

Our Town

College Town brings together the University and the community in a newly vibrant neighborhood.

By Kathleen McGarvey



In the 1950s, there was a motel: the Towne House Motor Inn. It opened in 1958, one of the first motels in Rochester. Nearby on Mt. Hope Avenue stood a Wegmans grocery store from the same era. The store came down in 2003, and two years ago, demolition of the Towne House—purchased by the University in 1982 and used for offices and student housing—began.

Today in their place is a brand-new development, College Town, which celebrated the grand opening of its retail establishments in April.



OUT ON THE TOWN: College Town has a deliberately urban feel, with wide sidewalks and large storefront windows. The development brings students and faculty into the Mt. Hope Avenue area in greater numbers and was designed to provide desired amenities to the surrounding neighborhood.

Campus & Community

Strengthening the University's connections to the community is among the top priorities in both a 2008 campus plan and a presidential white paper released this year that looks at the next half-decade.

College Town is just one of several recent projects that are changing the face of campus and its neighborhood, including a new Golisano Children's Hospital and better access to the University with new interchanges on nearby Interstate 390.

Riverview Apartments

Four hundred undergraduates live in the five-building complex.



Brooks Crossing

Ground was broken for Brooks Crossing in 2005, after decades of work. The University doesn't own the land on which the development was built and has signed long-term leases with developers. The area features a hotel, retail spaces, and some University offices. Last fall, 170 University students moved into a new residential tower at Brooks Crossing.

Larry and Cindy Bloch Alumni and Advancement Center

The center serves as a headquarters for services for alumni, parents, and friends.

New Medical Office Building

The planned building will provide space for outpatient imaging services and pediatric neurobehavioral services, including the William and Mildred Levine Autism Clinic.



College Town

A mixed-use development on more than 14 acres of land owned by the University between Elmwood Avenue and Crittenden Boulevard, College Town is anchored by a Barnes & Noble bookstore. The project also features a hotel, restaurants, coffee shops, and a grocery store, as well as other commercial and residential space.

Golisano Children's Hospital

Set to open in July, the new eight-story building will serve more than 84,000 children and families each year.

Wegmans Hall

Home to the Goergen Institute for Data Science, the planned building will serve as a hub for disciplines involving data science.

New I-390 Ramps

New ramps are designed to improve traffic flow for visitors, businesses, and employees.





“I was impressed when the buildings started taking shape, to go to the site and see how large it was,” says Ronald Paprocki ’69, ’86S (MBA), senior vice president for administration and finance. He has overseen the project, helping shepherd it from an idea in the University’s Campus Master Plan to a brick-and-mortar reality.

College Town is extensive—a mixed-use development on more than 14 acres of land owned by the University between Elmwood Avenue and Crittenden Boulevard. Anchored by a Barnes & Noble bookstore on the corner of Elmwood and Mt. Hope avenues, it also features a Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, restaurants, coffee shops, a bakery that will deliver warm cookies to students studying into the wee hours, a yoga studio, a grocery store, other shops, a parking garage, and 152 apartments. The project involves nearly one million square feet of space—space that recently had been largely surface parking lots.

“There’s so much more there now than there was before,” says Dan Hurley, president of the Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association. “We’re excited to connect with more people, and for more people to move here and get involved.”

The project “took a largely underutilized site and brought vibrancy back to the neighborhood,” says Matthew McCarthy, senior economic development specialist in the City of Rochester’s Department of Neighborhood and Business Development.

Such efforts are a strategically important aspect of the University’s plans for the future. In “The Next Level,” a white paper released earlier this year, President and CEO Joel Seligman outlines four major areas that the University will make priorities for the next five years. One of those is revitalization of the community. “The stronger our community is, the stronger the University will be,” Seligman wrote, noting that while Rochester’s suburbs are generally doing well, the city struggles with

CHANGING TIMES: Once home to the Towne House motor lodge, the College Town location was ripe for reinvention. Neighborhood groups and the City of Rochester joined the University in planning the development, which offers retail, restaurants, apartments, a hotel, the University bookstore, and other attractions.

the highest rate of extreme poverty of any comparably sized city in the country, and the city’s school district “perennially has graduation rates below 50 percent.” The University works through a wide range of programs—of which the College Town project is just one piece—to help strengthen the community.

In building the development, the University is also taking part in a larger movement of urban universities looking to help shape the environments around them and to work in partnership with their neighbors in creating spaces everyone can enjoy.

“There’s a trend to create developments of this sort for purposes of economic development, neighborhood stabilization, and neighborhood enhancement,” Paprocki says. “Vibrant neighborhoods are important for universities, especially those in urban areas.”

The University of Pennsylvania has emerged as a model for such efforts. Shortly after Seligman’s appointment as president, a University group organized by the Office of Government and Community Relations visited Philadelphia to see what Penn had done. The delegation, which included representatives from the City of Rochester and Monroe County, was just one set of visitors among more than 100—representing governors, mayors, think tanks, and universities such as Harvard, Columbia, and the University of Chicago—to make the trip since 2000.

Penn’s actions were spurred by tragedy: the 1994 robbery and murder of a graduate student outside his apartment. Incidents of armed robberies in the neighborhood surrounding the campus soared in the mid ’90s. What happened in 1994 was a “watershed moment” that



‘With High Distinction’

Ronald Paprocki’s life at Rochester

When Ronald Paprocki ’69, ’86S (MBA) came to the University as an undergraduate in 1966, elm trees still lined Eastman Quadrangle. When they were blighted by Dutch elm disease, the University planted young oak trees in their place.

“The caliper was only about this big—” Paprocki says, extending his hands about eight inches. Today, the trees are broad-trunked and wide-canopied.

“I’ve watched the oak trees mature over the years, as I’ve matured over the years.”

When Paprocki retires in January, he will put the final punctuation on a half-century at Rochester and a career that has spanned the administrations of five Rochester presidents.

MAN ABOUT TOWN:
College Town caps Paprocki’s nearly 50-year career at Rochester, where he has looked after the finances and many facilities operations.

He earned his bachelor’s degree with high distinction from the University in 1969, and in 1986, an MBA from the Simon Business School. He began his career at the University just after graduation, serving in academic support and counseling positions at the College, and later advancing to budgeting and planning work.

“I’ve seen the University from all these different perspectives,” he says. “From the student perspective, the junior staff perspective, the faculty perspective, and the senior administrator perspective.”

He calls the time he spent working in the dean’s office of the College “one of the most rewarding parts of my career here.” There, he worked

with “Bill Riker, Gene Genovese, Tony Hecht—some of the legends of the University. I knew and dealt with a lot of the giants. For a young person growing up in that environment, that was very formative.”

Paprocki joined the central administration in 1986 and was named the University’s vice president for budgets and financial planning in 1992. Six years later, he became senior vice president for financial affairs and planning. In 2000, he was named senior vice president for administration and finance and chief financial officer for the University.

“Ron has been a remarkable partner for the schools and their faculties,” says Peter Lennie, provost and the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Sciences & Engineering. “His early career in the College equipped him with an unusually deep understanding of the academic enterprise and the needs of the faculty and students, and we have benefitted enormously from this and his many powerful insights about how to make the University a better place for all of us.”

As CFO during the recession in 2008, Paprocki effectively navigated the University through the challenging financial crisis with his strategic planning and guidance, as well as his fiscal discipline. In part due to his financial leadership during the recession, the University was able to avoid the disruption and steep layoffs seen at some peer institutions. In 2008, the *Rochester Business Journal* named him its first-ever Financial Executive of the Year for large nonprofit organizations in the Rochester area.

In the same year, Paprocki presented the University’s Campus Master Plan to provide a 20-year framework for the development of lands and facilities, specifically designed to meet the pattern of University growth and the need for increased classroom, meeting, office, research, residential, and clinical spaces.

Paprocki has always emphasized the need for a sustainable and reliable utility infrastructure for the University's campuses. As part of that commitment, he supported a chilled water plant expansion and upgrade of 8,000 tons of chilling capacity—an improvement of fundamental importance to a utility system supporting health care, research, education, and residential life activities.

"Most people think of me as the money guy," Paprocki says, but "some of the most important things that I do really aren't related to finances. They're related to maintaining a safe environment and continuity of operations." He's been concerned with student, faculty, and staff safety, from overseeing the public safety department to installing sprinklers in all of the residence halls.

