



## WATERLOO WELCOME

### The Many Manifestations of Monet

RARE SIGHTING: Visitors to an innovative exhibition at the Memorial Art Gallery this fall have a rare opportunity to see eight different paintings that French impressionist Claude Monet made of London's Waterloo Bridge. The exhibition, *Monet's Waterloo Bridge: Vision and Process*, includes MAG's own highly regarded version along with seven others borrowed from North American museums, including the National Gallery of Art and the Art Institute of Chicago. The exhibition also includes touchscreen interactives that allow visitors to explore the paintings through new imaging analysis performed by Buffalo State College on MAG's Waterloo Bridge, *Veiled Sun*. PHOTOGRAPH BY J. ADAM FENSTER







## CLASS ACTS

### Tops in Teaching

GOERGEN GREATNESS: “By the time my students leave my class, I hope they will take whatever they’re passionate about and use philosophy to make them better at it,” says Hayley Clatterbuck, an assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy, who was recognized this fall for her excellence as a teacher. Along with Michael Jarvis, an associate professor in the Department of History, and John Lambropoulos, chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, she received a Goergen Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, one of the top teaching honors presented by Arts, Sciences & Engineering. Nominations for the award, established in 1997 by University Trustee and Board Chair Emeritus Robert Goergen ’60 and his wife, Pamela, come from students, faculty, staff members, and administrators. The winners are chosen by Jeffrey Runner, dean of the College; Gloria Culver, dean of the School of Arts & Sciences; and Wendi Heinzelman, dean of the Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences. **PHOTOGRAPH BY J. ADAM FENSTER**













**FIELD NOTES**  
**Beetle Mania**

FULL MARKS: Gabrielle Henry '19 (left) daubs the correction fluid Wite-Out on a beetle (inset) in Mt. Hope Cemetery this fall as part of an advanced ecology and evolution laboratory course led by Robert Minckley, a senior lecturer in the Department of Biology. The class marks the beetles, a species of blister beetles, so that they can identify them in follow-up trips and monitor if the population levels change. Minckley says the beetles work well for a class project because they're abundant in the cemetery each fall and active regardless of the temperature. "They are nearly perfect as a teaching organism and are largely unstudied," says Minckley. "As far as I know, there has never been a scientific paper written on this species. So, the students are discovering something entirely new no matter what they decide to study." PHOTOGRAPH BY J. ADAM FENSTER



## A TRIBUTE

# ‘Part of Something Better’

## Remembering University leader Paul Burgett.

By Kathleen McGarvey

Paul Burgett '68E, '76E (PhD) arrived in Rochester in 1964, a first-year violinist at the Eastman School of Music. It was a “watershed moment” in his life, he told *Rochester Review* in 2015. “I couldn’t think of anything I would rather do than be in this environment.”

When Burgett died in August, after a brief illness, at age 72, his loss reverberated through the Rochester community. For more than 50 years, he dedicated himself to “this environment”—first Eastman, then the University, and always, the city that enveloped them. “No person in the worldwide University of Rochester community is more beloved than Paul Burgett,” President Richard Feldman wrote in tribute.

Whatever titles Burgett accrued—and there were many, from Eastman student body president to faculty member in the Department of Music, dean of students at Eastman, University dean of students, and vice president, general secretary, and senior advisor to the president—the roles dearest to him were musician and teacher. Known fondly to thousands of students and alumni as “Dean B,” Burgett could inspire crowds—most famously, with his “Fiery Furnace” speech to incoming students—and listen, with an almost magical attentiveness and warmth, to the students he advised and to anyone, whether colleague, alumnus, or chance acquaintance, whose path he crossed.

“He was a larger-than-life figure with a gregarious and outgoing personality who simultaneously was among the most thoughtful and sensitive individuals in any

### In Memory

The University will remember Paul Burgett '68E, '76E (PhD) at a public memorial service on November 13, at 4 p.m., in Strong Auditorium on the River Campus. The service is open to all and will also be streamed live on the University’s memorial website for Burgett: [Rochester.edu/news/remembering-paul-burgett/](http://Rochester.edu/news/remembering-paul-burgett/).

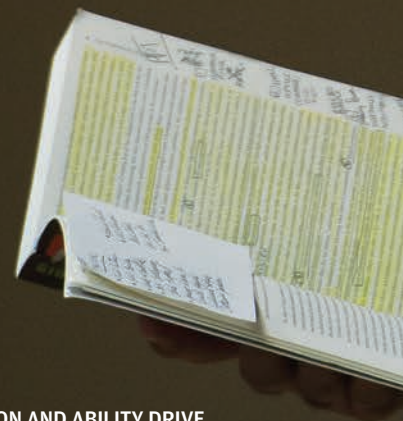
Donations in Burgett’s memory can be made to Gateways Music Festival in association with the Eastman School of Music at [Gatewaysmusicfestival.org/donate](http://Gatewaysmusicfestival.org/donate). Contact the Festival at (585) 232-6106 or via email at [info@gatewaysmusicfestival.org](mailto:info@gatewaysmusicfestival.org) for additional information.

group when thinking about the needs of others,” Jamal Rossi '87E (DMA), the Joan and Martin Messinger Dean of the Eastman School of Music, said in remembrance.

To all that he did, Burgett brought a sensibility shaped by the racism he experienced as a child in segregated St. Louis, Missouri, and by the love with which his family—his parents, his siblings, and later, his beloved life partner, Catherine Valentine, a professor emerita at Nazareth College—held him aloft. In response to his early encounters with prejudice, Burgett developed what he described as a “social and cultural fluency”—an empathetic ability to connect with other people and a keen awareness of the socially constructed boundaries that often hold people apart. He devoted his career to cultivating such fluency in others, and he brought to his work indefatigable energy and infectious delight. More privately, says Valentine, he also struggled to be hopeful in the face of the world’s capacity for injustice.

**He poured his optimism** into his work with students. “Students are my most favorite people in the world,” Burgett told *Rochester Review* in the 2015 profile. “My idea of the closest thing to great potential and to efforts at human perfection, for me that’s to be found in students.” As dean, first at Eastman and then on the River Campus, he bettered programs and facilities designed to support them—planning Eastman’s Student Living Center and improving programs at Wilson Commons, University Health Service, the University Counseling Center, Residential Life, and other areas under his guidance. All the while, he reminded those who worked with him that their most essential task was gaining admittance to the “backstage” of students’ lives, where undergraduates revealed their true anxieties, fears, and hopes.

In the “Fiery Furnace” speech that Burgett gave every year—and had been scheduled to give to the Class of 2022 this fall—he led students in a chorus: “Passion and ability drive ambition.” With those words, he urged them to find what mattered most to them and make it their life’s work. He always showed them the way. Burgett created and joyously taught two of Rochester’s most popular classes—History of Jazz and Music of Black Americans, courses he developed out of his own doctoral



**‘PASSION AND ABILITY DRIVE AMBITION’:** The late University Dean Emeritus Paul Burgett is being remembered for his dedication to Rochester’s students and his efforts to help students discover what matters most to them and make it their life’s work.




research. He threw himself into community service, working with such groups as the Urban League, the Rochester Arts and Cultural Council, and the United Way of Rochester. With Feldman, he cochaired the President's Commission on Race and Diversity in 2015, recommending ways to increase diversity among students, faculty, and staff and to create a campus community that values diversity in all its forms. And for more than 20 years, Burgett championed the Gateways Music Festival, a celebration of professional classical musicians of African descent. In 2017, he coordinated a formal partnership between the rapidly growing festival and Eastman, and at the time of his death, chaired the board of directors that he had made national in scope.

