Selected Coverage July 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

About the University

Library Journal, New York (July 23)

Book News: University of Rochester to Launch Open Letter Publishing House

The University of Rochester July 20 announced the creation of a new international literature publishing house dubbed Open Letter to be run by Chad Post, focusing on “modern classics and contemporary works of fiction.” Beginning in fall 2008, the university said, Open Letter will publish 12 works of international literature a year. Post is joined at Open Letter by E.J. Van Lanen, former assistant editor at Ecco, and Nathan Furl, former marketing and production director at Dalkey Archive. (Also reported by Chronicle of Higher Education, Literary Salon, Publishers Weekly, Emerging Writers Network, Daily Galley Cat, Cruelest Month.com)

U.S. Airways (July issue)

The July issue of US Airways magazine has 70 pages of features and ads on Rochester. The University and its units are pictured or mentioned a number of times.

About Research and Faculty

Scientist Live, United Kingdom (July 10)

Depression prevalent in Parkinson’s patients

While depression appears to be common in early Parkinson’s disease (PD), it is often not treated or diagnosed, according to newly released research. A contingent of researchers from across North America found that just over 27 per cent of PD subjects screened positive for depression, while 40 per cent of subjects’ depression went untreated. This study, authored by Bernard Ravina, MD at the University of Rochester and funded by the National Institutes of Health in the USA, is the first to systematically examine the impact of depressive symptoms in early, untreated PD. (Also reported by CNN Money, UPI, WebMD, Psychiatric Times New York, HULIQ North Carolina, PsychCentral.com Massachusetts, MedPageToday New Jersey, News-Medical.net Australia)

LiveScience.com, New York (July 2)

Simple Gesturing Helps Students Learn

Susan Wagner Cook, a University of Rochester psychologist, along with colleagues at the University of Chicago decided to test whether children who tend not to gesture on their own—but who are taught to gesture while learning a new concept—comprehend and remember the concept better than kids who are not taught to gesture. (Also reported by LA Times, Toronto Star, News-Medical.net Australia, New Kerala India, HULIQ North Carolina, MSNBC, The Times of India, DentalPlans.com Florida and PhysOrg.com)
NATIONAL COVERAGE

About the University

Fortune Small Business (July 1)
10 cool colleges for entrepreneurs
Here’s a sampling of 10 cutting-edge programs for budding entrepreneurs:

University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y. The university has embedded entrepreneurship courses in virtually every department on campus -- including computer science, engineering, religion, and music. Engineering students are working with those in anthropology to design a nonpolluting bus for the city of Rochester.

About University-Related Businesses

Linux Electrons, Texas (July 5)
Open Source Statistical Software Receives Biomedical Infusion
Random Technologies, the newest start-up company to emerge from the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC), launched its new statistical analysis software package at an international conference of drug industry professionals last week.

About Research and Faculty

The Times Online, United Kingdom (July 26)
The big issue … Doctors David Landy and Harold Sigall, of the University of Rochester in the US, demonstrated that when undergraduates were asked to evaluate their colleagues’ intellectual ability and the value of their essays it was heavily biased by height and build.

Forbes (July 25)
Steroids Won’t Help common Respiratory Infection in Infants
“These are tiny babies, wheezing and huffing. Can the physician do nothing? The majority of babies do get treatment, despite the fact that these treatments don’t appear to be of value,” said Dr. Caroline Hall, an infectious-disease specialist at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in New York, and the author of an accompanying editorial in the journal.”But, we wouldn’t want to give something that as far as we know has no effect, because there’s always a potential for side effects. No specific drug has been shown to help in bronchiolitis,” said Hall, who added, “The best therapy that we know is good supportive, clinical care.” (Also reported by Washington Post, Medscape Today, Sacramento Bee California, DentalPlans.com Florida)

MIT Technology Review (July 25)
Playing Piano with a Robotic Hand
“We would hope that eventually, we’ll be able to implant similar arrays permanently in the motor cortex of human subjects,” says Mark Schieber, a neuroscientist at the University of Rochester, in New York, who is working on the project. However, researchers caution that a practical human version of the neural interface is still a long way off. (Also reported by ABC News)

