Selected Coverage May 2011

New York Times (May 2)
Exploring Group Checkups for Diabetes, Parkinson’s
What’s in it for the doctor? A neurologist found he learned more about how his Parkinson’s patients were faring by watching them interact with others than when he had them one-on-one. “I can see if you’re getting worse over the course of the visit, your ability to eat, to walk, to converse and to think,” says Dr. Ray Dorsey, who led a pilot study of group checkups for Parkinson’s patients at the University of Rochester Medical Center. (Also Reported in: Forbes, Boston Globe, Miami Herald, Huffington Post, CNBC, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Wall Street Journal, Seattle Times, Chicago Tribune, Salon.com, USA Today, Newsday, Fox News, MSNBC, ABC News, CBS News, NPR, and others)

New York Times (May 16)
Latino Music, From Tango Back to the 16th Century
Mr. [Carlos] Sanchez-Gutierrez incorporated the shakuhachi, a traditional Japanese flute, in his piece, whose string timbres and colors reflected the sound world of the flute. Eastman BroadBand, conducted by Juan Trigos, offered Mr. Sanchez-Gutierrez’s “Five Memos,” inspired by “Six Memos for the Next Millennium” by the Italian writer Italo Calvino. The five movements veered from densely scored and dark to a lighter section of iridescent sonorities. The Colorado Quartet teamed up with the Quintet of the Americas for Mario Lavista’s colorful “Suite de Gargantúa.”

NBC/Today Show (May 24)
Airlifted patients left with sky-high bills
The Today Show’s Tom Costello speaks with patients who claim needless, expensive helicopter transport for non-life-threatening injuries left them with massive bills. … Costello also interviews Mark Gestring, director of adult trauma at the University of Rochester’s Strong Regional Trauma Center.

Huffington Post (May 3)
The Secret to a Life of No Regrets: Live Before You Die
There’s no room for anything but external results, or what Edward Deci of the University of Rochester calls “instrumental thinking.” Everything has to lead to some external gain. Anything that doesn’t — living, for instance — gets eliminated from the agenda. And you wind up with a nag you could do without, regrets. Researchers have found that what we really regret are the things we don’t do. It’s called the “inaction effect.” The taboo against living your life creates plenty of those.
**U.S. News & World Report (May 1)**

**Low Vitamin D Levels Linked to More Aggressive Breast Cancers**

In the study, to be presented Friday at the annual meeting of the American Society of Breast Surgeons, a team from the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) tracked 155 women who had surgery for breast cancer between January 2009 and September 2010. (Also Reported in: Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Yahoo! News, Newsday, MSN)

**Forbes (May 20)**

Shiller On Dodd-Frank: ‘A Financial Crisis Is A Thing Not To Be Missed’

Professor Shiller, famous economist and one of the developers of the widely followed Case-Shiller Home Price Indices, asked the financial industry to take advantage of the historic opportunity created by the global financial crisis. “Capitalism, as we know it, is an innovation and it [has always] moved forward during crises,” said Shiller. The influential Yale University academic – famed for being one of the first economists to warn of the bubbles forming in the stock market in 2000 and the housing sector in 2003 – spoke at the 2011 Simon Conference hosted by the Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester. (Also Reported in: Wall Street Journal, NASDAQ, Fox Business)

**Bloomberg News (May 17)**

**Hospitals Eliminate 1 in 4 U.S. Emergency Rooms Since 1990, Study Finds**

The shutdown of emergency rooms represents a failure of the health-care financial system, Sandra Schneider, professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center and president of the American College of Emergency Physicians, said in a telephone interview.

**Chronicle of Higher Education (May 8)**

**The Humanities, Done Digitally**

Digital humanities grows specifically out of an attempt to make “humanities computing,” the field’s background in humanities computing typically, but far from exclusively, results in projects that focus on computing methods applicable to textual materials. Some of these projects have been editorial and archival in nature, producing large-scale digital text collections for scholarly study. One such project is the William Blake Archive, which presents carefully annotated scholarly editions of both the writing and visual art of the Romantic-era British poet. It is sponsored by the Library of Congress and supported by the Universities of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Rochester, and a division of the NEH.

