Selected Coverage June 2007

**HIGHLIGHTS**

### About Research and Faculty

*New York Times (June 26)*

**Study Says Chatty Doctors Forget Patients**

“I think all of us on the team thought self-disclosure is a potentially positive aspect to building a doctor-patient relationship and that we ourselves were quite good at it,” said Susan H. McDaniel, a psychologist who is associate chairwoman of the department of family medicine at the University of Rochester and lead author of the study. “We realized that maybe not 100 percent of the time, but most of the time self-disclosure had more to do with us than with the patients.” (Also reported by MSNBC, CBS News, USA Today NPR, Washington Post, Scientific American, Chicago Tribune, Forbes, Atlanta Journal Constitution, and other publications/broadcasts)

### About the University

*Democrat and Chronicle (June 6)*

**UR packs a punch for area economy**

The University of Rochester is responsible for more than 30,000 jobs directly or indirectly, spent $145 million on goods and services locally last year and pays salaries and wages of more than $1 billion a year. And as the area’s largest employer, the university’s “ties to Rochester are vital and inextricable, and they are growing,” President Joel Seligman said on Tuesday. The university is almost an island physically, bounded by the Genesee River and Mt. Hope Cemetery. But in a speech before about 400 alumni, donors and administrators at the Memorial Art Gallery, Seligman argued that UR is already a major part of the community medically, culturally and educationally — and that its role economically is growing. (Also reported by WHAM TV ABC)

*Newsday (June 1)*

**Gandhi’s grandson moves peace institute to Rochester**

Arun Gandhi, who learned about the sins of “politics without principle” and “wealth without work” at his grandfather Mahatma Gandhi’s feet, said Friday he is moving his Tennesse-based M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence to the University of Rochester. Its relocation to the University of Rochester campus “will enhance the studies and practice of peace and nonviolence core values that are shared across all cultures and all nations,” said the university’s president, Joel Seligman. (Also reported by Jerusalem Post Israel International Herald Tribune France, WCAX Vermont, WHAM TV ABC, Rochester Business Journal, Democrat and Chronicle and other publications/broadcasts)
About the University

The Hill, DC (June 14)
Congress and the Arts

Louise Slaughter is particularly proud of representing a district with such a strong tradition of music and arts. “I represent a city, Buffalo, that has 13 working theaters in it,” she boasts. “Of course, the City of Rochester has a proud artistic tradition too, seeing as it’s the home of the Eastman School of Music — one of the reasons why Rochester is so unique.” Slaughter herself testified at a hearing on April 19, and has spoken on behalf of American artists many times before. “Funding for the arts has never been as important,” she says. “Programs supported by the NEA, like the Big Read, are bringing Americans together and encouraging community discussion about who we are and what we believe.

Panels Discuss CFO Roles, Foundation Ties, and President-Trustee Relations

More than 250 college leaders and trustees gathered here on Sunday and Monday for The Chronicle’s second annual Presidents Forum to discuss some of the most pressing management issues facing higher-education officials these days. Here are highlights from Day 2 of the conference. “You’re more likely to see more mergers, you’re more likely to see more colleges not making it, and you’re more likely to see more crises,” said one panel member, Joel Seligman, who is president of the University of Rochester.

Commencement Speeches: With Iraq War as a Backdrop, Speakers Reflect on the Future

Shirley Ann Jackson, President, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at University of Rochester: I am an optimist. I am short, and short people can only see the glass as half full. So optimize who you are and what you are. Optimize your experiences and what you have learned. Optimize others. Optimize your opportunities. Seize them and do meaningful things.

Should you do a summer program?

At the University of Rochester, Rochester Scholars students from across the country can choose one “major” class that meets for two weeks and one “minor” class that meets for one week.

