Selected Coverage June 2011

**National**

Inside Higher Ed (June 20)

Saying More With Less

University of Rochester Provost Ralph W. Kuncl wanted something else in 2009 when he began the process of creating the first universitywide mission statement in Rochester’s almost 160-year history. He wanted something creative that would stick in people’s minds, that they would think about every day at work. What he ended up with in May after a long vetting process was a 10-word statement that he thinks encapsulates everything the university stands for: “Learn, Discover, Heal, Create – And Make the World Ever Better.” It has its own t-shirt now. Kuncl embraces the ambiguity that brevity creates. Because Rochester serves so many roles, he said, no mission statement could ever spell out everything. But terms such as “learn” and “heal” let stakeholders read into the mission the various responsibilities of the university. The ambiguity also stimulates discussion, which is part of the university’s mission.  (Also Reported in: Huffington Post)

ABC News (June 20)

Halfway Out: Why Many Stay Closeted in the Workplace

A study released Monday from the University of Rochester, researchers found that 69 percent of lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals surveyed are still closeted in some sphere of their life, whether with families, colleagues or their religious community. “What we’re seeing is that LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people are quite selective in where they come out. They’re sensitive to some of the costs of coming out in an environment that may not be wholly supportive of their sexual orientation,” says Richard Ryan, professor of psychology at the University of Rochester and co-author on the study.  (Also Reported in: CNN, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Yahoo! News, MSNBC, Huffington Post, MSN, Newsday, Health.com, The Advocate, Los Angeles Times, and others)

Daily Mail (June 3)

Keep your cool: Seeing red makes us faster and stronger, claim scientists

While the burst of energy may also make us stronger, feeling under threat can distract us from the task in hand. Professor [Andrew] Elliot, of the University of Rochester, New York State, said: “Threat also provokes worry, task distraction and self-preoccupation, all of which have been shown to tax mental resources.”  (Also Reported in: CBS News, WebMD, U.S. News & World Report, WXXI, MSNBC, Yahoo! News, Times of India, Atlantic Wire, UPI, and others)

**Local**

13WHAM-TV
Rochester Business Journal
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
WHAM AM 1180
WXXI PBS News
**The Guardian** (June 15)
Geneticists discover technique to tackle mutant DNA
Although the work is at an early stage, the strategy represents a radical new approach to tackling mutations that give rise to an estimated one third of all genetic disorders. “This is a really powerful concept that can be used to try to suppress the tendency of individuals to get certain debilitating, and sometimes fatal genetic diseases,” said Robert Bambara at the University of Rochester Medical Centre, who was not involved in the study. John Karijolich and Yi-Tao Yu at the University of Rochester Medical Centre focused on a type of mutation that causes strands of mRNA to contain premature “halt” signs called stop codons. These order cells to stop making proteins before the job is finished. As a result, affected cells churn out short and incomplete proteins. (Also Reported in: The Telegraph, Yahoo! India, Irish Examiner, Science Daily, Science News, Fox News, China Daily, and others)

**WXXI PBS News** (June 21)
Conference on Mouth Microbes Opens in Rochester
The University of Rochester center for oral biology hosted a conference on oral microbiomes. The conference attracted almost 100 scientists to swap information, ideas and research. They live, they thrive, they die. And they do it all in your mouth. Hundreds of species of bacteria are active in our mouths every day and this week Rochester is helping to dig a little deeper into the goings on between our teeth. Conference chair, Dr. Robert Quivey says the main aim of the conference is to build new relationships between the best minds both within, and outside, the oral biology community.

**PhysOrg.com** (June 27)
Neuroscientists find famous optical illusion surprisingly potent
Scientists have come up with new insight into the brain processes that cause the following optical illusion: [video is available in the full version of this article]. The yellow jacket (Rocky, the mascot of the University of Rochester) appears to be expanding. But he is not. Davis Glasser, a doctoral student in the University of Rochester’s Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences thinks he has found the answer. The results of a study done by Glasser, along with his advisor, Professor Duje Tadin, and colleagues James Tsui and Christopher Pack of the Montreal Neurological Institute, will be published this week in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). (Also Reported in: Science Daily, redOrbit)

**Rochester Business Journal** (June 20)
UR receives $5 million to support business major
The University of Rochester said Monday it has received a $5 million gift to support its new undergraduate business major. The gift was given by Barry Florescue, an alumnus and member of UR’s board of trustees. It will be used to support tenure-track faculty at Simon Graduate School of Business who will be teaching courses related to the core curriculum of the major, officials said. It also will support costs associated with the new major. An extension of the pre-existing business minor, the major was approved by the state Department of Education in February. Richard Feldman, dean of the college, said there has been increased student interest in a business major, which will provide an expanded selection of courses in economics and statistics, as well as business-related disciplines, including finance, accounting, marketing, operations management and organizational strategy.

