



ERIN MORLEY '02E

## An Operatic 'Trapeze Artist'

Soprano Erin Morley '02E steps into the international spotlight.

By Robin L. Flanigan

"It's like going to a circus and watching a trapeze artist," **Erin Morley** '02E, one of the world's most sought-after coloratura sopranos, says of the operatic style of singing.

"A lot of it is about showing off a facility, about singing really high and really fast. It's something not every voice is built to do, and there are special roles that highlight those strengths."

Those roles—often comedic and frothy and frequently the kind that charm audiences and critics—are becoming a key part of Morley's repertoire as she has stepped into the international spotlight during the past decade.

Since 2011, a string of critically acclaimed appearances in the great opera houses of Vienna, Munich, and Paris have established Morley as one of the most in-demand performers at some of the opera world's most influential venues. She has a good relationship with the Metropolitan Opera in Manhattan, where this winter she makes a number of notable appearances—first in her role debut as Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, then as the Forest Bird in *Siegfried*, and as Constance in *Dialogues des Carmélites*.

She was invited to participate in three celebrations in 2018 for the 100th anniversary of the birth of American musical icon Leonard Bernstein. And in September she made her debut—at 34

weeks pregnant—in Debussy's *Le Martyre de saint Sébastien* with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester in Berlin.

Her performances regularly earn high praise. The *New York Classical Review*: "Erin Morley is in a class of her own among coloratura sopranos, singing even the most dazzlingly difficult material with beauty and musical sense." Morley recognizes that she wasn't always offered the coloratura roles.

Instead she was often cast in roles that required a much heavier singing voice, which meant she had to be judicious about which to accept to avoid damaging her vocal chords.

In 2011, she gave birth to her first daughter. "That really did change the trajectory of my career," Morley says.

Now the mother of two daughters, ages 7 and 2, Morley was expecting her third child, a boy, in October. The first day of rehearsal for *The Magic Flute* is four weeks after her due date.

"You have to treat it like an Olympic sport," she says of maintaining her voice, which one critic has described as "brilliant as a diamond." That means holing up in the music room of her New Haven, Connecticut, home for up to five hours a day, practicing intensely but more slowly than usual to work through reflux and other body changes that come with pregnancy.

"My job right now is to make sure everything I have to perform after this baby is born is ready to go," she says.



As someone who's on the road between six and nine months a year, Morley thinks a lot about work-life balance.

"I think you can get swallowed up in motherhood, and you can get swallowed up in your career," she says. "Being both a mother and a singer at the same time helps to keep me grounded."

After earning her undergraduate degree in vocal performance from the Eastman School of Music, Morley completed two graduate degrees at the Juilliard School before her acceptance into the Metropolitan Opera's selective Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, where she trained and performed for three years on the Met stage.

Believing that every singer must always remain a student, she works with multiple mentors—technical voice teachers, a vocal consultant, a speech pathologist, and language coaches—to sustain and improve her technique.

Gerald Martin Moore is Morley's vocal consultant both in person and via Skype. Based in New York City, he's an internationally recognized singing teacher and vocal consultant who also has worked with renowned soprano Renée Fleming '83E (MM), and is an expert on coloratura singing.

"What makes her stand out for me is that a lot of singers who specialize in very high coloratura repertoire don't have such warmth in the 'middle voice,'" says Moore, referring to a range between what's known as the "chest voice" and the "head voice."

Case in point: Morley says she's embracing the lyrical role of Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, even though the opera's Queen of the Night, which Morley has sung in the past, is the coloratura showcase role. "I don't want to become a one-trick pony," she says.

Morley came from a musical family. Her father sang in the

**STAR TURNS:** Morley's turns in the international spotlight have included roles as Olympia in the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Les Contes D'Hoffmann* (opposite) and as (this page, clockwise from above) Zerbinetta in the Vienna State Opera's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Sophie in the Met's *Der Rosenkavalier*, and Cunegonde in the LA Opera's *Candide*.

Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and her mom gave her violin and piano lessons. She remembers being 12 or 13, listening to a live performance of a young pianist perform with the Utah Symphony near her home in Salt Lake City.