Quality of cardiac, stroke programs recognized by AHA

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association has awarded two Get With the Guidelines Annual Performance Achievement Awards to Strong Memorial Hospital of the University of Rochester Medical Center for meeting its high standards for coronary artery disease and stroke care. Strong Memorial is the only hospital in the Rochester area to be recognized with these honors, which celebrate a 12-month compliance of AHA/ASA standards, and the only Rochester hospital to receive any level of American Heart Association recognition for its coronary artery disease care. Highland Hospital, an affiliate of the Medical Center, is recognized with an Initial Performance Achievement Award, a 90-day compliance of its stroke initiatives.
**Scientific American (June 28)**

**Doctors report evidence of “anniversary reaction”**

A woman whose defibrillator activated one week to the hour after her father died, and recorded the event, may provide the first documented evidence of “anniversary reaction,” doctors reported. Dr. Michael Sweeney of Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston and Dr. Timothy Quill of the University of Rochester School of Medicine in New York reported on the occurrence in the journal HeartRhythm. (Also reported by Reuters, The Australian)

**Christian Science Monitor (June 25)**

**Has boom in going private hit its peak?**

Considering these changes, why go public? Diversification of personal assets might be one reason, says Clifford Smith Jr., professor of finance and economics at the University of Rochester’s Simon Graduate School of Business. “It frees up personal funds,” he says. “Here’s a way to make sure if thing’s don’t look as rosy in the future, I have other irons in the fire.”

**New York Times (June 24)**

**The Ordinary Reader: Sunday Book Review**

Until I read Joan Shelley Rubin’s “Songs of Ourselves,” I’d always assumed this was a personal quirk, some inborn instinct to literature that belied his orphaned, hardscrabble youth spent working as an itinerant farm laborer and barber in the high plains of western Kansas. Rubin’s devotion to this largely ignored part of our literary heritage not only shows off her abilities as a researcher, but also amounts to a quiet repudiation of certain intellectual debates still wheezing and gasping over Roland Barthes’s mischievous announcement about “the death of the author.”

As a social historian, Rubin, a professor of history at the University of Rochester, succeeds in showing how this poetry was adopted by educators, churches, immigrant groups and other organizations to promote various social and cultural goals.

**ABC News (June 22)**

**New Treatment Promising For Parkinson’s**

Dr. Karl Kieburtz of the University of Rochester Medical Center, who didn’t participate in Kaplitt’s work, said the lack of any apparent side effects is itself significant. But he urged caution in interpreting the evidence of benefits in symptoms. Other experimental therapies that looked good at such a preliminary stage have failed to pan out in more rigorous studies, he said, so more research is needed. (Also reported by Globe and Mail Canada, San Francisco Chronicle, CBS News, New York Times, MSNBC, Forbes, CNN, WebMD, Newsday, Miami Herald, Houston Chronicle, Seattle Post Intelligencer, Fox News and many other publications/broadcast)

**Washington Post (June 21)**

**Early Palliative Care Cuts Time in ICU**

For seriously ill patients, early proactive palliative care reduced the length of stay in the intensive care unit by more than seven days but did not have an effect on death rates. That’s the conclusion of a study by University of Rochester Medical Center researchers that’s published in the June issue of the journal Critical Care Medicine. “One goal of a palliative care consultation is to provide assistance and support to patients and their families while they make health care decisions,” lead author Sally Norton, assistant professor at the university’s School of Nursing, said in a prepared statement. (Also reported by Forbes, CBC Canada, Atlanta Journal Constitution, The Austin American Statesman, HealthCentral.com Virginia and other publications/broadcast)

**ScienceLive.com, United Kingdom (June 21)**

**Using Viruses to Fight Cancer**

With nearly $1 million in government funding, University of Rochester (USA) scientists are testing a new innovation in biotherapy by altering a common childhood respiratory virus, the adenovirus, to destroy cancer cells. (Also reported by Health24.com, UPI, Monsters and Critics United Kingdom, Money Times India, The Hindu India, Cancer Focus.com Florida, SpiritIndia.com, Rochester Business Journal, News-Medical.net Australia)
**Galveston County Daily News, Texas (June 20)**

**UTMB tests smallpox vaccine**

Volunteers will be inoculated with varying doses of Dryvax, Imvamune or combinations of both. Researchers will monitor them for side effects and use blood tests to measure their immune responses. Along with the medical branch and Duke, the University of Iowa, University of Maryland, St. Louis University, University of Rochester and University Hospitals of Cleveland are running tests of the vaccine.