Most recently, Paprocki and his team were principal players in negotiating every aspect of the College Town development agreement and the ground lease for the University's land, including careful attention to financing, legal requirements, the design plan and overall construction details, and environmental issues. He helped establish multiple key partnerships at the city, state, and federal levels, and helped ensure that Mt. Hope community members and business leaders were engaged at every phase of the development.

Pursuing agreement has been a central part of Paprocki's work. "Very generally speaking, this institution isn't a hierarchical institution," he says. "In our decentralized way of managing things, we're very consensus driven. You really need to bring a lot of people along before you make a final decision. It's something that adds a certain flavor to the work we do."

In May 2013, Paprocki was honored at the College Town groundbreaking for the role he played in making the project a reality. At the groundbreaking, President and CEO Joel Seligman—who has called Paprocki "an anchor of our University"—announced on behalf of the Board of Trustees that a new plaza within College Town would be named for Paprocki. Last October, Paprocki Plaza was dedicated at the crossroads of College Town with a plaque placed outside of the Barnes & Noble bookstore.

Paprocki was also instrumental in the development of Brooks Crossing, a hotel, retail, business center, and student residential development joined to the University by a footbridge over the Genesee River. Paprocki initiated ways to leverage the University's employee and student populations to be an anchor tenant, resulting in the development of more than \$63 million in housing, hotel, office, and retail space.

He introduced the University Home Ownership Incentive Program, giving employees an added incentive for living in the historic 19th Ward and Plymouth Exchange city neighborhoods. In 2008, the University teamed up with the City of Rochester and several banks and credit unions to offer regular full-time and part-time faculty and staff mortgage grants toward the purchase of a primary residence in the city neighborhoods closest to the River Campus and the Medical Center. Since the program's founding, \$972,000 in financial incentives have helped University employees become home owners.

In his well-deserved retirement, Paprocki looks forward to spending time with his family, including his four grandchildren, and tending to the Vermont home he and his wife, Cathy, have owned for several years.

But when he steps down, Paprocki won't really be leaving Rochester behind; he and the University are too intertwined for that. He says that what he'll miss most is "being on all the time—this is a 24-hour-a-day job—and being engaged in almost every part of the University. This hasn't just been the job—it's been, essentially, my life. I've grown up in this environment."

It's a fact for which he can see the most tangible evidence every time he stands in the shade cast by the tall trees on Eastman Quad.

—Kathleen McGarvey

Additional reporting by Sara Miller.

allowed Penn to catalyze its community to change, says Craig Carnaroli, executive vice president of the university. Penn's president at the time, Judith Rodin, and the institution's trustees made transforming the neighborhood a top priority.

"The model of what we did is a very holistic approach and strategy," Carnaroli says. "We started with the clean-and-safe model, but with elements around housing, public education, infill and amenities, retail and support. And then, finally, the fifth leg: economic inclusion—employment opportunities for local residents. It's all of those together that has worked over time."

Because businesses were leery of moving into the area, Penn put its own money behind the effort—against the protests of some who insisted that the funds should be reserved for the university's core academic mission. "That was a paradigm shift in how the institution saw itself," says Anthony Sorrentino, executive director of Carnaroli's office. Today the developments are self-sustaining, crime is down dramatically, and retailers are eager to open stores in the university's neighborhood.

While the College Town project did not emerge in response to a social context like that which Penn faced, in some respects the process of re-invention was similar. Smoothing the path for Rochester was a vision, largely shared by the University, the city, and neighborhood groups, that emerged in the 1990s. Community members who became actively involved in the revitalization of the area at that time developed a concept called the Strong Neighborhood Plan.

By 2008, representatives from the neighborhood, the University, and the City of Rochester were actively engaged in developing a more comprehensive plan. The city convened a group known as the Mount Hope Task Force, which brought together business people, community members, and city and University leaders to reimagine the area.

Out of that process, the city agreed to rezone the district encompassing what is now College Town, paving the way for several infrastructure improvements. In a plan approved by the Board of Trustees in 2008, the University outlined the goal of developing the area in a way that would provide students, faculty, staff, and visitors with a broader set of amenities and that would establish stronger ties with the surrounding community.

"There was a lot of enthusiasm on the part of the Mt. Hope area. Residents and businesses were really eager to see something like this happen," Paprocki says. "That's not always the case. We were very fortunate to have the city facilitate this and have very supportive neighborhood groups, both residents and businesses."

Added to the city's interest was support from federal, state, and county agencies and elected officials. Altogether, more than

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CROSSROADS: College Town has proven attractive to retailers with its location at the busy intersection of Mt. Hope and Elmwood avenues. A new grocery store, Constantino's (above), opened this spring. Convenient for University employees, a grocery store was a priority for representatives from neighborhood groups.

\$57 million in publicly financed resources—from grants to tax credits to infrastructure improvements—went into the overall initiative. That broad support was critical, says Josh Farrelman, associate vice president for government and community relations, because each level of government and community engagement helped enhance the support provided from other sources.

For example, the City of Rochester pitched in its own financial support to reconstruct stretches of Mt. Hope and Elmwood avenues, but did so in a way that complemented the broader ideas for College Town. As part of an agreement with Fairmount Properties of Cleveland, Ohio, which had experience in putting together complex financing and public-private partnerships, a federally sponsored loan from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the City of Rochester and support from a Monroe County economic development agency helped provide the necessary financing. That was important because while the project is located on University-owned land, it does not involve University financing.

And the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council, an initiative launched by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, also recognized the project early on, as did federal initiatives to improve public and alternative transportation and to support the establishment of a grocery store in the complex.

“It was a nice marriage of all the stakeholders,” Farrelman says. “Everybody worked together on this for what is a real signature development for Rochester.”

But while the city moved ahead with the improved Mt. Hope

Avenue, the economic downturn of 2008 led the University to shelve its plans temporarily. By 2010, “we decided that things were improving enough—let’s give it a try. Let’s see if there’s interest,” Paprocki says. “We had objectives we wanted to fulfill, but we wanted the market to tell us what was feasible.

“There were certain things we desired, like a hotel with conference facilities, retail, restaurants, places where students could go. The neighborhood no longer had a grocery store, and we said that would be very beneficial. So we threw those ideas out, but we let the developers come back with a vision.”

As College Town began to take shape, businesses on the other side of the road—on land not owned by the University, but zoned as part of the College Town area—took notice, and new buildings and businesses have sprouted up there as well.

“What we wanted to do was add vibrancy to our surrounding neighborhoods, and I think College Town will do that,” says Paprocki. In recognition of his efforts in bringing College Town into being, the space in front of the bookstore is named Paprocki Plaza.

The end result is the kind of development that the community had in mind, “and that was because they got us involved,” says Richard Rowe, owner of Rowe Photo, Audio, and Video. He’s the founder of the Mt. Hope Business Association and has played an active role in the development process, including serving on the original Mount Hope Task Force. The group became an important instrument in crafting College Town’s plans, bringing together representatives from the city, neighborhood groups, and the University to hash out issues face to face.

It was a “hard process, but we had all the key stakeholders involved. That is the key, and we were very fortunate that we had a great team,” says current Mt. Hope Business Association president



ROCHESTER PRIDE: Students Chris Marsh '15, Joe Bailey '15, and Som Liengtiraphan '17 tour the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at College Town, where the bookstores for the River Campus and the School of Medicine and Dentistry have relocated. A shuttle bus makes frequent loops to College Town, and the bookstore offers a textbook delivery service.

Melanie Warren. “At times it was contentious, but we always could come back and compromise and talk about it.”

She’s been in the neighborhood for 40 years. Now, she says, there’s a new energy, and it’s contagious. “People are thinking about painting, about new facades,” she says.

And with the creation of College Town, the thinking goes, students from the River Campus will have a greater presence on Mt. Hope, as will medical and nursing students and hospital visitors.

“I was really excited for it as an undergrad. As a medical student, I’m even closer than most of the undergrads,” says Leah Dauphin '13, who completed her second year in the School of Medicine and Dentistry this year. She says she’d like to live in one of the apartments, adding that several members of her class are already moving in.

One notable issue for River Campus students is the relocation of the campus bookstore from the Frederick Douglass Building, beside Wilson Commons, to College Town. “In general students were confused and worried it would be inconvenient, but now that it’s set up and looks so great, they feel like they have something they were missing,” says Antoinette Esce '15, who was last year’s president of the Students’ Association in the College. The store offers a textbook delivery service to campus, and the new location means that Douglass can change for the better, too.