Forbes (July 24)
Report: Subprime Woes May Be Limited
Charles Plosser, who doesn’t currently have a vote on the policy-making Federal Open Market Committee, taught economics at the University of Rochester’s graduate business school, the paper said. His comments shed light on what would constitute evidence at the Fed that housing problems are spilling over to the rest of the economy, the paper said. (Also reported by Wall Street Journal subscription needed, Houston Chronicle, Hemscott United Kingdom, Philadelphia Daily News)

Washington Post (July 22)
A Warning About Plastics
Phthalates are a group of chemical compounds used to make plastics such as vinyl and PVC more flexible. They’re what you smell when you get a new car, pool float or shower curtain; many common items -- shampoo, “pleather” shoes, vinyl blinds, medical tubing -- contain them. Yet despite their prevalence in everyday products, they’re potentially scary stuff. Several reports have linked phthalates to reproductive harm and hormonal changes in laboratory animals; a widely cited 2005 study led by a team from the University of Rochester in New York found a link between pregnant women’s exposure to the chemicals and developmental problems in boys’ reproductive systems.
**Bloomberg (July 20)**
Romney Attracts More of Bush’s Top Donors Than Rivals

“Supporters who can help raise money are extremely valuable to a presidential campaign, so a Republican candidate can’t afford to ignore the Pioneers and Rangers lest they be swooped up by an opponent,” said David Primo, a political science professor at the University of Rochester in New York. (Also reported by Salt Lake Tribune)

**Philadelphia Inquirer (July 20)**
Could it happen in Phila.?

The age of Philadelphia’s pipes is a cause for concern, said Morris A. Pierce, a professor at the University of Rochester who studies steam systems and who has studied Philadelphia’s closely. “Over time, the flow of the steam will wear out the pipes. You’ll inevitably get rust and corrosion over time if you’re not careful,” said Pierce. Still, Pierce said, steam technology is generally safe so long as the pipes are rigorously maintained.

**Forbes (July 19)**
Body Clock Shift May Cause Sickness-Linked Fatigue

Unfortunately, many patients can suffer from a chronic, unending form of fatigue, usually linked to long-term illness. That kind of tiredness is not useful, Birchler said, and is often the leading complaint of people battling disease.”So, in the short term, illness-linked fatigue is an advantageous adaptation, but in the long term not necessarily so,” said Wilfred Pigeon, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester, N.Y., and the director of the university’s Sleep & Neurophysiology Research Laboratory. (Also reported by Washington Post, Health24.com South Africa, CBC News Canada, Austin American Statesman, Atlanta Journal Constitution)

**Azanano.com Australia (July 19)**
QED Recognized for Cutting Edge Magnetorheological Finishing Technology

Continuous phase plates are a vital part of the optics chain for kilojoule- and megajoule-class laser systems such as the National Ignition Facility at LLNL, Laser Megajoule near Bordeaux, France, and OMEGA at the University of Rochester’s Laboratory for Laser Energetics. (Also reported by TMC Net Connecticut, Rochester Business Journal, Democrat and Chronicle)

**New York Sun (July 12)**
The Old World of American Readers

The common sense of readers is a bit like the proverbial sausage factory. You don’t want to look at it too closely, for fear of what you might find. That, at any rate, is the impression Joan Shelley Rubin leaves in “Songs of Ourselves: The Uses of Poetry in America”. Ms. Rubin, a professor of history at the University of Rochester, focuses on just one kind of reading—the reading of poetry by Americans between 1880 and 1950. If you define it broadly enough, that category would include almost every American who ever went to school, since in the pre-television era, the memorization and recitation of verse was a common classroom exercise. But as Ms. Rubin shows, out of those millions and millions of encounters with poetry, it is hard to find even a few hundred documents of a reader’s response. Unless a reader of poetry is also a writer — a professor, a critic, a fellow poet — her reaction to what she reads remains irrecoverably private.