**The Christian Science Monitor (June 20)**

**CEOs under fire to perform—or else**

Another big force is also bearing down on chief executives: the threat of buyout by private equity firms. These bids by big investment funds often aren't hostile. And sometimes the CEO remains in office even as the firm changes from being a publicly traded company to a privately held one. But the growing power of private equity has changed the marketplace for corporate control. “You can have another team come in from the outside and say, ‘We think we can make more of the business opportunities that this firm faces,’” says Clifford Smith, professor at the University of Rochester’s Simon School of Business. (Also reported by WBOC TV Maryland, CBS News)

**LiveScience.com (June 18)**

**Study Links Candy Cigarettes to Smoking**

The look-alikes made of candy or gum are marketing and advertising tools that desensitize kids and open them moreso to the idea of smoking later on, says study leader Jonathan Klein of the University of Rochester. Candy cigarettes cannot be considered simply as candy, Klein said. “The continued existence of these products helps promote smoking as a culturally or socially acceptable activity,” Klein said, in a prepared statement. (Also reported by The Ledger Florida, Washington Post, EarthTimes.org, CNN, TheHawaiiChannel.com, TheBostonChannel.com, TheDenverChannel.com, TheINDYChannel.com, FoxReno.com and many other broadcast channels)

**Washington Post (June 13)**

**Many Cops Have Troubled Sleep**

Sleep disorders strike more than a third of police officers, new research suggests. “This study is long overdue,” said Michael L. Perlis, director of the Sleep Research Laboratory at the University of Rochester, who was not involved in the study. “The police force is probably one of the largest populations of shift workers and most vulnerable to sleep loss and sleep deprivation.” (Also reported by Forbes, CBC News Canada, Atlanta Journal Constitution, Austin American Statesman, Drkoop.com and other publications)

**MSN Money (June 13)**

Depomed starts clinical test for hot flash drug

This new, extended-release formulation of the drug is being tested in 108 menopausal women at 10 sites in the United States and Canada. Depomed developed the Gabapentin GR formulation using its proprietary drug delivery technology. Last year, it licensed a patent related to the drug from PharmaNova Inc., which has licensed it from the University of Rochester. (Also reported by San Francisco Business Times)

**PhysOrg.com (June 12)**

**Hidden Planet Pushes Star’s Ring a Billion Miles Off-Center**

A young star’s strange elliptical ring of dust likely heralds the presence of an undiscovered Neptune-sized planet, says a University of Rochester astronomer in the latest Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. We wanted to know why this ring was off-center,” says Alice C. Quillen, Associate Professor of Astronomy and author of the study. “People guessed there might be a planet in there, but nobody knew where it might be, or how big it might be. Now we’ve got a very good idea.” (Also reported by Space Daily, Universe Today, Nature and Science Bulgaria and Red Orbit News)

**SpiritIndia.com (June 12)**

**Rochester brain expert recognized for lifetime contributions**

James Powers, M.D., professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and of Neurology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Meritorious Contributions to Neuropathology at the annual meeting of the American Association of Neuropathologists recently in Washington. The group is the largest and most prestigious neuropathology association, with members around the world. (Also reported by FirstScience.com UK, Rochester Business Journal)
**News-Medical.net, Australia (June 12)**
New Rochester program to coordinate patient care, research for patients suffering with brain and spinal tumors

The University of Rochester Medical Center and its Department of Neurosurgery are establishing a new multidisciplinary program to coordinate patient care, research and community outreach efforts for patients suffering with brain and spinal tumors. The Brain and Spinal Tumor Program will work with James P. Wilmot Cancer Center physicians and researchers to introduce new clinical treatments, provide access to more clinical trials, expand on the body of research devoted to brain tumor growth and treatment, and organize community education and outreach activities.

**Food Consumers News (June 10)**
**Vitamin D Prevents Cancer**

Scientists have now known that there is a physiological basis for the protective effect of vitamin D against cancer. In the case of vitamin D versus prostate cancer, one study by Yi-Fen Lee, Ph.D., an assistant professor of urology at University of Rochester Medical Center, has already found that vitamin D suppresses the progression of prostate cancer by reducing the activity of two enzymes, proteases called matric metalloproteinease and cathepsin, which would otherwise help cancer cells invade healthy cells.

**The Edwardsville Intelligencer (June 8)**
**Study: attrition rate for teachers drops**

“There are some schools in every Illinois locale and every demographic category with high rates of attrition,” Karen J. DeAngelis, lead author of the report and a former SIU Edwardsville assistant research professor, who is joining the University of Rochester, said in a press release. “This indicates that there are other school attributes that affect teachers’ decisions to stay or leave. But what is encouraging is teachers are not fleeing the profession as many have thought.”