“People saw this as an opportunity to do something interesting with Douglass. So there’s a major renovation that we’re planning: all the dining areas and some student spaces as well,” says Paprocki. The building will also house the Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center.

Because College Town is not adjacent to the River Campus, transportation for undergraduates is important, Esce says. A shuttle bus runs regularly between campus and College Town, and a new bike lane will also be created to foster quick travel.

“College Town is still a work in progress. It’s exciting to see each store open up, and to see it all coming to fruition after seeing it on paper for so long,” says Warren. She calls Constantino’s Market, a grocery store that opened in April as part of the development, the “crowning jewel” for neighbors, who had felt the lack of a grocery store for more than a decade.

The city’s McCarthy says that College Town “gives an urban alternative to the malls” and is “a destination point to attract people outside the area.” A director of promotion and events has been hired to oversee a farmers market, seasonal celebrations, musical performances, family events, and other happenings.

The development not only serves as a gateway to the University, giving the institution a greater visibility than it has had in the adjoining neighborhood, but also serves as a showcase for the city and the region.

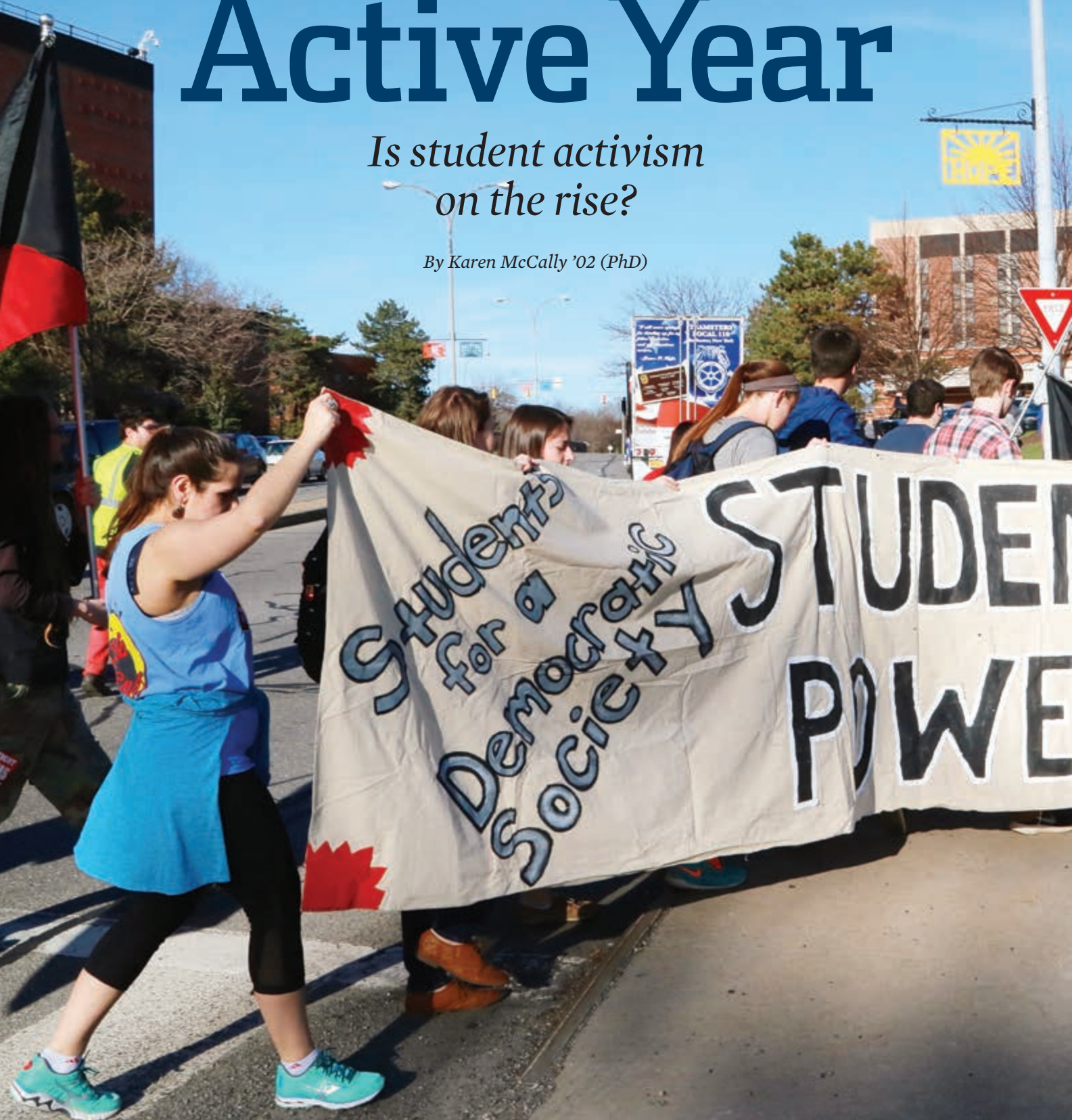
One immediate effect, Paprocki says, will be seen in recruitment and retention of students and faculty. That’s something Penn has noted as well, according to Carnaroli. “It just changed the dynamic where you would automatically show [prospective faculty] the suburbs,” he says. “Now people are more attuned to being around the campus.”

Rowe credits the University with looking beyond the confines of the University and acting on a vision for the larger area. “They understand that whatever happens in the community directly affects their facilities, their employees, their patients, their students, their educators, and the value of their property,” he says. “I’ve been here 45 years—and why I’m so excited and encouraged after 45 years is I see that we’ve only really scratched the potential of what the businesses, the University, and the residents can do together.” **R**

An Active Year

*Is student activism
on the rise?*

By Karen McCally '02 (PhD)





A blogger for *The Nation* pointed to “a national youth groundswell” on college campuses in the past year. A writer for *The Atlantic* declared a “renaissance of student activism.”

Whether or not colleges are entering a new era of student political engagement is difficult to say. But it’s been an active year.

It was hard to miss the campus protests and vigils in the aftermath of the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner at the hands of law enforcement.

Or the image of Columbia student Emma Sulkowicz, lugging her mattress around in a performance piece called “Carry That Weight”—a metaphorical display of the burden borne by sexual assault survivors, which inspired “solidarity carries” around the nation.

These were only among the most visible and widespread initiatives. If you consider student activism as collective efforts by college students to foster social change, then activists have traditionally worked on behalf of a wide array of causes, from the local to the global.

Activists are rarely large in number on any campus, but they don’t have to be numerous to have a noticeable effect—sometimes on policies, and often, on attitudes.

Rochester has generally been “a quiet campus,” says Richard Feldman, dean of the College. But this year, “not so much.”

In the past year, Rochester students led protests and vigils against police brutality; initiated a campaign, by students and for students, to tackle the problem of sexual assault; and forged an alliance with the movement for a \$15 minimum wage and a union for fast-food workers. “That’s part of college,” Feldman says. “I like to see students engaged.”

If activist groups have ever seen one another as competitors for attention or support, there’s little sense of that among this generation. Lizzie Seltz ’16, a microbiology major from Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, was a key organizer of an “equality symposium” in spring 2013. Leaders from the Black Students’ Union, the Pride Network, the Douglass Leadership House, Active Minds, the Spanish and Latin Students’ Association (SALSA), Liberty in North Korea (LINK), and other groups convened to share stories and build alliances.

“The main point was to open up a dialogue among the activist groups,” says Seltz, a member of the Survivor Empowerment Group, or SEG-way. “It would be nice to create a community of support within the activist and awareness groups on campus.”

FLEXING THEIR MUSCLES: Rochester students join local fast-food workers and other members of the Greater Rochester community on a “Fight for \$15” march from the Eastman Quadrangle to College Town.

'We Realized the Power College Students Have'

Amber Baldie '15 remembers exactly where she was when she heard the news that Ferguson, Missouri, police officer Darren Wilson would not be indicted in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown.

"I was in the IT Center," she says. It was just after 9 p.m. on the Monday evening before Thanksgiving, and a small gathering of students stood by the flat screen television affixed to the Gleason Library wall, scrolling on smartphones, waiting for the grand jury decision, which had been expected for days.

"When the announcement came," Baldie says, "I just broke down and started crying."

It had been a long and anxious wait. Baldie, a statistics major from Gates, New York, and several of her friends had spent the weekend making signs, in anticipation of a decision they feared wouldn't go the way they wanted. So when St. Louis County prosecutor Robert McCulloch rose to the podium to announce the grand jury decision, the news was not entirely a surprise. And yet still, it was a shock. Reflecting on that moment, several months later, from the living room of the Douglass Leadership House on the River Campus Fraternity Quad, Baldie confides, "We still did have a little bit of hope."

When Baldie walked out of the IT Center, and onto the platform where students gather to await buses and shuttles, she carried a sign with the words "Hands Up. Don't Shoot." As she and her friends stood with their signs, they were joined by others, and within a short period of time, a crowd had gathered. The demonstrators stood in a circle, holding hands, as Natajah Roberts '14 came forward and began leading the group in chants. The participants in the spontaneous gathering marched across the River Campus. Then they headed up Elmwood Avenue to College Town. "That's when we felt this momentum," Baldie says.

The momentum was felt nationally. That same moment, protests were erupting in more than 180 cities, and on college and university campuses, around the nation. The demonstrations on the evening of November 24 had been so swift, so coordinated, and so national in scope that mainstream news media outlets began referring not merely to the Ferguson protests, but to a movement—a new civil rights movement, reacting to police violence against black Americans and organized around a simple declaration: Black Lives Matter.

But November 24 was less the beginning of a movement than a turning point, both nationally and in Rochester, where students and recent alumni had already launched a new community organization, BLACK: Building Leadership and Community Knowledge.

The previous August, when news broke of the fatal shooting of Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old black teenager with no criminal record, protests erupted immediately in Ferguson. And Baldie, Makia Green '14, and Anansa Benbow '15 started texting.

"Our hearts were heavy," says Green, a psychology major from New York City who was returning to campus for her final semester. They'd been following events closely on Twitter. News outlets told one story, while people on the ground in Ferguson told another. "We started hearing their stories," Green says of Ferguson residents. "And it was affecting us. About that time, Anansa, Amber, and I had a conversation about what we could do."



Baldie, Benbow, and Green, who graduated last spring, had been friends from their first days in Rochester. They'd held the presidency of the Douglass Leadership House, the Black Students' Union, and the Minority Students Advisory Board, respectively. Green and Baldie were active in theater. Benbow was part of Students for a Democratic Society. All three women had won major awards for their contributions to the campus community. And they'd reached beyond the campus as well, joining local community groups such as Metro Justice.

When they arrived back on campus, they met with Roberts, then an organizer for the Service Employees International Union, and Adrian Elim '13, a native of Rochester's 19th Ward, and a cofounder of the Rochester multimedia design and production company Brothahood Productions. The week before school started, the friends tapped into their local networks, calling for a meeting to be held at the Flying Squirrel Community Space on Clarissa Street.

The site was significant. "Clarissa Street used to be a very prominent black area before Urban Renewal," Elim says, referring to the federally subsidized demolition of many city neighborhoods, throughout the United States in the 1960s. Clarissa Street was the heart of black Rochester, with a bustling mix of stores, clubs, and doctors' and lawyers' offices. Today, though it's home to three churches, it's otherwise a sparse mixture mostly of garden apartments. "We really wanted to pay homage to that energy that used to be there."

About 60 people turned up at the Flying Squirrel on the evening of



volunteers to walk children to school; established an after-school tutoring program at the Monroe County Public Library branch on Arnett Boulevard; planted the Causing Effects community garden; established an ongoing social media campaign featuring local, black-owned businesses; held a black-owned business workshop; and passed out T-shirts and buttons such that, on any given day, walking down the tree-lined streets of the 19th Ward, you might see someone affiliated with the group.

When BLACK got under way last fall, one of its first initiatives was to send its own delegates to Ferguson for a four-day “national call to action.” In early autumn, Ferguson was emerging as a training ground for community organizers. Rivera and another local activist, Ricardo Adams, traveled to Ferguson shortly after the founding of BLACK, and when they returned, strongly urged the young Rochester leaders to make a trip there as well. Through BLACK, Green, Benbow, Elim, and Roberts launched a crowd-funding campaign to finance their trip. And over a long weekend—one that Benbow notes fortuitously coincided with Arts, Sciences & Engineering’s fall break—they drove 13 hours to Ferguson to participate in the series of demonstrations known as Ferguson October.

Benbow, a linguistics major from Troy, New York, and Green prepared for the trip as though it were a high-stakes exam. “Makia and I had been watching the livestream every night for two weeks straight. We had been finding people on Twitter to follow, and reading a lot of articles,” Benbow says. Rivera and Adams put them in contact with Ferguson activists who agreed to be their hosts. For four days, they participated in sit-ins and marches. They saw the military tanks, helicopters, and riot gear. They got arrested on the charge of unlawful assembly, and they were jailed along with protesters, many of them also college students, from around the country.

“We realized the power that college students have,” says Benbow, noting the national media spotlight that

shone on Ferguson during the four-day event. Benbow and Green both say they were subjected to excessive force—struck by fists and clubs, and pulled by their hair. But Benbow thinks things would have been worse had they not been college students, and from out of town.

“Being college students and not being from there, I think we were treated differently. It would have been different if we were all just black people from Ferguson.”

Benbow is forthright when she says Ferguson was “like a war zone.” But beneath that, she found community roots that she believes are stronger than many people outside Ferguson realize. “What I think a lot of people miss about the community down there is the foundation of love. It caught me off guard a bit.”

Benbow, Elim, Green, and Roberts left Ferguson prepared to bring their stories back to Rochester, and to put what they’d learned about community organization into action.

For Benbow and Green, the transition back to campus was difficult. They were bruised, emotionally as well as physically, and talking about the experience could be disheartening. Green recalls conversations on social media, in particular, in which she and her friends were deemed “overdramatic,” and “a nuisance.” But they were persistent. They drew strength and support from friends, including staff members at the Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center and the Office of Minority Student Affairs. The week before the grand jury

September 12. It wasn’t immediately clear what would grow out of it. “We were all emotional,” recalls Roberts. “It really was a major moment of mourning in the black community.” But as Roberts, Baldie, Benbow, Elim, and Green facilitated the gathering, it became clear, says Roberts, that more was at stake than combatting police violence against people of color. “We were a group of a lot of young people of color, gathered in a room, who cared about the black community. And there wasn’t already a group like us.”

Rosemary Rivera, a local activist, met the five young leaders for the first time that night. “They captured the attention of many of us who have been doing this for ages, way before Mike Brown,” she says. The city’s activist community had aged. “When you’d go to rallies, you’d see the same people.” They needed new and younger energy. Rivera recalls feeling “overjoyed.”

Out of the meeting came BLACK.

The name is both a clear statement of racial pride and identity, and an acronym for Building Leadership and Community Knowledge, a phrase that sums up the aims of the group, whose members refer to it as a grassroots collective. In the 10 months since Baldie, Benbow, Elim, Green, and Roberts founded BLACK, the group has established a reading group; held film screenings; developed a program for

BLACK LIVES MATTER: “It’s important that we talk about our experiences, and why this matters,” says Green, an organizer of the November 25 march (above) who traveled to Ferguson, Missouri, last fall.

announcement, Green, Benbow, Baldie, and Alexandra Poindexter '15, a political science major from Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and then president of the Black Students' Union, held a die-in in Wilson Commons.

"It was nerve-racking," says Benbow. On a Friday afternoon, a time of heavy traffic in the student center, they put up caution tape and lay on the ground. They'd arranged for speakers, including a slam poet. Benbow recalls people gathering, on the balcony and on the stairs, watching, and listening.

The next week was a turning point. The day after the grand jury announcement, the students organized a demonstration at the entrance to the River Campus on Elmwood Avenue. Publicizing the event on campus and through BLACK, they drew students, faculty, staff, administrators, and members of the community.

It was an organizational feat, and one in which Green, Benbow, Roberts, and Elim drew heavily on their experience in Ferguson. With Baldie, Poindexter, and others, they worked in concert with the University's Department of Public Safety. They dispersed throughout the crowd to keep it focused, peaceful, and on message. They traded turns leading the group in chants. Green served as spokesperson, taking interviews with local news outlets, explaining what the demonstration was about, and what protesters meant by the deceptively simple slogan Black Lives Matter.

Through BLACK, the leaders were establishing a presence around the city. The group organized a downtown rally that attracted some 500 people. In the weeks and months ahead, students, including members of BLACK, held events on the River Campus every Friday—"Ferguson Fridays"—organized around the theme Black Lives Matter.

