



Honors Galore

The University's athletes and teams achieved a significant amount of success in the fall semester. Both the men's and women's soccer teams reached the NCAA Division III playoffs. The men advanced to the national quarterfinals, the farthest Rochester has ever gone in tournament play. The Yellowjackets were ranked number 6 in the final coaches association poll. The women's soccer team, making its 26th consecutive post-season appearance, reached the second round of the NCAA playoffs.

Both soccer teams had All-Americans. For the men, senior goalkeeper Michael Peacock was selected as a Second Team All-American. For the women, sophomore forward Ellen Coleman was named a Second Team All-American and senior defender Eileen Boylan was named a Third Team All-American.

Football had three players named First Team All-League and First Team All-Region: junior running back Clarence Onyiriuka, senior tight end Pedro Sosa, and sophomore defensive lineman Chris Bickford.

Junior Brian Lang and sophomore Lauren Norton ran at the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships for men and women. Field hockey won 11 matches and had three players honored by the Liberty League. The women's volleyball team was 18-20 overall, finished seventh at the UAA Championships, and had three players honored by the UAA.

In the early part of the winter season, the men's and women's swimming and diving teams won their respective Liberty League championships. For the men, it was their third Liberty League title in the last four years. The women won their first Liberty League crown after finishing second six times in seven years.

The Yellowjacket squash team began the season ranked third nationally and rose to number two in the national poll after a 5-4 victory over second-ranked Princeton. It is the highest the Yellowjackets have ever been ranked.



The Rochester Parents Fund

**What is the Rochester Parents Fund?**  
The Parents Fund is the primary vehicle through which parents provide vital annual support to the College. Parents Fund gifts are unrestricted, which means they are immediately available to address the current and highest priorities of Richard Feldman, Dean of the College. These enable him to support and strengthen the educational experience for the students here now.

**How does Dean Feldman use the Parents Fund?**  
Dean Feldman uses these special gifts

- to strengthen and deepen the academic experience for students by supporting programs like the Office of Undergraduate Research, Center for Workshop Education, and the Center for Study Abroad
- to enrich the co-curricular experience through funding for the Collegiate Readership Program and the Student Activities Office, which helps pay for student groups that travel to regional or national conferences and meetings
- to improve campus life through improved services, technology, and health and safety programs.

**Who gives to the Parents Fund and does this really matter?**  
Parents of currently enrolled students and parents of students

who have graduated from the College participate in the Fund. Absolutely every gift given, whatever the amount, is a vote of confidence for the experience students have here and will help the dean continue to enrich their lives.

**What is the Parents Council?**  
Led by Barry Bendes and Tamara Shulman, P'11, the Parents Council is a group of leadership donor families who give financial support to the Parents Fund with a George Eastman Circle (GEC) level gift of \$1,500 or more, and also volunteer for the College in many ways as their time allows. These volunteer opportunities include involvement in our admissions and career guidance programs, as well as attending or hosting many different types of events. Parents Council members are invited to two meetings a year and often hear University faculty and administration speakers. They also have a direct link to the Parents Program staff to answer questions and help with volunteer involvement.

**Who should we contact about the Parents Fund or Parents Council?**  
For information on giving to the Parent Fund or joining the Parents Council, call (585) 276-4075 or e-mail Parents\_Program@rochester.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

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UR Family

NEWSLETTER  
ARTS, SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING  
University of Rochester

A Publication of the College Parents Association

Dear University of Rochester Families,

Although the economic downturn has forced the College to slow down the implementation of some of our plans, we are continuing to develop new programs and expand opportunities for our students. Recently introduced majors in International Relations and in areas related to Public Health are proving to be very popular. The Career Center and the Office of Alumni Relations have collaborated on the new Rochester Career Advisory Network. RCAN is an online networking tool in which alumni can share information about careers and internships with our students. Several faculty committees are currently at work developing new programs. Over the next several months, look for announcements of new majors and enhanced offerings for students who choose to stay in sunny Rochester for the summer. One encouraging measure of student attitudes toward the College comes from our Office of Admissions, which reports a record number of applicants this year.

