Dear University of Rochester Families,

As I write this letter, we are preparing for the Spring 2009 semester and looking forward to our students’ return to campus. I hope that you all have had an enjoyable holiday season. During the fall semester, the College continued to develop the new programs that are highlighted in our strategic plan. Most notably, our Faculty Council approved a set of majors in the general area of public health. These include three new majors: epidemiology, health policy, and bioethics. We anticipate state approval of these majors in time to make them available for students in the 2009–10 academic year. Along with a revised version of our existing health and society major, these new programs provide wonderful new opportunities for our students in an important field of study. They are the result of a successful collaboration with our colleagues in the University of Rochester Medical School. You’ll be hearing about additional new programs in the coming months.

Another major effort has been in the area of undergraduate research. Last summer, I appointed Professor Steven Manly of the Department of Physics and Astronomy to the position of director of undergraduate research. Professor Manly is a distinguished physicist, an outstanding teacher, and strong advocate of undergraduate research in all areas of the curriculum. He is working to develop increased research opportunities for students and making sure that information about ways to get started in research are clear and readily available. He has also developed plans for an exciting new undergraduate Research Exposition to be held annually, beginning this spring. You will hear more about this as plans are finalized.

As you may know, the Riverview Apartments opened at the beginning of the fall semester. These privately developed apartments, directly across the Genesee River from campus, were filled to capacity. Reports from the residents have been overwhelmingly positive, and we’re delighted to have this new living option available to our students.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the difficult economic environment we are all facing. There is no doubt that these are challenging times. At the University, we will continue on the path we have set for ourselves in our plans, though possibly at a somewhat slower pace. And, as President Seligman has emphasized in his public statements, we will do everything we can to continue to support students who are adversely affected by the economic downturn.

Meliora,

Richard Feldman
Dean of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering
Update from Dean of Students Matthew Burns

The past year has seen many changes in the Office of the Dean of Students, and we thought it might be a good idea to keep you apprised of the changes and of what they might mean to you.

The Office of the Dean of Students houses several programs and other offices: Student Activities, Wilson Commons Student Union, Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, the Rochester Center for Community Leadership, Student Conduct, Parent Relations, and, of course, the Dean of Students. It's a complex office, with staff members scattered throughout Wilson Commons, but we try to maintain a “one office” perspective in what we do.

When I moved into this position last October in an “acting” capacity, I tried expanding upon that “one office” perspective so that we could create synergies among ourselves in order to better serve our students. Over the past year, there have been a number of opportunities to bring new staff members on board who share that perspective. As you know, the introduction of Dawn Bruner into her role as director of parent relations was among the first changes to occur, and her work over the past year has truly been enlightening and helpful—not only to you as parents, but also to the University as a whole. It is through Dawn’s leadership that we have come to better understand parent concerns and how to best utilize our interconnected relationships with students, parents, faculty, and staff. It is also because of Dawn’s initiative that we—at least those of us in the Dean of Students Office—have dropped the term “helicopter parents” from our vocabulary.

In Wilson Commons Student Activities, Stacey Fisher joined us last year as an assistant director for student activities, while Laura Ballou (associate director for Wilson Commons), Lydia Crews (assistant director for student activities), and Melissia Schmidt (associate director for student activities) stayed on.

In mid-October, Glenn Cerosaletti joined our team, coming from the Study Abroad Office. Glenn is our new director of the Rochester Center for Community Leadership (RCCL). Founded by former Dean of Students Jody Asbury, the center provides guidance and assistance for community engagement activities and leadership training. Glenn’s appointment marks the first time the center has had its own director, and we expect great things to come of RCCL in the near future. It never ceases to amaze me when I look at the extent to which our students are connected to the community, and the amount of energy and enthusiasm they bring to their efforts to help others.

Last (chronologically) in the list of major appointments is Morgan Levy, our new assistant dean of students. Morgan is handling my former position of overseeing Arts, Sciences, and Engineering’s disciplinary system. She comes to us most recently from Columbia University, where she held a similar position. Through much hard work and effort, our system of discipline has developed a widespread reputation of being fair and timely, and judging from Morgan’s work to date, it seems likely that she will enhance that reputation.

The locations of some offices have been switched around, meeting structures have been altered, and new programs have been added to enhance communication and to generate new ways of helping students. Our hope is that these changes and new appointments will result in increased service to you and to your sons and daughters. Our goal in these difficult economic times is to serve well and efficiently, and we think that we are doing so with no sacrifice to quality.

In closing, I’d just like to say that it is genuinely a pleasure to serve your sons and daughters, and that each day we are reminded of just how talented and enthusiastic they are. Thank you for sharing them with us, and we hope that our work has helped to make their years here at the University of Rochester and yours more enjoyable!

For more information on these and other events, call the Common Connection (585) 275-5911 or go to www.sa.rochester.edu/connect.

