In Brief

Cracking Suffrage History

The Susan B. Anthony Center for Women’s Leadership tried to pry open a little history this summer. The center joined the National Council of Women of the United States in the group’s New York City offices to open a “Woman Suffrage Party” safe.

The safe had sat, locked and unopened, in the group’s offices near the headquarters of the United Nations for as long as anyone could remember. The Anthony Center hired a professional safecracker to break open the accidental time capsule.

Among the contents discovered: tax documents from 1931, a boxed Smithsonian replica of the gavel that was presented to Susan B. Anthony in 1888 at the first convention of the National Council of Women in Washington, D.C., and a box with six mounted replicas of murals from the 1933 World’s Fair in Chicago of significant women in history. A lease from the 1990s also turned up, suggesting that someone knew the combination not too long ago.

New Center for Freeform Optics Established

It’s a new frontier in optics: freeform optics, a field that experts say could transform 21st-century optical science by allowing for a wider range of shapes for lenses and mirrors. A Rochester team, led by center director Jannick Rolland, the Brian J. Thompson Professor of Optical Engineering, pioneered the theoretical framework of freeform optics by exploring how such surfaces guide light in three dimensions.

A new research center at Rochester—the Center for Freeform Optics—brings together researchers from Rochester and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with industry partners to explore applied research. That’s work that isn’t yet ready to be turned into products but is essential to future technology in the field. Supported with more than $4 million in federal, industry, and academic funding, the center will draw on expertise in areas that include mathematics, optics, materials science, and instrument design, and will include graduate students as an integral part of its work.

Art Scene

Jackson Court will be the site of a new sculpture.

Campus Gateway Sculpture Proposals Sought

A new work of art may soon mark the northern entrance to the River Campus. The University in the summer put out a call for proposals for a permanent outdoor art installation reflecting the mission to “Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—And Make the World Ever Better.” The piece will serve as a focal point for the intersection of several walkways adjacent to Sage Art Center and the new Jackson Court outdoor gathering space.

The request for proposals is directed primarily at experienced artists who make site-specific art. The winning design will be selected through a process that, in its final stages, will include community input. Detailed plans from the three or four finalists will be exhibited during Meliora Weekend. The artwork is the last step in the completion of Jackson Court and O’Brien Hall, the University’s newest residential housing development.
Six Medical Center Programs Cited as Among Best

When US News & World Report’s 2014 Best Hospitals guidebook hit newsstands over the summer, a record number of six Medical Center specialties were ranked among the nation’s best. The rankings consider data on nearly 5,000 eligible hospitals.

The nationally ranked adult specialties include endocrinology, neurology and neurosurgery, gynecology, nephrology, urology, and gastroenterology and GI surgery. Earlier this year, US News ranked the pediatric orthopedics program as 45th best in its Best Children's Hospitals listing.

Alumni Gain Access to Library Databases

Looking for access to the University’s scholarly databases? The River Campus Libraries, in partnership with Alumni Relations, now offer alumni access to premium content on three scholarly databases: JSTOR, Proquest Alumni Edition, and Sage. The service is intended to support scholarship, lifelong learning, entrepreneurship, and business initiatives. Access is available through the Alumni Library Gateway (www.library.rochester.edu/alumni?alumauth=no).

JSTOR provides access to scholarly articles in a wide range of areas from the 19th century to the past five years. Proquest Alumni Edition offers articles on a variety of topics, with an emphasis on business. And Sage gives access to its journals in fields such as the humanities, medicine, social science, technology, science, and business.

Recent Graduates Are Selected for Chinese Scholarship

Matt Chin ’13 (left) receives a book of stamps celebrating Chinese history and culture from Guoxiang Sun, the ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, during a ceremony on the River Campus in August. Chin and recent graduates Duane Thomas Fields ’13E and Kirsten Leever ’13 were the first Rochester graduates selected to receive full-year scholarships to study at Chinese universities as part of a program sponsored by the China Scholarship Council and the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in New York.

New Student Housing Development Gets Under Way

Rochester students will soon have a new living option across the Genesee River from the River Campus. Developers began work this summer on a 12-story mixed-use project in Rochester’s 19th Ward. Known as The Flats at Brooks Crossing, the project features 10 floors of housing to accommodate 170 students in about 70 units. Other features include a 2,000-square-foot common area; a lower-level scull boat house; a 5,000-square-foot restaurant on the first floor; and a second, 4,000-square-foot, single-story building on Genesee Street. The $18.7 million project by private developer Christenson Corporation is scheduled to be completed by fall 2014.