Selected Coverage March 2013

**Daily Mail (March 6)**

**Giving someone the cold shoulder is as painful to you as it is to them, researchers claim**

Richard Ryan, from the University of Rochester, said: “In real life and academic studies, we tend to focus on the harm done to victims. This study shows that when people bend to pressure to exclude others, they also pay a deep personal cost. Their distress is different from the person excluded but no less intense.” (Also Reported in: Huffington Post, Psych Central, Red Orbit, Science Daily, Mother Nature Network, Globe and Mail, UPI, com, and others)

**NPR (March 7)**

**To Make Mice Smarter, Add A Few Human Brain Cells**

“I can’t tell the differences between a neuron from a bird or a mouse or a primate or a human,” says Steve Goldman, a neuroscientist at the University of Rochester who has studied brain cells for decades. But Goldman says glial cells are easy to tell apart. “Human glial cells – human astrocytes are much larger than those of lower species,” he says. “They have more fibers and they send those fibers out over greater distances.” (Also Repored in: Daily Mail, Science Magazine, MSN, U.S. News & World Report, Slate Magazine, Newsday, The Telegraph, The Guardian, Science Daily, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Red Orbit, and others)

**Scientific American (March 11)**

**To Predict Success in Children, Look Beyond Willpower**

Celeste Kidd, a doctoral candidate in brain and cognitive sciences at the University of Rochester and lead author of the new study, suspected there might be a common misconception about the classic marshmallow study – namely, that waiting is always the right choice. While volunteering years ago at a homeless shelter for families in Santa Ana, Calif., she realized that all the kids around her would eat their marshmallows straight away, living as they did in an environment where anything they had could be taken away at any time. “Delaying gratification is only the rational choice if the child believes a second marshmallow is likely to be delivered,” Kidd says. Although previous marshmallow-type studies have acknowledged that external factors might influence kids’ ability to wait for the bigger reward, none had directly tested for those factors’ effects. So Kidd and her colleagues ran a study in which they manipulated the reliability of their young participants’ environment.
CBS News (March 7)
Brain damage found in college football players who didn’t suffer concussions, study suggests
A new study of college football players, however, suggests even in the absence of concussions, players may suffer long-term brain damage. “Although the awareness of sports-related concussions is much higher, we still know very little about the long-term consequences and what happens inside the brain,” the study’s co-author Dr. Jeffrey J. Bazarian, associate professor of emergency medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center in N.Y., said in a statement. (Also Reported in: Popular Science, Fox News, Bloomberg Businessweek, Time Magazine, Huffington Post, Forbes, Newsday, Health.com, Science Daily, Mother Nature Network, MedicineNet.com, Innovations Report, and others)

New York Times (March 13)
Cellphones as a Modern Irritant
The brain simply can’t ignore a stream of desultory new information, said Lauren Emberson, the postdoctoral associate at the University of Rochester, New York, who led the Cornell study when she was working there. “Our brains are set up to focus on things that are novel or unexpected,” Ms. Emberson said. “When you’re listening to one half of a conversation, every new utterance is a surprise, so you’re forced to constantly predict what’s going to happen next.” (Also Reported in: Newsday, MedBroadcast, iVillage, Anchorage Daily News)

New York Times (March 13)
Radiation Raises Women’s Risk of Heart Disease Only Slightly, Study Finds
Some radiation oncologists say that nowadays, the dose to the heart is lower than 5 Gray. Dr. Louis S. Constine, vice chairman of radiation oncology at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said that 2 Gray was more common and that doctors could now put shields in front of the heart and “curve radiation around the chest wall instead of shooting it through the heart and lungs.” (Also Reported in: Red Orbit)

Wall Street Journal (March 16)
NY seeks to use public dollars to fund campaigns
There’s also the question of whether public financing of campaigns will deliver on its promises. No conclusive study shows that giving money to people to run for office attracts strong candidates, increases voter turnout, makes races more competitive or reduces the influence of big donors, said political science professor David Primo of the University of Rochester. He said the aim to increase the number of small donors will probably be accomplished, but, he asked, “Does that goal justify the use of scarce public funds?” (Also Reported in: 13WHAM-TV, Niagara Gazette, Troy Record)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (March 9)
For University of Rochester, federal budget battle carries high stakes
The indiscriminate carving knife of the federal budget sequester will cut a huge swath through the University of Rochester, slashing everything from support for scientists to student aid, university officials say. “It’s a bludgeon,” UR president Joel Seligman said of the federal reductions. “The cuts to the National Institutes of Health, to Medicare, to the Graduate Medical Education program, affect the ability of research universities like ours from being a catalyst for social good and from educating the future leaders of the country.”