During all this time, BLACK continued to build itself up in the 19th Ward, and to further flesh out its programming and philosophy.

The 19th Ward, just across the Genesee River from the University's main campus, is a neighborhood in which middle class, working class, and poor residents intermingle. But many of the people who call the 19th Ward home, especially its predominantly black youth, Elim says, have absorbed negative images about black life and culture. In July, the group will launch a new initiative called "I Define Myself." Elim paraphrases a quote from Audre Lorde. "She said, 'If I do not define myself for myself, I'll be crushed into other people's fantasies of me and be eaten alive.' And that's a really important point for our youth."

Elim claims among his heroes not only Lorde, but James Baldwin and Bayard Rustin, two black activists who were also, like Lorde, gay. He does it to underscore a central tenet of Black Lives Matter. Elim stresses that *all* black lives matter.

"When we say Black Lives Matter, we mean black LGBT lives matter, the lives of black women matter. We have to come together as a community and take a look at all the nuances of what it means to be black."

BLACK, he says, is "a lifestyle. It's not a job or an extracurricular activity. We're talking about changing habits."

Since the beginning of BLACK, Elim says, he's changed a few of his own habits. He pays attention to where he spends his time and his money, supporting black artists and black businesses. The group is rooted in a long tradition of black community uplift, stretching back a century, to Marcus Garvey, and to the 1960s, with Malcolm X. The founders of BLACK have added their own twist.

On Facebook, BLACK declares itself "rooted in the minds and spirits of the U of R and the 19th Ward." BLACK is *Meliora* brought to bear on the tradition of black empowerment and community self-reliance.

"We want to build a self-sustaining structure," Elim writes in a Facebook message. "We are here for the long haul." 



FIGHTING SEXUAL ASSAULT

'It's Important That the Students and the Administration Help One Another'

Alisa Jimenez '14 and Emily Sumner '15 were both students at Rochester when they met in a therapy group for survivors of sexual assault. They came from different communities—Jimenez from Syracuse, and Sumner from the Boston suburb of Bedford—and they had different circles of friends. But when it came to sexual assault, Jimenez says, "We could understand each other in ways that I've never really been able to relate to anyone before."

The two women became friends outside of the group. In the summer of 2013, Jimenez had just returned from study abroad in Belgium when she received an email from Sumner. "She wrote, 'We have all this energy,'" Jimenez recalls. It was time to turn it into something of value.

"We're both very proactive people," says Sumner. "We wanted an



outlet where we could bring our anger” about sexual assault “into something positive. And Alisa and I didn’t really see an outlet like that on campus.”

Sexual assault, which includes any nonconsensual sexual activity, has long been a problem on college campuses. Last fall, the Justice Department confirmed what advocates for victims—many of whom prefer to call themselves survivors—have long claimed: campus sexual assaults are vastly underreported.

When Jimenez and Sumner returned to Rochester, they scheduled a meeting with Morgan Levy, the University’s Title IX coordinator. Levy met with them and put them in touch with Melissa Kelley, a health educator at University Health Service.

“We didn’t know where to start,” says Jimenez, frankly. But in conversations with Kelley and Levy, their plans started to take shape. By the end of the semester, they’d launched the Survivor Empowerment Group, or SEGway.

As their name suggests, SEGway members serve as ambassadors, reaching out to students to make them aware of sources of help, and putting students who have been sexually assaulted in touch with sources of help on campus that they might not know about, or that they might be hesitant to approach. Kelley says SEGway’s contribution to students is invaluable.

“Just because I sit in this office doesn’t mean anyone knows I’m actually here,” she says. Nor, she adds, would a student who has been assaulted “just trust any random person who says ‘I can help you.’”

WALK A MILE: Rochester students march against sexual violence in an event titled “Walk A Mile in Her Shoes.” As part of the annual spring event, carried out at colleges and other sites around the nation, men as well as women are encouraged to walk the mile-long route in high heels.

Kelley serves as an advocate for students who have been sexually assaulted. She’s “a confidential resource,” she says, stressing that she lays out the options for students and, if a student decides to make a formal report, whether on campus, to the police, or both, to offer assistance.

On her own initiative, Kelley has become the go-to resource for students who’ve been sexually assaulted. “This is not part of my job description,” says the health educator, whose primary work is to teach undergraduate courses and run workshops for students on topics such as drugs, alcohol, and sexual health. But, she says, “My personal and professional interests tend to be in sexual health and women’s health.” She began her career as a community educator at Planned Parenthood and as a volunteer rape crisis counselor. Shortly after she came to the University six years ago, she approached staff members in the Office of the Dean of Students, including Kyle Orton, director of the Center for Student Conflict Management. “We talked things over, and I said, ‘I think I can be helpful.’”

She has been, according to Orton, who works closely with both Kelley and Levy in his role as facilitator of sexual assault judicial proceedings on campus. But she’s been able to better support students since the advent of SEGway. Students started “just showing up” at her office. “I’ve had students stand in my doorway and say, ‘Hi, I heard you can help me,’” she says.

“It’s important that students and the administration help each other,” Sumner says. “A student is more likely to go to another student than to someone in administration to talk about an experience they’ve had. And they aren’t going to immediately call Public Safety. They’re going to want to go to their friend, or they’re going to want to stay in their room, and they’re going to want to hide.”

Both Jimenez and Sumner have now graduated. Jimenez, who majored in anthropology and international relations, works for a Midtown Manhattan law firm, in its office for global diversity and social responsibility. Sumner, who graduated this spring with a degree in brain and cognitive sciences, is headed to graduate school at the University of California, Irvine.

But since they founded SEGway, it has become a well-established group. Its membership of rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors has helped spread the word about the campus sexual assault policy. They’ve educated students about sexual consent through programs such as “Stop, Ask, Clarify,” which Kelley was preparing when she first met Jimenez and Sumner. In the next year, they plan to have the policy translated into multiple languages for the increasingly global student population. And they’ve held discussions on social and cultural factors that perpetuate sexual violence.

Orton calls SEGway’s form of collaborative activism “groundbreaking.” He works closely with male students, who are coming to realize that men have a key role to play in preventing sexual assault.

In the spring of 2014, Orton and professional colleagues in Residential Life, the University Counseling Center, Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, and the Department of Athletics and Recreation, held an open conversation for men about sexual assault. Years ago, a group of male students had formed an organization called Men Against Sexual Assault, or MASA. But as the members graduated, the group fizzled out.

Orton thought it was time for male students once again to play a

greater role in prevention. After that conversation, Jacob Gusman '16, David Markakis '15, '16 (T5), and Michael Silverstein '15 approached Orton. Gusman and Silverstein are fraternity brothers in Sigma Phi Epsilon. "Jake and I talked about it a lot," Silverstein says about sexism and sexual assault. "It frustrated us, because we were cognizant of it, and we saw plenty examples of it not being recognized." Markakis, a mutual friend, was a leader in College Feminists. They told Orton they were ready to step forward to revive a role for male students.

Over the summer, the four men began to meet over Skype and FaceTime. In the fall, Gusman, Markakis, and Silverstein founded Men Opposing Violence Everywhere, or MOVE.

The group offers a space for men to discuss topics related to sexual assault and masculinity openly. They reach out to fraternities and sports teams, and sometimes, the groups come to them.

MOVE is a small group, with only five or six active members. It asks a lot of its members, who write discussion programs themselves. Gusman, a biomedical engineering major from Newton, Massachusetts, says the group addresses both sexual assault and the broader issue of cultural constructions of masculinity. Last spring, for example, MOVE held a panel discussion called "Man Up: What Does It Mean to Be a Man?" "It's something people don't talk about that much," Gusman says regarding notions of manhood, adding that men lack a "healthy guide" on what it means to be a man.

Silverstein, who graduated in the spring with a degree in biomedical engineering, emphasizes that MOVE's approach is not to preach, but to initiate dialogue.

"You can't go into a situation being accusatory, like, 'You guys are idiots. How are you not thinking of these things?' It's important to ask questions, like, 'What makes you feel that way?'"

The atmosphere on campus is broadly supportive of SEGway and MOVE. The College Feminists have partnered with SEGway and MOVE on multiple initiatives. When the Students' Association announced its participation in the national, White House-initiated "It's On Us" campaign against campus sexual assault, President Antoinette Esce '15 and Vice President David Stark '16 said, "We are proud of the work our student organizations do to spread awareness and understanding about the issue of sexual assault."