**New Scientist (May 11)**

**Phone app lets the blind see through the crowd’s eyes**

Designing a computer program that can reliably recognize text and distinguish objects in the real world has proven to be a massive challenge for artificial intelligence researchers. To get around this, the researchers behind VizWiz – a team consisting of computer scientists from several universities, including the University of Rochester – decided to outsource the task of problem-solving to people: specifically, to Amazon Mechanical Turk’s masses of online workers. (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, bigthink.com, sify.com, DailyIndia.com)

**U.S. News & World Report (May 17)**

**Newer Epilepsy Meds Less Likely to Cause Birth Defects: Study**

Uncontrolled epilepsy can also cause harm to a fetus, according to Dr. Loralei Thornburg, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist at the University of Rochester’s Strong Memorial Hospital in New York, who was not involved with the study. (Also Reported in: Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Yahoo! News, Newsday)

**Fox News (May 8)**

**The 10 Best Places for Single Moms to Live**

4. Rochester, NY: Rochester has a lot going for it, especially in terms of overall affordability and a strong job market. You can buy a home for around $100,000 (the median home value in the Rochester Metro is $116,000, down 3.9% YOY). Wegmans, Strong Memorial Hospital, and colleges like the University of Rochester [and] Rochester Institute of Technology provide steady employment opportunities. Good public schools are also a perk of living in Rochester. (Also Reported in: CBS News, ABC News, Forbes.com, 10WHEC-TV, 13WHAM-TV, WHAM AM 1180, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle)
Military Personnel With Mental Woes Before Deployment at Higher PTSD Risk

“The more you know about a person, the better off you’ll be to address their needs” through interventions and treatments, added Robert Bossarte, assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center, who was not involved with the study. (Also reported by MSN, Yahoo! News)

Swedish Novel, Slovenian Poetry Win $5,000 Prizes


New Defibrillator Shows Promise in Small Study

“If there is a lead problem, it’s very easy to extract a lead and put in another one,” added Dr. Arthur Moss, professor of medicine and cardiology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y. (Also Reported in: Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Yahoo! News)

Legend: Remembering Bob Marley

Part of it, says University of Rochester music historian John Covach, has to do with the singer-songwriter’s charisma. Moreover, Marley became known for a message of peace and understanding, Covach observes. Add that message to the romantic notion of dying young – not to mention partying, dancing and smoking dope – and it’s no surprise that college students have a fondness for the man, Covach says.

New Drugs Often Marketed Ahead of Crucial Data

“A third of new drugs that are approved have no comparative data at all,” said Dr. Alec B. O’Connor of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in New York. “I think we’d all say that is sad.” (Also Reported in: Los Angeles Times, Baltimore Sun)

Democrats Play Offense with Medicare in NY

“It’s the first Congressional race since the House passed Ryan’s plan,” says Gerald Gamm, a political science professor at the University of Rochester. “A lot of people are looking at the race and saying, this is a referendum on the House’s cost-cutting plan.”

Suicides Among China Factory Workers Surge, Labor Group Says

Eric Caine, chair of the department of psychiatry at the University of Rochester and an expert on suicide prevention, says the deaths at Foxconn exhibit the characteristics of a suicide cluster, the copycat phenomenon first observed during Europe’s industrialization a couple of centuries ago. What distinguishes conditions in today’s Chinese factories from Dickensian workhouses is scale. (Also Reported in: MSNBC)

UR names two new vice presidents

Two University of Rochester officials have been promoted to newly created vice president positions. Robert McCrory, who has served as director of UR’s Laboratory for Laser Energetics, has taken on the title of vice president and director of the Laboratory for Laser Energetics. David Lewis, chief information officer overseeing UR’s computer systems, has been named to the position of vice president for information technology.

NRDC Smarter Living: How to halve your BPA

Richard Stahlhut, an environmental health researcher and physician at the University of Rochester in New York, said the findings were important because they show how easy it is to decrease the body levels of some of today’s industrial chemicals. “Nobody had done that simple experiment before,” Stahlhut said. “It shows that you really can have some impact on the exposure to certain chemicals by the things you do.”

Eastman School receives $300,000 grant for library project

The Sibley Music Library of the Eastman School of Music has received $300,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation and Access Award to support its continuing efforts to digitize music scores in the public domain.
WebMD (May 24)
Study Gives New View of ‘Full-Term’ Pregnancy
J. Christopher Glantz, MD, MPH, a professor of
maternal-fetal medicine at University of Rochester
School of Medicine, agrees. “The definition of term
is a little arbitrary and it is an old definition based on
how babies did many, many years ago.”

