offer to be the Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard because he didn’t want to leave his work. He continued to go to the office even when he was beyond the mandatory age of retirement. He never showed that he felt any conflict or tension between what might appear to be the different aspects of his life.”

**Science Magazine (February 27)**
**The Red-Dress Effect**
The pull of red is nothing new. Women have donned pinkish blush and bright lipstick for nearly 12,000 years. And, if you’re lucky enough to get a Valentine’s Day card, it will probably come decorated in tiny red hearts. It’s an effect that likely stems from biology, says Adam Pazda, a psychologist at the University of Rochester in New York state and an author of the new study. When many primate females – from chimpanzees to types of baboons called mandrills – become fertile, their estrogen levels peak, opening up their blood vessels and turning their faces bright red. This flushed complexion seems to give males the signal that it’s time to make their move. But it’s clear that women should beware, Pazda says. Even seemingly insignificant wardrobe choices can send out a lot of unintended signals. “Wearing red may be a double-edged sword,” he says. Women “may be getting sexual attention they don’t want.” But, he adds, there’s a lesson for men, too. It’s important for gents to be aware of how their attitudes toward women can be twisted by often misleading cues. That’s a lesson Neo learned the hard way. (Also Reported in: New York Daily News, Huffington Post, Marie Claire, redOrbit)

**ABC News (February 8)**
**Breastfeeding Advocates Protest Facebook With Nurse-In**
And most of the time, a woman’s nipple and areola are not exposed when breastfeeding her child, said Dr. Ruth Lawrence, director of the Human Lactation Study Center at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. “One sees more of the breast with present day fashions than when a baby is suckling,” said Lawrence. “If this is nudity, then there is nudity everywhere, on the street, on TV and online. Children should grow up knowing breastfeeding is normal, natural, and essential to infant care.” (Also Reported in: Good Morning America via Yahoo! News)

**Time Magazine (February 9)**
**How Good Is Walmart’s ‘Great For You’ Nutrition Labeling?**
Walmart announced this week that it will highlight healthy foods in stores with bright green “Great For You” labels. “The food industry, at the end of the day, is in the business to make money by selling food. If a ‘healthy’ label on their product gets it to be sold more, then they will try that – even if it’s not true,” Dr. Stephen Cook of Golisano Children’s Hospital at the University of Rochester Medical Center, told ABC News.

**Los Angeles Times (February 22)**
**Obama’s short-term fiscal thinking isn’t working (opinion)**
**By David M. Primo**
It has been three years since President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was enacted. The stimulus was one of the administration’s first attempts to micromanage the economy with short-run policies instead of offering a long-run strategy for restructuring government. The president’s proposed 2013 budget is the latest. If we learned anything from the stimulus, it’s that the country would be better served if the president did less tinkering in his budget – like handing out tax breaks for manufacturing and “clean” energy – and more leading. David M. Primo is a senior scholar at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and an associate professor of political science and business administration at the University of Rochester.

**New York Times (February 14)**
**A Happy Couple Creating Music to Break Up To**
Victoria Paterson hatched the idea for her latest album while on a date, taking a long, romantic stroll in Central Park. The date was with her husband, to whom she says she is still married. Happily, she says. We will hear from him later. The album is called “Divorce Music.” And what of Mr. [Robert] Paterson? For the record, he said they met at a toga party at the Eastman School of Music, where he was a student; at the time, she was a philosophy major at the University of
Rochester. “I was sick of dating music majors,” he said. “I thought, ‘Great,’ but everything backfired and she became a violinist anyway.”

New York Times (February 29)
Air Industry Faces Public’s Perception of Safety
Air safety experts applauded the industry’s effort to share ever more information about potential safety issues with the public, but they acknowledged that such transparency sometimes amplified the perception of risk and distracted attention from other areas of genuine concern. “Because our air safety system is so safe these days, significant threats – runway collisions, midair collisions, antiquated air traffic control systems – that haven’t recently manifested themselves in a crash don’t receive the attention they deserve,” said David M. Primo, a professor of political science at the University of Rochester and co-author of “The Plane Truth,” a 2003 book about air crashes and the media. “They are, in essence, crowded out by a focus on maintenance issues that are, in many respects, much more minor.”