"I remember feeling just how much power he had in order to make me feel all of those things I was feeling," she says. "I wanted to be able to do that for people."

She had never seen an opera before her first year at Eastman, when she attended a school production of *Albert Herring*, a comic chamber opera in three acts by Benjamin Britten.

"I walked up to Steven Daigle, who ran the opera department, and said, 'I really love this. Can I be in the next one?'" she says. "He laughed, and oddly enough, he did cast me in the next one."

What captivates Morley about opera is that every live performance is unamplified—what she calls a "celebration of the human voice." And through roles that explore comedy, drama, and despair, she takes the audience on an emotional journey.

"I get to hold up a mirror to humanity," she says, "to offer them a chance to look at their own lives and say, 'Am I like this character?' It feels like a form of therapy for me and for the audience.

"I hope it is." **R**

*Flanigan is a Rochester-based freelance writer.*

## ARMISTICE ANNIVERSARY

# 'I've Got to Do Something for Uncle Sam'

More than 800 alumni, students, and faculty served during World War I. To mark the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice, here are a few of their stories.

By Jim Mandelaro

When the United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917, Jules Fish knew he must serve.

"I've got to do something for Uncle Sam," the Rochester first-year student told his mother.

At 19, Fish was two years under the draft age. And at six and a half feet in height, he was rejected by several branches of the military for being too tall. But he persisted, and the 23rd Infantry finally accepted him that summer. Fish's parents reluctantly signed a consent form, and he set sail for France that September.


"It will all be over in a few months," he reassured his worried mother. "I'm not going to be gone long." On April 6, 1918—the first anniversary of the United States' entrance into the war—Fish was killed in a battle near Maizey, France.

"We all lived in hopes that the inevitable had not occurred," infantryman Donald McGary wrote in a letter to Fish's mother. "But after the attack was over, our hopes were shattered as we witnessed four Red Cross men carrying a real hero, our pal Jules Fish, to his final resting place."

Fish is buried in St. Mihiel American Cemetery in France.

The University awarded his degree posthumously in 1920. Fish was one of 862 University students, alumni, and faculty members who served for the Allies in World War I—at home and abroad, on the front lines, in hospitals, and on American training bases. Of them, 326 served outside the United States, at sea, on land, or in the air.

Twelve Rochester women are also known to have served. Eleven men gave their lives.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the armistice for "the War to End All Wars," here are some of the members of the University community who answered the call. 

Jules Fish



**Margaret Neary Bakker, Class of 1913**

She graduated with a degree in chemistry and served as a bacteriologist at Base Hospital 19, in Vichy, France, during the war, then joined a Red Cross unit for 16 months. Never content to stay in one place, she lived in Hawaii, Austria, China, Australia, Switzerland, Germany, England, and France.



**Harold Kimball, Class of 1911**

He became the first University community member to die in the war, when he was killed in France on April 9, 1917. At 25, he had joined the Canadian Army in 1916, a year before the United States entered the war.

**Eleanor Gleason, Class of 1903**

A member of the University's third female graduating class, she received a bachelor's degree in philosophy. During the war, she was a YMCA canteen worker at a French hospital and set up a library system in the Virgin Islands after it became a US territory.



**Vernon Brown, Class of 1920**

The Canada native left school after nine months to join Britain's Royal Flying Corps and was credited with downing at least two German planes. He went missing in May 1918 and was presumed dead. In fact, he had been shot down, wounded, and placed in a German prisoner of war camp. Although he didn't return to the University, the faculty awarded him a bachelor's degree in 1920 in deference to his war service.





**Nathaniel Kendrick,  
Class of 1921**

The first to enroll at Rochester after active service in France, he left high school during his senior year to join the American Field Service and drove a front-line ambulance for six months. He became a longtime history professor and dean at Bowdoin College in Maine. His grandfather, Asahel Clark Kendrick, was a member of Rochester's original 1850 faculty and taught Greek for 45 years. His father, Ryland, taught Latin and Greek at the University from 1881 to 1937.