Huffington Post (May 4)
CEOs Do Make Better Decisions When Their
Interests Align With the Stockholders (blog)
By Mark Zupan
Dean, University of Rochester’s Simon School of
Management
In a recent book and accompanying op-eds, Roger
Martin, the dean of the University of Toronto’s Rot-
man School of Business argues that a much-cited
article written by two of our Simon School’s former
faculty members, Mike Jensen and Bill Meckling,
“fixed” (in a bad way) the financial game and thereby
led to a greater likelihood of economic bubbles and
crashes. … Martin misses the point that performance
and profits in the so-called “real market” that manag-
ers should focus on doesn’t just involve today’s “real-
ity” but it also involves future “realities.”

CNN.com (May 26)
10 dumb things you do at the doc’s office
4. You don’t state up front all the reasons for your visit.
If your ear hurts, your knee pops out when you run
and you have a sty in your eye, state all three con-
cerns at the beginning of the appointment so your
doctor can plan your visit efficiently, advises
Dr. Howard Beckman, an internist and clinical professor
of medicine at the University of Rochester.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 16)
‘Go out into the world, do great things,’ UR grads urged
About 3,100 University of Rochester graduates didn’t
let the rain steal their thunder Sunday morning. A sea
of umbrellas dotted the Eastman Quad at the univer-
sity’s River Campus for the 161st commencement cer-
emony. The outdoor ceremony, a university tradition,
was held for the College of Arts, Sciences and Engi-
eering, which featured Ursula Burns, chairman and
CEO of Xerox, as the commencement speaker. She
was also the recipient of the George Eastman Medal
for outstanding achievement and dedicated service.
(Also Reported in: YNN, 8WROC-TV, 10WH-
EC-TV, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle)

Buffalo News (May 8)
Magic at his fingertips
With a big poof! Rochester’s Eastman School of
Music has created, under the heading of Musical
Arts, a dual degree in music and magic – just
for him. “I must say, humbly, that this is the first
time in the U.S. – as far as I know – that anyone
majored in both music and magic at a college-
level institution,” [Igor] Lipinski says. An
intense Google search suggests he is right.

YNN (May 18)
Golisano Children’s Hospital Receives Top
Honors
Golisano Children’s Hospital at the University
of Rochester Medical Center received some top
honors. U.S. News ranks the hospital among the
nation’s best children’s hospital for neonatology,
pediatric orthopedics, neurology, and neurosur-
gery.  (Also Reported in: 8WROC-TV, 10WH-
EC-TV, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 18)
Highland Hospital recognized for excellence
A process that began nearly six years ago culmi-
nated today when Highland Hospital learned it
had achieved Magnet status, the highest recog-
nition for nursing excellence as designated by
the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The
Magnet program recognizes quality patient care,
nursing excellence and innovations in profes-
sional nursing practice. The application process
is rigorous – Highland submitted 4,000 pages
online – and requires documentation on more
than 80 standards. Only 6 percent of U.S. hospi-
tals have achieved Magnet status. “It guarantees
for our patients that they are in an environment
that’s safe and where their quality of care is at
the highest level,” said Dr. Bradford Berk, chief
executive officer of the University of Roches-
ter Medical Center, which includes Highland.
(Also Reported in: Rochester Business Journal,
13WHAM-TV)
Rochester Business Journal (May 6)
Pay for profs on way up
The University of Rochester again had the highest salaries for full-time professors in the region, with an average of $129,700 for the 2010-11 school year, an increase of 3 percent from the $125,600 average of the previous year. That came one year after what administrators said was the university’s smallest increase in a decade, when salaries rose less than 1 percent from the 2008-09 year.

Jazz 90.1 (May 30)
Big Road Blues Show 5/29/11: Preachin’ The Blues – The World of Son House
Over the years I’ve done several shows devoted to Son House but this one is a bit special. Within a week or so after this show airs the first biography devoted to Son House will hit the shelves, Preachin’ the Blues: The Life and Times of Son House, by Dan Beaumont. Dan is an Associate Professor in History and Religion & Classics at the University of Rochester.

Batavia Daily News (May 21)
Award-winning author to speak Thursday at Memorial Art Gallery
R. Tripp Evans will give an illustrated lecture on artist Grant Wood at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Memorial Art Gallery. Evans is professor of art history at Wheaton (Mass.) College. His recent, groundbreaking biography of Wood was awarded the fifth annual Marfield Prize, a national award for arts writing presented by the Arts Club of Washington. It has also been nominated for a Lambda Literary Award.