**ABC News (July 11)**
Heat Deters Blood Donors

If shortages are severe enough, they could threaten the treatment of emergency-care patients as well. If they are postponed even a few days because of a blood shortage, the impact can be “fairly traumatic for the patients,” according to Neil Blumberg, the director of transfusion medicine and the blood bank at the University of Rochester Medical Center. “It’s not minor surgery. These are usually big operations, not immediately life-saving … where nobody likes to wait for long periods.”

**Elmira Star Gazette (July 10)**
Swing, bounce or rock for your health

A study from the University of Rochester caught my eye recently. It talked about a method for reducing depression and anxiety in senior citizens. This great method also reduced requests for pain medication, improved circulation and mobility. What was it? Spending time in a rocking chair. (Also reported by Binghamton Press and Bulletin)
**MedPage Today, New Jersey** (July 9)

**Non-Motor Side Effects in Early Parkinson’s Therapy Linked to Comorbidities**

Gender and comorbid illnesses were also significant risk factors for both somnolence and edema, and patients 65 and older and those with small cognitive deficits were also more likely to experience hallucinations, regardless of treatment assignment, said Kevin M. Biglan, M.D., M.P.H., of the University of Rochester, and colleagues in the Parkinson Study Group.

(Also reported by EMaxHealth.com North Carolina, Forbes, CBC News Canada, Innovations Report Germany, DG News, News-Medical.net Australia)

**News-Medical.net, Australia** (July 9)

**Noninvasive ultrasound used to check health of carotid arteries**

Specialists with the Strong Women's Heart Program are expanding a study that considers the effects of a statin drug on metabolic syndrome, a condition that increases women's risk for heart disease and stroke. This second phase of the study expands the number of women involved, incorporates a control group of women who do not have metabolic syndrome, and utilizes ultrasound imaging to check the carotid arteries, according to cardiologist Gladys Velarde, M.D., director of the Strong Women's Heart Program at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

**USA Today** (July 8)

**CoSIDA announces Hall of Fame class**

The College Sports Information Directors of America, the media relations personnel for schools and conferences, announced its latest Hall of Fame class: Rod Commons of Washington State, Dennis O'Donnell of Rochester and Tam Flarup of Wisconsin.

**New York Times** (July 8)

**Sunday Book Review**

Before there was “Freakonomics,” before there was “The Tipping Point” or “Blink,” Steven E. Landsburg wrote a regular column for Slate magazine called Everyday Economics. The column started in the summer of 1996 with an article headlined “More Sex Is Safer Sex,” in which Landsburg argued that H.I.V. would spread less quickly if relatively chaste people each took on a few more sexual partners. At a given bar on a given night, he wrote, these disease-free singles would then make the pool of sexually active adults safer. Landsburg, a professor at the University of Rochester, has now come out with his own entry in the field, “More Sex Is Safer Sex,” based largely on his Slate columns. The opening chapter is an expanded version of the first column. From there, he jumps into a series of counterintuitive arguments based on his own observations or on research by other economists.

**Photonics.com** (July 5)

**Refilling the Physics Pool**

“With the potential of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) for making breakthrough discoveries, the US cannot afford not to play a leadership role in LHC-related theory,” Baur and Lynne Orr, PhD, a physics professor at the University of Rochester, warned in a 2005 memo to fellow theorists. Baur, Orr and others in their field had recognized that the contributions of American scientists in the field of LHC-related, high-energy physics theory were insufficient because there simply were not enough young theoretical physicists pursuing these calculations. (Also reported by UB News Center New York)

**Psychology Today** (July 2)

**Tics: Part of Growing Up**

The most familiar tics are repeated eye-blinking or sniffing. “It’s not uncommon for a child to start with a cold, and when the cold fades, sniffing persists and becomes a tic,” says Jonathon Mink, head of child neurology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York.