This issue of the *Family Newsletter* focuses on two vitally important co-curricular aspects of life in the College: the Fraternity and Sorority system and religious life and the Interfaith Chapel. It is clear that for a great many students, success in college depends upon establishing a meaningful connection with some group or activity on campus. For some students, this connection comes from student government or from an athletic team. For many, one of the most important factors is involvement in a fraternity or sorority. For others, engagement with a religious group plays a key role. Of course, a great number of students participate in multiple activities.

Our fraternity and sorority system is headed by Monica Miranda Smalls, the director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. Monica was recently named president-elect of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors (AFA), the key national professional organization for administrators concerned with the advisement of fraternities and sororities. In this issue, you can learn more about the nationally recognized "Expectations for Excellence" program, which has fostered a successful fraternity and sorority community. A key goal of the program is to assure that fraternities and sororities are fully engaged in and aligned with the Communal Principles and educational philosophy of the College.

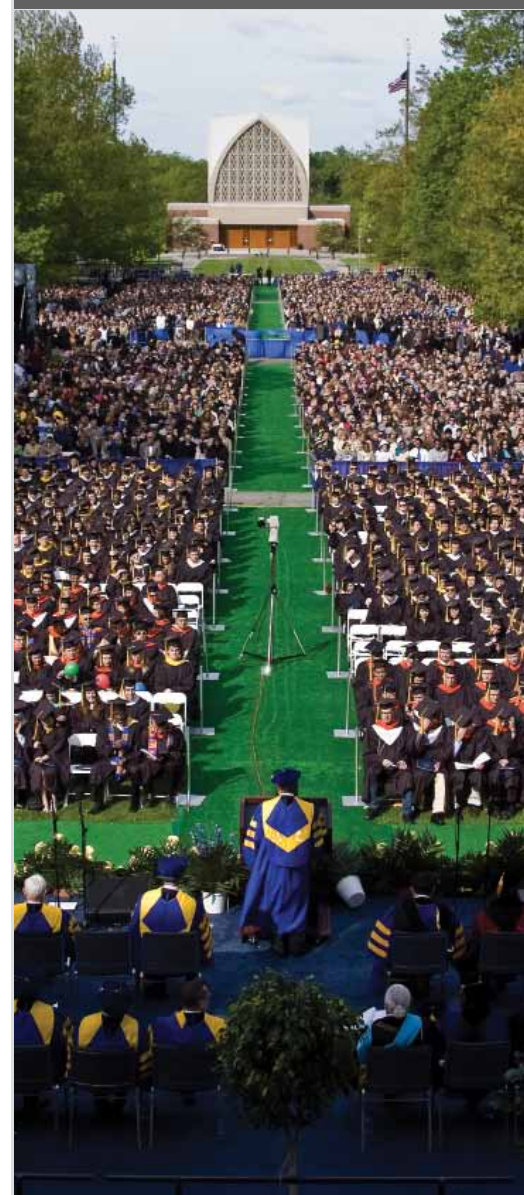
When I appointed Allison Stokes to the position of director of Religious and Spiritual Life about two years ago, we agreed that one of her key goals was to identify the best ways to support the diverse range of religious groups on campus, including the groups traditionally present on campus as well as those that have more recently emerged on campus. Another key goal is to promote interfaith activities, something that many of our students find so appealing. In this issue, Allison writes about the early days of the Interfaith Chapel and about our current efforts to support students of many different faiths.

As always, we are eager to keep you informed about the College and to hear from you with your ideas and suggestions.