Scientific American (February 14)
Dread Reckoning: H5N1 Bird Flu May Be Less Deadly to Humans Than Previously Thought – or Not
A simple math problem lies at the heart of a heated debate over whether scientists should be allowed to publish provocative research into the transmissibility of H5N1 flu. Assuming the avian virus could spread easily among people, just how deadly would an H5N1 pandemic be for humans? “If the only cases you know about are the ones who are going to die, then you might believe that the case/fatality rate is very high because you lack surveillance of less symptomatic cases,” says John J. Treanor, chief of the Infectious Diseases Division at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York State. (Also Reported in: Huffington Post)

BBC (February 1)
Measures ‘reduced suicide rate’
Measures introduced to lower the suicide rate in England and Wales in the past decade appear to have been successful, according to an analysis. Dr. Yeates Conwell, from the University of Rochester Medical Center, said the work was “important” as: “We cannot take for granted that even the most seemingly obvious intervention designed to reduce suicide is necessarily effective without evidence.” (Also Reported in: Medscape)

Yahoo! News (February 1)
What Your Doctor Thinks About You
Medical schools don’t teach mind reading. “Don’t assume the doctor is going to blame you for bringing up a concern you think is trivial or silly, or a symptom that your own bad health habits may have contributed to,” says Ronald Epstein, M.D., a professor of family medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center. And don’t think his prodding will detect your ailment. Speak up! Be assertive. Put your concerns first. At the beginning of the visit, tell your doctor three things that have been on your mind. “Men sometimes build up their symptoms into something worse than they are. Often the answer is less frightening than they imagine,” says Dr. Epstein. (Also Reported in: Men’s Health)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (February 6)
Why Rochester continues to thrive (guest essay)
Written by Duncan Moore
In recent weeks, an iconic U.S. company that once personified its mid-size city – Rochester’s Eastman Kodak Co. – filed for bankruptcy. Yet Rochester is growing despite the loss of its predominant employer. Why? For that matter, why does Pittsburgh prosper in health care, robotics and financial services while Detroit still wrestles with unemployment north of 10 percent and plummeting home prices? How did San Diego transition from a Navy town to a diversified economic success while Fresno’s unemployment has surpassed 17 percent and suffers one of the highest home foreclosure rates? What transformed rural Austin into a bustling business and technology center even as unemployment and personal debt in El Paso continue to worsen? The answers are complex and unique to each locale, and not all of the variables can be controlled. But the latest city to struggle with economic dislocation shows how policies, approaches and some luck-of-the-draw assets can help a region not just survive, but thrive during an economic dislocation.

Duncan T. Moore is the Rudolf and Hilda Kingslake Professor of Optical Engineering.
Vice Provost for Entrepreneurship and former Dean of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University of Rochester. In 2011 he was elected to a three-year term as president of the International Commission for Optics. He has also served as President of the Optical Society of America, a professional organization with more than 12,000 members throughout the world, and from 1997 to 2000 he served as Associate Director for Technology in The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

**Wired UK (February 10)**
How to make your staff more creative
According to research by Edward Deci and Richard Ryan of the University of Rochester, New York, unreasonable time constraints, micromanagement, focused thinking and overreliance on financial incentives all reduce workplace creativity. So what can you do to foster an inventive environment?

**Huffington Post (February 1)**
Birth Control Recall: What To Do If You Are Affected By The Pfizer Recall
Pfizer announced yesterday that it is recalling 1 million packages of its Lo/Ovral-28 tablets and generic Norgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol tablets, because some of the birth control tablets may be out of sequence, or there may be more of the active pills in some packages and more inactive pills in other packages. “It’s concerning – I just hope there’s not too much of a fallout from this,” Dr. Adam Griffin, an assistant professor in the obstetrics and gynecology department at the University of Rochester Medical Center, told Huffpost.

**U.S News & World Report (February 20)**
M.B.A. Courses Increasingly Address Real-Time News
Eastman Kodak Co., the imaging and photography company that filed for bankruptcy in January, has been posing for close-ups at business schools across the country, where professors and students are eulogizing Kodak and trying to figure out what went wrong. Mark Zupan, dean of the University of Rochester’s Simon Graduate School of Business, has been observing fewer “totally canned or prepackaged cases” and more classroom discussions about current events. “Given how … rapidly the world is changing, there is a trend toward more open cases, where the data that can be accessed through the Internet is more plentiful and dynamic,” he says. “The onus nowadays is on students to frame the key questions and then sift through the information to find the relevant data to support their analysis and recommendations.”

**New York Times (February 27)**
Each Flick of a Digit Is a Job for All 5
You may think you’re pretty familiar with your hands. You may think you know them like the back of your hand. But as the following exercises derived from the latest hand research will reveal, your pair of bioengineering sensations still hold quite a few surprises up their sleeve. “Even when you think you’re moving just one finger,” said Marc H. Schieber, a professor of neurology and neurobiology at the University of Rochester Medical Center, “you’re really controlling your entire hand.” The pianist playing Ravel or the typist clacking on Blogspot? “People tend to think, they’re hitting one key at a time, so they must be moving one finger at a time to hit that key,” Dr. Schieber said. “But really, all the fingers are in motion all the time.”

