Greetings from the University of Rochester! I’m happy to bring you the second of our Counselor Newsletters aimed at keeping you and your colleagues abreast of new developments here at Rochester and in the Office of Admissions.

The University of Rochester is a unique environment in which every student shapes and defines an individual learning experience through the Rochester Curriculum. From day one, students pursue interdisciplinary study, collaborations with faculty, and independent research projects.

Rochester is one of the country’s most prolific research universities, securing hundreds of millions of dollars in federally financed science, engineering, medical, and other research support each year. Unlike most schools with similar levels of activity, Rochester gathers these world-class scholars and facilities within one friendly, contiguous campus environment. Rochester’s structure and philosophy attract exceptional students from all over the world.

Inside this newsletter, you’ll find updates on many topics and areas including Pre-College Programs, opportunities for counselors, and Rochester’s new major in audio and music engineering.

I look forward to continuing Rochester’s relationship with you and your students in the years ahead!

Jonathan Burdick
Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
Academic Summer Programs for High School Students

This summer, the University hosted over 300 students from 24 states and 10 countries on campus for our Pre-College Programs. Participants took advantage of numerous academic options while experiencing college life in our residence halls and on campus. Some students joined in an intensive three-week program in engineering, film, or medicine. Others opted to take a course for college credit, while others explored an adventurous study-abroad experience through our Malawi and Samoa Seminars.

Find out more by visiting the Pre-College Programs website: enrollment.rochester.edu/admissions/precollege

Upcoming on-campus events for high school students

Research Rochester
October 14, November 1, November 11
Learn about everything through talks with students, faculty, and advisers.
enrollment.rochester.edu/admissions/rr

Humanities Highlights Open House
October 25
Go in-depth with Rochester’s extensive programs in languages and literature, culture and values, arts and history. See the revered library and our futuristic digital media opportunities.
enrollment.rochester.edu/admissions/humanities

Engineering and Applied Sciences at Rochester
October 18, November 22
Learn about biomedical engineering, optics, computer science, and more. Watch pumpkins fly.
enrollment.rochester.edu/admissions/engineering

Multicultural Visitation Program
November 10–11
Join high school seniors from diverse backgrounds to experience Rochester on a more personal level.
enrollment.rochester.edu/admissions/mvp

Advising tips

What advice would rising sophomores and juniors give to their pre-frosh selves if they had an opportunity for a "do-over?" As the College’s dean of freshmen and director of the College’s center for advising services, Marcy Kraus enjoys asking this question when she has the opportunity to speak to current Rochester students. They have shared thoughtful advice with her, including:

• Don’t worry about how people around you are doing— just focus on doing the best you can.
• There is a lot to do and it is better to sample things a bit at a time.
• It’s okay to say “no.”
• You don’t have to know everything now.
• Take an art class.
• No one will wake you up in the morning.
• Remember how you wanted to be a doctor last year, but now you are sure you want to be a psychologist? Remember that next year when you decide on the next thing you want to be.
• Trust yourself.
• School is a full-time job.
• Take a study skills course even if you don’t think you need one!
• Visit your professors during their office hours.
• Try something you never thought you would try.

First year students will quickly discover that college is very different from high school: new academic demands, many competing (and tempting) diversions, freedom to go to class (or not), intellectually exciting course choices, and bright, engaged students and faculty. All of these opportunities create a dynamic community. There is much to know, and even more to do. How can new students be assured that they are getting off to the best possible start?

Freshmen will find that there are a multitude of resources available to provide guidance on almost every topic from picking first semester courses to finding help in calculus. These resources, including academic advisors, faculty, resident advisors, the dean of freshmen, and other campus administrators and peers, are a few important examples of good people to get to know. Building relationships, beginning with the very first day of school, can make the difference between students who “survived” and students who “thrived” during their years in college.

New major in Audio and Music Engineering

Designed to leverage Rochester’s hallmark strengths in engineering and music (both at the Eastman School and in the College’s Department of Music), the major was approved by the faculty last spring and is being offered for the first time this fall. Along with a new major in digital media studies (DMS), the audio and music engineering (AME) major offers students an opportunity to explore the evolving fields of digital technology through multidisciplinary research and learning.

Both majors will move into the new Ronald Rettner Hall for Media Arts and Innovation this fall. The bachelor’s degree will be offered as a BS and a BA; the former is for students wishing to pursue a more “hard-core” engineering career and the latter is less technically comprehensive and leaves more room for a double major in areas like music, brain and cognitive sciences, or other engineering disciplines. Rettner Hall (at 18,900 square feet) contains state-of-the-art video and recording studios, computers, and 3D printers.
ROCHESTER IN YOUR AREA

Counselors in the Office of Admissions will be traveling the world this fall and we will likely be in an area near you! We will be conducting interviews in 100 cities around the globe. We are currently scheduled to visit over 200 college fairs and over 600 high schools in almost every state in the country and in Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

If you will be hosting a college fair in your area, or would like us to visit your school, we invite you to let us know. We are constantly looking for ways to expand our recruitment strategy and meet more students who are excited to learn about what Rochester has to offer them!

In addition to attending college fairs and/or visiting your high school, we have also scheduled admissions interviews worldwide. Prospective students have the ability to schedule their interview in their area and the opportunity to learn more about the university directly from the person likely to read their admission application. Since we believe in making a personal connection with our students, the admissions interview is treated like a counseling appointment, with great conversation as the goal. Our admissions interviews are also offered via Skype, phone, or with an alumnus/a in the area.

COUNSELOR PROGRAMS

Rochester recently hosted a group of counselors mainly from the west and southwest on campus as part of a visit program before this year’s NACAC Conference in Toronto. The group had the opportunity to see the River Campus, the Memorial Art Gallery, to tour the Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Eastman School of Music, to view some of the sights and sounds, and eat some of the local food of the City of Rochester. The group then joined many of Rochester’s admissions professionals on a bus to Toronto, with a short stop in Niagara Falls.

For more information on future counselor programs, please contact Patrick O’Neill at patrick.oneill@rochester.edu. Local counselors interested in participating in this year’s Spotlight on Application Review Program in early 2014 on campus can also email Patrick.

COUNSELOR WEBPAGE

Did you know you can check your students’ application statuses on our website?

Visit enrollment.rochester.edu/admissions/hscounselors and log in. If you do not have a login and password, you can request one to be emailed to you.

While logged in, you can also update your school’s mailing address and make your nominations for our High School Awards Program. We will begin accepting nominations of current juniors for all four High School Awards in January 2014.

For more information on the High School Awards Program, please visit the Counselor Webpage or email us at hsaawards@admissions.rochester.edu.