**Photonics (June 7)**
**Sydor Optics: Traditional Craftsmanship Meets Gutsy Innovation**

Precision flat-surfaced optics fabricator Sydor Optics has built its reputation on the solid foundation of traditional craftsmanship provided by its founder, Stefan Sydor, coupled with gutsy innovations implemented by his son, Jim. In the summer of 2004, we started another company, Sydor Instruments–Jim started it with Michael J. Pavia, president of the company—and its main product is the ROSS (Rochester Optical Streak System) streak camera,” he said. “They have a close connection with the University of Rochester, from where the technology for the streak camera was licensed. As items are developed there, they try to commercialize them,” he said.

**SpiritIndia.com (June 6)**
**Rochester spreads knowledge of cancer-related fatigue**

Virtually all cancer patients complain of some degree of persistent fatigue. Coping with this challenging side effect is critical to surviving cancer, especially since many people desire to work, raise children, run a household, or engage in recreation throughout their treatments, said Joseph Roscoe, Ph.D., a co-author and research associate professor of oncology at the University’s James P. Wilmot Cancer Center. (Also reported by News-Medical.net Australia, HULIQ North Carolina, First Science.com United Kingdom)

**Arizona Republic (June 5)**
**Monitors can be worn, prescriptions learn to ‘talk’**

Researchers at the University of Rochester’s Center for Future Health, Johns Hopkins University, Georgia Institute of Technology and other centers are testing high-tech medical products like these, but others in use today already are working to keep people healthy.

**SpiritIndia.com (June 5)**
**New imaging technique holds promise to allow cancer surgeons to save more of the kidney**

“In general, surgery is the most effective treatment for kidney cancer. Improving surgeons’ ability to see all of the malignant tumor is a significant step forward,” said Edward Messing, M.D., chair of the Department of Urology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Doctors at the University of Rochester Medical Center’s James P. Wilmot Cancer Center recently discovered that when ICG is injected into the kidney during surgery, it clearly shows the boundaries of the cancerous tumor in just seconds, giving surgeons a quick and safe way to definitively mark the margins of cancerous tissue. This allows them to spare as much healthy kidney tissue – and kidney function – as possible. (Also reported by Earthtimes.org, UPI, WHAM TV ABC, HULIQ North Carolina, CancerFocus.net Florida)
Seizure status after surgery key to quality of life
People with temporal lobe epilepsy experience stable or improved quality of life after successful surgery to control their seizures, even if they develop some degree of memory decline, a new study shows. But if the surgery doesn’t eradicate seizures and memory loss develop, patient experience s a decline in health-related quality of life, Dr. John T. Langfit of the University of Rochester in New York and colleagues report. (Also reported by EMaxHealth.com North Carolina, Innovations Report Germany, News-Medical.net Australia, Reuters, SpiritIndia.com, DG News, MedPageToday New Jersey)

‘Energy harvesting’ can boost optoelectronic efficiency
They found that adding a diode to a silicon-based laser creates an electric field, which allows the free elections to be harvested, and as a result makes it possible to generate electric power. "It's one of the few places where nature allows you to have your cake and eat it too," says Jalali. "It's a very clever approach," says Philippe Fauchet, an applied physicist at the University of Rochester in New York State. "I did not expect it at all, which is always a nice surprise.”

Drug May Help Combat ‘Chemo Brain’
A so-called “genius pill” may help breast cancer survivors suffering from the syndrome known as “chemo brain,” new research suggests. The small study involved the drug modafinil (Provigil), which was originally approved to treat narcolepsy.”This drug actually improved complaints of memory and attention deficit with chemo brain,” said study author Sadhna Kohli, a research assistant professor at the University of Rochester's James P. Wilmot Cancer Center. “The results are preliminary and need to be replicated in a larger patient population.” (Also reported by Napa Valley Register California, Baltimore Sun, LA Times, DrKoop.com, CBS News, News-Medical.net Australia, Fort Worth Star Telegram, WHAM TV ABC, Democrat and Chronicle, Elmira Star Gazette, Washington Post, CTV Canada, SpiritIndia.com, DrKoop.com, Atlanta Journal Constitution, Austin American Statesman and other publications/broadcast)

Medical examiner’s ruling sparks debate on 9/11-related deaths
The article by Johns Hopkins University and University of Rochester researchers suggests using a city-based health registry of more than 71,000 people to get more information. “Decades of commitment” are needed to the registry before illnesses and deaths can be definitively linked to exposure, it said. (Also reported by Chicago Daily Herald, Fox News, CBC News Canada, Pioneer Times Journal New Mexico, Brockton News Nevada, Duntin Springs Evening News Colorado)

Inflammation may help Alzheimer's patients
Scientists at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York say brain inflammation may be good for Alzheimer’s patients. A report published Friday in the Journal of Clinical Investigation said a key inflammatory regulator may protect the brain and help get rid of plaques that are a hallmark of the disease, the university said in a release. (Also reported by HULIQ North Carolina, New Kerala.com India, Money Times India, South Asian Women's Forum India, Post Chronicle, Earthtimes.org, PhysOrg.com)

About Alumni
American Technology on Track to Surpass Fiscal 2006 Revenues
The Company also announced that it has hired Katherine H. McDermott as its new controller/chief accounting officer. Ms. McDermott is a financial executive with both Fortune 500 experience as well as supporting smaller, dynamic businesses through profitability improvement, public offerings, acquisitions, establishing international business operations and other strategic initiatives. Ms. McDermott holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from St. Bonaventure University and an MBA from the William E. Simon School of Business Administration at the University of Rochester. (Also reported by CNN Money)
**Nashville City Paper, Tennessee (June 27)**

**Wright named chief investment officer at Vanderbilt University**

Emory University’s investment chief was named chief investment officer at Vanderbilt University on Tuesday. **Matthew Wright**, 39, will assume his duties at Vanderbilt on July 30, and will be responsible for managing its $3.4 billion endowment. Wright is a graduate of Seton Hall University and the **William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Rochester**. (Also reported by Democrat and Chronicle)

**NASDAQ (June 26)**


Quest Patent Research Corporation (QPRC), formerly Quest Products Corporation, announced significant changes in its management and business objectives, along with the launch of its new website: http://www.qprc.com. The company has changed its name to reflect its move from a manufacturing and sales organization to a patent asset management and licensing business. Quest also announced that the Board of Directors has named **Jon Scahill** as the President and Chief Operating Officer of the company. Mr. Scahill, who holds an engineering degree and a masters degree in business administration from the University of Rochester, comes to Quest from the Urban-Rigney Group, LLC, where he served as President and Chief Executive Officer.

**The Michigan Journal (June 19)**

**Trepainer-Street making strides as new SOE Associate Dean**

The University Board of Regents approved a new dean for the University of Michigan-Dearborn School of Education (SOE) on Jan 1. **Dr. Mary Trepainer-Street** has been with UM-D for 30 years. Trepainer-Street started her career at the university as an instructor in 1977. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Marygrove College and a master’s degree at Miami University. She furthered her education in Ohio and received a doctorate from the University of Rochester.

**Ottawa Citizen (June 11)**

**A low C rocked his world**

After high school, Merkelo went on to study at the prestigious **Eastman School** in Rochester. After stints with orchestras in Rochester and New Orleans, Merkelo landed the high-profile Montreal job when he was just 26. Praised by critics for his virtuosity and sensitivity, Merkelo performs regularly as a soloist with his orchestra and other ensembles. In 1998, he made his New York solo debut, performing with conductor Michael Tilson Thomas and the New World Symphony at Lincoln Center.

**Playbill Arts, New York (June 3)**

**Portland (Maine) Symphony Names Next Music Director**

**Robert A. Moody** has been appointed music director of the Portland Symphony Orchestra for a three-year term beginning in the 2008-09 season. He replaces Toshio Shimada, who left in 2006 after a 20-year tenure. A native of the South Carolina hamlet of Possum Kingdom, Moody earned a bachelor’s degree in music from Furman University in nearby Greenville. He completed a master’s degree from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied conducting with Donald Neuen.

