Selected Coverage September 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

*Democrat and Chronicle (September 25)*

**Local food elective**

Trying to nourish a household with foods from nearby farms is one thing. Feeding a campus (or other private or public entity of size) is something entirely different. Yet two institutions of higher education have made significant inroads to find the food less traveled. Earlier this month, the University of Rochester announced that it is the first college in New York state to become a member of Pride of New York, a statewide marketing campaign to promote New York-grown and produced foods. At the University of Rochester’s dining services, buy-local efforts started in 2005 as part of a new sustainability policy that called for more sustainably grown foods, says Cam Schauf, director of Campus Dining Services and Auxiliary Operations. (Also reported by WHEC TV NBC)

*WHAM TV, ABC (September 8)*

**City’s Top Employer Plans To Benefit Further**

A prestigious university; a medical center; an employer: U-of-R is all these things and more to Rochester. Some say being an urban university is a privilege, but perhaps it’s the other way around? “We’re looking forward to further economic growth on that side of the Genesee”, said Joel Seligman, the President of U of R. Even Downtown Rochester will benefit from a new announcement involving the Eastman Theatre, but that’s still a secret! U-of-R is now shaping an economy once reliant upon assembly lines. “It’s not a smokestack industry. It’s knowledge-based industry, and that’s what the 21st century is going to be about”, said Seligman.

ABOUT RESEARCH AND THE FACULTY

*The Times, United Kingdom (September 6)*

**Big names with a heavyweight punch**

Simon Harwood is on the West Coast, finishing an internship at BioGen Idec, a biotechnology company in San Diego. But Harwood, who is from Liverpool, is in the middle of an MBA at the Sloan School of Management at MIT. “Most Americans love people from the UK,” he says. But popularity aside, Harwood is pragmatic about his reasons for choosing to study for an MBA in the US. “If you... want to do well in the US then you need one.” Mark Zupan, dean of the Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester, agrees. Since Simon was set up in 1959, 11,000 students have graduated there. Alumni include the president of Heineken USA, chief executive of The New York Times, and a CNN news anchor. “[But] many students take a different path – many end up as city councillors or go down the nonprofit route,” he says.
NATIONAL AND LOCAL COVERAGE

Wall Street Journal (September 13)
Harvard Aims to Widen M.B.A. Pool
Attention liberal-arts majors: You too can get an M.B.A. That’s the message Harvard Business School wants to send with a program launching today. Other business schools, such as Carnegie Mellon’s Tepper School of Business and the University of Rochester’s Simon Graduate School of Business, have adopted similar measures in recent years. (Also reported by Inside Higher Education)

Philadelphia Inquirer (September 27)
Internet is future of the orchestra
With new high-definition cameras now installed in Verizon Hall, the orchestra is already transmitting virtual concerts around the country - such as one Tuesday night - and has bigger aspirations to bring its sound, via digital proxy, to venues in Asia and Europe. … “Our goal is to reestablish the Philadelphia Orchestra’s preeminence as a worldwide presence,” said president James Undercofler. The orchestra, he said, now has a production team in place to package concerts from Verizon Hall. Tuesday night’s Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky, for instance, were broadcast in a test transmission to a dozen or so colleges and universities in the United States, including Indiana University and the Eastman School of Music. In addition to the concert itself, the Internet 2 broadcast was cushioned by interviews and pre-produced materials.

Democrat and Chronicle (September 16)
City arts scene is abuzz in progress
The Eastman School of Music and Nazareth College, citing stable financial support, are moving forward on theater renovations that could energize Monroe County’s entertainment scene. By contrast, the renovated Eastman Theatre will serve mostly its current users: the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Eastman School musicians. Power drills will start droning in the 3,100-seat hall in July. A three-month renovation will beef up its acoustics and remove 844 seats. The school will open an adjacent 200-seat recital hall in 2010. By then, school officials anticipate that the $35 million tab for construction will be paid, though they would not disclose how much money has been raised so far. “Ideally, we hope to complete the fund drive eight months from now,” said Eastman Dean Douglas Lowry. The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra — whose players call the Eastman Theatre home — will join Eastman to raise money. (Also reported by WHAM TV, WROC TV, Rochester Business Journal)

Democrat and Chronicle (September 14)
Future is now (editorial)
It’s too soon to tell which way the American economy will turn over the next 50 years. But the directions the University of Rochester has chosen in biomedicine and, now, RIT in sustainable manufacturing seem as good as any taken, anywhere. These schools, with people such as Golisano behind them, are riding into the future. And taking us with them.