**Prentiss Gilbert,  
Class of 1906**

The son of William Wallace Gilbert served as a captain in the Military Intelligence Division during World War I. He became the University's first director of its Extension Division and later was named US representative at the League of Nations and appointed chargé d'affaires at the US Embassy in Berlin, Germany, by President Roosevelt. He died of a heart attack at the embassy in 1939, at age 55.



**Charles Evans, Class of 1918**

Evans left school in the spring of 1917 to join the US Navy Reserve. That June, he was on a patrol boat off Boston Harbor when an excursion steamer emerged from heavy fog and smashed into the boat's cabin, tearing off Evans's left arm. Five comrades gave blood transfusions in a desperate effort to save his life, but he died two days later and received his degree posthumously from the University.



**John Lehnen, Class of 1912**

The former University football star was working as a law clerk when he entered military service in April 1918, at age 30. He was killed by enemy shellfire five months later in the Battle of Saint-Mihiel and is buried in the same American veterans cemetery as Jules Fish.



**Lawrence Atkins, Class of 1915**

Atkins served as student body president at Rochester and was a member of the baseball and track teams. He joined the 106th Ambulance Company and was sent to France, where he was a victim of the historic influenza pandemic that would eventually kill an estimated 30 million people. He died in a French hospital of bronchial pneumonia on October 30, 1918, just 12 days before the war ended.



**Raymond Ball, Class of 1914**

The Wellsville, New York, native enlisted in the US Army in 1917 and served two years as a captain of a machine gun battalion in France. He went on to hold several executive posts at the University, including treasurer and chairman of the Board of Trustees before embarking on a long career in Rochester as a banking president.



**Carolyn Emerson,  
Class of 1908**

She was University class president her sophomore year and interrupted her career as a French teacher to join a wartime YMCA canteen service in France, providing food, beverages, and personal items to soldiers. Emerson's University yearbook quote spoke to her character: "Many are called, but few get up."



**William Wallace Gilbert,  
Class of 1861**

The nephew of Martin Brewer Anderson, Rochester's first president, had a military career that spanned six decades and included the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and World War I, where he came out of retirement at age 77 to serve in a recruiting base in Texas.

CAITLIN MEIVES '05

# A New Generation in Preservation

As cofounder of the Young Urban Preservationists, or 'YUPs,' Caitlin Meives '05 is helping to ensure that preservation itself endures.

By Sophie Aroesty '18

**Caitlin Meives '05** is such a preservationist that she recently found in her attic the Rochester history department flier that inspired her to become one in the first place.

Meives is the preservation planner for the Landmark Society of Western New York, a Rochester-based nonprofit that maintains and celebrates historical sites within and near the city. But as a soon-to-be graduate in 2005, Meives, a history major, had no idea what she wanted to do until she spotted the flier featuring a flowchart of advanced degrees and career paths related to her major—including master's programs in historic preservation. After earning an MS in historic preservation from the University of Vermont, she returned to Rochester to launch her career.

Meives gets excited about things like peeking around early 20th-century Park Avenue houses to spot intricate detailing on their garages. But she noticed that the people at Landmark Society events who would come and “nerd out” like she did weren't like her. Patrons tended to skew older. “It was really important to do something for [the Landmark Society] to start cultivating and growing the next generation of preservationists and members,” she says. So in 2013, she cofounded the Young Urban Preservationists, or “YUPs,” in order to preserve preservation itself.

“I have this theory that all of you are closet preservationists,” Meives told the audience at TEDxFlourCity in 2015. While none of them identified as a preservationist, plenty said they enjoyed things like walking their dogs through Highland Park, or eating out on Park Avenue. “Most of us are actively supporting preservation and being preservationists, and we just don't realize that,” she told the group.

Such closet preservationists are drawn to events like Bikes, Beers & Buildings, YUPs' annual scavenger hunt by bicycle that draws about 75 people to ride around the city. They hunt down places like the Driving Park Hotel and the oldest synagogue in Rochester, stopping for beers at Fifth Frame Brewing along the way.

Another favorite of the YUPs is their biannual trip. They visit cities of the Rust Belt Coalition, a collection of young preservationist groups scattered around the country. Rochester hosted the coalition last summer. They brought people to eat at Nick Tahou's and the Public Market, partied at Swillburger and Radio Social, and took them on walking, biking, and dog-walking tours through places like Mt. Hope Cemetery, the abandoned subway, and the RG&E hydroelectric station at Lower Falls.