**About Students**

**Washington Post (June 11)**

**Giving Proper Credit To Home-Schooled**

Goldstein, 18, of Ellicott City will be a full-time student at UMBC in the fall. Alan Goldstein said his daughter’s idiosyncratic education distinguished her from “cookie cutter” applicants from conventional schools and helped her gain entrance into honors programs and win a full scholarship. Others at the June 2 commencement are bound for St. John’s College, Hampshire College, the University of Rochester and other liberal arts schools. (Also reported by South Coast Today California and Salisbury Post North Carolina)

**Seattle Times (June 11)**

**Senior year means a major investment**

For Scott Reiman, father of Allison, a senior at Roosevelt High School in Seattle, the $50 and $100 expenses this year no longer faze him. “I’m moaning over $400 and $500 chunks, not $100 chunks,” he said. He estimates the family spent about $1,200 sending Allison and her mom, Cathy Barnes, to visit the University of Rochester in upstate New York, where Allison ultimately decided to attend school and play basketball. But before she made that decision,
there was an SAT prep test, the SAT itself, applications to 10 colleges, Advanced Placement tests and the fees to mail all the scores to each of the colleges.

Buffalo News (June 10)
Young musicians on the cusp of the classical world
Sitting in the morning room of her family’s Clarence home, a bottle of water before her, Lauren Yu seems uncomfortable with summer idleness. There’s no such quiet at the Eastman School of Music, where the 19-year-old bassoonist just finished freshman year. “It’s a little bit stressful,” Yu says of her school. “There’s always something to do. But I like being busy. I like having things to do all the time.” That’s for sure. In addition to her music foundation, Yu took a mathematics course – some hilariously complicated sounding form of calculus – at the University of Rochester. Asked if her math double major is a failsafe career plan, she says no, it takes the place of a required humanities class.

LOCAL COVERAGE

About the University

Rochester Business Journal (June 27)
Xerox awards research grants
Xerox Corp. has awarded funds to 11 research projects at universities in the United States, Canada and Europe. The three-year grants, which total some $660,000, are included in the Xerox Foundation’s nearly $1 million annual contribution to fund research. Locally, the University of Rochester received funding for a graduate program at its Institute of Optics. It also gives Xerox employees the chance to learn about the latest research advances in the field of optics and participate in the optics summer courses there. (Also reported by Democrat and Chronicle)

Democrat and Chronicle (June 23)
Lawmakers leave lots undone
The Legislature left — the Assembly ended session Friday, the Senate on Thursday night — without reaching agreement on some matters deemed critical for upstate New York. After appearing to reach a deal on the Wicks Law — which drives up the cost of public construction projects by requiring multiple contractors — the issue was left unresolved. And lawmakers didn’t decide how to divvy up about $600 million for capital projects across the state, including ones for local colleges and for a biomedical center at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

R News (June 13)
Unity, Strong Join Forces
Strong Hospital is helping Unity Health offer more cardiovascular care to its patients. “The primary issue was our ability to provide services 24 hours a day 7 days a week on a consistent basis,” said Stewart Putnam, VP and COO of Unity Hospital. “And the full time faculty unit at Strong Memorial based on the numbers of people they have here and the other things they are involved in are in the best position to provide that.” “When we were approached about patient care, patient care is the critical issue why we are involved in this program,” said Dr. Frederick Ling of the Strong Cardiac Catheterization Lab. (Also reported by Rochester Business Journal, Democrat and Chronicle)

Democrat and Chronicle (June 12)
Lawyers take lessons from Simon School
Nixon Peabody, one of the largest law firms in the nation, has brought 30 lawyers to Rochester to attend specialized training offered by the William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Rochester. Through an MBA primer program, the school sends its professors to a company to run a shortened and customized overview of the business world. The 1-year-old program has been successful, said Mark Zupan, dean of the school.

Rochester Business Journal (June 11)
Seligman outlines need to improve faculty diversity
The University of Rochester has far to go on faculty diversity, President Joel Seligman said in a report released Monday. For the 2006-2007 academic year, 29 percent of the faculty of 1,287 was female, up from 26 percent five years earlier, Seligman states in the report. But of those instructors, only 2.2 percent identified themselves as a member of an underrepresented minority group, essentially unchanged from 2001. Because this is the first year for a faculty diversity initiative, it marks the baseline for progress, Seligman states. “This report includes detailed baseline data,” he states. “They are not a cause for celebration.” (Also reported by Democrat and Chronicle)
Hospitals hope ads are prescription for success
Lately, the University of Rochester Medical Center has had a weighty presence in print, television and billboard ads with promotion of its heart and vascular center and the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center (which is currently undergoing a $61 million building project). Peter Robinson, chief operating officer at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said the apparent increase in ads isn’t an illusion. UR this year is spending only 0.23 percent of its revenue from patient services on marketing (which includes advertising), but that number is up from 0.17 percent last year. The marketing category includes expenses such as reaching out directly to local doctors. Robinson declined to give more detail on the numbers. The medical center includes Highland Hospital, which also has advertising campaigns.