Meliora,

Richard Feldman  
Dean of the College



Commencement  
Save the Date  
May 14-16, 2010

Meliora Weekend  
Save the Date  
October 14-17, 2010

## Spring 2010 Hot Spots

**January 29–January 31** Winterfest Weekend featuring Comedian Stephen Lynch, Winter Wonderland, Fusion, Step Show, Movies, Laser Tag, Food Challenge, Give-aways, and more

**February 6** China Nite

**February 10** Wilson Commons Wednesday  
*Mangia Italia*

**February 12** Rochester Night at Amerks Hockey

**February 13** Yellowjackets Concert and Class  
Council/ROC tkts RPO Night

**February 18** Speaker: Harold Ford, Jr.

**February 19** Club Rochester

**February 24** Wake Up in Wilson and Etiquette Dinner

**February 20** Vagina Monologues

**February 26** Eric Hutchinson and Ingrid Michaelson  
Concert

**March 17** Wilson Commons Wednesday  
*St. Patrick's Day*

**March 18** Spring Speaker Zev Kedem: A Holocaust  
Survivor and ROC tkts Grease

**March 20** Korea Night

**March 21** Fill Fauver Women's Tennis

**March 26** Club Rochester and After Hours Concert

**March 27** Radiance Dance Show and Hive  
Tournament

**March 28** Fill Fauver/Pack the Palestra Softball

**March 31** Wake Up in Wilson

**April 2** Yellowjackets Concert

**April 3** Mela and Jugglers Show and Fill Fauver  
for Baseball

**April 5–6** SA Elections

**April 9–11** Spring Showtime Weekend featuring Relay  
For Life, Drag Show, BPG, Club Rochester, Ramblers, Fill  
Fauver/Pack the Palestra Men's Tennis, and ArtAwake

**April 14** Wilson Commons Wednesday *BBQ & Blues*

**April 16** OBOC Show and Fill Fauver for Lacrosse

**April 17** Vocal Point

**April 23** D'Motions

**April 29** Bar-B-Quad

**May 2** Late Night Breakfast

**May 8–15** Senior Week Events

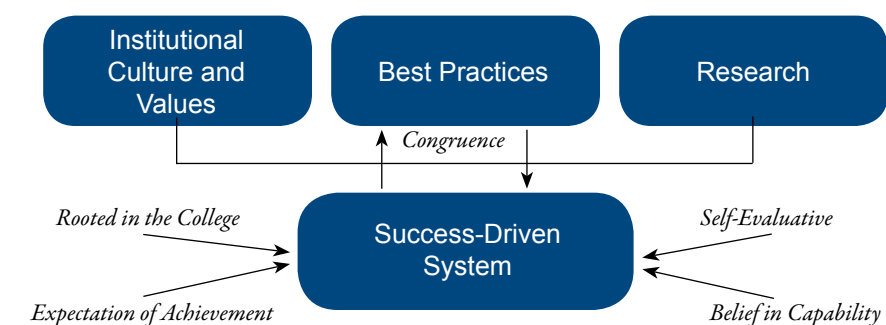
**May 16** Commencement

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

## Fraternity and Sorority Life at Rochester

Monica Miranda Smalls, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs

The University of Rochester Fraternity and Sorority Community is a unique and award-winning community that, through the support and endorsement of the University, has left a positive and indelible impact on the quality of student life at the College. Today the University of Rochester recognizes 33 fraternities and sororities with a membership of 23 percent of the undergraduate student population, advised by Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (FSA) in the Office of the Dean of Students. The current University of Rochester fraternity and sorority system was developed after an intensive review of both the culture of the institution and of the fraternity and sorority community during the 2003–2004 academic year. A committee comprised of trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students reviewed the institutional culture and values of each fraternity and sorority, best practices across the country, and research and theory on such topics as learning, culture, and motivation to find congruence with the University of Rochester's mission, values, and educational philosophy. While doing so, there was a distinct commitment to creating a system rooted in the College and self-evaluative that also expected its groups to achieve due to a belief in their capacity.



### University of Rochester's Success-Driven Model

As a result of this model, the Expectations for Excellence (EE) was created. As the hallmark of the fraternity and sorority system, the EE represents the University of Rochester's efforts to create a framework based upon the College culture that encourages the cultural values, expectations, and practices of fraternities/sororities, which are consistent with the values and academic mission of the College. This program emphasizes goal setting, planning, and self-assessment in an accreditation model of accountability. Using the paradigm of shared values, organizations set their own action plans for each calendar year and submit them to a committee for review and feedback throughout the year (formative evaluation). At the end of the year, the organizations provide written reports and make annual presentations, indicating how successful their efforts were in the areas of Scholarship, Community Building and Leadership, Programming, Non-Academic Student Conduct, and Organizational Management. The same committee that previously reviewed the plans then makes decisions regarding whether or not to accredit the organization (summative evaluation). (More information on the EE can be found at [www.rochester.edu/college/fsa/ec](http://www.rochester.edu/college/fsa/ec).)