Democrat and Chronicle (September 2)
UR comes together, creates new logo
What started as a discussion among 60 or so University of Rochester employees two school years ago has finally come to fruition. Some 17 months, 240 or so versions and more than 10,000 critiques later, the university for the first time in many years has one common logo. … “The university had been very decentralized and we wanted to try to come together,” said Bill Murphy, the school’s vice president for communications. When Murphy was hired in February 2006, one of his first tasks was to spearhead the logo campaign. “We asked ourselves, ‘What is it about the university that you care to say? What is it that you want the logo to say?’” Murphy said. “What we wanted was something that said, ‘World-class research university.’” (Also reported by WHAM TV, WROC TV, CBS)

HispanicBusiness.com (September 13)
Best Business Schools for Hispanics
University of Rochester : The Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester has long been committed to diversity. (We) partner with The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management, an alliance of leading U.S. business schools in collaboration with the corporate community. The goal of the Consortium is to encourage and enable the largest possible number of the best and brightest African-American, Hispanic American and Native American college graduates to pursue successful careers in management.
**Rochester Business Journal (September 18)**
Simon ranks among top in region
The Simon Graduate School of Business ranks fourth among regional schools nationally in a poll of corporate recruiters by Harris Interactive Inc. and the Wall Street Journal. The University of Rochester's Simon school was one of 51 top regional schools ranked on 21 attributes and recruiters' plans to recruit there. The list was released Tuesday. (Also reported by WHEC TV NBC)

**Democrat and Chronicle (September 19)**
Business puts HQ here
CentriLogic chose Rochester for its U.S. operations because of the available building, the city's proximity to major client hubs such as New York City and Boston, and a supply of people with IT knowledge, Offley said, pointing to programs at the University of Rochester and Rochester Institute of Technology. (Also reported by WROC TV CBS)

**ABOUT RESEARCH AND THE FACULTY**

**Time (September 28)**
Are Mega-Preachers Scandal-Prone?
But Anthea Butler, a professor of religion at the University of Rochester in New York believes Pentecostals are no more trouble-prone than other Protestants. “The same sort of thing is happening to Baptists and Presbyterians,” she says. “Except for one big thing. They are not media figures.”

**CBS News (September 11)**
Woman Seeks To Settle M.D. Exam Dispute
A breast-feeding mother who wants extra breaks so she can pump milk during the licensing exam that she needs to secure a prestigious medical residency has asked a Massachusetts judge to settle her dispute with the board that administers it. “We’ve had women who either fed their infant or pumped during their break time,” she said. But Dr. Ruth Lawrence, who chairs the American Academy of Pediatrics' breast-feeding section, called the medical examining board's position too rigid. “It’s a classic institutional response,” said Lawrence, a professor of pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Rochester. “You would hope that everyone in the medical profession had an appreciation for the tremendous importance of breast-feeding one's infant.” (Also reported by Chicago Tribune, MSNBC, News24 South Africa, MSNBC, USA Today, Washington Post, Forbes, Miami Herald, The Baltimore Sun, Boston Globe, Denver Post, Seattle Post Intelligencer, Philadelphia Inquirer, Fox News, Associated Press, WHEC TV NBC and many other publications/broadcast)

**MSNBC (September 4)**
Parents’ fear of asthma meds hurts kids’ care
Only about half of all prescribed preventive asthma drugs are actually taken daily as directed, said Kelly Conn of the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. “We know there are a lot of children who need the medicines, but they are not getting them as they should be,” Conn said in a telephone interview. Conn said a lot of parents’ worry stems from a lack of understanding of newer drugs designed to prevent asthma attacks rather than treat immediate symptoms. She said parents who had asthma in their childhood may not be accustomed to newer levels of control and think coughing and wheezing three or four times a week is normal. “They may not understand that there is a medication that, if taken daily, their kids can be virtually symptom-free,” Conn said in a telephone interview. (Also reported by News-Medical.net Australia, US News & World Report, Scientific American, Forbes, Washington Post, Reuters San Diego Union Tribune, Canada.com, Democrat and Chronicle)

**Chicago Daily Herald (September 9)**
Cutting doctors' hours doesn't help patients much
Researcher Kelly Conn of the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York said a lot of parents’ worry stems from a lack of understanding of newer drugs designed to prevent asthma attacks rather than treat immediate symptoms. Just the mention of steroids scares some, who associate steroids with bulked-up athletes. “This is not the scary steroid they may think it is, and it is really primarily being delivered into the lungs,” Conn said. (Also reported by White Plains Journal New York)