**In 2014, the University** announced that its new intercultural center would be known as the Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center, named in honor of Burgett's 50th year at the University. The center promotes cultural awareness and engagement, educates on issues of identity, culture, and diversity, and provides a place and opportunities for people to come together. At the dedication ceremony, Burgett observed, with emotion, that the center's home on the third floor of the Frederick Douglass Building is the place his sister, physician Lettie Burgett '71, once occupied as a member of the Black Students Union, when in 1969 students staged a protest for improved opportunities for black students, staff, and community members. "The creation of the University of Rochester's intercultural center is a dream of my heart's desire," Burgett told those assembled.

"His warmth, his light, and his laughter made all who were graced with his presence feel like they were part of something better," center director Jessica Guzmán-Rea wrote at the time of his death.

During Meliora Weekend, when Burgett would have marked his 50th reunion, the University posthumously awarded him the Frederick Douglass Medal, a recognition of scholarship and public engagement that honors Douglass's legacy.

"Where some lectured to crowds, he spoke to individuals; where some saw disagreement, he looked for common ground; and where many heard cacophony, he listened for music and harmony," Feldman said in presenting the award.

"Taking his place in the tradition of pioneering leaders Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, he challenged us to hold ourselves to a standard that will make Rochester a better place and each of us a better person." 



## UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

# Richard Handler '83 Elected Chair of the Board of Trustees

Veteran trustee succeeds outgoing chair Danny Wegman.

By Sara Miller

The University's Board of Trustees elected Richard Handler '83, CEO and director of the Jefferies Financial Group, as chair at its October meeting.

Handler began his term as chair immediately and succeeded Danny Wegman, who in July informed the board of his intention to step down as leader.

Wegman has served as a University trustee for nearly 20 years and chair since 2016.

Wegman, chairman of Wegmans Food Markets, becomes chair emeritus, but will remain an active member of the board. He has been a long-time supporter of the University, and led the board through this year's presidential transition.

He has worked closely with President Richard Feldman in strengthening the Uni-

being 'ever better' doesn't happen without talented and committed people coming together to do hard work. I am looking forward to working closely with my fellow trustees, Rich Feldman and his senior leadership team, and the new president whom we hope to identify and have in place by July 1, as well as our esteemed faculty, hardworking staff, proud alumni, the citizens of Rochester, and, of course, the stewards of our future—our students. I am excited about our future together, and I look forward to meeting and working with many of you in the years to come. I am 'all-in' and truly excited about our future together."

Handler earned his bachelor's degree in economics magna cum laude with high distinction from the University in 1983, and his MBA from Stanford University in 1987. He began his career as a bond trader and in

Handler Scholars program, a scholarship he designed at the University for undergraduates of diverse backgrounds, exceptional academic and leadership potential, and high financial need. Handler and his wife, Martha, established the program in 2007 with an ultimate commitment of \$25 million, and named the scholarship in honor of Rich's parents.

The scholarships provide an all-expenses-paid education for these exceptional students. To date, 76 Handler Scholars have either enrolled or graduated from the University. Each year going forward in perpetuity, 1 percent (currently 14) of the entering first-year class will be awarded this prestigious scholarship once admitted to the University.

The Handlers have four children: Max, Shane, Hunter, and Skylar. The entire Handler family has been actively and per-

**“I’m a proud University of Rochester alum, and ... [t]hose who know me know that some of my most important priorities in life are equality, empowerment, diversity, and fairness, qualities that the board and members of the University community also embrace.”—Richard Handler '83**

versity's Culture of Respect. Among other activities, he will continue to cochair the Trustees' Presidential Search Committee, and will serve as a member of the White Report Oversight Committee, which provides guidance to the University's administration on recommendations and connected structural and cultural transformation initiatives.

“I'm humbled by the honor my fellow trustees have bestowed on me,” Handler said. “I'm a proud University of Rochester alum, and I credit the University with providing me the foundation, perspective, education, and skills that have served me well throughout my life and career. Those who know me know that some of my most important priorities in life are equality, empowerment, diversity, and fairness, qualities that the board and members of the University community also embrace.

“Meliora is our motto, and I know that

1990 joined Jefferies, where he still works. Handler is the longest serving CEO on Wall Street and has worked with his many partners during the past three decades to transform Jefferies from a small equity trading boutique into the largest, independent, full service, global investment and merchant bank.

Handler was first elected to the board in 2005. He serves on the Executive and Advancement Committees and has been chair of the Investment Committee since 2007. Handler was a cochair of *The Meliora Challenge*, the University's historic \$1.37 billion capital campaign, which successfully concluded in 2016. Most recently, he chaired the board's Special Committee, which oversaw the independent investigation by Debevoise & Plimpton led by Mary Jo White.

For more than a decade, Handler has been committed to the Alan and Jane

sonally involved with the Handler Scholars.

“Rich has demonstrated his commitment to the University and the board in very meaningful ways since first being elected in 2005,” said Feldman. “He is both a key advisor to the University and a dedicated alumnus who helped *The Meliora Challenge* surpass its ambitious fundraising goal.

“He freely gives of his time to speak with students while on campus, and he's committed to seeing that talented students of limited financial means can attend and graduate from the University. I very much look forward to continuing to work with Rich on advancing key strategic initiatives in anticipation of a new University president next summer.

“I'm also extremely thankful for everything Danny has done and will continue to do for the University,” said Feldman, “and I look forward to continuing to work with Danny as a board member.”



## BUSINESS BRIEFING

# Competitive Advantage

The Simon Business School becomes the first program in the country to offer a STEM-designated MBA, regardless of specialization.

Interview by Peter Iglinski '17 (MA)

The Simon Business School can claim a unique selling proposition. This summer, the graduate school became the first in the country to offer students a STEM-designated MBA degree, no matter which area students choose to specialize in.

To earn the designation, Simon had to demonstrate that its curriculum met stringent guidelines set by the New York State Education Department. Those include a requirement that 50 percent of a program's credit hours be in courses grounded in applications using science, technology, engineering, and math. For a course to be STEM designated, at least 50 percent of its content and pedagogy has to have a STEM focus, according to guidelines set by the Office of the Provost.

Given that Simon has long used an analytical lens to research and teach finance, accounting, operations, marketing, and other facets of business education, the designation seemed a perfect fit, say the school's leaders. As Gregory Bauer, dean of full-time programs at Simon and the Rajesh Wadhawan Professor, puts it: "We were analytical before analytical was cool."

An immediate outcome of the designation is that a STEM degree makes international students eligible to stay in the United States for three years of work experience, instead of the standard one year. Those guidelines are set by the federal Optional Practical Training (OPT) program.

Simon Dean Andrew Ainslie says plans are also under way to gain STEM designation for the school's undergraduate and part-time MBA programs.

"Along with benefiting our students, these moves will give Simon a real competitive advantage, because we are the only true STEM business school," he says.

## What does the designation mean for the University?

**Bauer:** At a recent conference, much of the talk had to do with how technology is driving the growth in management education. Businesses need people who do technology, and they need people who can manage people who do technology. And that's what our MBA is offering. It really is the future of education, and Simon is leading it.

**Ainslie:** It's a component of the virtuous cycle of education. How do you improve as a university? You do that by attracting better students, attracting better faculty, and attracting better recruiters who will employ your students.

The STEM designation provides students with something attractive. We are certain our number of applicants will increase next year. If we do get more applicants, we can be more selective, which means we'll put better people on the market. If we put better people on the market, then companies become much more



**WHY STEM?** Simon Business School deans Ainslie (left) and Bauer (right) say that classifying the school's MBA as a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) degree is not only consistent with Simon's long-standing analytical approach to business, but will also be a significant draw to top international students.

interested. Ultimately, our ranking moves up, which helps us attract better students. And the cycle continues. So this isn't going to have a one-year or two-year impact on us. This will have a permanent structural impact on who we are as a business school.