UR’s footprint is growing
On any given weekday, Crittenden Boulevard is bustling with University of Rochester Medical Center workers and patients. Since last year, there has been an addition — construction workers. When they are done in 2008, the medical center’s Wilmot Cancer Center will have a 163,000-square-foot home, at a cost of $61 million, that could lead to as many as 1,000 new jobs directly and indirectly, according to Center for Governmental Research estimates. “We think this is going to be a development that’s going to lead to a lot more jobs,” UR President Joel Seligman said last week. “This is probably our top priority in the short term.”

Program bridges racial lines
A program to help teachers develop leadership skills, increase racial understanding and introduce new teaching strategies to city schools has wrapped up its first year — and participating educators say they’ve learned something. On Friday, 30 City School District teachers completed the Urban Teacher Leadership Academy training offered by the school district and the University of Rochester. The program, which requires a two-year commitment from teachers, is designed as a resource for teachers and administrators as they work to increase the academic achievement of their students.

Cancer battle doesn’t keep teen from enjoying baseball, life
Dan Piehler worked hard last winter to prepare for this high school baseball season. A 95-average student, Piehler has continued to attend school despite strong headaches and fatigue, side effects of very aggressive medical treatment at the Golisano Children’s Hospital at Strong. “It’s very treatable and very curable,” said Maureen Piehler, a 12-year survivor of breast cancer. “They caught it early, but he’ll be in treatment for another year, year-and-a-half.”

About University-Related Businesses
UR offshoot debuts its software
A Pittsford technology company created by a University of Rochester Medical Center researcher has rolled out its first product. Random Technologies introduced a package of statistical analysis software this week at a pharmaceutical trade show in Atlanta. The target customers are statisticians and others who analyze data for everything from the biomedical industry
In 2003, the WHI released a study about combination HRT therapy and its effect on heart disease. The study found the combination therapy increased the risks of cardiovascular disease, raising more questions about effectiveness of HRT. “So, unfortunately, it gets distilled to a very simplistic message, HRT is bad and that isn’t the case,” says Dr. Vivian Lewis, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Dr. Lewis contends HRT needs a more detailed, individualized approach. (Also reported by WHEC TV NBC)

**About Research and Faculty**

*Democrat and Chronicle (June 26)*

**Program at UR uses bugs, bacteria to teach teachers**

High school science teachers used old-fashioned methods to catch bugs on the banks of the Genesee River on Monday. But they’ll learn high-tech methods to study the insects during a four-day workshop at the University of Rochester, and they’ll bring those skills back to their classrooms in September. The workshop is funded by part of a $5 million National Science Foundation grant obtained by Jack Werren, a UR biology professor studying the wolbachia bacterium.

*Democrat and Chronicle (June 24)*

**Surgeons train underwater**

The hope is that this kind of surgery can be used to operate on astronauts, divers and other people in environments that cannot be reached easily. “We were trying to explore the possibility of underwater surgery, using what we know of robotic surgery,” said Dr. Eugene Toy, a surgeon at the University of Rochester Medical Center who specializes in gynecological oncology. “It was fun. The chicken did well.” Dr. Gunhilde Buchsbaum, also from the UR Medical Center, said the procedure was an extension of what she and others are doing with robotic surgery. “We’re exploring new frontiers,” said Buchsbaum, director of urogynecology at the UR Medical Center.

*WROC TV, CBS (June 20)*

**HRT may be beneficial for some women to protect against heart disease**

Ever since the first large study on the after-effects of hormone replacement therapy was released by the Women’s Health Initiative, the attitude towards using HRT to treat menopausal symptoms has been mixed. In 2003, the WHI released a study about combination HRT therapy and its effect on heart disease. The political experts said Clinton’s visit Monday was indicative of her dual roles, as presidential front-runner and as the junior senator from New York. “She needs to raise the money, but she also needs to show that she’s still active in New York state,” said David Primo, a political scientist at the University of Rochester.