With the Expectations for Excellence, the role of Chapter Advocate was created to provide additional support to the chapters with specific attention paid to connecting them with a faculty or staff member who would serve as a role model, coach, mentor, and advisor for the chapter through the Expectations for Excellence process. Requests for volunteers were distributed among the faculty and staff, and to date there are University community members from all areas of the College serving as Chapter Advocates. Most notable in this effort are the following staff members that all serve as Chapter Advocates for chapters on campus: the Dean of Students, Associate Dean of Students, Assistant Dean of Students, Dean of Freshman, and the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid. This involvement demonstrates the significant support of a cross-

**con't on next panel**



### A New Year... a New Beginning

The fall semester was extremely busy and sometimes stressful for many students. In some cases, that stress translates to parents, particularly if expectations were not met. Many parents reserved time during winter break to engage students in meaningful dialogue and reflections on the fall semester. It's helpful to acknowledge the positive and negative results and move forward. Therefore, this is a great time to be reminded of the many resources available. Some of the resources you may want to encourage your son/daughter

to connect with early in the semester are pre-major and major advisors, College Center for Academic Support, Learning Assistance Services, Wilson Commons Student Activities, University Counseling Center, and the College Writing Program to name a few. Sometimes a gentle reminder from you that it is okay and acceptable to ask for help is all the encouragement students need. A willingness to seek assistance is a huge step for many students, but it is a step which shows great strength. Then, as students continue

to expand their network and tap into the vast array of support, they tend to enrich their college experience and become more successful.

If you have a concern and are not sure of the best way to support your son or daughter, please feel free to contact Parent Relations. We are here to listen and help you strategize ways of being helpful, while still allowing your son/daughter to find his/her own way.

### Fraternity and Sorority Life con't

section of the College and University staff as well as the efficient use of resources in effectively supporting the chapters on campus. These staff members, along with chapter Alumni Advisors, assist the FSA staff in supporting and advising the chapters.

### Success and Achievement in the Fraternity and Sorority Community

It is our vision that all fraternity and sorority members will be integrated and invested in the College through active contributions to the quality of campus life, serve as beacons of leadership for their communities, exemplify and promote the positive aspects of fraternity and sorority life, and be outstanding citizens and representatives of the University of Rochester. In fulfilling that vision, we are proud of the success and recognition both our

chapters and individual members have achieved locally and nationally. Several chapter presidents have been recognized as international Presidents of the Year by their respective organization and, annually, Rochester chapters and members are recognized with top national awards for their excellence in scholarship, leadership, programming, service, and risk management. Many members of our fraternity and sorority community are leaders of a variety of organizations on campus including, but not limited to, Student Government, Senate, Class Councils, the Spanish and Latino Student Association, and the National Society of Black Engineers. Through these experiences, we continue to witness the personal growth and development of the members and the community as a whole. The fraternity and sorority experience can provide values-

based learning that challenges students to raise their standard of excellence, develop life skills, and build leadership among the members. We are consistently pleased by the responsiveness of the student leaders in this community who live their values and exemplify the University of Rochester's Communal Principles of honesty and responsibility in dealing with challenging situations. Most of all, we are proud of our students' commitment to the University motto *Meliora* (ever better) both in pursuing their own interests and passions and in leading their organizations to remain innovative and relevant to the campus community.

For further information or questions about Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, please contact the director, Monica Miranda Smalls, at (585) 275-3167.

### About the Interfaith Chapel

Rev. Allison Stokes, Director of Religious and Spiritual Life

One of the striking architectural features of the University's River Campus is the magnificent Interfaith Chapel, positioned on the quad directly opposite Rush Rhees Library. To me as director of Religious and Spiritual Life, this prime location is symbolic of how highly we value the diverse faith traditions on campus. I am deeply proud of the fact that when the chapel was designed and built in 1970, the University took a pioneering step forward. At that time, few schools could boast a facility expressly intended to be a religious gathering place for all people. So it is that the University of Rochester has a rich history of interfaith dialogue, understanding, cooperation, and service.

Today, almost 40 years later, the opportunities the chapel offers for students to connect and tap into the spiritual dimension of themselves are greater than ever. The chapel is a center of hospitality for **all**: for those who strongly identify with their religious tradition, for those who are "spiritual but not religious," and also for those who want no affiliation at all. It is a place where students can connect, find community, deepen their own faith, learn about the faith of others, join together in fun and service, discuss the "Big Questions," and explore their own values and identity. The chapel is a place that hums with activity and vitality.

And we have good food, too! In addition to the large, street-level sanctuary, on two more floors we have three kitchens, community rooms, and a conference room for social gatherings, receptions, meals, and meetings. For those looking for a quiet, centering space, we have a small meditation room in addition to the spacious sanctuary. If I sound enthusiastic about our facilities, I am! Happily, the building is equipped to meet the many different needs of individuals and groups.

Here to help lead and guide students in their various activities are a talented team of chaplains, religious leaders, advisors, and staff representing many faith traditions. During every week the chapel hosts Muslim Jumma, Jewish Shabbat, Catholic Mass, and different Protestant services. Currently, I am working to strengthen the growing Hindu community.

I am delighted to report that much of the initiative for bringing different groups together comes from the students themselves. There are student-led, weekly meetings of the "Religious Roundtable" (an interfaith discussion group) and of "Students for Interfaith Action" (a newly formed group focused on community service). This year student interns have begun a regular interfaith newsletter and formed an interfaith council of student leaders.

My own passion is for building respect and understanding across religious and cultural differences. In December, I traveled to Melbourne, Australia, to attend the Parliament of World Religions gathering, where I met college and university chaplains from around the world and learned about their programs. I can report to you that the programs we have at the University of Rochester compare well with the best!

Students regularly testify that what they value most about the University of Rochester is its diversity. With our multifaith outreach, we at the chapel are a key contributor to that diversity.

**For further information or questions about the Interfaith Chapel, please contact Rev. Allison Stokes, director of Religious and Spiritual Life at (585) 275-8422 or [astokes@admin.rochester.edu](mailto:astokes@admin.rochester.edu).**

### Senior Families: Time Is Running Out

There is still time to reserve your personalized paving stone for Dandelion Square outside the Goergen Athletic Center. To purchase a paving stone or learn more about the program, please contact Darlene Schuler at (800) 598-1330 or [dschuler@alumni.rochester.edu](mailto:dschuler@alumni.rochester.edu). Or send your gift of \$500 or more to the University of Rochester Annual Giving Office, Alumni and Advancement Center, P.O. Box 270441, Rochester, NY 14627-0441. This year's deadline is February 24.



### Attention New England and New York City Area Parents—Motor Coach Transportation Offered for Spring Break

Betsy Kirschbaum, parent of a Muhlenberg College student and founder of My Bus Home, will arrange transportation to/from Newton, Mass., Cromwell, Conn., and Penn Station for spring break. The buses can hold 50 students, so the more who ride the bus the lower the fare will be for everyone. A minimum of 25 students is necessary.

If you are interested in this opportunity for your son/daughter, please e-mail **Betsy Kirschbaum** at [bkrooster@aol.com](mailto:bkrooster@aol.com) with student's name, cell phone number, e-mail address, hometown, and parent contact information. She will make the arrangements for you!

**For more information, please visit [www.rochester.edu/parents/pdf/MBH\\_NE.pdf](http://www.rochester.edu/parents/pdf/MBH_NE.pdf) or [www.rochester.edu/parents/pdf/MBH\\_NYC.pdf](http://www.rochester.edu/parents/pdf/MBH_NYC.pdf).**



For additional information, please contact Dawn Bruner, Director of Parent Relations, (585) 275-5415, [dawn.bruner@rochester.edu](mailto:dawn.bruner@rochester.edu)

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