UPI (March 20)
CDC: 1 in 50 US children has autism
New figures from the National Survey of Children’s Health, a telephone survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control, show an updated autism spectrum prevalence of 1-in-50 U.S. children. Tristam Smith, a professor of neurodevelopmental and behavioral pediatrics at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said she believed increased detection would be a major contributing factor. “But,” she asked, “is it the only thing? It’s hard to say.” (Also Reporred in: New York Times, Boston Globe)
**Slate Magazine (March 21)**

**I See Red**

Let’s imagine for a minute that six identical 23-year-old female sextuplets were born and raised in a secluded U.S. town. The town is too small to provide six eligible male bachelors, so the women post their pictures on a nationwide online dating site. Their pictures are almost identical, but the women distinguish themselves by wearing six different-colored plain T-shirts. Based on their profile pictures alone, you might expect them to attract similar levels of interest – but you’d be profoundly wrong. While people labor over their personal messages, another critical factor slips by unnoticed. Several years ago, Andrew Elliot, a professor at the University of Rochester, and his colleagues began by asking heterosexual male undergraduates to spend five seconds looking at the photo of a young female stranger, and to rate her attractiveness on a scale ranging from 1 (not at all attractive) to 9 (extremely attractive). All of the undergrads saw the same woman wearing the same clothes – but the experimenters randomly changed the color of the thick border that framed the photo, alternating among white, red, blue, and green.

(Also Reported in: Daily Mail, Cosmopolitan)

**ARTINFO.com (March 3)**

**Artist Bedazzles a Predator Drone Replica at UMass**

The U.S. government may not want to talk about its drone program, but it’s clear a lot of other Americans do. The deadly, unmanned aircraft are front-and-center of Heather Layton’s latest show, “Home Drone,” which runs through March 16. The artist, citizen-diplomat, and senior lecturer at the University of Rochester, built a full-sized drone replica in the middle of a gallery at the University of Massachusetts Amherst – and then she bedazzled it. (Also Reported in: Popular Science, Huffington Post)

**Chicago Tribune (March 6)**

**Behind a cancer-treatment firm’s rosy survival claims**

Experts in medical data who reviewed CTCA’s claims for Reuters say those claims are suspect because of what they called deviations from best practices in statistics – in particular, comparing its carefully selected patients to those nationwide. “It makes their data look better than it is,” said Robert Strawderman, professor and chairman of biostatistics at the University of Rochester. “So the comparisons used to suggest that CTCA has better survival rates are pretty meaningless.” (Also Reported in: Reuters, Washington Post, NBCNews.com)

**The Guardian (March 20)**

**Can computer games sharpen your mind?**

Finding a way to wind down in your spare time is crucial to getting through the stresses of university. Some students go for a walk, others like a drink. I like to take on wave after wave of murderous adversaries. As for proofreading, this study from the University of Rochester in the US found that playing computer games for a few hours each day improves people’s ability to recognise letters. This demonstrates how video games can help you focus on finer details. Like naughty little misplaced apostrophe’s.

(Also Reported in: Daily Mail, Cosmopolitan)

**Huffington Post (March 27)**

**Generating Productive Political Discussions in the Classroom (blog)**

*By Kevin Meuwissen*

Assistant professor, Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester

Recently news media across the country variously proclaimed the significance of 10 years passing since the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Teachers, however, face some formidable challenges as they consider how to help students engage with and wrest meaning from this observance. At the root of these challenges lie two important questions: first, how do we generate productive discussions on contentious political issues like the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and second, why should we do such a thing?

**Time Magazine (March 22)**

**Norovirus Is Leading Cause of Intestinal Disorders In American Kids**

Work on a vaccine to protect against the virus is underway, and in March, when a new strain of norovirus was identified in the U.S., TIME spoke to Dr. John Treanor, chief of the Infectious Diseases Division at the University of Rochester Medical
Center who is testing a vaccine developed by LigoCyte Pharmaceuticals. (Also Reported in: CNN.com)

**CNN (March 4)**
The not-so-slight return of Jimi Hendrix

John Covach, a music professor and director of the Institute for Popular Music at the University of Rochester, adds that Hendrix’s ear – his ability to mesh feedback, backward recording and high amplification with rock’s basic musical structures – would be notable in any age. And along with Eric Clapton, Hendrix helped invent that virtuoso we call the “guitar hero,” he adds.