**CBS News (September 17)**
Vaccine Tied To ‘Superbug’ Ear Infection
One strain in particular, called 19A, is big trouble. A new subtype of it caused ear infections in the nine Rochester children, ages 6 months to 18 months, that were resistant to all pediatric medications, said Dr. Michael Pichichero, a microbiologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Democrat and Chronicle (September 20)
Clinics help to prevent knee injuries
“Soft landing!” called Missy Wilson, one of two University of Rochester Medical Center’s University Sports Medicine trainers running the program.
“Bend your knee more!” Female athletes are at much greater risk of ACL injury than male athletes. Among suspected reasons are that girls and women tend to remain more upright while playing sports, putting more strain across the knee when they stop, start or land, said Dr. Michael Maloney, chief of University Sports Medicine. Experts also suggest that female athletes are structurally different and that hormone changes could play a role. (Also reported by USA Today, Honolulu Advertiser)

LA Times (September 10)
Plastic may not be so fantastic for kids
At the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, N.Y., researchers found that among men enrolled in a large national health study, waist circumference was roughly 1 1/2 to 3 inches bigger in men with the highest levels of several different phthalates than in men with the lowest levels of the chemicals. A measure of insulin resistance, a common indicator of diabetes, was also higher in the men with the highest phthalate levels. (Also reported by Sun Sentinel.com Florida)

New York Times (September 18)
Effort to Get Companies to Disclose Climate Risk
Joel Seligman, an expert on securities law who is also president of the University of Rochester, wondered whether the agency really needed to cast a wider net in its financial disclosure requirements. But he also noted that the need to account for material environmental risks, even those that are not easily quantifiable, has long been recognized in the context of the Superfund law, which left companies potentially liable for hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of cleanup costs for toxic contamination.

Washington Post (September 13)
Subtraction Changes Math at SEC
The prospect of having no Democratic representation at the agency in the waning months of the Bush administration, said Joel Seligman, a securities law scholar, “is exactly the way SEC governance was designed not to work.” He added: “It’s deeply troublesome for the commission to go forward without bipartisan support.” (Also reported by San Francisco Chronicle)

CNN Money (September 18)
Are You a Better Investor?
In 1972 “the investing world was much easier to comprehend,” says Joel Seligman, a financial historian and president of the University of Rochester. You knew your broker, and he sold stocks, not funds of hedge funds. Your bank took deposits, not mutual-fund commissions. Your insurance agent didn’t come at you swinging a variable annuity like a meat ax. During a typical week in 1972, the total of all trades on the New York Stock Exchange was less than the trading volume of Microsoft (Charts, Fortune 500) shares on a typical day in 2007.

ABC News: 20/20 (September 21)
Jenny McCarthy’s Journey
Actress Jenny McCarthy opens up about her son Evan’s autism in her new book. McCarthy began to learn about the theory held by some parents of autistic children that a gluten-free, casein-free diet was very helpful for their children. She discovered that many parents of autistic children believe that the proteins in wheat and dairy wreak havoc on their children’s brains. Though mainstream doctors are skeptical, McCarthy found an ally in pediatrician Dr. Jerry Kartzinel, the father of an autistic son himself, who specializes in treating autistic children. While there is little scientific evidence to support the wheat-free/dairy-free diet, other parents of autistic children swear by it and there is a study under way at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Most mainstream doctors, however, remain skeptical. Some suggest that perhaps children like Evan were not autistic to begin with.
**Washington Post** (September 19)
**Guilty Plea to End Crusading Lawyer’s Lucrative Run**
“Bill Lerach transformed the securities class action in ways that both benefited many investors through compensation and deterrence and contributed to some backlash,” said Joel Seligman, a securities law historian and president of the University of Rochester. “It is very rare for any individual to have had so profound an impact on litigation and legislation.”

**Bloomberg.com** (September 21)
**Giuliani, Clinton Don’t Wait to Begin ‘Heavyweight Slug-Out’**
While other Republicans have attacked Clinton, Giuliani has been the most vocal at tapping into what University of Rochester political science professor David Primo says is conservatives’ “visceral dislike” of Clinton. Strategists say it isn’t clear whether Giuliani’s gambit will work, since activists may cheer his anti-Hillary rhetoric - - and still vote for someone they see as closer to them ideologically.

