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Football Tackles Cancer

BY DANI DOUGLASS
SENIOR STAFF

Before the first whistle blew, ten individuals stood side-by-side at center field in Fauver Stadium.

At the edge of the turf on the sidelines, the UR and RPI football teams stood respectfully on the white lines.

The seniors from each team stepped forward, approaching midfield, and gave each of the ten individuals—people from both schools who are all either cancer survivors or in the midst of battling cancer—a pink rose.

The ceremony, held during UR's Saturday football game against RPI, marked both the first Liberty League home game of the season and the first ever Tackle Cancer game to promote awareness of and raise money for research on breast cancer.

"We always wear pink [for breast cancer awareness] during October, but we wanted to give it more meaning besides just the color with our uniform," senior wide receiver Kenny Kish said. "This is something that has

touched all of us in one way or another, whether it is a family member or friend having cancer."

The all-day affair began with a 9 a.m. tailgate on the Fraternity Quad, which offered free food and set the scene for the game that began just after noon.

All attendees of both the tailgate and the game were encouraged to wear pink to show their support for the cause, and the coaches for both sides were given pink t-shirts. Additional shirts were for sale to all attendees.

RPI earned the victory over UR 51-13, but Kish says that the importance of the event was not centered around competition.

"Both teams understand that there's something that's a lot bigger than football," Kish said.

Along with being a member of UR Football and the team's Leadership Council, Kish is also the co-president of UR Relay for Life, a club under the American Cancer Society that hosts an all-night fundraising event each spring.

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Douglass Upstairs Unveiled



TOP LEFT, BOTTOM: LEAH NASON / PHOTO EDITOR
TOP RIGHT: LIAM HEEGER / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Students work and relax in the recently unveiled upstairs of the Fredrick Douglass Building.

BY AMANDA MARQUEZ
NEWS EDITOR

The newly renovated Frederick Douglass Building was officially dedicated as the Burgett Intercultural Center last Friday.

The Intercultural Center—which before had been housed in an office on the fifth floor of Wilson Commons—now shares a space with the newly-founded Language Center, although each serves a unique function on campus.

"The Burgett Intercultural Center exists to support students in the different ways that they self-identify," said Jessica Guzman-Rea, Director of the Intercultural Center. "Whether it be race, nationality, or orientation—it functions as a safe space for students to congregate."

The Center plans on using its new space to host various events and signature programs, such as the One Community Dialogue Series, which creates an open environment for students to have conversations about sensitive topics. The Intercultural Center has also partnered with the Ghandi Institute and the Interfaith Chapel to promote conversations on race and interfaith aspects of multi-cultural interaction.

"Unfortunately there are times where there are critical

things happening in the nation, and sometimes people want a place to congregate and come together," Guzman-Rea said. "So, similar to the TV in ITS, we're hoping this space can be that too."

The Language Center, on the other hand, was established based upon feedback from student and faculty seeking to create a unified language space to encourage multi-lingual verbal exchanges both inside and outside of the classroom.



LIAM HEEGER / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
University Dean Paul Burgett smiles at the opening of his namesake center.

Prior to its establishment, the 18 languages offered on campus were distributed throughout different departments, making it difficult for cross-language interaction.

"As a Senior who's been with the Modern Languages Department at the University of Rochester for four years, it makes me

want to cry when I see the large amount of effort and dedication that has gone into promoting language education at Rochester," senior Robert Parent said.

The new Language Center houses high-tech classrooms that facilitate language immersion. It also boasts a computer lab with keyboards for every alphabet, a video game station where students can play games in the language of their choice, a community kitchen for both classes and student organizations to use, voice recorders, video cameras, iPads, international TV stations, and a program that will allow students to study any language for credit, regardless whether the University offers it.

"I think it's great that people who don't know another language can come here and learn one," senior Andrew Tarbox said. "This is not only a great place to talk to other students, but a great place for technology to be used to keep up with a language."

Though classroom priority will be given to language courses, student groups have the capability of reserving rooms exactly the same way they do in Wilson Commons. The Frederick Douglass Building will follow Wilson Commons' hours of operation.

Marquez is a member of the Class of 2017.

Financial Aid Ambassadors Try for Transparency

BY AMANDA MARQUEZ
NEWS EDITOR

BY AUREK RANSOM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In an attempt to increase transparency between the Financial Aid Office and University students, the financial aid ambassadors (FAAs)—a recently-formed group of students who act as liaisons between their peers and financial aid administrators—held a meet-and-greet on Friday in Havens Lounge.

The event, which was not well attended, stemmed from an initiative by various student organizations and the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid after the financial aid protests in fall 2014, where students voiced concern about decreasing financial aid packages.

"We are evolving our relationship with the Financial Aid Office and figuring out what specifically to do," senior Nicholas Contento, one of the 13 new ambassadors, said. "Part of it is [bridging] a gap between the Financial Aid Office and students, because there is that concern that students feel disconnected

from the Office, and have no idea where their packages are coming from."

During their pilot year, the FAAs said they hope to close a perceived gap between students and the Financial Aid Office by holding office hours, workshops on financial literacy, and focus groups that will serve as a way to collect data through anonymous student feedback.

Part of the ambassadors' stated mission includes advocating for students in the Financial Aid Office and promoting "positive and meaningful" change in the aid process.

But the ambassadors' roles are relatively undefined, by their own accounts. They stressed that this year would be focused on figuring out what, exactly, students wanted to see from the Financial Aid Office and how they could meet those needs.

Though she thinks it's a move in the right direction, senior Kelsey Csumitta is wary that the student ambassadors will have any impact on how financial aid packages are determined in the future.

"I don't think there's anything

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