Orton says reports of sexual assault at Rochester have risen recently, following national trends. In 2011, there were two reported incidents of forcible sex offenses on all undergraduate campuses, including the Eastman School, according to statistics collected in accordance with the federal mandate known as the Clery Act. In 2012, that number rose to five, and in 2013, it was 10.

But he believes it's not because the numbers of incidents themselves are rising. "It reflects people feeling more comfortable reporting and feeling confident that the University will look for the truth and support what the truth is," he says.

Adjudicating sexual assaults on campus is not easy. Several prominent universities have stumbled, and in May, the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights informed the University that it is investigating a student's complaint about the handling of her sexual assault case. The office has opened investigations at more than 100 colleges and universities around the country.

Orton and Levy will be spending much time assisting the Office of Civil Rights in gathering information. In the meantime, Orton says, students have been critical in the fight against sexual assault, and have made progress that has benefitted the entire campus.

"We wouldn't be as safe a campus as we are now without SEGway and MOVE." **R**

For complete information on the University's sexual misconduct policy and resources, see the website at Rochester.edu/sexualmisconduct.



FIGHT FOR \$15

'Slowly but Surely, the Attitude Has Been Shifting'

Miles Meth '16 is amazed at the progress made by the Fight for \$15 movement since its inception in the fall of 2012.

"Two or three years ago, a \$15 minimum wage was like a bad joke in a board room," says the anthropology major from Newton, Massachusetts. "But now, it's a legitimate demand." He cites a May 6 op-ed in the *New York Times* by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, "Fast-Food Workers Deserve a Raise," in which the governor outlined an executive action that's expected to bring the state's minimum wage close to \$15 an hour. "Two, three years ago," says Meth, "he just wouldn't have been able to do that."



Fight for \$15 is a nationwide campaign, spearheaded by the Services Employees International Union, or SEIU, which, according to the campaign's website, demands "a \$15 an hour" wage for fast-food workers "and the right to form a union without retaliation."

The movement has been gathering steam, with cities such as Seattle, Oakland, Chicago, and Los Angeles, all adopting plans to raise the minimum wage for businesses operating in their borders to levels approaching, or at, \$15 an hour.

Meth, a member of Students for a Democratic Society, or SDS, began working on the Fight for \$15 campaign locally last fall, as an intern with the activist group Metro Justice. Working with the group's organizing director, Colin O'Malley, Meth helped instruct fast-food workers in their legal rights and in political organization, and educate the broader public on the campaign within the context of the American labor movement.

Meth's work with Metro Justice convinced him that Fight for \$15 belonged at the top of SDS's agenda. Accordingly, he adopted the role as official liaison between Metro Justice and Rochester's SDS.

SDS, which is a national organization, has become one of the

LABOR-INTENSIVE: "I'm interested in labor in general. Labor really gets at the root of a lot of problems in the country," says Meth, a member of Students for a Democratic Society, on his involvement in the Fight for \$15 movement. "Just having people earning a living wage—that's the base to start from."

member, Jordan Polcyn-Evans '17, as liaison.

"This is an issue that very much affects the city," says Polcyn-Evans, who grew up in Rochester.

And, he emphasizes, it affects the University's own neighborhood. Fast-food establishments line Mt. Hope Avenue, including in College Town.

"We are so close to this issue. Literally, physically, so close," he says.

On a second nationwide strike day, held on April 15, Polcyn-Evans addressed a rally of students, workers, and community supporters on the Eastman Quadrangle. In the days and weeks before, he and other members of SDS had secured the support of mul-

multiple campus organizations, including College Feminists, the Black Students' Union, the Douglass Leadership House, and the Pride Network, and helped rally off-campus religious and community groups as well. The Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* estimated the crowd in the "hundreds."

To be sure, not everyone on campus agrees with the movement's goal. "I certainly butt heads with some students," Meth says. "But overall, I'd say slowly but surely, the attitude has been shifting." **R**

best-known student activist groups since its founding by University of Michigan students in the early 1960s. But the organization fizzled out in the late 1960s, and was revived as a chapter-based organization only in 2006.

At Rochester, SDS has been focused mostly on campus service workers. Over the past year, the group has supported an effort to include the ideas surrounding the Fight for \$15 campaign in talks between some employees and the University's administration.

Natajah Roberts '14, who was a member of SDS as a student at Rochester, went on to become an organizer for SEIU after graduation.

Through the fall, she played a major role in the Fight for \$15 campaign locally, as well as in the founding of BLACK, or Building Leadership and Community Knowledge (see article, p. 44). Roberts, now a community organizer for Citizen Action of New York, says her work for economic justice is inseparable from her work for racial justice, and vice versa.

"Racial injustice is tied to economic inequality, and more devastating even than income inequality for black people is wealth inequality," she says.

Wealth refers to long-term investments such as homes, or funds to pay for college. Low-wage employment fuels both income and wealth inequality, but, Roberts notes, wealth inequality affects future generations, placing blacks ever further behind white counterparts.

In the days leading up to the Fight for \$15's nationwide strike day last December, SDS and Metro Justice worked together to expand the local base of support. In the spring, Metro Justice added another SDS



Saxophone Heaven

Eastman's saxophonists are earning exceptional accolades under the guidance of Chien-Kwan Lin '07E (DMA).

By Kathleen McGarvey



LEADING LIGHT: Chien-Kwan Lin, associate professor of saxophone, is taking Eastman's classical saxophone program to international prominence.

When members of the saxophone quartet Finja learned they had won first place nationally for wind chamber music performance in the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) competition in 2014, the musicians had already decamped Chicago for the University of Illinois. There, they were performing with the Eastman Saxophone Project at the North American Saxophone Alliance conference. Informed of their MTNA victory, the quartet members—Ainsley Kilgo '15E, Dan Stenziano '15E, Tyler Wiessner '15E, and Jiaqi (Kevin) Zhao '15E—piled into a car and drove 150 miles north to Chicago to perform in the association's Winners Concert.

As they drove, Kilgo remembers, they practiced their music yet again, singing their respective parts of Thierry Escaich's "Tango Virtuoso" and moving their fingers over imaginary saxophone keys.

Such tireless preparation—in Finja's case that year, under the coaching of doctoral student Phil Pierick—is the hallmark of the Eastman School of Music's Saxophone Studio, led by Chien-Kwan

Lin '07E (DMA), associate professor of saxophone. In the last 10 MTNA chamber music national competitions for winds—which include musicians on any wind instrument, not only saxophone—Lin's students have won the title five times. No other studio is represented twice in that list. Under Lin's leadership, Eastman has rapidly become one of the premier schools at which to study the classical saxophone.

"Chien-Kwan has built one of the most high-octane saxophone studios in the country," says Doug O'Connor '08E (MM), '12E (DMA), now a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Band at Annapolis and an adjunct faculty member at Towson University.

The studio's standing is borne out—and fed—by the recognition Lin's students earn in national and international competitions. Since 2006, performing as soloists and in quartets, they have won more competitions than members of any other studio in the country. Those results are "proof of the training [students] are receiving here," says Marie Rolf '77E (PhD), senior associate dean of graduate studies at Eastman and a professor of music theory.

"They're thoroughly committed to technical perfection," says



PLAYING BY HEART:
Lin works with his students at a rehearsal of the Eastman Saxophone Project in Kilbourn Hall.

Griffin Campbell, who holds the title of Distinguished Professor of Saxophone at Louisiana State University and who has judged some of Lin's students in competition. "They have a drive for that and the ability to achieve it. That's really necessary to advance in competitive circles. You have to have the technique. But they also have a level of artistry, and that combination of artistry and technical skill, that's what they have that sends them to the top of the heap."

Rolf sums it up succinctly: "Eastman is known as saxophone heaven, and that's all due to Chien-Kwan."

In the world of instruments, the saxophone is a relative youth, the only widely played, nonelectric instrument invented in more than a century and a half. Developed in Paris in the 1840s by instrument maker Adolphe Sax, the saxophone "has a woodwind sound, but the power of a brass instrument," says Lin.

Strongly associated with jazz in the United States, the saxophone was first taken up by French military bands. By the beginning of the 20th century, composers were beginning to write for the instrument, and since the 1960s, "classical" saxophone—a term Lin eschews,

preferring simply "saxophone"—has taken hold in this country.