**New York Daily News** (September 2)
**Thompson has ‘right stuff’ vs. Hillary, say conservatives**
“Thompson is an authentic, credible conservative,” said Curt Smith (English Department), a former speechwriter for former President George H.W. Bush. “Giuliani is not.” The lanky, slow-talking actor-pol who played District Attorney Arthur Branch on “Law & Order” supports the Iraq war and opposes abortion and gun control. He wants a smaller federal government and says vice presidential aide Lewis (Scooter) Libby should be pardoned.

**UPI** (September 18)
**Fruitflies study gives new insight into cancer-causing genes in humans**
A new study at the University of Rochester Medical Center has shown that the cancer-promoting effects of a mutation to the DNA sequence of the JAK gene in fruit flies, which is closely related to a common cancer-causing gene in humans, can be passed from parents to offspring, even if the mutation itself is not passed to the offspring. (Also reported by NewKerala.com India, Monsters and Critics UK, The Hindu, Post Chronicle, Moldova.org, Imedinews Georgia, News-Medical.net Australia, Bioscience Technology New Jersey, PhysOrg.com Virginia, HULIQ North Carolina, DentalPlans.com Florida)

**PhysOrg.com, Virginia** (September 13)
**Most comprehensive study of mercury in dental fillings begins**
As part of the world’s longest-running study of the health effects of low levels of mercury exposure, Gene Watson, D.D.S, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Eastman Department of Dentistry at the University of Rochester Medical Center, will begin an almost $3 million, National Institutes of Health-funded study on prenatal exposure to mercury from dental amalgams or fillings. Watson will collect hair samples from children in the Indian Ocean island nation the Seychelles, who were enrolled in a study in 2001 to determine their exposure to methyl mercury from fish and other seafood. He will also record how many fillings the children have and how many and which surfaces of the teeth they cover as an indication of exposure to mercury vapor. (Also reported by SpiritIndia.com, News-Medical.net Australia, RxPG News California)

**News-Medical.net, Australia** (September 15)
**Study of new epilepsy treatment under way at URMC**
The University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) is participating in a multi-center study of a new medical device to treat epilepsy. The Rochester study is being overseen by neurologists Michel Berg, M.D. and James Fessler, M.D., and neurosurgeons Web Pilcher, M.D., Ph.D. and Jason Schwalb, M.D. “Uncontrolled seizures related to epilepsy are generally treated with medications,” said Berg, medical director of the Strong Epilepsy Center. “However, many individuals treated with medication alone continue to experience seizures or have unacceptable medication side effects. If these patients are not candidates for epilepsy surgery, then options to effectively control their seizures are limited.”

**News-Medical.net, Australia** (September 26)
**A blood test for concussions – aim of new research**
The University of Rochester Medical Center received $1.5 million to develop a blood test for concussions by isolating proteins that can predict memory loss, chronic headaches or other neurological problems. “We are discovering that concussions are not benign, even if you only have one in a lifetime and it’s relatively mild,” said principal investigator Jeffrey J. Bazarian, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of Emergency Medicine and Neurology. “The latest
research shows that mild or moderate head injuries might be a risk factor for early-onset dementia or Alzheimer’s disease. This makes proper, timely diagnosis very important.”

Democrat and Chronicle (September 13)
UR dean finds, fosters new kinds of nursing
In some ways, Patricia Chiverton is an unlikely candidate for the role of nursing profession recruiter. After all, she had wanted to be a nurse for as long as she can remember. So it wouldn’t seem as if she could relate to men and women with an aversion to bedpans. But Chiverton, the dean of nursing education at the University of Rochester, said she fully understands why a career that has long been dominated by women is struggling to fill its ranks.

Democrat and Chronicle (September 15)
UR chemistry professor receives award
Esther M. Conwell, research professor of chemistry and physics at the University of Rochester, has received the 2008 American Chemical Society Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. The society recognized Conwell for her “accomplishments in an era when women in science faced extraordinary hurdles and challenges, and her unwavering dedication to and advocacy on behalf of women in chemistry and chemical engineering.” The award includes $5,000 for Conwell and a grant of $10,000 for UR programs to encourage women to enter the chemical sciences.