## Why did Simon want to have the designation?

**Bauer:** STEM reinforces the fact that we provide our students with an analytical degree that they can use to help manage people. The hallmark of the Simon MBA is that students get both an understanding of the analytic tools they need, as well as the ability to lead globally diverse and inclusive teams. It gives them a huge competitive

advantage in the job market. All of our students—domestic and foreign—will be able to tell employers, "I have a STEM degree, and therefore I have an understanding of the tools, applications, and techniques that you want your employees to have."


## How do the additional two years under OPT help international students?

**Ainslie:** Let's think about where these STEM jobs are. They're in the exact fields that the United States leads the world. The STEM jobs are at Amazon, they're in Google. They're in companies like Hertz, where



they're thinking of how to get the right car to the right place for the right customer at the right price. And they're going to be spending time at the best companies in the world, and then they're going to be taking those skills back to their own countries.

If there's one thing we've learned about a global economy, it's that every time any country produces better products and better services, it raises the quality of every person's life. So we're not only providing great training for our students, we're using that to grow the world's economy.

**Bauer:** At the same time, if students are using the STEM designation to stay in the US longer, they'll be applying the tools we give them to help American employers. 





**NET BENEFIT:** A new solar energy system is expected nearly to offset the power needs of a new addition to Hutchison Hall.

## SPACES & PLACES

# Project Aims for First Near ‘Net-Zero’ Building

An addition to Hutchison Hall will be part of an innovative energy initiative.

A project to install a state-of-the-art solar and energy storage system on the River Campus is expected to result in the first near “net-zero” building at the University, meaning that the system will return as much energy to the grid as the new building requires for its power.

The project, supported with a \$1 million award from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), features the installation of a 335-kilowatt solar system on the roof of the Goergen Athletic Center. That system will supply the University’s electrical grid with the power equivalent to that needed for a new addition to the south side of Hutchison Hall.

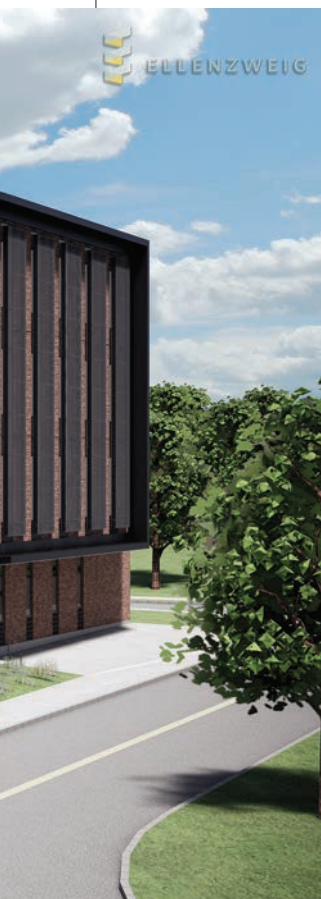
Work on the building, designed to be high efficiency and to use technologies that reduce its energy use, is expected to begin in 2019, with work on the energy system, the first of its kind in the Northeast, to begin later that year.

Carmala Garziona, a professor of earth and environmental sciences at Rochester and the director of the University’s Center for Energy and the Environment, is spearheading the initiative, which will bring together Rochester researchers, students, and local community members to learn more about solar energy that is integrated with energy storage.

The project is part of a NYSERDA–led initiative to supply 50 percent of the state’s electricity from renewable sources by 2030. The program’s ultimate goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. [R](#)







SCENE SETTING: Located next to Todd Union, the new Sloan Performing Arts Center is scheduled to open in 2020.

## THEATER, DANCE & MUSIC

# New Sloan Performing Arts Center Set for River Campus

Plans include a new theater and other facilities for student programs.

By Jim Mandelaro

Plans are under way for a performing arts center on the River Campus to provide new space for theatrical performances, dance programs, concerts, lectures, and other activities.

Scheduled to open in fall 2020, the Sloan Performing Arts Center is a 25,000-square-foot facility that will be built next to Todd Union, the current home of Todd Theater, the International Theatre Program, and the Program of Movement and Dance.

In addition to a studio theater, the Sloan Center will house a café, scene shop, dressing rooms, costume shop, and green room.

University Trustee Thomas Sloan '65, '67 (MS) and his wife, Linda Sloan '67, have made a commitment to initiate the project.

The theater will be named in recognition of leadership supporters Edgar Smith '72 and Lusette (Andy) Smith '72; the lobby, in recognition of the support of University Trustee Brian Prince '86, '89S (MBA); the box office and production office, in recognition of Richard Leibner '59 and Carole Cooper Leibner; and the café, in recognition of the family of Drew Mittelman '68 and Maureen Adduci, the parents of a 2005 Rochester graduate.

The architectural firm SLAM Collaborative has been hired for the project. Site planning has begun, and a dedication ceremony is slated for Meliora Weekend 2020.

In the College, hundreds of students regularly participate in performing arts programs and activities as actors, musicians, dancers, members of production teams, and audience members. **R**

## CAMPUS LIFE

# Project for New Center for Jewish Life Gets Under Way

A \$2.5 million pledge from David Greenbaum '73 and his wife, Laureine, has kicked off an initiative to construct a new facility for Hillel and for other activities related to Jewish life on the River Campus. The 6,500-square-foot building, planned for a site on Wilson Boulevard near the corner of Fraternity Road, will be named the Greenbaum Center for Jewish Life, in recognition of the leadership support of the New York City couple.

An additional \$3.5 million will be sought from other donors for the project. President Richard Feldman says the initiative is part of the University's efforts to make sure that students have excellent resources, facilities, and programs that support their religious, cultural, and social interests. A similar building for the Catholic Newman Community is in the early planning stages and would be located nearby. **R**



## COLLEGE CLASS OF 2022

## ‘Full Circle’

Nearly 19 years later, triplets born prematurely at Strong Memorial Hospital join the Class of 2022.

By Jim Mandelaro

Jay and Sandra Gelb '89 became parents the morning of November 12, 1999.

And again, four hours later.

And again, five minutes after that.

The triplets were born at 29 weeks gestation—11 weeks premature—and weighed a combined 6.3 pounds.

“They were so small you could hold one in your hand,” Jay says.

Doctors at Strong Memorial Hospital cautioned the parents not to name the babies, who were given less than a 50 percent chance of survival. The bereavement for “named” infants would be longer and more painful, so they were called Baby A, Baby B, and Baby C.

“It was a very scary time,” Sandra says.

The triplets spent three months at Strong’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Sandra took the day shift, and Jay stayed nights. “Finally,” Jay says, “we got to take our babies home.”

This past August, nearly 19 years later, Matthew, Nicole, and Robert enrolled at Rochester as members of the Class of 2022—just across the street from where they were born.

“It feels like we’ve come full circle,” Nicole says. “We’re NICU graduates.”

The Gelbs joined about 1,400 of their fellow members of the College Class of 2022 this fall, a group that represents one of the most selectively drawn cohorts in Rochester’s history. Out of a record 20,243 applications, only 29.6 percent were admitted, also the lowest percentage ever (see page 21).

Matthew and Robert are enrolled in the Barry Florescue Undergraduate Business Program, aspiring to follow their father into the banking business. Nicole plans to become a special education teacher. All three have been avid swimmers since age five and are members of Rochester’s varsity team.

The triplets attended the Harley School, an independent, college preparatory school in Rochester, from kindergarten through senior year. They’ve been heavily involved in the community. “We enjoy giving back,” Nicole says. “We realize how fortunate we are.”