An important part of what sets Lin's studio apart, Rolf says—and it's an observation widely made by his colleagues and students—is Lin's training as a violinist. Born in 1972, in Singapore, he began playing at the age of four. He has never truly left the instrument behind, winning top prizes for violin four consecutive times in Singapore's National Music Competition, playing second violin with the Singapore Symphony, appearing as an orchestral violinist, and working for a time as a jazz violinist.

In high school, he joined the school concert band, playing the flute. When the saxophonists graduated, he volunteered to take up the instrument at age 16. "This sounds superficial, but I was drawn to the instrument because it looks beautiful. It really is a gorgeous-looking instrument, and I liked the sound of it. That's all."

His offhand comment belies his stature. "He is one of the leading saxophonists in the world today," says Jamal Rossi '87E (DMA), the Joan and Martin Messinger Dean of the Eastman School of Music.

Lin's teaching and performance bring the worlds of saxophone





and violin together. When Rossi—himself a graduate of Eastman’s saxophone program—first met him, Lin was performing his recitals from memory. “Violinists, pianists, and vocalists have been performing from memory for centuries, but it’s not the standard for wind instruments,” says Rossi. “He was performing Rachmaninoff cello sonatas and Bach chaconnes, and he performed in such a way that you never felt this was somehow compromising the music and the instrument for which it was written.”

Wind instruments don’t have the same tradition of virtuosity that string instruments and the piano do, says Lin—they’re less agile in producing notes. But he has worked to bring a version of that virtuosity to the saxophone, perhaps nowhere more notably than in the Eastman Saxophone Project (ESP), a group he established in 2010, as a “chamber music-like ensemble.” The group performed in April at the Kennedy Center.

When members of ESP take the stage—filing out, one after another after another—the ensemble is alone with the audience. No conductor is positioned before them. No music stands are, either; Lin calls the stands “just small pieces of furniture, but a barrier” that would separate the musicians from each other and their listeners. Project members—all the students in Lin’s studio, from freshmen to doctoral candidates—play their music entirely from memory. A 20-member ensemble is large, and to coordinate so many musicians without a conductor is no easy undertaking—nor is their commitment of music to memory. “The Eastman Saxophone Project memorizes tremendously complicated music—and a lot of it,” Rossi says. “That’s an amazing feat, and they’re doing it without a conductor, so it’s up to them to communicate with each other. The result is beyond impressive.”

He compares Lin and his students to Olympic athletes. “Their Olympic sport isn’t necessarily new, but every once in a while someone will come along—like sprinter Usain Bolt—and keep setting new records and doing it better. They’re inspiring the entire school. They

SHOW AND GUIDE: Students praise Lin’s teaching style, which is heavily influenced by his violin training and emphasizes development of their own musical voices.

perform two concerts a year [at Eastman], and if you don’t show up 45 minutes early, you won’t get a seat.”

The ensemble’s performances are posted on YouTube, and that exposure, combined with Lin’s recruitment efforts as he performs nationally and internationally, draws saxophonists to Eastman. “It’s extremely competitive. He’s got a wait list that other people would die for, and what that means is we can bring to Eastman the very best of the best,” Rolf says.

Many people “resisted and argued about the practicalities” when Lin introduced the idea of memorization, says O’Connor, a founding member of ESP. “But the truth is you just live and breathe and own the music better when you memorize it. And now it’s just part of the culture,” he says.

While memorization for saxophone is less unusual than it used to be, “it’s still pretty unusual,” says Campbell. “The level that goes on in that studio is extraordinary.” And, he adds, the students aren’t just memorizing the notes. “They’re memorizing the structure, the flow of the piece. There’s a lot more going on than knowing the notes.”

“Playing in the Eastman Saxophone Project was probably the most intimidating part of my freshman year—coming in and hearing 19 other saxophone players, most of whom are older and better than you,” says Kilgo, who graduated in May with a double major in saxophone performance and music education and is staying on for a semester of student teaching. “It’s very much built around the entire studio pushing each other to be better and play with more finesse, especially at the beginning.”

The project’s repertoire “is unique to them because those arrangements are done in-house,” says Campbell. “There isn’t a repertoire for a saxophone group that large.”

As a result, the ensemble in large part plays music originally written for orchestra or string ensemble but transcribed for saxophone by Lin’s students. When Kilgo would receive a transcription, she would annotate it to show which instrument’s part she was playing on her

The Family Sax

The only widely played, nonelectric instrument invented in more than a century and a half, the saxophone was developed in Paris in the 1840s by instrument maker Adolphe Sax. Today, the saxophone family includes a broad spectrum of sounds and sizes.

Soprillo

About 13 inches tall, the smallest member of the family is rare and difficult to play.



Sopranino

Available in curved and straight versions, the sopranino was notably used by Maurice Ravel in *Boléro*. The Band's Garth Hudson can be seen playing one in the film *The Last Waltz*.



Soprano

Used as a solo and chamber instrument in classical music, the soprano saxophone has also played a role in the evolution of jazz. Virtuosos include John Coltrane, beginning with his landmark 1960 album *My Favorite Things*.



Alto

The alto (along with the tenor) is one of the most popular types of saxophones, and is commonly used in classical music, marching bands, and jazz.



Tenor

The instrument most people think of when they hear the word "saxophone," the tenor sports a distinctive curved neck and is found in orchestras and marching bands. But it owes much of its popularity to jazz music and performers such as Stan Getz, John Coltrane, Dexter Gordon, and Sonny Rollins.

Baritone

Along with its smaller siblings, the baritone is a standard member of concert bands and saxophone quartets. Its limited solo repertoire includes a featured role in Philip Glass's *Concerto for Saxophone Quartet and Orchestra*.



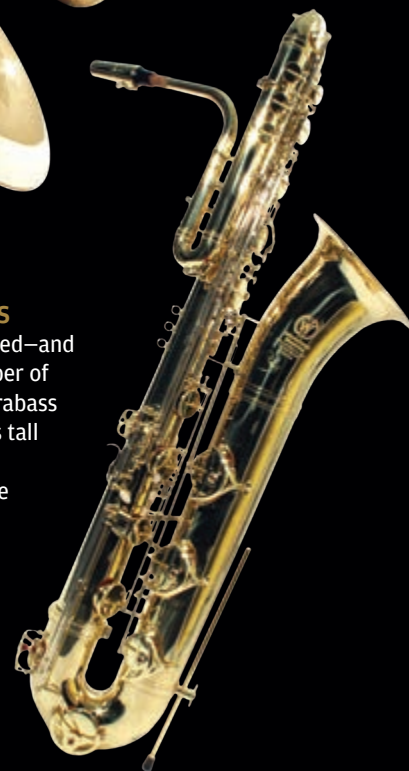
Contrabass

The lowest-pitched—and the largest—member of the family, the contrabass stands 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighs about 45 pounds. Its tubing is twice as long as the baritone's, and it is pitched one full octave lower.



Bass

Has experienced several peaks of popularity since it was introduced in 1841, including in dance bands, on Broadway in Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*, and in rock bands from Frank Zappa to the Violent Femmes.



At the Top

The reputation of Lin's saxophone studio is driven in part by the honors and awards his students earn in competition.

Astral Artists National Auditions

Project Fusion Saxophone Quartet

Winners, 2015

Dannel Espinoza, Matthew Amedio,
Michael Sawzin, Matthew Evans

Jonathan Wintringham

Winner, 2013

Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition

East End Saxophone Quartet

1st Prize, 2015

Jonathan Wintringham, Myles Boothroyd,
Matthew Amedio, Timothy Harris

Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition

Red Line Saxophone Quartet

First Prize and Gold Medal, 2010

Doug O'Connor, Brandon Kies,
Gai Qun, Quinn Lewis

Coleman Chamber Music Competition

Project Fusion Saxophone Quartet

Coleman-Saunders Prize

(First Prize for Woodwinds and Brass), 2012

Dannel Espinoza, Matthew Amedio,
Michael Sawzin, Matthew Evans

Red Line Saxophone Quartet

Alice Coleman Prize (Grand Prize), 2010

Doug O'Connor, Brandon Kies,
Gai Qun, Quinn Lewis

Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition

Project Fusion Saxophone Quartet

Gold Medal (Senior Wind Division), 2013

Dannel Espinoza, Matthew Amedio,
Michael Sawzin, Matthew Evans

Red Line Saxophone Quartet

Gold Medal (Senior Wind Division), 2009

Doug O'Connor, Brandon Kies,
Gai Qun, Quinn Lewis

VIM Saxophone Quartet

Gold Medal (Senior Wind Division), 2006

Kristin Rarick, Michael Matlock,
Dimitrios Kostaras, Rich Miserendino



RED LINE SAXOPHONE QUARTET: Qun Gai '10E, Doug O'Connor '12E (DMA), Brandon Kies '10E, and Quinn Lewis '10E