**MSNBC** (July 2)

**Depression in kids of divorce blamed on genes**

Divorce has been linked to a wide range of outcomes, says Tom O’Connor, an associate professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. One thing that’s not clear is whether those outcomes are caused by the divorce or by the bad family situation that led to the divorce, O’Connor explains.

**Bloomberg.com** (July 2)

**Obama Taps Internet, Small Donors to Top Clinton’s Fundraising**

“Money doesn’t determine election outcomes, but at this stage it is a rough proxy for support from Democratic elites and true believers,” said David Primo, a political science professor at the University of Rochester in
New York. “They appear to be putting their money with Obama, both in number of donations and in absolute dollars.”

About Alumni

Akron Beacon Journal, Ohio (July 26)
Company makes ‘Sound of Music’ sweeter
Wednesday’s matinee was the fifth performance by Analisa Leaming, who will give two more performances this season. (Kemper LeCroy-Florin also has three remaining performances.) Leaming is comfortable in her portrayal of a young woman who tries to be pious enough to become a nun, but prefers the rough-and-tumble affection of family life. Leaming commanded the stage with a bright presence and impeccable diction that made the clever lyrics easy to catch. Her take on the character is a little more Disney than Rodgers and Hammerstein, who understood the murky edges around emotions. Still, it’s a remarkable achievement by Leaming, a recent graduate of the Eastman School of Music. Her soprano tone had power as well as sweetness.

CNN Money (July 11)
Lauren Kramer Joins First Republic Bank
First Republic Bank, a leading provider of wealth management, private banking and private business banking services, today announced that Lauren Kramer, a financial services executive with nearly 20 years of experience, has been appointed Senior Relationship Manager. Kramer earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Rochester in New York. (Also reported by Earthtimes.org)

White House News (July 11)
Personnel Announcement
The President intends to nominate Gene A. Cretz, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to Libya. Mr. Cretz currently serves as Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv. Mr. Cretz received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Rochester and his master’s degree from State University College at Buffalo. (Also reported by MSNBC, USA Today, Forbes, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Guardian Unlimited UK, Fox News and many other publications/broadcast)

KOTV, Oklahoma (July 10)
Classically Trained Musician Drawn To Tulsa
The harp is not an instrument for everyone. It is difficult to play, and takes tremendous dedication to master. Jill Wiebe is a classically trained harpist from the Eastman School of Music and the Cincinnati-College Conservatory. She’s played all over the world, and probably still could, but she’s settling in Tulsa.

About Students

NCAAsports.com, Indiana (July 24)
Natural appreciation
As University of Rochester softball player Rachel Skellie grew up on a dairy farm in Upstate New York, she naturally developed an appreciation for the environment. This summer, Skellie is learning how to turn that appreciation into a career. The farm kid from Greenwich, N.Y., began taking ecology and environmental science classes as a way to supplement her schedule after beginning college. The classes peaked Skellie’s curiosity and cultivated the knowledge she had gained on the farm—how Environmental Sciences played into real life. Skellie batted .279 in 27 games for Rochester last season as the Yellowjackets advanced to the Division III Championship for the first time in school history.

Buffalo News (July 11)
BPO park concert is a treat recalling the good old days
A special guest was the young violinist Ana Lia Vafai, who won a Millonzi scholarship from the BPO and will be heading off in the fall to the Eastman School of Music. Vafai played the first movement of Max Bruch’s Violin Concerto No. 1.

Space.com (July 11)
Students Talk Space with ISS Crew, Educator Astronaut
Earthbound students made a long-distance call to the International Space Station (ISS) Wednesday, courtesy of NASA, as educator astronaut Barbara Morgan and her crewmates prepare to launch towards the orbital laboratory early next month. Justin Gorksi, a 21-year-old student at the University of Rochester, New York, said he felt moved by the astronauts’ words. “We had the opportunity to interact with them, and I now realize it’s entirely possible to become an astronaut,” Gorksi said. “If I personally had a chance, I’d rather go to the moon. Mars is a little too far for me.”
Pocono Record, Pennsylvania (July 4)
Altemose family’s curse - perfectionism
The Altemose family is cursed. The snide remarks tend to arise when Laura Altemose and her daughters, Mindy and Melissa, confess to not knowing something. “I call it the valedictorian curse,” said Laura Altemose, who, as Laura Motz, graduated as valedictorian of Pocono Mountain High School in 1979. Her daughters seem cut from the same cloth; they excel at the same sport — softball — and are pursuing similar fields at the same university. Mindy is majoring in molecular genetics; Melissa plans to study biochemistry. Both are enrolled in the University of Rochester.

