Greetings once again from the University of Rochester! I’m happy to bring you the first Counselor Newsletter of 2014, which we hope will keep you and your colleagues up-to-date on new developments here at Rochester and in the Office of Admissions.

We have all been busy evaluating more than 16,000 applications for admission in the past several months and have offered admission to about 30% of these students. These students come from all 50 states and 63 countries, and we look forward to greeting many of these students as they visit campus in the coming weeks.

Inside this newsletter, you’ll find updates on many topics and areas, including summer Pre-College Programs for high school students, tips on transfer counseling, upcoming deadlines to participate in the High School Awards Program, spring events on campus (including the 2018 Experience for newly admitted students), and profiles of Rochester’s regional directors.

I look forward to building Rochester’s relationship with you and your students in the years ahead, and we hope to see some of your students on campus soon!

Jonathan Burdick
Dean of College Admission
Vice-Provost for Enrollment Initiatives
Pre-College Programs
Application Deadline: May 1

Pre-College Programs make it possible for several hundred high school students from across the country and around the globe to explore the University and its resources. Numerous academic options include taking a one- to three-week course and living on campus for a month to complete a college class for credit. Typical courses are reflective of areas of study available at Rochester and students can choose from fields such as medicine, engineering, English, history, modern languages, the arts and sciences.

Registration is still open for both the Rochester Scholars and Taste of College on-campus programs. Visit enrollment.rochester.edu/precollege to register today.

Transfer Counseling

It’s that time of year when seniors are receiving final college admission decisions. Many students may not receive the decision they desire. At Rochester, many fantastic students do not gain admission as freshmen. The opportunity to join their top choice school as a transfer student after some time in another institution is real. As students are weighing their options this spring, it is worth talking about transfer opportunities.

While transfers represent a small percentage of the overall undergraduate population at Rochester, it is a growing number. On average, we enroll about 150 new transfer students each year. Most transfers join Rochester as sophomores after completing a year of rigorous full-time coursework elsewhere. About 60% of our transfer students are coming from four-year institutions. For a variety of reasons, students may want to start at community college. Rochester has an articulation agreement and dual enrollment 2+2 programs with the local two-year school, Monroe Community College. While students transfer to Rochester from all over the world, we enroll about 40 Monroe Community College students a year.

Transfer admissions counselors are available at many schools, including Rochester, to assist students in developing a transfer plan if that remains their focus. Once a student has decided where they are going, encourage them to reach out to their chosen school to express their interest and seek advisement.

Visit enrollment.rochester.edu/apply/transfer for more information about transfer admissions at Rochester.
**COUNSELOR PROGRAMS**

Recently, Rochester hosted a NYSACAC Professional Development Forum on campus to bring experts from the admissions and financial aid field together with secondary school and independent college counselors. A series of round-table discussions were held on topics such as athletics in admissions, working with undocumented students, AP and IB curricula, and college affordability.

For more information on future counselor programs and counselor tours that Rochester takes part in, visit the school counselors website at [enrollment.rochester.edu/counselors](http://enrollment.rochester.edu/counselors) or email Patrick O’Neill, secondary school relations coordinator, at [patrick.oneill@rochester.edu](mailto:patrick.oneill@rochester.edu).

**ON-CAMPUS SPRING EVENTS**

**RESEARCH ROCHESTER**

Wednesday, April 16 & Friday, April 25
While we love to see visiting students any day of the week, we offer a more in-depth visit experience through our open-house programs. Students can learn about all the University of Rochester has to offer through information sessions, student-led tours, panels, and open classes. Prospective students can visit [enrollment.rochester.edu/rr](http://enrollment.rochester.edu/rr) to register.

**2018 EXPERIENCE**

Saturday, April 12 • Monday, April 14 • Friday, April 18 • Monday, April 21
We host admitted students for the 2018 Experience so they can spend a day as a Rochester student. These programs give admitted students a more in-depth look at campus life, including a chance to sit in on classes, check out residence and dining halls, meet with advisors and faculty members, and so much more. Admitted students can visit [enrollment.rochester.edu/2018exp](http://enrollment.rochester.edu/2018exp) to register.

**HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS**

The final deadline to nominate worthy current juniors for any of Rochester’s four High School Awards is not until June 15, so it’s not too late to do so! All nominees will have their application fee waived and will be eligible to be considered for merit scholarships worth at least $7,500 per year if admitted to Rochester. If you have not nominated before, please visit the High School Awards website at [enrollment.rochester.edu/hsawards](http://enrollment.rochester.edu/hsawards) or contact us at hsawards@admissions.rochester.edu with any questions.
MEET ROCHESTER’S REGIONAL DIRECTORS

**CHRISTOPHER M. BIERASINSKI**  
*University of Rochester Class of 2010, BA Russian language and literature*  
I’ve been working at Rochester since 2010. I recently just moved out to Chicago to become the Midwest regional representative for the University of Rochester. I’ve really enjoyed the move from snowy Rochester to snowy and windy Chicago. My travel territory includes all of Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, Iowa, and Indiana. I’m also responsible for the countries in Central and Eastern Europe. I look forward to meeting and working with people from across the Midwest.

**KIMBERLY CRAGG**  
I have been with the University of Rochester since 2009. I am based in Los Angeles and travel all over the western US. I am a member of the Regional Admission Counselors of California. One of the things I love most about being a regional is that I am able to work closely with students, families, and counselors in my region. I’m happy to serve as a resource and look forward to working with an ever-increasing network of people excited about Rochester!

**DAMIAN GARCIA**  
*University of Rochester Class of 2007, BA African & African American studies*  
I’ve been with the University of Rochester since 2002, as a student then, to now one of several regional directors of Admissions. I am currently based in Charlotte, NC and I travel north through Virginia, Maryland, DC, and south through the Carolinas. I am part of a team that covers much of the southeast region of the country. As a regional for over five years, I have enjoyed supporting counselors regionally by being available and participating in programs like case studies, mini-camp college workshops, and other various parent and student evening programs for juniors and sophomores. I encourage and welcome the opportunity to connect with high school counselors, independent counselors, and community-based organizations in order to support and educate students and their families on the college identification, search, and application and preparation processes.

**DAVIN SWEENEY**  
I live with my wife and daughter in Harlem and work on behalf of the University of Rochester in the New York Metropolitan area. I spend most of my time in Long Island and Westchester County advising families, working with area counselors, and connecting with local alumni. I have worked for the admissions office for six years, and am proud to lead the effort to increase our activity in our downstate backyard!