(Also reported by the Elmira Star Gazette New York)

**Messenger Post (June 18)**

**More heart-health options at Unity**

Dr. Frederick S. Ling, director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at Strong Memorial Hospital of the University of Rochester Medical Center, will serve as director of Interventional Cardiology at Unity. “Strong Memorial is proud to support our colleagues in this initiative, which will broaden the scope of cardiac treatment available at Unity Hospital,” Ling said. “Our hospitals’ collaboration that has resulted from this pilot program will benefit an expanded group of cardiac patients.” (Also reported by WHEC TV NBC)

**Democrat and Chronicle (June 3)**

**Study finds good, bad health habits**

Dr. Nancy Bennett said our asthma rate might not be higher because the numbers fall within a statistical margin of error for the survey. But Dr. Steve Georas, director of the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said the survey results should raise some eyebrows. Asthma rates are rising yearly worldwide and are a particular problem for cities’ poorer neighborhoods. The Rochester region has received poor marks before for outdoor air quality, but Georas said all the triggers that cause the respiratory condition are not completely understood.
Democrat and Chronicle (June 1)

Area company wins $100,000

The Golden Horseshoe competition is a cross-border contest involving U.S. and Canadian companies. One aim is to stimulate entrepreneurial growth, said Duncan Moore, a member of the organizing committee and vice provost for entrepreneurship at the University of Rochester. “We wanted to raise the level of business plans in western New York and southeast Ontario and look at ourselves as one region,” Moore said. “The ultimate goal is to get more ... companies funded in this area.” (Also reported by Rochester Business Journal)

Democrat and Chronicle (June 1)

Low-cost lead test flawed

A University of Rochester study has found that those quick, inexpensive tests used by homeowners nationwide are prone to high error rates when it comes to testing for lead in dust, potentially leading some consumers to falsely assume that their homes are free of unhealthy levels of lead-laced dust. Researchers found that 64 percent of the locations that LeadCheck Swabs had indicated were safe actually harbored hazardous concentrations of lead in dust. “We tested them side-by-side with the ‘gold standard’ — dust wipe tests — and found that many times the swab showed no lead, there really was a presence of lead,” said Katrina Korfmacher, an expert on lead poisoning at the UR’s Medical Center and co-author of the study. (Also reported by UPI, News-Medical.net Australia)

About Alumni

Democrat and Chronicle (June 3)

‘Show Boat’ vocals soar above all else

Each of the starring roles was filled to perfection. Hallie Silverston played his sweetheart Magnolia with dewy, ardent accents that recalled local nostalgia songstress Nancie Kennedy. And Karen Holvik — Silverston’s former teacher at the Eastman School of Music — dominated the show as Julie, the mixed-race entertainer who comes to grief in 1880s Mississippi. Holvik’s lustrous soprano massaged the lyrics in all the right places, backed by quietly assured acting that kept her character believable without histrionics.

Democrat and Chronicle (June 2)

Entrepreneur discovers that the biz of jazz is cool

Ask José DaCosta how he got into the business of promoting live jazz performances and he’ll tell you that “jazz got into me.” A former Xerox Corp. executive, DaCosta grew up in the Bronx, where jazz was always played at home and a passion for the music was passed from father to son. Today, DaCosta, 58, is the president of Exodus to Jazz Productions, a company he started in 2004 that brings musicians to the Rochester area to perform, mostly in small club settings. He came to Rochester in 1969 to attend the University of Rochester, where he received a master’s in business administration.

About Students

Messenger Post (June 23)

A variety of interests spell success for top graduates

Valedictorian Thomas Kern will study at Boston University and salutatorian Holly Palmeri will attend the University of Rochester. Palmeri, who will graduate with a 101.61 grade-point average, said she has always had a deep interest in history. “I loved AP U.S. History last year,” Palmeri said. In the fall, she will study at the University of Rochester. While her major is undeclared, Palmeri said she looks forward to the curriculum. Palmeri applied to the University of Rochester and Nazareth College and was accepted to both. But her heart was set on U of R.