They also continue a deep family connection to the University. In addition to their mother, who earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology, their late maternal great-grandmother, Anne Wolk '58, graduated from Rochester. And their grandfather, Allan Wolk, who died in 2012, was a professor at the Simon Business School for 41 years.

“He’d be very happy we are continuing the family tradition at Rochester,” Sandra says. “He always loved the University.”


The triplets attended numerous summer sports camps and summer precollege programs at Rochester over the years.

“We looked at other places,” Nicole says, “but nothing could compare.”

It was their choice to attend the same college.

“We always do everything together,” Robert says.

Jay sees a symmetry in how his children’s lives have evolved.

“When they were in kindergarten, they were in a play dressed as bumblebees,” he says. “Who would’ve thought that bumblebees really grow up to become Yellowjackets?” 

ALL TOGETHER: Matthew, Nicole, and Robert Gelb have attended school together every year since kindergarten and are now first-year students at the University. The triplets were born 11 weeks premature at Strong Memorial Hospital in 1999, weighing a combined 6.3 pounds.





## COLLEGE CLASS OF 2022

### By the Numbers

**1,397** Number of students enrolled

**50/50** Ratio of female and male students in the class

**20,216** Number of applications for the class (the first time applications were above 20,000)

**465** Number of students admitted through the early decision program

**29.4%** The percentage of students who were offered admission (the lowest percentage ever)

**33.5%** The percentage of students from outside the United States

**25.8%** The percentage of students from New York state

**3.8** Average high school GPA

**1389** Average two-score equivalent SAT/ACT score

**22%** Percentage of students who are the first in their families to go to college

**21.6%** Percentage of students who are members of under-represented minority groups (the highest percentage ever)

**46** Number of states represented by students in the class (with additional students from Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico)

**90** Number of countries represented by students in the class







**BRAIN BIOMARKER:** A new test approved by the FDA and based on Rochester research can diagnose brain injuries from a blood sample.

## A Simple Blood Test to Diagnose Concussions

For the first time in the US, a blood test will be available to help doctors determine if people who've experienced a blow to the head could have a traumatic brain injury such as brain bleeding or bruising. Until now, physicians have relied on subjective markers—mainly patient-reported symptoms such as headaches, nausea, or light sensitivity—to make an educated guess as to which individuals have brain trauma and require a head CT scan.

The new test, called the Banyan

Brain Trauma Indicator, provides an objective measure of injury that can be obtained quickly and easily in busy emergency departments. The US Food and Drug Administration approved the test last February as part of a fast-track program to get breakthrough technologies to patients more quickly. The major study that led to approval of the test was published in the *Lancet Neurology*.

“Many concussion patients don't seek medical care for their injury, a decision due in part to

the perception that emergency departments have nothing to offer in terms of diagnosis,” says lead study author Jeffrey Bazarian, a professor of emergency medicine at the Medical Center. “The results of this study show that we now have something to offer—a brain biomarker blood test. The ability of this test to predict traumatic injuries on head CT scans will soon allow emergency physicians to provide patients with an unbiased report on the status of their brain.”

The test detects two brain proteins that are present in the blood soon after a hit to the head. The study shows that if the test is negative—meaning that the brain proteins aren't present—it is highly unlikely that a traumatic intracranial injury exists, and a head CT scan can be safely avoided. If the test is positive, a brain injury may be present and the patient should receive a head CT scan to further assess the damage and guide treatment. —Emily Boynton

## Lipid Droplets Play Role in Gene Expression

Lipid droplets—microscopic pockets of lipids located inside cells—are “a really hot area of research,” says Michael Welte, professor and chair of biology at Rochester. That's because they have been found to play a role in gene expression. A study led by Welte and published in the journal *eLife* describes how lipid droplets fulfill that role.

Welte used fruit fly embryos to study how lipid droplets influence a set of proteins called histones. If there are too few histones, genes might be expressed that shouldn't be. Too many histones

can cause cells to have trouble dividing their chromosomes.

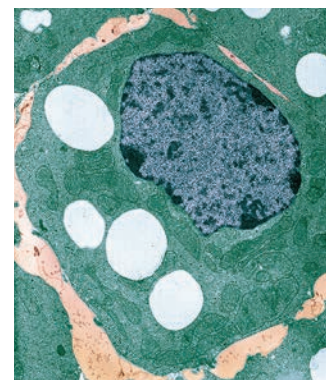
Welte discovered that lipid droplets play an important role in regulating a particular histone called H2Av. Acting like pacemakers, the lipid droplets regulate how fast H2Av enters a cell's nucleus by storing the histone until the nucleus needs it.

Identifying the functions of lipid droplets gives researchers insight into how embryos develop and survive: without lipid droplets regulating H2Av, embryos can become compromised.

The findings could cause

researchers to reconsider how they look at lipid-related diseases. Lipid droplets are dysfunctional in disease states like obesity (too many lipid droplets) or lipodystrophies (too few). “The cause of these diseases—too much or too little fat—has to do with how much lipid you have,” Welte says. “Our work suggests that when looking at these disease states, people also need to look at what happens to the proteins, because these lipid droplets have this second function beyond handling fat.”

—Lindsey Valich



**THE LURE OF LIPIDS:** Lipid droplets—microscopic pockets of lipids inside cells—are a “hot area of research.”



## New Therapy for Hearing Loss?

Researchers have taken an important step toward what may become a new approach to restore hearing loss. In a study published in the *European Journal of Neuroscience*, scientists have been able to regrow sensory hair cells found in the cochlea, a part of the inner ear that converts sound vibrations into electrical signals and can be permanently damaged with age or from noise.

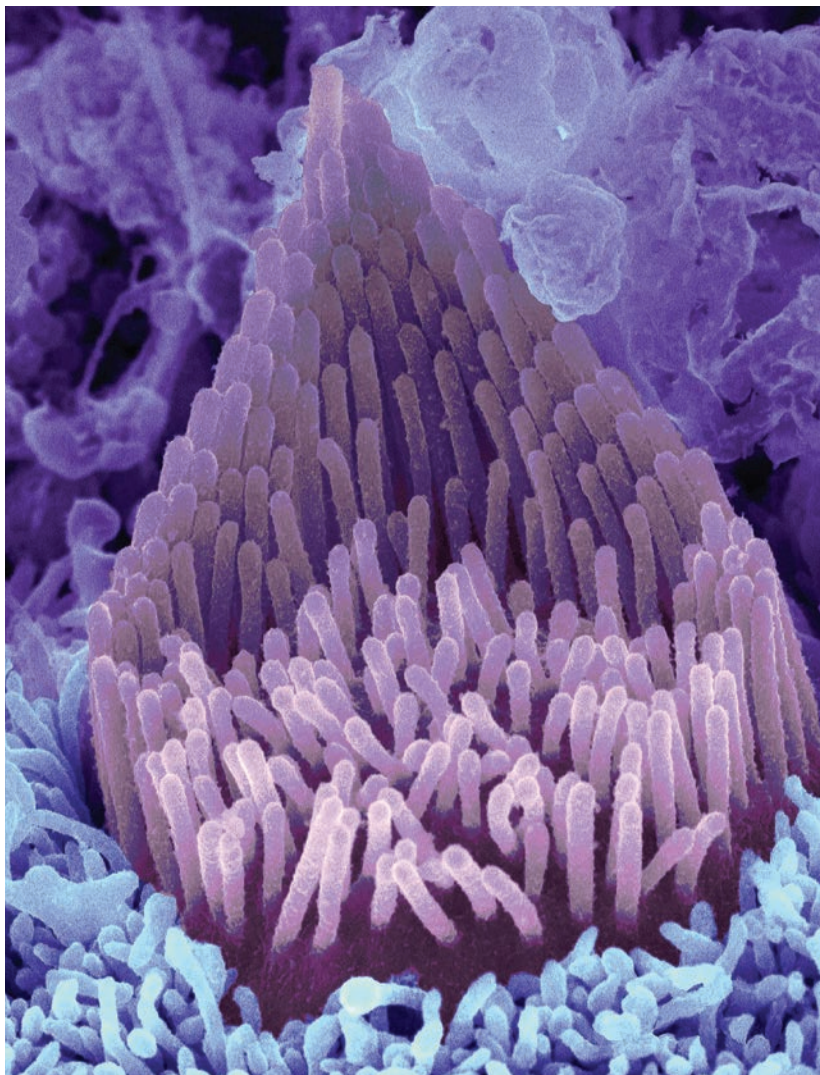
“It’s funny, but mammals are the oddballs in the animal kingdom when it comes to cochlear regeneration,” says Jingyuan Zhang, a postdoctoral associate in neuroscience and the first author of the study. “We’re the only vertebrates that can’t do it.”