LOCAL COVERAGE

About the University
WHEC TV, NBC (July 24)
Bio-Tech incubator dedicated by U of R Medical Center
The U of R Medical Center dedicated a new business incubator called the Rochester Bio-Enterprise Center that will support the development of biotechnology and life science companies. U of R President Dr. Joel Seligman says this business incubator is the missing link in the area’s ability to attract new biotechnology companies to Rochester. “This facility will provide early stage companies with ideas, innovation, and an entrepreneurial spirit that will support the need and the ability to grow and prosper,” said Seligman. (Also reported by NewsMedical.net Australia, WHAM TV, WXXI News, Rochester Business Journal, Democrat and Chronicle)

Democrat and Chronicle (July 24)
UR’s 5 highest-paid seen as among best doctors in U.S.
The five highest-paid employees listed on the University of Rochester’s 2005 tax return are doctors who are among the best in the country, according to the head of the medical school. “They have obtained a certain amount of national prominence. They’re seeing patients not only from Rochester, but from all over the county who come to see them for their special expertise,” said Dr. David Guzick, dean of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

R News (July 19)
Hospitals Work to Improve Neurology
Two of Rochester’s top health care providers are now working together to improve care for neurology patients. The University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) and Rochester General Hospital (RGH) are working as a team to improve access and quality of neurological care. “You will be seeing new people who will be taking a major role in patient care in areas like seizure disorders, dementia, Parkinson’s disease, memory problems, pain syndromes, headache, dizziness, and all the common neurological problems we expect to develop expertise across the board addressing all of the common problems,” said Robert Griggs, chair of the URMC Department of Neurology. Also reported by WHAM TV ABC, WHEC TV NBC, WROC TV CBS, Rochester Business Journal, Democrat and Chronicle)

Democrat and Chronicle (July 19)
Rochester culture gets Hispanic flavor
Starting this summer, the Memorial Art Gallery and Pittsford’s Nazareth College will stage a yearlong celebration of Hispanic culture. Highlights will include MAG’s fall exhibit of contemporary Latin-American art and Nazareth’s impressive lineup of three Hispanic dance troupes.

Democrat and Chronicle (July 18)
UR nursing school gets grant for rural areas
The University of Rochester School of Nursing has received nearly $300,000 to help teach those who live in rural communities around Rochester and throughout New York state. The money, provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration, will be used to develop distance education technology, online courses and clinical training sites to prepare child psychiatric nurse practitioners and pediatrics nurse practitioners specializing in behavioral mental health. (Also reported by SpiritIndia.com)
**Rochester Business Journal (July 9)**

**UR chief opposes proposed boycott**

University of Rochester president Joel Seligman on Monday joined other leaders of prominent American universities in speaking out against a proposed boycott by British university professors against Israeli academic institutions. Seligman released a statement saying he would join many fellow presidents of the Association of American Universities in supporting a statement by Columbia University Lee Bollinger in opposition to the proposed boycott.

**R News (July 8)**

**Young Latinos Promote Leadership**

Young Latinos from all over the U.S. and Mexico are in Rochester this week to learn how to become better leaders. The University of Rochester is one of 16 sites for the National Hispanic Institute's Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session. (Similar report in Democrat and Chronicle)

**Democrat and Chronicle (July 11)**

**Shed light on drug companies’ gifts to doctors (guest essay)**

The pharmaceutical industry remains one of the most profitable in the United States, reflecting the success of these methods. Such methods drive up the cost of health care, and it is patients who ultimately pay for this largesse. If there is nothing to be ashamed of, it is hard to understand why either the drug industry or physicians would be unhappy with a public listing of who was receiving gifts from pharmaceutical companies.

Guest essayists Laurence B. Guttmacher is an associate professor of clinical psychiatry and medical humanities and Brian Jenssen is a medical student, both at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

**Democrat and Chronicle (July 2)**

**Efforts ramping up for race in House**

Some political observers questioned whether voters will be paying attention to congressional races that are so far away, especially in the middle of summer 2007. But Gerald Gamm, chairman of the political science department at the University of Rochester, said the goal is to try to link Kuhl, Walsh and Reynolds to national topics such as immigration and the Iraq war — issues people are indeed paying attention to. “They are laying issues out for voters and starting to tell voters that if you don’t like this issue, you should not like these members of Congress,” Gamm said.

Riggs is an assistant professor of neurology, University of Rochester Medical Center.

**Democrat and Chronicle (July 15)**

**Battle for B&L clouds future**

While a takeover of B&L by Advanced Medical would mean better returns for shareholders, a victory in this battle by Warburg Pincus likely would be better for the Rochester area, said Mark Zupan, dean of the University of Rochester’s Simon Graduate School of Business Administration. “Gut instincts would be that the Warburg offer would have stronger long-term employment prospects for Rochester,” Zupan said Friday. “You wouldn’t see the headquarters move out; there is potential for this firm in California (Advanced Medical) to centralize operations where they’re located.”

**About Research and Faculty**

**Democrat and Chronicle (July 15)**

**UR is testing, finding keys to open door to treatment, cure**

Research at national and local levels is unlocking the secrets of Alzheimer’s disease. As we understand the disease better, we move closer to better treatments and, one day, a cure. It may not be so far off. Researchers at the University of Rochester Medical Center, for instance, are developing methods to catch the disease before symptoms appear. The team is also studying whether MRI and PET scans can add to current tests for early diagnosis and treatment.

Guest essayist Dr. M. Saleem Ismail is an assistant professor of psychiatry, and guest essayist Dr. Garrett Riggs is an assistant professor of neurology, University of Rochester Medical Center.
Democrat and Chronicle (July 1)
Watershed week for B&L
If B&L accepts a bid other than Warburg’s, it would have to pay a $40 million breakup fee to the investment firm. And with the go-shop period nearly over, it is unlikely the B&L board would recommend another bid, said Michael J. Barclay, professor of finance at the University of Rochester’s Simon Graduate School of Business Administration. A rival bid could come anytime up until the moment shareholders approve a sale, but it is unlikely one would spring up after Thursday, Barclay said.

About Students
Democrat and Chronicle (July 16)
Harry Potter: The final chapter
Travis Prinzi, 28, of Chili started blogging about the books two years ago after he admitted that the book series was consuming his time. His blog, swordofgriffindor.com, has the rumors, speculation and discussion of other sites such as mugglenet.com and www.the-leaky-cauldron.org, but concentrates more on the ethical and moral dilemmas faced by the characters. That makes sense because Prinzi was a student at Northeastern Seminary, the theological school associated with Roberts Wesleyan College, when he began blogging on the topic. Now, as a graduate secondary-education student at the Warner School of Education at University of Rochester, he will present three academic papers on the books at Prophecy 2007, the first Harry Potter-related conference, to be held in Toronto in August, following the seventh book’s release.

Democrat and Chronicle (July 11)
Favorites abound as Ryan Memorial tees off today
Stephen Goodridge, reflecting recently on winning last summer’s RDGA John H. Ryan Jr. Memorial Championship with an eye-popping total of 11-under-par 273 at the Country Club of Mendon, called it the best week of golf he has ever played. The University of Rochester senior-to-be and Stafford Country Club member will not defend his title because he was chosen for the 12-man team to take on Japan this week in the annual USA vs. Japan Collegiate Golf Championship at Rancho Santa Margarita, California.