Melissa Baxter, a member of YUPs' executive team, explained

why she finds preservation important. “Preservation is a way to combat this whole way that capitalism can kind of gobble things up. Saying, ‘this is old, let's just tear it down and build it up new’—if you constantly are doing that, I think you lose touch with those that have come before you and even the environment.” Instead, she says, “you can adapt what you already have and make it better in its own right.”

The YUPs have finished a strategic plan that includes a comprehensive list of goals and actions with five pillars: becoming more diverse and inclusive, developing strategic partnerships, focusing their impact, holding events that engage and educate, and making a difference in the world of preservation.




**PRESERVING PRESERVATION:** “Most of us are actively supporting preservation and being preservationists, and we just don't realize that,” Meives says of many young professionals.

Meives spoke at length about the first and last pillars—about how she wants to challenge the field to grow and adapt, particularly when it comes to racial and socioeconomic diversity. “Preservation has a lot to offer people of every background, and so we want to make it open and welcoming and serving to everyone,” she says.

For Meives, preservation is as much about the future as it is about the past: ensuring the continuation of the Landmark Society, adapting historical sites for future generations, and ushering preservation into a new era.

“The thing that really makes me happy is when I see people using historic spaces and enjoying them, because that's what it's all about—creating communities people live in and enjoy,” she says.

The rest is history. 

*Aroesty is a Brooklyn-based freelance writer.*

DIANE AMBLER '71

## Invested in Law

With some bold decisions, investment lawyer Diane Ambler '71 made it to the top of a male bastion.

By Sandra Knispel

Years ago, **Diane Ambler** '71 started writing a memoir of sorts. Every chapter began with a quotation of something that somebody had said to her at work.

But there was a hitch. Some of it was outright unprintable and all of it inappropriate and often demeaning. Ambler was trying to prove herself as a young lawyer in securities and financial services law, a male bastion in the early 1980s, when she first arrived on the scene.

"It was an outlet for my anger," admits Ambler, who is now a partner at the international firm K&L Gates. Eventually, she abandoned the book. "Once I started writing it all down I realized it wasn't the focus of what I was trying to achieve." Unfocused anger, she says, "is a waste of time."

Her time has been well spent.

Widely sought out for her expertise in financial services regulation and federal securities law, she now appears regularly on lists of best lawyers in America, the world's leading women in business law, and others.

A big part of her success derives from a bold decision she made early in her career. Forty years ago, as a young lawyer, Ambler noticed that most of her male colleagues in securities law were preoccupied with capital formation and deal making. Ambler went for the much less sexy mutual funds law instead. A nascent field with few experienced practitioners, mutual funds proved fertile ground for Ambler to make her mark.

Ambler's break came when the American Bar Association invited her to chair the group's Investment Companies and Investment Advisers Subcommittee—a prestigious offer. Yet her first impulse was to turn it down. The mutual funds industry was exploding. And she had just joined an international law firm to develop and lead their new 40 Act practice (shorthand for the Investment Company Act of 1940, the major law now governing mutual funds).

She was also a single mother with a toddler at home.

"I have a lot on my plate. I don't have time for that," she remembers thinking at the time. "It's a terrible idea."

When she mentioned the offer to a male colleague, however, he simply assumed she'd take it. That assumption got her thinking. Are there ways to make it work?

She did, once she realized that she didn't need to be one of the firm's top billers. She also hired a live-in nanny.

Yet again, a big decision paid off.

"It completely accelerated my career in a way that I never would have anticipated, because it gave me exposure to everyone in the field," Ambler says. It also gave her a voice to appear before regulators.

Looking back, she says, at times her rise was lonely. In her early years, women were working in what she calls "parallel play." They didn't see much of one another. "We simply didn't know that there were a lot of women with the same struggles, trying to deal with the same issues."


That's one of the reasons she now mentors young lawyers—male and female. Starting 15 years ago on her own doorstep, Ambler helped set up a women's group at her law firm, which now employs



**LEGAL ADVICE:** