Selected Coverage September 2011

National
Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Baltimore Sun
Boston Globe
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Psychology Today
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San Francisco Chronicle
Science News
U.S. News & World Report
UPI
USA Today
Wall Street Journal
Washington Examiner
WebMD
Woman's Day
Youngstown Vindicator

U.S. News & World Report (September 15)
Drinking Patterns Affect Heart Health, Mouse Study Finds
But the researchers from the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York found the opposite holds true for those who drink moderately on a regular basis. The study, performed in mice, revealed that drinking about two drinks every day may actually decrease the risk for heart disease. “People need to consider not only how much alcohol they drink, but the way in which they are drinking it,” lead study author John Cullen, research associate professor in the university’s department of surgery, said in a university news release. “Research shows that people have yet to be convinced of the dangers of binge drinking to their health; we’re hoping our work changes that.” (Also Reported in: MSN, Yahoo!, Newsday, Huffington Post, UPI, Daily Mirror)

CNBC (September 22)
Advisers urge FDA to address antipsychotics in kids
“There is serious concern that children may be at a higher risk for serious adverse effects and we just don’t have sufficient data to answer that question,” said Dr. Jonathan Mink, a child neurology expert from the University of Rochester Medical Center. (Also Reported in: Chicago Tribune, Fox News, Los Angeles Times, MSNBC, Yahoo! News, Baltimore Sun, Orlando Sentinel, and others)

New York Times (September 17)
Republicans Seize on Waning Campus Obamamania
The group’s ads are edgy and catchy – and a good start, says political scientist Richard Niemi. “Throwing back a candidate’s words at him or her is a tried-and-true method,” says Niemi, a professor at the University of Rochester in New York. “But you’ve got to have the candidate to go with it.” (Also Reported in: ABC News, NPR, MSNBC, Huffington Post, Chicago Tribune, Newsday, Wall Street Journal, Houston Chronicle, Boston Herald, San Francisco Chronicle, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Palm Beach Post, Juneau Empire, Bangor Daily News)

PBS (September 2)
From New York State to Nagaland, Art, Film and Hospitality Are Common Bonds
Spurred by curiosity, Heather Layton and Brian Bailey set off from Rochester, NY., last December to visit a place around the world about which they knew almost nothing. During their stay, Layton, an artist and lecturer at the University of Rochester (where she teaches drawing, painting and performance art), and Bailey, a professor of adolescent education at Nazareth College who specializes in youth media, arranged a contemporary painting show, attended the region’s major cultural festival and mounted a screening of films by both emerging New York and Naga filmmakers.
**U.S. News & World Report (September 3)**

**Is Breast Reduction After Weight Loss Surgery Best?**

Having weight loss surgery before breast reduction surgery is best for severely obese women who have both procedures, according to a small new study. While there are some benefits to having breast reduction surgery first – including reduced pain and increased ability to exercise – women may be disappointed with the appearance of their breasts after they lose large amounts of weight, Dr. Jeffrey Guseffoff and colleagues at the University of Rochester Medical Center said in a journal news release. (Also Reported in: MSN, Yahoo! News, Newsday)

**13WHAM-TV (September 20)**

**U of R YellowJackets Sing on National TV**

Monday was a big night for the University of Rochester’s a capella group, the YellowJackets – they made their debut on NBC’s “The Sing Off.” They sang “Waving Flag” by K’nan. They are competing against fifteen other a capella groups for a Sony recording contract and a $1,000,000 grand prize. The YellowJackets landed in the bottom two, but made it through to the next round. (Also Reported in: Rolling Stone, Yahoo! MPNNow.com, Batavia Daily, 10WHEC-TV, YNN, Houston Chronicle, Zap2It.com, StarsOfReality.com, and others)

**Globe and Mail (September 21)**

**Masters in management: find the right fit**

The Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester in New York state, for example, has adopted the concept of pre-experience masters degrees with gusto. “We’re evolving away from the Henry Ford approach of one colour to more diversity,” says Mark Zupan, dean, about his school’s decision to offer more than just an MBA.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 19)**

**Andrew Cuomo to OK bill to sideline students with concussions**

Dr. Jeffrey Bazarian, associate professor of emergency medicine, neurology and neurosurgery at the University of Rochester Medical Center, has said that if an athlete with a concussion gets hit again before recovering, the brain injury could be permanent. (Also Reported in: Ithaca Journal)

**Daily Mail (September 22)**

**Brittle bone drug offers new hope that it could hold arthritis at bay**

The scientists, from the University of Rochester Medical Centre in New York State, compared the health of arthritis patients who were taking teriparatide for osteoporosis, with that of another group who weren’t taking the drug. The researchers said that further studies, including proper trials of those with arthritis, could lead to the drug being approved to treat arthritis as well as osteoporosis. (Also Reported in: Express.co.uk)