In a previous study, Patricia White, a research associate professor at the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience, identified a family of receptors—called epidermal growth factor (EGF)—responsible for activating support cells in the auditory organs of birds. When triggered, the cells proliferate and foster the generation of new sensory hair cells. She speculated that the signaling pathway could be manipulated to produce a similar result in mammals.

In the new study, she tested that theory, focusing on a specific receptor called ERBB2, which is found in cochlear support cells. White and her team found that activating the ERBB2 pathway led to a proliferation of cochlear support cells, which in turn activated neighboring stem cells to become new sensory hair cells. The process not only could lead to the regeneration of sensory hair cells, but also could support their integration with nerve cells.

The process of repairing hearing is complex, says White. “You have to regenerate sensory hair cells and these cells have to function properly and connect with the necessary network of neurons.” But her research “could represent a new approach to cochlear regeneration and, ultimately, restoration of hearing.”

—Samantha Jean



**HAIRS THAT ‘HEAR’:** Researchers have regrown hair cells in the cochlea, where sound vibrations are converted into electrical signals, allowing people to hear.

## The Rising Rates of End-of-Life Rehab

A new study indicates a growing trend of potentially unnecessary—and harmful—high-intensity rehabilitation services for residents of nursing homes. The study finds that the trend is on the rise for patients in the last 30 days of life, and is especially concentrated in the last seven days.

“This study raises several concerns and questions regarding the scope and intensity of therapy provided to nursing home residents prior to death,” says Helena Temkin-Greener, a professor in the Medical Center’s public health sciences department and

lead author of the study.

The researchers note that financial considerations could play a role in the trend. Nursing home Medicare reimbursement rates are based on the complexity, intensity, and amount of staff time dedicated to care. Patients who receive high levels of rehabilitation services make such facilities eligible for the highest level of reimbursement.

Temkin-Greener and her colleagues analyzed data from 647 nursing homes in New York state. Specifically, they focused on residents who had received very

high to ultrahigh rehabilitation services during the last 30 days of life. They found that the number of residents receiving ultrahigh rehabilitation increased by 65 percent between 2012 and 2015 and that most of the rehabilitation therapy residents received was concentrated in the last seven days of life. They also found a significantly higher use of these services in for-profit nursing homes than in nonprofit homes.

“These are often sick and frail patients in whom the risks of intensive levels of rehabilitation actually outweigh the benefits,”

says Thomas Caprio, a geriatrician at the Medical Center and coauthor of the study.

Temkin-Greener says that if the expansion of the services is “being driven by a failure to recognize that a resident is approaching the end of life, then it calls for improving the skills of nursing home teams. If it is being driven by financial considerations, then regulatory and policy interventions may be necessary.”

The research appears in the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*.

—Mark Michaud





THE BALLS IN WHOSE COURT? Stagehands cleared the stage for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra to play Haydn's Symphony No. 90.

## Ask the Archivist: Who Ping-Punk'd Papa Haydn?

*A question for Melissa Mead, the John M. and Barbara Keil University Archivist and Rochester Collections Librarian.*

**In 1967 or '68 my classmate Len Snearowski '71, '75 (MA) and I attended a Rochester Philharmonic concert at Eastman Theatre, conducted by the music director, Laszlo Somogyi. We had good seats in the center orchestra section, just before the overhanging mezzanine. A Haydn symphony was, I believe, the first piece on the program.**

**At some point during the symphony about a thousand ping-pong balls came raining down on the stage, taking about 30 seconds to fall. The balls, of course, bounced crazily all over the stage, the orchestra, the conductor, and some into the audience. All the blue-haired ladies in the audience gasped. Maestro Somogyi stormed off the stage. Len and I, barely holding in our laughter, just looked at each other open-mouthed, assuming, of course (undergraduates as we were), that it was a terrific prank by Eastman students.**

**After a long interval, during which stagehands gathered up the ping-pong balls, the conductor returned to the podium and said something like, "I believe Mr. Haydn would want us to continue," receiving a round of applause. The concert resumed, but I never heard or read anything about the incident. So, does anyone reading *Review* know anything about this? Perhaps even one of the culprits?—Joseph Adler '70, Gambier, Ohio**

The Eastman Theatre and its audiences have been the target of pranks several times. On Valentine's Day in 1952, it was feathers, dropped to coincide with the cannons of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," conducted by Erich Leinsdorf.

There was a close call in the 1980s, recalled by the then Eastman

School of Music Dean of Students, Paul Burgett '68E, '76E (PhD), in Janice Pieterse's *Our Work Is But Begun*: "University Security and I discovered an electric bubble machine abandoned on the stairs leading to the catwalk, presumably by students whose actions, almost certainly, were interrupted by the threat of detection. A concert was scheduled that evening in the theater. I could only imagine the chaos that bubble machine might have wrought."

And 50 years ago, on October 10, 1968, the infamous ping-pong ball incident stopped the season-opening concert of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. The story was reported in the *Campus Times* (alas, without photographs) and in the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*, with slight variations on the theme of the quantity of missiles.

In his "Critic's Corner" column in the *Campus Times*, Larry Fine '74 wrote: "The RPO opened its 1968-69 concert season . . . amidst a rain of 50 or more ping-pong balls which fell from the ceiling of the stage during the first number." The *D&C*'s George Murphy put the number at 100, while a later writer for the same paper marked it down at a mere dozen.

As you note, conductor Laszlo Somogyi resumed the concert, restarting Haydn's Symphony No. 90, continuing on to Debussy's "Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune" and Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 "From the New World" in the second half. The names of the perpetrator(s) are unrecorded in the Archives.

The University has seen its fair share of pranks: in his biography *Rhees of Rochester*, Professor of English John Rothwell Slater

### Need History?

Do you have a question about University history? Email it to rochrev@rochester.edu. Please put "Ask the Archivist" in the subject line.



reported that a morning chapel in Anderson Hall was subjected to a hidden alarm clock “set to go off during the prayer . . . It worked all right, but the President (Rush Rhees) went right on praying and never cracked a smile. What he prayed for is not known.”

In 1941, the Stagers theater group produced the George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart comedy *You Can't Take It With You*. An editorial in *Tower Times*, the newspaper of the College for Women, described how a record album was played during a love scene and lamps flickered unexpectedly, and then roundly condemned the malefactors: “Students who will deliberately set at naught weeks of work by their fellows have no place in a college.”

Peer pressure is more successful in inciting mischief than preventing it, however. Time and again, the pages of the student newspapers presented good arguments against bad behavior, but to no avail.

As early as July 1874, an editorial observes, “Fun and jokes are well in their way, but from a young man who has completed a collegiate course, we expect something more.”

“Let us be considerate and let's have our fun, but when the pranks will necessitate the expenditure of the University's or others' money, stop,” came the advice in October 13, 1922, unheeded by generations of students who risked the \$100 charge for the removal of paint from the sphinxes in front of Sibley Library (now located on the River Campus).