**Huffington Post (February 20)**
Why We Admire Lincoln (blog)
Abraham Lincoln is the most revered president. This is especially striking in light of the fact that Lincoln presided over a period more challenging and economically destructive than any other in America’s history. The Civil War resulted in 635,000 soldier deaths (over 2 percent of our population versus only .2 percent of our citizen
killed as soldiers during World War II, our next most relatively costly conflict; over 1,000,000 wounded soldiers; and an estimated economic cost of $13 billion in 1860 dollars (roughly 4 times as large as annual GDP in 1860).

Mark Zupan, Dean, the University of Rochester’s Simon School of Management

13WHAM-TV (February 21)
New Dorm Named For University Presidents
A new residence hall at the University of Rochester will be named for former university presidents. The dorm itself will bear the name of Dennis O’Brien. The adjoining redesigned courtyard will be named for Thomas H. Jackson. O’Brien served as university president from 1984 to 1994, while Jackson held the post from 1994 to 2005. (Also Reported in: WHAM AM 1180)

10WHEC-TV (February 10)
U of R research center could bring 800 jobs to Rochester
It was one of the highlights of the Finger Lakes Economic Development Council. Now, the University of Rochester says a partnership with IBM could bring hundreds of jobs to our area. The university wants to build a $100-million facility for super computers, which would be focused on healthcare research. It would be one of the most powerful healthcare research centers in the country. The university already has one supercomputer, which has helped to secure $98 million in research grants for the school. The hope is that a new research center would attract more dollars, and up to 800 jobs, both in and out of the university. (Also Reported in: 13WHAM-TV)

MSNBC (February 16)
What If Earth’s Magnetic Poles Flip?
According to John Tarduno, professor of geophysics at the University of Rochester, a strong magnetic field helps protect Earth from blasts of radiation from the sun. “Coronal mass ejections (CMEs) occasionally occur on the Sun, and sometimes hurtle directly toward Earth,” Tarduno said. “Some of the particles associated with CMEs can be blocked by Earth’s magnetic field. With a weak field, this shielding is less efficient.”

WAMC Northeast Public Radio (February 9)
The Academic Minute
In today’s Academic Minute, Dr. Alice Quillen of the University of Rochester reveals the process used to detect and describe objects orbiting distant stars. Alice Quillen is an associate professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Rochester where her research focuses on the dynamics of gas and stars in galaxies, the astrophysics of active galactic nuclei, and the dynamics of planetesimals in young planetary systems. She holds a Ph.D. in physics for Caltech. (Also Reported in: Inside Higher Ed)

Bloomberg News (February 17)
MIT’s First Woman President Susan Hockfield to Step Down
Susan Hockfield, the first woman president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will step down from the post as the college plans for a new fundraising campaign. A graduate of the University of Rochester, she began her career as a neuroscience researcher, working under James D. Watson, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Cold Spring Harbor, New York. In 1985, she moved to Yale, where she became dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences before serving as provost. (Also Reported in: San Francisco Chronicle)

Christian Science Monitor (February 1)
Facebook IPO: Could it backfire if users revolt?
Financially, not many folks will be able to jump on the early bandwagon, says Cliff Smith, finance and economics professor from the Simon School of Business at the University of Rochester in New York. “The typical person who hears about this IPO and says, ‘That sounds great, I’d like to get some of those shares,’ isn’t going to be able to call up a broker and say, ‘Sell me 100 shares,’” he says. “Those brokers reserve shares of a popular IPO for their best customers, and this one is already way oversubscribed.”

Science Daily (February 23)
Key to Growth Differences Between Species
Using the wings of these insects as a tool to study how growth is regulated, biologists at the University of Rochester have discovered that changes in expression of a well-known cell
regulator gene called “unpaired” (upd) accounts for wing growth differences between males of closely related species. Unpaired is distantly related to a class of genes called “interleukins” which affect cell growth and specialization in humans. The discovery illustrates the principle that animals – from insects to humans – often use the same “genetic toolkit,” despite immense differences in their biology. The findings are being published in the current issue of the journal Science. Prof. John (Jack) Werren and doctoral student David Loehlin isolated the gene causing the wing difference through a technique called positional cloning. The large-winged N. giraulti and small-winged N. vitripennis wasps were crossbred, resulting in hybrid wasps with mixed chromosomes. Afterwards, the offspring with the largest wings were crossbred with pure N. vitripennis wasps, until, after ten generations, Werren and Loehlin had pure N. vitripennis wasps, with one exception: The young wasps now had DNA for large wings. They then used the same method to “break” the isolated genetic material into parts, in order to investigate how DNA flanking the gene affected its regulation and growth of the wings. (Also Reported in: National Science Foundation, redOrbit)

Rochester Business Journal (February 1)
Simon School rises in international rankings
The Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester is on the rise. One year after ranking No. 26 on Financial Times of London’s annual ranking of the world’s best business schools, the Simon School rose four spots to No. 22. The school also ranked No. 49 among the top 100 business schools in the world. (Also Reported in: 8WROC-TV, YNN)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (February 17)
Eastman students benefit from boxing
Thanks to a musically inclined veteran coach and a dedicated professor turned ring devotee, students at the Eastman School of Music are getting in tune with their bodies and more in tune with their instruments through a school wellness program offered through ROC Boxing & Fitness Center. The year-old initiative of owner/coach Dom Arioli and professor James VanDemark has drawn national acclaim for shining a spotlight on the provocative relationship between boxing and music, two seemingly diverse disciplines. “Everything in boxing is taught in rhythm, whether it’s jumping rope or using a basic punch like a jab,” said the 59-year-old VanDemark, who immediately caught the connection when he stepped into Arioli’s gym two years ago.
Low-wealth schools hurt most by aid cuts (guest essay)

Written by Stephen Uebbing

Last year, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state Legislature reached an agreement on a proposal that included an additional $805 million in school aid for 2012-13. This increase is vital, especially to low-wealth school districts that have been devastated by budget cuts in recent years. While it is only a small portion of the billions already lost in school aid cuts over the last few years, it is still a start. Stephen Uebbing is associate professor in educational leadership at the University of Rochester’s Warner School of Education.

Changing the scope of Black History Month

For the University of Rochester – and for many institutions in and around Rochester – recognition of Black History Month goes far beyond posters of Rosa Parks and videos of Martin Luther King Jr. As Rochester’s black community has changed, so have the events that honor its history. At UR, the diverse event schedule includes a panel discussion on Haiti and a lecture titled African Identities, reflecting the increasingly diverse black population of the institution, the state and the country as a whole.

“The stage of history has all the main stars on it – the Lincolns, the Washingtons and the Jeffersons. That’s what we’ve been doing for the past 40 years or so,” said Larry Hudson, a professor at the University of Rochester’s Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies. “We have to bring in the other supportive actors. You have to have Sojourner Truth and Harriet Jacobs and Frederick Douglass, but sometimes you’ll just have an enslaved family.”

Eastman professor giving farewell concert

Youth and maturity will make music together Sunday afternoon, when violinist Zvi Zeitlin plays a farewell concert that includes pieces by the teenage composer Franz Schubert. For the past 45 years, Zeitlin has given annual recitals at the Eastman School of Music, where he is distinguished professor of violin. Considered one of the important violinists of the 20th century, he has performed with many of the world’s major orchestras.

Twins Nate and Natalie Novosel share basketball bond

Nate and Natalie Novosel weren’t separated at birth, but they were born two minutes apart. And boy, are they alike. Nate is at the University of Rochester, while Natalie attends Notre Dame, 513 miles away in South Bend, Ind. They were born in Lexington, Ky., on Nov. 22, 1989.

Finger Lakes economic council begins developing 2012 strategy

The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council held its initial 2012 meeting Wednesday amid lingering questions about funding, process and the criteria used last year when the region came up short in a competition for $200 million in state dollars. Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy, a former Rochester mayor, and council co-chair and University of Rochester president Joel Seligman said Wednesday’s session, most of which was closed to the media, “clarified” the process and smoothed the waters. (Also Reported in: YNN)

U of R Students Attempt Record for Longest Taco Line

Students at the University of Rochester are attempting to break the world record for the longest line of tacos. Students lined up 1,036 tacos side-by-side and filled them with traditional toppings including meat, beans, lettuce and tomato. (Also Reported in: YNN, Henrietta Post)

Donations to N.Y. colleges rose 8 percent in 2011

New York’s colleges and universities received more than $2.14 billion in charitable contributions last year, an 8 percent increase over the year before, according to the Council for Aid to Education. University of Rochester ranked fifth in the state in donations, finishing fiscal year 2011 with about $72 million – up 1.25 percent. But UR officials said the report doesn’t tell the whole story. “It failed to recognize that we had an all-time record
for commitments of $147 million,” said James D. Thompson, senior vice president and chief advancement officer for UR. Most of the money, while pledged during fiscal 2011, didn’t show up in the report, which counts only money received. UR is in the midst of the biggest capital campaign in the college’s history and has about $250 million in outstanding pledges. (Also Reported in: Ithaca Journal, Elmira Star-Gazette, Binghamton Press)