**NBCNews.com (March 1)**
Wall Street (and Main Street) give sequester a big yawn

Until then, it’s just theater of the absurd, said Mark Zupan, the Dean of the University of Rochester’s Simon School of Business. “It’s like a Kabuki dance that politicians make over these budget issues,” Zupan said. “People are getting tired of it and that’s why they don’t have much interest in it.”

**U.S. News & World Report (March 14)**
Scientists Report Clues to Flu Shot’s Effectiveness

“You could potentially screen people for their antibody response – particularly young children and the elderly,” said Andrea Sant, a professor with the department of microbiology and immunology at the University of Rochester, in Rochester, N.Y. This screening could also be important during flu pandemics, said Sant, who was not involved with the study. “You could find out if a dose is sufficient to protect people and those who might need a boost,” she added. (Also Reported in: Newsday)

**10 WHEC-TV (March 6)**
UR men prepare for second round of NCAA tournament

The University of Rochester Basketball team is on to the second round of the NCAA tournament. Rochester will play host to Ithaca this weekend in the second round, but that wouldn’t have been possible without the efforts of senior John DiBartolomeo. Struggling to find his rhythm over the last four games, UAA Player of the year John DiBartolomeo scored a career-high 42 points in the University of Rochester’s first-round NCAA win over Fitchburg State. It was a performance the Yellowjackets desperately needed.

**Huffington Post (March 6)**
C-Section Rates Vary Across U.S. Hospitals

What is not clear from the hospital discharge forms is why the C-sections were performed, nor do the forms provide information on individual hospitals’ care guidelines. But findings suggest the rate variation largely stems from care patterns at different institutions. “There’s a wide variation and you can’t really say it’s due to the type of patients that go [to a hospital], or the type of hospital it is – whether it’s big or small, teaching or non-teaching,” said Dr. Christopher Glantz, a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Rochester who has done research on elective induction and Cesarean deliveries, but did not work on the new study.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (March 24)**
Memorial Art Gallery sees a century of progress

A century ago a movement was afoot. The city’s population was 218,000 and rising. The area was home to industry, to education, to parks, to a new science museum. But a key item on the quality of life index was missing. The city needed an art museum. And so it was that Emily Sibley Watson, daughter of the fabulously wealthy Hiram Sibley, the man who struck it rich in Rochester by investing in the telegraph, took out her checkbook and bankrolled the construction of the Memorial Art Gallery. The original building still stands on University Avenue in the city. But over the years the MAG has grown, adding wings, adding programs, adding patrons, adding art.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (March 31)**
Rochester on way to being organ capital of the world

Now 237 years old, the voice of God sits in spectacular silence in a Lithuanian church, like a stalagmite-encrusted cavern wall, muted with the passage of time. Yet its influence remains, spreading the centuries-old word from behind the Gothic stone walls of Rochester’s Christ Church. [David] Higgs does not know if those unfortunate
rabbits were native to Rochester, or imported from Europe for absolute authenticity. He and his fellow pipe dreamers are not the charmingly rough-hewn junk dealers of Discovery Channel reality shows, kicking open the doors of abandoned barns in search of forgotten keyboards. This is an academic movement. Higgs is a professor of organ at the Eastman School of Music and chairman of the Organ and Historical Keyboards Department, which includes the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative. “The mission of EROI is to find prototypical instruments of all the major styles,” Higgs says, “so that Rochester is a city that has all of the organs in one place.”

USA Today (March 24)  
Mental-health officials clash on N.Y. gun law reporting  
Psychiatrists, county officials and law enforcement are questioning a portion of New York’s new gun-control law that requires them to take steps that could lead to guns being seized from potentially dangerous people. “When someone drops a whole new set of rules out of the sky, you trip up on a lot of stuff,” said Eric Caine, psychiatry department chairman at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (March 5)  
Rob Clark to oversee research at UR  
Rob Clark has been named the top University of Rochester official for overseeing about $400 million a year in research. “At the end of the day, this university is, in part, about research,” said UR President Joel Seligman at a news conference Tuesday about the importance of Clark’s position, which was created last year. (Also Reported in: Rochester Business Journal)

Rochester Business Journal (March 1)  
Perfecting the art of admission  
When the University of Rochester released a hip-hop video touting student life last year, everyone from the Washington Post to the Huffington Post took notice. Satyajit Dattagupta was the man behind the concept. As executive director of the Office of College Enrollment, he sensed an opportunity to reach potential students in a unique way.

Chicago Tribune (March 12)  
Breastfeeding may not ward off child obesity  
Dr. Ruth Lawrence, a breastfeeding researcher from the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, said she still believes that starting breastfeeding in the first place can help ward off obesity. She said past studies have shown breastfed babies have more appetite control than those started on formula, for example. “Of course it’s disappointing that there wasn’t a dramatic difference,” Lawrence, who wasn’t involved in the new study, told Reuters Health. (Also Reported in: Fox News, NBCNews.com, Mother Nature Network, Yahoo! News, Baltimore Sun)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (March 29)  
Unite Rochester essay: A plan for community progress (guest essay)  
Written by Joel Seligman, Danny Wegman and Anne Kress  
Over the last three years, despite economic headwinds and the continued downsizing of the region’s traditional industries, the Finger Lakes region has generally outperformed much of the rest of the state and the nation in job growth. While this achievement represents good news for the region as a whole, it is equally clear that many of our communities – both urban and rural – continue to suffer from chronic poverty and low employment.

Yahoo! News (March 18)  
Could Brazilian Waxing Increase STD Risk?  
Dr. Mary Gail Mercurio, an associate professor of dermatology at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said she often sees Molluscum contagiosum in people who remove pubic hair. “I instruct the patients to stop shaving until the condition is brought under control, because shaving just spreads it further,” Mercurio said. Further studies comparing different methods of hair removal may shed light on the link, she said. For instance, laser hair removal would not be expected to increase the risk of infection because it doesn’t abrade the skin. (Also Reported in: Huffington Post, Fox News)
Physicists say they have found a Higgs boson
University of Rochester physicist Carl R. Hagen was one of the six physicists who formulated the theory about how particles got mass that scientists at CERN have been trying to verify with certainty. The physicists had worked in three teams and in 1964 independently came up with similar conclusions. Hagen said Thursday morning that he needed to know more of the details of what new has been found. “I am really skeptical until I see the quantitative details,” he said. One of the additional details that would help nail down conclusive proof of the theory is that particles created in the CERN experiments have “zero-spin,” said Hagen. (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, Oregon Public Broadcasting)

Can this University Professor’s New Formula Help You Beat the Street?
You may not know his name now, but you soon will. University of Rochester professor Robert Novy-Marx has developed a new formula, and it has caught the attention of Wall Street. Novy-Marx’s formula, called the “gross investing ratio,” updates the approach of David Dodd and Benjamin Graham, the fathers of value investing. And while these investing gurus count Warren Buffett as one of their disciples, their theories have lost luster for some in recent decades. (Also Reported in: Yahoo! Finance)

United Way kicks off 2013 campaign
Full of purpose but without fanfare, the United Way of Greater Rochester kicked off its annual campaign Thursday at the Memorial Art Gallery. The goal – $26 million – is a $500,000 increase over last year. Focused on the goal and ways to raise money for the campaign, Joel Seligman, president of the University of Rochester and 2013 campaign chair for the United Way, said the increase came because “there are people in need who need a social safety net.”

Pope One Lung: Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Now Pope Francis, Only Has One Lung
But in general, only having one lung shouldn’t really hinder health at all, said Dr. Sandhya Khurana, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and a pulmonologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center, who is not the pope’s doctor. “If you have normal lungs, then that’s certainly possible to just live with one lung and we get proof of that on a regular basis because of people who have lost a lung through surgery, or an infection, or cancer,” Khurana told HuffPost. As long as “they have normal breathing ... and normal lung function, they seem to do OK.”
destruction of the lining,” says Vivek Kaul, MD, associate professor of medicine and acting chief of gastroenterology and hepatology at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* (March 17)
Pianist Jeremy Denk thinks a lot about music, literature, life
But pianist Jeremy Denk – who performs a recital at the Eastman School of Music on Tuesday – isn’t an ordinary pianist. In his popular blog, Think Denk at jeremydenk.blogspot.com, he reveals the person behind the pianist, who is not only constantly thinking about music in endlessly creative and relevant ways, but also one whose writing ability is only second to his piano playing. His blog, started in 2005, has been a gateway for invitations to write pieces for The New York Times and The New Yorker magazine.

*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* (March 24)
A cappella group YellowJackets creating a buzz for good
The University of Rochester YellowJackets in 2009 set out on a goodwill trip to Kenya. “The whole experience on The Sing Off brought a new purpose in life to all of us,” says Ross Pedersen, a senior at UR and president of the YellowJackets. “It gave us a national platform, and we are still using it to do good.”