Many pranks were the result of interclass rivalries. Freshmen would emblazon their class year on a variety of surfaces (like the sphinxes), and literally run it up the Prince Street Campus flag pole on a banner that the sophomores would remove as quickly as possible—if they could. In April 1920, a flag was raised by the Class of 1923, and the rope was stapled to the wooden pole by a climber wearing spiked shoes, resulting in holes “as thick as cheese.” The sophomores cut the other end of the halyard, bringing down both flag and rope. “There is not the slightest objection to hoisting as many 1923's and 1922's as possible up the flagpole; but there is objection to having to pay a man, yearly or oftener, to climb the pole and to having the pole subject to decay . . . merely with carelessness.”

The most dangerous pranks for both the prankster and the individual who must undo the “joke” have involved high altitudes: on the River Campus, the top of Rush Rhees Library has been adorned with a Christmas tree and, on April 1, 1980—a date sacred to pranksters everywhere—a McDonald's flag.

When it comes to pranks, some Rochester students have followed the educational concept of “see one, do one, teach one.” Several pages in the 1890 *Interpres* yearbook are devoted to a series of “Hallo'een and After” pranks presented in the form of a play, ranging from the perennial painting of the sphinxes to greasing blackboards.

In 1982, an ad appeared in an April 1 issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine for a *Freshman's Guide to College Pranks*, written by 1982 classmates Greg Seminara and Brad Wolfson. The ad itself was initially considered a prank, but 300 copies were ordered and apparently fulfilled. No copy exists in the University Archives.

In 1928, the wooden flagpole was replaced with a steel one, and as the River Campus grew into reality, some of the more destructive traditions were abandoned, perhaps so as not to mar the new campus. And when the time came to abandon the Prince Street Campus buildings in 1955, the Board of Trustees voted to have the sphinxes transferred to their present location between the doors of Morey and Lattimore, facing the Residential Quadrangle, noting “these rather whimsical sculptures are part of the tradition of the old campus and beloved by considerable numbers of students and alumni.”

To read Larry Fine's review of the RPO, the 1890 *Interpres*, and more, visit <https://rbscp.lib.rochester.edu/blog/ATA-Fall2018>.



**POLE-AXED:** Security cameras and alarms now deter would-be flag-pole climbers, where editorials—and common sense—formerly failed, as in this April Fools' Day incident in 1980.



**THE SPHINX'S RIDDLE:** Librarian Marian Allen, Class of 1925, and her dog relax beside an unpranked sphinx outside of Sibley Hall on the Prince Street Campus, circa 1940.



## HUMANITIES PROJECT

### Rochester Premieres Recovered Landmark Opera

An influential comic opera was given a full performance with its original score for the first time since the 18th century in a production organized this fall by the Department of English and colleagues from other universities.

*Love in a Village*, a 1762 English comic opera credited with introducing theatergoers to many conventions of modern musicals, was center stage as part of the annual meeting of the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, hosted by Rochester.

In its day, *Love in a Village*, a collaboration between playwright

Isaac Bickerstaff and composer Thomas Arne, was performed more often than Shakespeare's tragedies and held the interest of audiences for longer than any of its comedy rivals from the period. Performed in cities around the globe until the mid-19th century, *Love in a Village* fell off the cultural map as audiences' taste for the genre waned.

Katherine Mannheimer, an associate professor of English who specializes in 18th-century British literature, helped lead the production, which was also part of the University's Humanities Projects for the 2018-19 year.



**LOVELY:** A once wildly popular English comic opera had the first performance since the 18th century of its recently regained full score.



**MEDICAL LEADER:** Mark Taubman will begin a second term as dean.

### Taubman Reappointed as Medicine Dean

Mark Taubman, who has served as CEO of the Medical Center since 2015 and as dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry since 2010, has been reappointed as dean of the medical school.

Also the senior vice president for health sciences and CEO of UR Medicine, the University's health care network, Taubman is the first person in the history of the Medical Center to serve as both dean and CEO.

The University's Board of Trustees approved the reappointment during its October meeting.

### Rochester: National Center of Excellence for Parkinson's Research

The University has been selected as a Morris K. Udall Center of Excellence in Parkinson's Disease Research by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The \$9.2 million award is designed to bring together researchers from industry and multiple academic institutions to develop digital tools to better

understand the disease, engage broad populations in research, and accelerate the development of new treatments for Parkinson's disease. Neurologist Ray Dorsey, the director of the Center for Health + Technology (CHeT) and the David M. Levy Professor in Neurology, is the principal investigator of the new center.

### New Director of Anthony Institute Named

Kristin Doughty, associate professor of anthropology, has been named director of the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. She succeeds Nora Rubel, the Jane and Alan Batkin Professor of Jewish Studies and chair of the Department of Religion and Classics.

Doughty, who joined the faculty in 2012, has served for the past three years on the institute's steering committee. The institute sponsors faculty research seminars, conferences, mentorship seminars, and annual public lecture series, along with offering undergraduate majors,



**DIRECTOR:** Kristin Doughty will lead the Anthony Institute.

minors, and clusters in gender, sexuality, and women's studies in both the humanities and the social sciences.

### Mt. Hope Family Center to Establish National Center

The University's Mt. Hope Family Center, in conjunction with the University of Minnesota's Institute for Translational Research in Children's Mental Health, has received a multimillion-dollar grant to create a national center for child maltreatment studies, becoming one of only three academic institutional partnerships in the United States to receive the award from the National Institutes of Health.

NIH selected Rochester and Minnesota to receive an \$8.39 million award over five years to support the center as a national resource for child maltreatment prevention research and training. The principal investigators are Sheree Toth, a Rochester professor of psychology and psychiatry, who is also the executive director of the Mt. Hope Family Center, and Dante Cicchetti, who was the founding director of Mt. Hope before joining Minnesota, where he is the McKnight Presidential Chair and William Harris Professor and research director of the Minnesota center.



## MEMORIAL ART GALLERY: MEET A DOCENT

# Hannelore (Honey) Heyer '52 wants to help people decipher what they see.

Interview by Robin L. Flanigan

**You're 88 now and have been a docent for 56 years. That's really impressive, by the way. What was life like when you started giving tours?**

It was an interesting time. What a pleasure something like this was for somebody who was raising kids at home. I'd switch babysitting [duties] with our neighbor when she went off to volunteer someplace. That was the way it was in the 1950s.

**Where does your interest in art come from?**

I grew up with art in my house—there were always a couple of paintings—even though I was a middle-class kid. When my parents died, I went to live with my father's employer and they had some New England art, some beautiful watercolors. Then in college I took art history classes. It went right through my chest when we got to something that was so seminal that I hadn't thought about before.

**How do you help people appreciate a work of art?**

I tell them, "You always know more than you think because you've got your eyes." I pick something they can recognize easily, then start with simple questions like, "What do you notice first?" You have to help them digest something before you get to the next level. Perspective is very important in a landscape painting, so I tell them that where they stand is going to make a difference.

**Art is highly subjective, and some pieces are more accessible than others. How do you approach the ones that are more complicated to interpret?**

Even in an abstract painting there can be a small thing that stands out. It might not be as big as my fingernail, but your eye may go to a little spark of red. If you stand and look at a painting, if you really started looking and thinking, five minutes is not enough. But usually you don't have that kind of luxury.

**How do you judge how long to stay at each painting?**

It's hard for me to do that because I don't judge people easily right away. In the beginning it was really laid out what we had to do, but when I start out now, I do have to quickly size them up.