**U.S. News & World Report** (June 9)
Mouse Study Reveals How Smoking Helps Keep People Thin
However, even though the idea of targeting nicotine receptors to control weight has been around a long time, the problem is that nicotine receptors are located all over the body, explained William Tank, chair of pharmacology and physiology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. “The idea of there being a therapeutic use of nicotine agonists is … a great idea,” said Tank. “[But] this is a very complicated set of physiologies and nicotine is an extraordinarily complicated drug.” (Also Reported in: Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Yahoo! News, MSN, Newsday)

**ABC News** (June 20)
Portable Pools Increase Drowning Risk
“As remarked in the study, we saw a big increase about five years ago, when these portable inflatable pools became available and were heavily marketed,” said Dr. Anne Brayer, associate professor of emergency medicine and pediatrics at University of Rochester School of Medicine. “They are quite inexpensive and, hence, popular. But parents can easily underestimate the risks and need for safety precautions. … Parents should really think long and hard about having such a pool with toddlers,” said Brayer.
**Research & Development (June 8)**

Rods imaged in living human eye for the first time

“While therapies are only emerging, the ability to see the cells you are trying to rescue represents a critical first step in the process of restoring sight,” says researcher Alfredo Dubra of the University of Rochester in New York, who led the team of researchers from Rochester, Marquette University, and the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), Milwaukee. “It’s impossible to overemphasize how important early detection is to eye disease.” (Also Reported in: News-Medical.net, About.com, Fox News, Gizmodo)

**MSNBC (June 1)**

Sen. Schumer touts bill to prevent drug shortages

Sen. Charles Schumer announced his support this afternoon for new legislation to help ward off shortages of life-saving drugs. Schumer, D-N.Y., held a news conference at the Wilmot Cancer Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center on behalf of the Preserving Access to Life-Saving Medications Act. The bill would create an early warning system within the Food and Drug Administration. Drug makers would be required to immediately notify the FDA when a shortage of raw materials, a manufacturing problem or production decision would likely cause a shortage. (Also Reported in: Fox News, CBS New York, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Detroit News, WXXI, 13WHAM-TV, WHAM AM 1180, Newsday)

**Publishing Perspectives (June 13)**

Why Selling E-books at 99 Cents Destroys Minds (editorial)

by Chad W. Post, Publisher, Open Letter Books

Last Tuesday, after months of hemming and hawing about the whole e-book thing and Open Letter Books’ place in that world, we announced the launch of our first nine e-titles, and decided, that for the first month, they would sell for $4.99 a piece.

**Seattle Times (June 30)**

‘Preachin’ the Blues; the life and times of enigmatic bluesman Son House

It is this meeting that begins Daniel Beaumont’s powerful biography of House, “Preachin’ the Blues; The Life & Times of Son House”. Beaumont is a Seattle native and a graduate of the University of Washington who teaches at the University of Rochester. Many histories written by professors sag under the weight of sociological details, but this narrative is gripping. At times it resembles a detective novel, as the author seeks details on the shadowy House.

**Psychology Today (June 27)**

Are you rational?

Ben Hayden, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the University of Rochester. He studies self-control, decision-making, and counterfactual reasoning. He is the recipient of a career development award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Outstanding Young Investigator from the Society for Neuroeconomics. (Also Reported in: Wired.com)

**Chemical & Engineering News (June 1)**

Trio Receives Wolf Chemistry Prize

Two chemists and a chemical engineer are the recipients of the 2011 Wolf Prize in Chemistry, awarded by the Wolf Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Israel, to promote science and art for the benefit of mankind. Stuart A. Rice, a professor of chemistry at the University of Chicago; Ching Tang, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Rochester; and Krzysztof Matyjaszewski, professor of chemistry and natural sciences at Carnegie Mellon University, received the $100,000 joint prize during a ceremony on May 29 at the Knesset, in Jerusalem.