Spring Student Activities Highlights

Jan. 30-Feb 1 Winterfest Weekend featuring Comedian B. J. Novak, Winter Wonderland, Fusion, Step Show, movies, laser tag, Iron Chef, giveaways, and more!
Feb. 1–6 Spirit Week events, including basketball games, Spirit Dinner, and giveaways!
Feb. 7 China Nite
Feb. 11 Wilson Commons Wednesday “Feel Fabulous in February” and Etiquette Dinner
Feb. 12 Editors from the Onion come to campus
Feb. 13 Club Rochester
Feb. 14 Yellowjackets Harmony for Hope benefit concert and Pack the Palestra for Squash
Feb. 25 Wake Up in Wilson “Active Minds Feel Fabulous in February”
Feb. 26 ROC tkts event: Jersey Boys
Feb. 27 Vagina Monologues
March 21 Korea Night
March 22 ROC tkts event: Glass Blowing at the Corning Museum of Glass
March 27 Radiance Dance Show, ArtAwake, and Fill Fauver for Women’s Lacrosse
March 28 Strong Jugglers’ show and Fill Fauver for Tennis
April 3 Relay for Life
April 4 Mela and After Hours show
April 10 Drag Show, Off Broadway On Campus show, and Fill Fauver for Softball
April 11 Midnight Ramblers concert and Fill Fauver for Track and Baseball
April 17–19 Spring Showtime Weekend featuring Club Rochester, D’Motions, Earth Day, and Vocal Point
April 24 Ballet Performance Group show and Undergraduate Research Exhibition
May 9–16 Senior Week Events
May 17 Commencement

Thank you for sharing them with us, and we hope that our work has helped to make their years here at the University of Rochester and yours more enjoyable!
University Counseling Center

The University Counseling Center (UCC) is located on the third floor of the University Health Service Building next to Susan B. Anthony Halls. The mandatory health fee paid by all full-time students allows up to 10 counseling sessions each academic year. There is no limit to the number of visits to UCC for medication management with a nurse practitioner or psychiatrist.

Students can come to UCC or call weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. (5 p.m. on Friday) to make an appointment. UCC does not have walk-in hours but does have a triage therapist available to assess students who are in crisis.

Here are some common concerns that we often hear when a student is reluctant to come to counseling.

Others will find out I am in therapy.
Counseling services at UCC are completely confidential. Information will be sent to other medical providers with a signed release. Information can only be shared with parents or professors if the student signs a release. An appointment can be mandated if a student gets in trouble or there is concern for the student's safety. UCC will verify attendance at the appointment and give recommendations for further treatment to the mandating dean or advisor.

I will have to take medication.
If a therapist thinks that a student would benefit from medication he or she will refer the student to see the nurse practitioner or psychiatrist at UCC. It is up to the student to decide whether or not to follow through with this appointment.

It will be on my permanent record.
UCC does not share any information with any other office on campus and has a strict policy about not sharing with any outside agency. The only way anyone would know that a student ever sought counseling in college would be if the student shared this information.

I don't have mental health issues/I don't need counseling.
Students come to counseling for a wide range of things, including relationship issues, stress, family problems, and anxiety about the future or more serious mental health issues. The perceived seriousness of the problem should never keep students from calling UCC.

Talking about things doesn't help.
Most students find that talking to a trained professional in a confidential setting is helpful. If a student comes once and really doesn't think it was helpful, there is no pressure to come back.

I don't have time in my schedule/I couldn't get an appointment.
Finding appointments can be trickier farther into the semester, but UCC works hard to try to get students appointments that fit their schedule. When availability is limited, students often do not want to come at 8 a.m., or they say they can't miss something else. This is when a choice needs to be made about whether they want the opening available even if it is not convenient. Students who are not interested or ready to seek counseling are being pushed by loved ones to do so will often come up with a variety of excuses as to why it won't work.

For further information about the services offered at UCC, or if you are concerned about your son or daughter, please call the UCC administrator, Karen Platt, at (585) 275-1896. If it is an emergency, call (585) 275-3113.
ROCHESTER ATHLETICS

Top of the World, Ma!: The women’s basketball team, which was 8–0 heading into the holiday break, rose to the number one ranking by D3hoops.com, a national small college basketball Web site. It is the second time in school history that the women’s team has been ranked number one.

The Best: Joshua Dennstedt ’10 was named to the National Soccer Coaches All-American team. The Victor, N.Y., native is the only player from the Rochester area—or from a Rochester-area college—to earn All-American honors this year. Dennstedt is the 16th All-American in school history.

Making the Grade: For the seventh consecutive year, the men’s and women’s soccer teams received the Team Academic Award from the National Soccer Coaches Association. The award is given for cumulative grade point average. Rochester is one of 65 schools (covering every division) to have its men’s and women’s teams honored in the same year.

Four of a Kind: The men’s soccer team competed in the NCAA Division III playoffs for the fourth consecutive year, a first in school history. It is the 11th NCAA bid received by the Yellowjackets for men’s soccer. The women’s team made its 16th NCAA appearance.

NCAA Competition: Three sports were represented in NCAA postseason competition this fall. Men’s and women’s soccer received bids to their respective national tournaments. Women’s cross country had two runners compete in the national championship meet in Indiana.

Rankings: The squash team, which was ranked a best-ever 10th after last season, was ranked number five in the preseason poll this year. Individually, All-Americans Jim Bristow (sixth) and Hameed Ahmed (eighth) were highly ranked as individuals out of more than 570 players listed.

That’s Balance: Eighteen sophomores received the Iota Book Award from Rochester’s Iota Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Nine of the 18 sophomores compete for the University’s athletic teams.

Fall Championships: The men’s cross country team won the New York State championship. Men’s soccer shared the UAA team title with Emory University.

Numbers: Women’s soccer coach Terry Gurnett ’77 is three wins shy of his 400th career victory. He is the all-time victory leader in Division III women’s soccer circles. Women’s basketball earned its 500th all-time victory when the Yellowjackets won on opening night. Football defeated St. Lawrence for its 500th all-time victory.