International Saxophone Symposium and Competition

Katherine Weintraub

First Prize, 2014

Phil Pierick

Third Prize, 2012

J. C. Arriaga Chamber Music Competition

Project Fusion Saxophone Quartet

Second Prize, 2012

Dannel Espinoza, Matthew Amedio,
Michael Sawzin, Matthew Evans

Jean-Marie Londeix International Saxophone Competition

Phil Pierick

Third Prize, 2014

Doug O'Connor

Second Prize, 2008

Music Teachers National Association (Chamber Music Competition)

East End Saxophone Quartet

National First Prize, 2015

Jonathan Wintringham, Myles Boothroyd,
Matthew Amedio, Timothy Harris

Finja Saxophone Quartet

National First Prize, 2014

Jiaqi (Kevin) Zhao, Ainsley Kilgo,
Tyler Wiessner, Dan Stenziano

Project Fusion Saxophone Quartet

National First Prize, 2013

Dannel Espinoza, Matthew Amedio,
Michael Sawzin, Matthew Evans

Red Line Saxophone Quartet

National First Prize, 2009

Doug O'Connor, Brandon Kies,
Gai Qun, Quinn Lewis

VIM Saxophone Quartet

National First Prize, 2006

Kristin Rarick, Michael Matlock,
Dimitrios Kostaras, Rich Miserendino

Music Teachers National Association (Young Artist Competition)

Myles Boothroyd

National First Prize, 2015

Jonathan Wintringham

National First Prize, 2013

Matt Evans

National Second Prize, 2012

Quinn Lewis

National Third Prize, 2009

Doug O'Connor

National First Prize, 2007

North American Saxophone Alliance (Collegiate Solo Competition)

Myles Boothroyd

First Prize, 2014

Jonathan Wintringham

Third Prize, 2014

Doug O'Connor

Second Prize, 2008

North American Saxophone Alliance (Quartet Competition)

Project Fusion Saxophone Quartet

Second Prize, 2012

Dannel Espinoza, Matthew Amedio,
Michael Sawzin, Matthew Evans

Red Line Saxophone Quartet

First Prize, 2010

Doug O'Connor, Brandon Kies,
Gai Qun, Quinn Lewis

Plowman Chamber Music Competition

Project Fusion Saxophone Quartet

Grand Prize and Audience Award, 2013

Dannel Espinoza, Matthew Amedio,
Michael Sawzin, Matthew Evans

Red Line Saxophone Quartet

First Prize (Winds Division), 2010

Doug O'Connor, Brandon Kies,
Gai Qun, Quinn Lewis

Vandoren Emerging Artist Competition

Tyler Wiessner

First Prize, 2015

Myles Boothroyd

Second Prize, 2014

Matthew Amedio

First Prize, 2012

Rachel Perry

Third Prize, 2012

William C. Byrd International Young Artist Competition

Katherine Weintraub

First Prize, 2013

saxophone in any given passage: "I might play flute for a few bars, trumpet for a few bars, then violin." Playing music originally written for other instruments can be challenging. "String players have a very easy time articulating lots of notes because it's a movement of the bow, but for the saxophone, it's the movement of the tongue," she says. "You do something called 'double tongue' to imitate the strings. It uses the tongue muscle and the muscles of the throat, and there's only so much you can do."

"There are very few places in the country—if any—that are doing things at the level that the Eastman Saxophone Project is doing them," says Campbell.

Lin, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music at the New England Conservatory, studied under Ramon Ricker '73E (DMA) at Eastman for his doctor of musical arts degree. Initially hired part-time to teach clarinet, Ricker became the school's first full-time saxophone teacher, building a studio for students interested in all saxophone music, jazz and classical.

"Ray is one of the few saxophonists in the world who can bridge classical and jazz saxophone and do both exceptionally well," says Rossi. But in 2002, Ricker, now professor emeritus, cut back on his teaching as he moved full time into the position of director of Eastman's Institute for Music Leadership. It took two people to fill the position he had held: Ricker was the "trunk of the tree" that then split into two limbs, jazz and "non-jazz" studios, says Lin.

Charles Pillow '84E (MM), a jazz saxophonist in New York City, was hired part time to teach the jazz part of the program. He's now an assistant professor of jazz saxophone. Lin was hired while still a graduate student to lead the classical branch. "Chien-Kwan was proving immediately that his was a very special talent, and he was ultimately hired into a tenure-track position," says Rossi.

When Lin first began teaching at Eastman, students who didn't want to play jazz music didn't tend to think of the school as the place for them to study saxophone. "So my first task was to establish ourselves as one of the viable names. And there's no quicker way to



establish a reputation than to have students stand on the stage and say, 'I've just won first prize. We're really good. Look at us.' So that's the approach I've taken to building the reputation of the studio. We have within Eastman a sort of ethic that we've taken upon ourselves that we need to be at the very top of our field, whatever you play here. We didn't separate ourselves from that culture."

Lin's view of competitions is deeply practical. "We think of them as a project for us to work toward, and whatever the results, we are happy because obviously the most important thing is to push ourselves to the max. I don't think there's any sort of teaching behind it that allows our students to do better. It's just hard work."

That hard work pays off. "It seems like I'm writing a congratulatory note to a saxophone player about every week," says Rolf.

LSU's Campbell lays much of the credit at Lin's door. "The Eastman School of Music has always been, since its founding, one of the great institutions of higher learning in the United States, and perhaps the world, for music. As good as Ray Ricker was and the band programs were, the classical saxophone program hadn't come to the point where the other programs were. But Chien-Kwan has, in the time he's been there, brought the program to a level where it stands at the same peak" as the very best classical saxophone programs in the country—the University of Michigan, Northwestern, Indiana University. "The competition for the very top students is very high, and Chien-Kwan is able to attract those students to Eastman," says Campbell. "And it's Eastman, so that makes it doubly fantastic [for the students]. It's a little difficult to be in competition with him, I have to say."

Students praise Lin's supportiveness as much as his drive. "I always felt he'd work his tail off to help me do what I needed to do," says O'Connor, who trained with Ricker and Lin and who has won top prizes in many solo competitions. "He challenged me. He also helped me with the emotional rigors of going after a musical career, which is brutally competitive sometimes."

ALONE TOGETHER: "There are very few places in the country—if any—doing things at the level that the Eastman Saxophone Project is doing them," says LSU's Griffin Campbell.

In contrast, students call the atmosphere of Lin's studio familial. In many studios, the only time students see other studio members is in a weekly class, but the Eastman Saxophone Project means Lin's students are constantly working together, says Myles Boothroyd '15E (MM), who has been a member of the studio for the last two years and will begin doctoral study with Lin in the fall. He won national first prize this year in the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Competition, as did O'Connor in 2007. Boothroyd also took first prize last year in the North American Saxophone Alliance Collegiate Solo Competition.

"Trying to become a great musician is all about control," says O'Connor, who at Eastman was soprano saxophonist with the Red Line Sax Quartet, which won gold medals at the Fischhoff and Plowman chamber competitions. "You're in the practice room. You're in the competition. You're doing everything you can to control the

outcome, but that's a difficult psychological place to be because you don't really know what the judges are looking for. Chien-Kwan helped me not just to see that, but to feel it."

Ultimately, competitions are "incentive to practice hard," he says, adding that while competition can lend dimensions of sport to music making, "it's an art, and Chien-Kwan never loses sight of that."

Lin doesn't play the saxophone when he teaches, so that students will develop their own sound rather than imitate him. "His way is to show and guide, show and guide," says Kilgo. "A lot of times he's using his voice to show you phrasing and the pacing of things." Her first year of study with him was devoted to technique. "I was required to do a lot of scale patterns and études. It was a technical workout. He challenges your fingers and mind and concentration. He listens to every little bit of that; he doesn't assign a graduate student to do it."

"He clearly loves what he does, and he is visionary," says Rolf. "He's at the top of his game, and there's nothing more compelling than that if you're a young student. That's who you want to work with. That's inspirational." **R**