**Woman’s Day (September 26)**

**Do You Suffer From Destinesia?**

Now one researcher is investigating the cognitive problems that many women experience as they move from perimenopause to menopause. “Doing this work is important because we know that a significant number of women complain about memory problems during this time period,” lead researcher, Miriam Weber, a neurologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center, told the press. “I tend to think that gets brushed aside. It’s just women complaining.” Weber’s work is a 5-year study that tracks perimenopausal women to see if and how there’s a breakdown in memory storage or retention or language and how those might be affected by declining hormones or stress. “If we find out there are cognitive declines and know what’s causing them,” Weber said, “That can lead us in a direction of treatment.” (Also Reported in: Elmira Star Gazette, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle)

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 14)**

**5 local colleges rise in rankings**

In the National Universities category, the University of Rochester was rated 35th – two notches above its ranking a year ago. Jonathan Burdick, dean of admissions and financial aid for UR, issued a statement saying that “we’re building the faculty, facilities and a student body to continue earning that recognition” as a leading research university. (Also Reported in: Albany Business Review, HULIQ)
WebMD (September 28)
Diet for Autism: What Works?
Up to half of children with autism are placed on special diets by their parents to improve symptoms, despite conflicting evidence that they work. Now, a small new study of the popular gluten-free/casein-free diet, or GFCF diet, suggests it does not work, says Patricia Stewart, RD, PhD, of the University of Rochester. She presented the findings here at the American Dietetic Association’s Food Conference Expo in San Diego.

CNBC (September 12)
Why US Pays More For Health Care Than Other Nations
“The U.S. pays higher costs for the same service in part because the government plays a smaller role in negotiating prices,” says Gerry Wedig, associate professor of business administration at the University of Rochester. “Overseas, governments compress patient demand by acting as a tough regulator and negotiator for the whole system.”

WebMD (September 6)
“Many patients resist the diagnosis,” write researchers John Langfitt, PhD, and William Watson, PhD, of the University of Rochester School of Medicine. “They may have heard it before in ways that suggest that the events are ‘all in their head,’ or that they are ‘crazy’ or ‘faking it.’”

WXXI (September 12)
1370 Connection: Discussion with U of R’s Hein Goemans
The U of R’s Hein Goemans looks at the strategic and political landscape of American and global decision-makers actions since 9/11 – how they’ve called the shots – and what that says about our political structure today.

MSNBC (September 17)
Cleveland Clinic studying head-injury protein
“You need an objective test that spits out a number,” Damir Janigro told the newspaper. Janigro, a Clinic neuroscientist, is leading the project along with colleague Nicola Marchi. The $250,000 government-sponsored study is being done in collaboration with University of Rochester Medical Center’s Jeffrey Bazarian. (Also Reported in: Wall Street Journal, Houston Chronicle, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Washington Examiner, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle)

CNN Money (September 21)
The bond market is upside down (blog)
The bond market seems to be pricing in a deflationary death spiral in which the entire developed world morphs into Japan. Multiple “Lost Decades” abound for all! “We are already at record lows,” said Mark Zupan, dean of the University of Rochester’s Simon School of Business. “And if rates do go any lower, it could be similar to Japan and the miasma that’s continued to hang over its economy.” Zupan added that any action from the Fed, likely a so-called Operation Twist in which it sells short-term bonds and buys long-term securities, is already priced into Treasuries. It will be hard for rates to go lower regardless of what happens in Europe. “Yes, the U.S. is still considered the safest bet in town. But I doubt the Fed will have much influence on the bond market,” Zupan said.

WebMD (September 20)
Depression May Increase Risk of Stroke
“People with depressive disorders or symptoms are more likely to develop a stroke over the course of their lives,” says Jeffrey M. Lyness, MD. He is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center. “Depression could be both chicken and egg,” he says in an email. “Just because one precedes the other does not necessarily mean that one causes the other.”