**Los Angeles Times (June 10)**

Open Letter’s June ebook bargain

Translation house Open Letter has launched its first ebook series with nine books from its catalog, pricing them at $4.99 – just for the month of June. Open Letter publishes 12 translated books a year. It also runs the works-in-translation-focused website Three Percent to foster literature in translation, which have traditionally comprised just three percent of the American book market.

**Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (June 8)**

Having second-class citizens is unacceptable (letter to the editor)

by Joel Seligman

I do not believe in second-class citizens. Every United States citizen should have the equal right to marry regardless of her or his race, nationality, religion or sexual orientation. No other approach can protect the equal dignity of all of our citizens. In a nation, one of whose most cherished constitutional principles is the equal protection clause, it is fundamentally wrong
that some of our citizens today are denied hundreds of federal, state and local legal rights based on their sexual orientation. As a private citizen, I personally support Gov. Cuomo’s proposed marriage equality legislation.

**New York Times (June 18)**
The Pseudoscience of Hysteria
By 1977, a University of Rochester scientist, George L. Engel, had posited today’s “biopsychosocial” paradigm, a ready example of the gun analogy frequently applied to anorexia nervosa, in which, as is often said, “genes load the gun and environment pulls the trigger.” As Elaine Showalter concluded in “Hystories,” her controversial study of 20th-century manifestations of hysteria, the illness, “relabeled for a new era,” is more contagious than ever, a result of mass and increasingly instant media.

**Chicago Tribune (June 24)**
Tax hikes are needed for U.S. pension funding, study finds
U.S. state and local governments will need to raise taxes by $1,398 per household every year for the next 30 years if they are to fully fund their pension systems, a study released on Wednesday said. The study, co-authored by Joshua Rauh of Northwestern University and Robert Novy-Marx of the University of Rochester, both of whom are finance professors, argues that states will have to cut services or raise taxes to make up funding gaps if promises made to municipal employees are to be honored. (Also Reported in: San Francisco Examiner, CNBC, New York Times, Financial Times, CNN, Bloomberg News, Yahoo! News, Washington Examiner, Weekly Standard)

**eMedicineHealth.com (June 15)**
Brain-Training Games May Give Kids an Achievement Edge
“Very little is known about cognitive training in kids,” says neuropsychologist Mark Mapstone, PhD, University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y. “This study is attempting to understand the parameters to get that transferrable effect and attempting to tap into motivational aspects of training.”

**Chronicle of Higher Education (June 6)**
Publishers Grapple With Thorny Issues of Protecting Property and Going Digital
Collaborate and share – but protect your copyrights. That was the sometimes conflicting message heard at the Association of American University Presses’ annual meeting, which ended here on Sunday. Many of the sessions and conversations took a digital turn, too, as attendees compared notes on how to acquire, produce, and market scholarly e-books and journals. Still, as Suzanne Guiod, editorial director of the University of Rochester Press, pointed out in a conversation, digital publishing has by no means taken over all university-press operations. A smaller, traditional press like hers, which publishes about 23 titles a year, offers digital editions but hasn’t yet gotten into fancier projects such as e-books enhanced with multimedia features. “We’re not really feeling those kinds of pressures,” Ms. Guiod said.

**CNN.com (June 17)**
Heisman Trophy winner stricken with rare disorder
After a viral infection, the body generates an immune response against the infection. With Guillain Barre Syndrome, the immune response spills over to the peripheral nerves and starts attacking them, said Dr. Eric Logigian, professor of neurology at University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. It damages the nerves’ protective covering, called the myelin sheath, causing weakness.

**CBS News (June 7)**
13 surprising causes of constipation
Painkillers, specifically narcotics, can cause constipation. “A lot of receptors for the narcotic class of drugs are in the digestive tract, so it tends to bring everything to a halt,” says Dr. Thomas Park, a gastroenterologist with the University
of Rochester Medical Center in New York. “In general, it’s a good idea for everyone who’s placed on one of these drugs to also place them on a gentle laxative like a stool softener.”

U.S. News & World Report (June 21)
High-Dose Statins May Increase Diabetes Risk
“It’s suggestive but I don’t know that it’s conclusive,” added Dr. Steven D. Wittlin, clinical director of the diabetes service at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y. While there was a benefit seen in macrovascular complications, such as heart attacks, it’s unclear if the same would be true with microvascular complications or those that involve small blood vessels and contribute to conditions such as neuropathy, Wittlin said. (Also Reported in: Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Yahoo! News, MSN, Newsday)