ABOUT ALUMNI

Boston Globe (September 30)
Two perspectives on opening night
For the Boston Symphony, first pitch happens sometime around 6:30 Thursday night, when James Levine lifts his baton to open the orchestra’s 127th season, leading an all-Ravel program. In anticipation, the Globe asked two members of the BSO — one veteran, one newcomer — to talk about what playing in the orchestra means to them, their relationship to their instruments and colleagues, and opening-night jitters. … Percussionist W. Lee Vinson, 28, is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. He spent four years playing with the US Navy Band and did graduate work at Boston University, where he was a student of BSO timpanist Timothy Genis. He was named section percussionist in March. This is his first season with the orchestra.

New York Times (September 21)
Traveling Across Cultures for a Son’s Star Turn
Hong Xu, will be at the piano when Mr. Ashkenazy conducts Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3. Until recent days — which included a recital by Mr. Xu at Weill Recital Hall last Saturday — his parents had never heard their son play in the United States. They had been denied visas in 2005 to come for a small-town concert in Pennsylvania, but this time the visas arrived. A wave of talent has begun flowing out in recent years, and Mr. Xu is among the elite of those performers. His teachers, Jerome Lowenthal at the Juilliard School and Douglas Humpherys at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, point to his brilliant technique, soulful lyricism and command of nuance. “Nothing is really difficult for him, plus he has a deeply expressive musical personality and the ability to convey that to an audience,” Mr. Humpherys said.

News Observer, North Carolina (September 23)
Renowned composer, 90, is honored by his adopted state
It’s usually Robert Ward in the audience, listening to musicians play what he has written. But on his 90th birthday, the roles were reversed. Close to 300 admirers — many of them the Triangle’s most accomplished musicians and opera singers — rose to their feet in an ovation and an operatic round of “Happy Birthday” while the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer had the stage all to himself. At the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., he studied with Howard Hanson, a composer who romanticized the American heartland. His musical education continued unexpectedly in the Army during World War II.

‘Anchors Aweigh’
It’s not easy to be chosen for the famed U.S. Navy Band, but former Hampshire High School student Colin Wise has some advice for those who want to follow in his footsteps: practice. Colin was valedictorian of his high school class; his two siblings, Sean and Erin, also were valedictorians. After graduating from HHS in 2001, Colin earned a bachelor’s degree in jazz performance and classical music from Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., and a master’s degree in music from Rice University in Houston.

Courier News, Illinois (September 19)
**Dr. Dobbs Journal, California (September 24)**

**CMU Prof Wins Science Award for Database Research**

Anastasia Ailamaki, an associate professor of computer science at Carnegie Mellon University, is one of 20 scientists chosen for this year’s European Young Investigator (EURYI) Awards. The EURYI program is designed to attract outstanding young scientists from around the world to create their own research teams at European research centers. A native of Crete, Greece, Ailamaki received her bachelor’s degree in computer science at the University of Patra, Greece, and master’s degrees from the Technical University of Crete and the University of Rochester.

**WHAM TV, ABC (September 7)**

**Judge G. Robert Witmer Sr. Dies**

One of the University of Rochester’s most distinguished alumni has passed away. Retired Appellate Court Judge G. Robert Witmer Sr. died Thursday, September 6, at Strong Hospital after a brief illness. He was 102. The judge was recognized by UR President Seligman last year when he returned to campus to mark 80 years since his graduation.

(Also reported by Democrat and Chronicle)

**ABOUT STUDENTS**

**Democrat and Chronicle (September 26)**

**UR’s Corbalan upbeat despite injury**

Paco Corbalan has shown what a great soccer goalie he is by earning All-University Athletic Association honors twice and All-New York Region honors at the University of Rochester. He has exemplified what a terrific teammate and person he is since a devastating injury put his career on hold 11 days ago. The senior from Elmira Free Academy suffered a shattered cheekbone in a game against Hobart on Sept. 15. He went up to box a ball, leaving his face totally exposed, and was hit by an opposing player. “He’s first class in every way,” seventh-year UR coach Chris Apple says. “Two days after the injury, he came to our match. The doctor said this was the worst (shattered cheekbone) he’s ever seen, but Paco is so positive. He’s at every practice and team meal.”

**Democrat and Chronicle (September 25)**

**The world is Van Vechten’s oyster**

Ashley Van Vechten plays defense for the University of Rochester women’s soccer team, but she’s a straight shooter when it comes to her life’s passions. “I love history, culture and soccer,” she says. “She’s a fantastic player,” says UR coach Terry Gurnett, the all-time NCAA Division III leader in wins. “Her ability to read the game and anticipate is terrific. She has tremendous technical ability and a wonderful competitive spirit, and she puts it all together.”