Cosmopolitan (September 19)
Researchers Make a New Case for Getting Married
Last week a video of a senior couple trying to figure out their new webcam – and getting a little frisky – quieted all the marriage haters out there. Seriously, try watching this clip and not believing in the power of lurv. (Yes, that was a Celine Dion reference. Deal with it.) And now, a new study out of the University of Rochester has further reaffirmed our belief in marriage and its benefits. According to researchers, getting hitched is good for your heart and being in an LTR can keep it ticking longer than if you were single. There’s a catch, though. It’s not enough to just be married; you have to be happily married to reap the health benefits. (Well, at least women do. Men, on the other hand, live longer and have healthier hearts than their single counterparts even if they’re in crappy relationships.) “While unhappy marriages provide virtually no survival bonus for women, satisfying unions increase a woman’s survival rate almost fourfold,” according to a release published on the University of Rochester site. (Also Reported in: Express.co.uk, Daily Mirror)
Previous Infant Death Linked to Raised Risk of Stillbirth

Black women were 9.46 times more likely than white women to experience stillbirth, and women whose first baby died were more likely to be black, obese and smoke during pregnancy, the University of South Florida and University of Rochester researchers found. On average, infants born to mothers with previous infant death were 293 grams smaller at birth than those born to mothers whose previous infant survived the first year of life, according to the study published in the Sept. 21 issue of BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, MSN, Newsday, Toronto Sun, Calgary Sun, Science Daily, Midwifery News)

CDC: 2 Children Sickened by Novel Swine Flu Strain

The gene from the 2009 pandemic is one of the things that makes this new strain worrisome, said Dr. John Treanor, a flu specialist at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. “There is some evidence that that gene is particularly important for transmission from person to person,” he said. (Also Reported in: ABC News, CBS News, CBC News, NPR, MSNBC, Boston Globe, Washington Post, Newsday, Houston Chronicle, Pittsburgh Tribune, San Francisco Examiner, Seattle Times, Salon, Denver Post, and others)

Beyond the Three Percent

In 2007, before releasing its first title, Open Letter Books, a literary press based at the University of Rochester, began running a blog called Three Percent. The title comes from an estimate of how large a share of the annual U.S. book output consists of translations. If anything, that figure may have been a little high even at the time. Given the continuing surge in the number of new titles published each year (up 14 percent between 2009 and 2010, thanks in part to print-on-demand), the portion of books in translation is almost certainly shrinking. Whether or not globalization is an irresistible force, provincialism is an immovable object. But Open Letter, for its part, is dedicated to doing what it can. The press brings 10 foreign-language books into English each year (most of them novels) and Three Percent tracks what is happening in the world of literary translation. The blog also sponsors the annual Best Translated Book Award, now in its fifth year.

Budget amendment will forestall crises

If federal budget battles this year have taught us anything, it is that there is vigorous disagreement in Washington about how to address the nation’s fiscal problems. The result of this disagreement is gridlock, which often prevents Congress from acting in a rash manner. But, in the case of a national debt spiraling out of control, change is needed, and soon. David M. Primo is associate professor of political science and business administration at the University of Rochester and a senior scholar at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Two-Day Dialysis Interval Could Pose Danger: Study

Hemodialysis is the more common form of dialysis in the United States, said Dr. Martin Zand, a professor of medicine in the division of nephrology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. Used by people whose kidneys function at about 15 percent or less, this machine-based treatment removes toxins and extra fluid from the blood. Zand said kidney failure patients typically visit an outpatient dialysis center three times a week for sessions that last roughly four hours. “Most patients are on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule, or a Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday schedule, so once a week, they’re missing dialysis for two days instead of one,” Zand explained. (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, Newsday, iVillage.com)

Coffee cuts depression risk in women

Emma Robertson-Blackmore, assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center, calls the findings “interesting,” but urged caution regarding the link. For one, the women included in the study were nurses and their caffeine consumption may not be reflective of the U.S. women population in general, Robertson-Blackmore said. (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, U.S. News & World Report, USA Today)
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 13)
Colleges’ fiscal faith tested by tough economy
The University of Rochester has not only weathered tough times but continues to thrive as the region’s biggest employer. This year, UR surpassed the 20,000 mark in employees, with 20,128 on its payroll last spring – the latest count available – being 465 more than a year earlier. Most of the 12 major colleges in the Rochester area have projects in the works, with about $900 million for the construction of new facilities or renovation of existing ones under way or expected to be approved. UR accounts for about $380 million of the total. Financially, RIT is in the most secure position of the local colleges, since it is less tied to government funding than UR. Almost 60 percent of RIT’s $637 million operating budget comes from tuition.

Health.com (September 29)
Even Slightly High Blood Pressure May Raise Stroke Risk
“This shows that prehypertension is not a benign condition,” says John Bisognano, MD, a professor of cardiology at the University of Rochester Medical Center, in Rochester, N.Y., who was not involved in the new research. “Mild elevation of blood pressure is a big deal.”