**Do the museum's visitors ever teach you anything?**

Occasionally they know more than I do. They

give me an insight and I think, "God, that's great. I think I should use that." I can always learn, so people can tell me anything. They can even tell me if they don't like what I'm doing. I'm very conciliatory.

**Given how much time you spend researching certain pieces of work, has your relationship with art gotten deeper and more meaningful over time?**

There have been some pieces that have made my heart thump. Once in a while you know you've seen something that was really right, and that's a thrill. It goes right through you.

**Does that happen most often while on the clock or on your own time?**

A lot of times you're tied to a schedule, asking questions and giving basic facts. But when you're on your own, wandering through the gallery, you can discover something. It could be a flick of paint, or a particular brush stroke. Sometimes there's just a label next to a painting and no other explanation, and you're on your own, and a little light bulb goes on.


**You know the Memorial Art Gallery inside and out. Name one not-to-be-missed spot.**

The upstairs, where the Fountain Court is. Architecturally, it's a gorgeous neoclassical space. Structurally, it's the biggest part of the gallery, and other galleries spin off it by historical period.

**Do you ever think about how you'd be represented in a piece of art?**

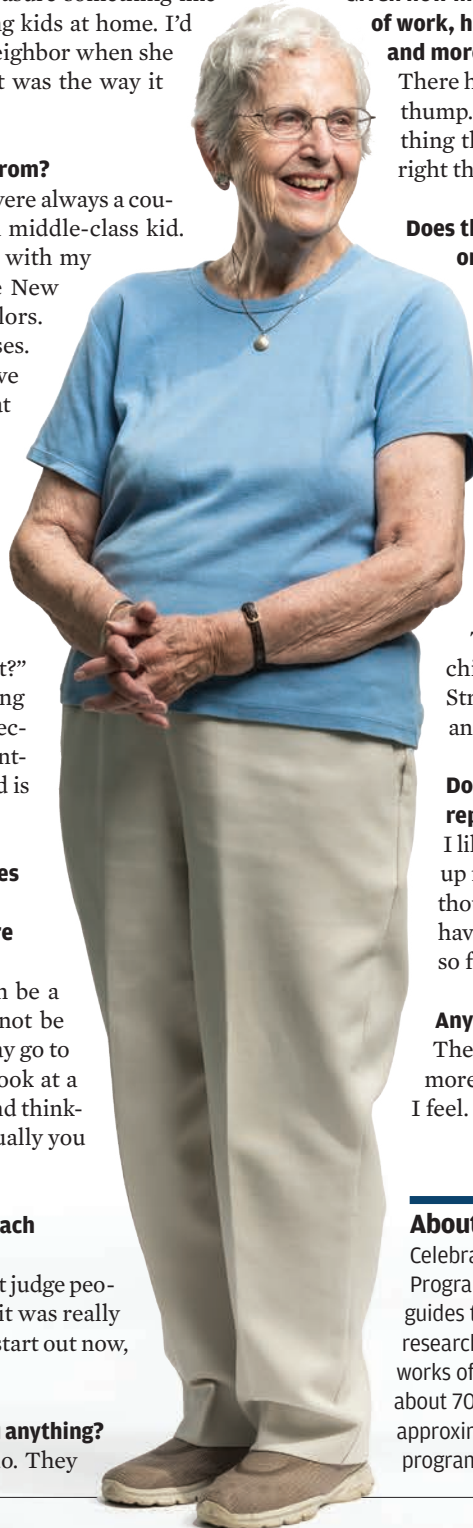
I like contemporary art, but I wouldn't want to end up fractured, so I wouldn't want to be in a Picasso, though it would be interesting. He probably would have my mouth wide open or my mouth floating so free-form that you could hardly deconstruct it.

**Any final thoughts?**

The more you look, the more you learn, and the more you learn, the more you will look. That's how I feel. I don't care if it's grass. 

## About the Docent Program

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the Docent Program at the Memorial Art Gallery puts volunteer guides through extensive training, education, and research to help museum visitors view and react to works of art more carefully and critically. There are about 70 active docents today and another group, approximately half that size, who participate in the program's activities but no longer give tours.





MILESTONE MOMENTS

# ‘WRUR is on the Air’

Since its founding in 1948, WRUR has offered students valuable training and an open canvas for creativity and expression.

By Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

Rock on, WRUR.

The radio station that began on a small corner of the River Campus, in the basement of Burton Hall, is now 70 years old.

What might be said about radio in general could also be said about WRUR: it has shown remarkable persistence. It survived the rise of television, thrived in the age of the VCR, and found new life in the 21st century, as first the internet, and then social media, threatened its eclipse.

Ray Ettington '51, station manager in his senior year, says WRUR helped him get over stage fright. Having begun as a newsreader and voice actor, he says that to this day, “I attribute my successful 36-year career in IBM sales and marketing to the selling and public speaking skills I learned at WRUR.”

The station began as a primitive enterprise, transmitting programming through a series of electrical wires strung through the underbellies of campus buildings. Jim Carrier '66 helped bring the station into the FM era.

“I’ve had a wonderfully productive and adventurous life,” he told Melissa Mead, the John M. and Barbara Keil University Archivist, in 2016. “And it all began in the basement of Todd Union.”

The station has evolved with each generation. Carrie Taschman '18, the co-general manager during her senior year, says, “The nice thing about radio is that it can be what you want.” Perhaps that’s one reason for the station’s longevity. Students have been able to devise programs featuring every variety of music, local and national news and information, live theater, sports, and coverage of campus events and personalities distinctive to each era.

There’s one more song that has remained the same. That’s the commitment of the student DJs, engineers, managers, and others who make the station run.

“A lot is ending,” said co-general manager Toby Kashket '18, upon her graduation last year. But, speaking for both herself and Taschman, “we know that if we’re coming back to visit school, WRUR will be the first place.”

*Find a multimedia history of WRUR at [Rochester.edu/news/wrur/](http://Rochester.edu/news/wrur/). Through recollections, sound clips from the Archives, video and audio interviews, and written sources, the site brings the station’s past and present to life.*

## Turning on and Tuning in

Over seven decades WRUR has gone from a fledgling project initiated by a small group of students to a thriving organization—at times in its history it has been the largest extracurricular activity, in terms of numbers of participants, in the College.



1946 1947 1948 1949 1951

Work on the studio in 16 Burton Hall is completed and a business office is set up in Todd Union. On February 10, at 8 p.m., WRUR launches its first broadcast, live from Strong Auditorium.

Kenn Hubel '50 (right) leads his jazz quartet of (from left) George Hart '48, Ed Gordon '52E, '53E (MM), and Fred Remington '50 during WRUR’s inaugural broadcast on February 10, 1948.



1953 1954 1955 1956 1957

The Colleges for Men and Women merge, and a new WRUR studio opens in Todd Union. With approximately 80 students involved as engineers, broadcasters, or in the business office, WRUR is the largest extracurricular activity in the College.

Named station manager of a newly unified WRUR, Ann Dalrymple '56 is at the helm in 1955, with (from left) Gordon Spencer '57, '63 (PhD), Dave Anderson '57, '63W (MA), Barry Robinson '57, and Ron Coplton '56.

1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968

WRUR undertakes the most comprehensive listener survey to date and is found to be the second most popular local AM station, behind WBBF. The most popular WRUR programs are broadcasts of away games, with home games, jazz, and live concerts ranking highly as well. The following year, in response to student demand, the station increases time allotted to folk music and begins broadcasting rock and roll for the first time.





Jesse Finkelstein '77 presents "Back-to-Back Bach" in 1974.



Chief engineer Barry Robinson '57 checks equipment in the control room in November 1955.

1965 1966 1967 1

At 7 p.m. on March 6, WRUR-FM launches. WRUR-AM continues, broadcasting "primarily rock and roll music."