Science News (September 23)
The Probabilistic Mind
“Instead of trying to come up with an answer to a question, the brain tries to come up with a probability that a particular answer is correct,” says Alexandre Pouget of the University of Rochester in New York and the University of Geneva in Switzerland. The range of possible outcomes then guides the body’s actions. (Also Reported in: Psychology Today)

MIT Technology Review (September 9)
Companies Put Their Heads Together to Make Chips That Stack Up
Eby Friedman, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Rochester who is not involved with either company, says that because of heat-management issues, today’s three-dimensional chips max out at around a half dozen layers even in research labs. “These chips are burning a lot of power, very close to one another, and thermal effects will become dominant,” he says.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 4)
New major, building at University of Rochester to elevate digital studies
The University of Rochester will join other colleges that have digital studies programs by establishing a major promoting the various uses of this technology and by constructing a $10 million building featuring labs with computers and equipment for making videos and audio recordings. “We have been absolutely determined to be a leader in linking the humanities to the sciences. This will give us a physical facility to do it,” said UR President Joel Seligman.

YNN (September 1)
University of Rochester Builds First New Residence Halls in 42 Years
The University of Rochester unveiled its plan to construct a new 5-story residence hall that will also be environmentally green. The $17 million project will be constructed between the existing Anderson and Wilder Towers to create a new quad. It will overlook the Genesee River off the campus’s Wilson Blvd and accommodate up to 150 students. Wednesday, university officials celebrated the news with a groundbreaking ceremony. “It’s another step forward in improving the quality of life for our students,” said Joel Seligman, President of the University of Rochester. (Also Reported in: 13WHAM-TV)

MSNBC (September 22)
Living alone may increase death risk from alcohol
“A lot of work is increasingly showing us the importance of social connections in terms of promoting health outcomes,” said Kimberly Van Orden, a psychiatrist at the University of Rochester Medical Center, who was not involved in the study. The new study helps us understand the health risks of social disconnection, Orden said. (Also Reported in: LiveScience)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 11)
Thousands drawn to Clothesline Festival
The work of more than 400 artists from across the state was on display today at the M&T Bank Clothesline Festival. “It is the art festival of the Rochester area,” said Pittsford resident Ron Uhlig, 65, who bought a ballpoint pen encased in hand-blown glass to add to his pen collection. The festival, which concludes Sunday, is held on the grounds of the Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave. A crowd of 14,250 attended the festival’s opening day today. (Also Reported in: MPNnow.com, YNN)
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 29)
In the spotlight: Allison Beardsley
Nine games into the field hockey season, Allison Beardsley has tied the University of Rochester single season record with 12 assists. She also has six goals and is second in scoring this year with 24 points. Beardsley will be honored with UR’s Lysle “Spike” Garnish Award, honoring the top senior student-athletes, before Sunday’s 1 p.m. home game against Washington & Jefferson.

Rochester Business Journal (September 16)
Schools play growing role in drug research
A deal struck last month between the University of Rochester and Temple University is part of a trend that could give schools a bigger role in drug research and bring them a larger share of drug company profits. For UR, the partnership with the Philadelphia school’s Moulder Center for Drug Discovery Research augments efforts under way with the University of Rochester Medical Center’s establishment of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. The partnership is the latest of dozens of research deals URMC has struck over the past few years with academic medical centers. These new alliances are formed as academic researchers rush to fill a void created as big pharmaceutical companies slash research and development budgets, said Thomas Pearson, director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 29)
$3.6 million grant aims to boost community health
A five-year, $3.6 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is aimed at improving the health of Monroe County residents. University of Rochester Medical Center and the Monroe County Department of Public Health are among the Rochester-area organizations on the receiving end of the money. The Rochester area is one of 15 communities nationally to receive similar grants. The agencies and organizations awarded the grant will use it to develop the Health Engagement and Action for Rochester’s Transformation program, or HEART. The money comes through the Community Transformation Grants program, which encourages agencies to tackle the root causes of poor health, such as tobacco use, physical inactivity and management of chronic disease. (Also Reported in: WHAM AM 1180, Rochester Business Journal)

Rochester Business Journal (September 12)
Warner School receives grant to develop math, science teachers
The University of Rochester’s Warner School of Education has received a $749,994 grant from the National Science Foundation’s Robert Noyce Scholarship Program to better address the shortage of highly qualified math and science teachers locally. The funding will encourage more talented science, technology, engineering, and math undergraduate majors and professionals to become certified K-12 math and science teachers, UR officials said. The effort aims to expand the number of quality teachers serving the Rochester City School District and other high-need districts across state, officials added.

Youngstown Vindicator (September 15)
Virtuoso David Higgs will debut refurbished pipe organ
David Higgs, chairman of the organ and historic instruments department at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., will play the newly restored pipe organ at Sunday’s concert at Stambaugh Auditorium. A virtuoso on the instrument, Higgs has been the invited guest performer at many such rededication concerts across the United States. Still, he’s excited about the Stambaugh concert and knows what makes the hall’s pipe organ so unique. (Also Reported in: Akron Beacon Journal)