1969 1970 1971 1

On February 6, WRUR-FM begins broadcasting in stereo at 20,000 watts, extending its reach throughout Monroe County. Eleven days later, after complaints from the chemistry department about interference with experiments (the department was then located in Lattimore Hall, adjacent to WRUR's Todd Union studio), the station drops its power to 970 watts, where it remains until 1993.

1985 1986 1987 1

Smack in the middle of the decade often considered the heyday of college radio, the station enjoys the largest budget of any extracurricular activity (\$40k), has a roster of about 150 students, and broadcasts for 20 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Toby Kashket '18 (left) and Carrie Taschman '18 hosted a show together on WRUR for four years and were co-general managers their senior year.

1992 1993 1994 1

A new transmitter interferes with Monroe County's 911 emergency system. To preserve the safety of the community, WRUR-FM goes off the air for much of the 1993-94 academic year.

2002 2003 2004 2

WRUR and WXXI form a partnership. The WRUR antenna moves to Pinnacle Hill, in the southeast quadrant of the city, increasing the station's range to a 50-mile radius.

2008 2009 2010 2

Supplementing WRUR-FM, the station launches the internet-only station, The Sting.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**Measures of Success**

Since the 1998-99 season, when George VanderZwaag was named director of athletics and recreation, the Yellowjackets have found success both in athletics and academics. Here's a look at some of the numbers:

**1** College World Series, when the softball team was one of eight finalists in 2014

**5** Appearances by men's and women's basketball in the Final Four

**60** Students who have earned Academic All-America honors from College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSIDA)

**63** Teams that have won conference championships

**160** Teams that have been nationally ranked

**129** Teams that have advanced to postseason play

**146** Teams that have been recognized with academic honors by their coaching associations

**151** Students who have earned All-America honors

**4** Individual national championships:

**2006** Stephen Goodridge '08, in golf

**2017** Kylee Bartlett '19, who won the pentathlon at the women's indoor track and field championships in March and the heptathlon at the outdoor meet in May

**2018** Kylee Bartlett '19, who won the heptathlon at the women's outdoor track and field championships in May  
—Dennis O'Donnell



**EVER BETTER:** “For me, this is about trying to achieve excellence in everything you do—that’s what the great universities strive for,” says VanderZwaag of his tenure as Rochester’s director of athletics and recreation.

## Q&amp;A

## Athletics and Academics: Seasons of Success

George VanderZwaag begins his 20th year leading Rochester’s athletics and recreation programs.

Interview by Dennis O’Donnell

When George VanderZwaag arrived in Rochester from Princeton in the fall of 1998, he could only tour the site of what would become the Goergen Athletic Center.

But the new athletic director was impressed by plans for the 200,000-square-foot home base for athletic and recreational activities that was formally dedicated during the University’s sesquicentennial celebration in 2000. Completely renovated and expanded, the building signaled Rochester’s commitment to providing an athletic experience that matched its academic excellence, VanderZwaag noted.

“For me, this is about trying to achieve excellence in everything you do—that’s what the great universities strive for—and that’s what the Goergen Center represents,” VanderZwaag said of the building, named in recognition of the support of University Trustee and Board Chair Emeritus Robert Goergen ’60. “The overall goal of the College is to provide a quality undergraduate education, and this is a step in reaffirming that commitment to provide a quality undergraduate experience.”

Two decades later, VanderZwaag is the executive director of athletics, where he oversees 23 varsity programs, led by athletes and teams that have earned academic as well as athletic accolades. Along the way, he’s helped the department grow into new and renovated facilities.

In October, VanderZwaag was appointed to the advisory board for the Sports Law and Business Program at Arizona State University, a national board that includes some of the most accomplished experts from the world of sports.

### What pleases you the most about your time at Rochester?

I am really pleased with our overall program and facility development. We have extremely successful programs on both the varsity and recreational sides. We have been able to develop the resources to invest in our facilities, build a strong staff, and support them toward their professional goals. All of this positions us to be an attractive institution for the best students from around the world.



### What expectations did you have of the coaching and athletic staff before arriving here?

That they would be committed to their roles as educators, first and foremost. That they were committed to putting in the work to develop our programs in way that reflected positively on the institution and in a way that clearly supported the educational mission.

### In the first couple of years, what were the challenges?

The facilities were in need of an overhaul, varsity teams were not having much success, women's programs were grossly underdeveloped, recreational offerings were limited, and our recruiting did not reflect well on the institution—those were our main challenges.

### Those needed long-term solutions. How did you proceed?

The Goergen Athletic Center was the starting point. It was a statement that the University cared about athletics within the residential college experience. We needed to be clear about who were as a department and how our work aligned with the larger strategic goals. We also needed to invest more heavily in our people and programs. An important next step was to fill positions on a full-time basis to allow us to build programs and recruit students in a manner that reflected positively on the University. We also needed to develop resources to support our work, particularly in being more national in our recruiting focus.

### During your tenure, you worked to align the department with the College. Why was that important?

The College had a well-developed strategic plan and I saw opportunities to align our goals for excellence in the educational process with the larger goals for undergraduate education. It allowed me to partner with the academic leadership to define more clearly why athletics matters in the educational process and develop a plan to achieve our goals.

### By 2003-04, our teams were in the top 20 percent in measures of national standing and success. Was that anticipated?

Our competitive level has risen over the years, which is a reflection of the many changes in support and approach to athletics. I wouldn't call it an anticipated result as much as a validation of our belief that we could support athletics at the University at a

higher level, and athletics could, in turn, support the University at a higher level. I believe that quality begets quality. So, in that regard, I guess you could say that I anticipated national success because the institution is built on the ethos of national success.

### In 20 years, there must also have been some very challenging situations as well. Not just in competition but in the lives of students and staff. How have those situations affected your approach to working with students and with your staff?

It's always about the people. So, their challenges become your challenges and every situation is unique. We are privileged to work with the students at this University. They are incredibly talented and capable of great things. My approach is to support them as best we can to achieve their goals. That process is messy. We push them harder than they want to be pushed. They sometimes don't understand their own limits or capabilities. But our job is to help them learn and develop. That's what we do.

### What's been the effect of the enhancements to the facilities?

We have touched every part of our facilities, inside and out, over the course of 20 years. It represents over \$50 million in investment. This has provided us high-quality space and has positioned us to support the University by developing strong programs that are attractive to many outstanding students. Of course, this could not have been possible without leadership and support from alumni and trustees like Bob Goergen, Ed Hajim '58, Brian Prince '86, '89S (MBA), Chris Boehning '87, '88 (MS), Steve '92 and Liz Biggar '92, and many others.

### What's next—facilities, additional sports, people?

We're not anticipating much expansion of facilities and programs. We have a very large program compared to our peers. We have achieved full compliance with Title IX in terms of gender proportionality. We have space limitations, which factors into opportunities for program growth. We continue to develop our existing programs and make investments in our existing facilities. Resources and people make that happen. So, it continues to be about having the strongest staff possible and supporting them as best we can toward our goal of attracting the strongest students to the University. 📍



## ATHLETICS HISTORY

### Newest Members of Athletic Hall of Fame

**SUCCESSFUL SEASONS:** Six former students and one coach who helped Rochester achieve regional and national success were inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame this fall. The 2018 inductees are (back row) Timothy Londergan '65 (baseball, squash, tennis), Michael Neer '88W (MS) (men's basketball coach for 34 years), Gregory Krohner '91 (basketball), and Joseph Ferrauilo '89 (football); (front row) Jennifer Seferiadis Fitzpatrick '02 (soccer, lacrosse, basketball), Julian Premus '84 (soccer), and Lori Chan Sinn '99 (lacrosse).

—Dennis O'Donnell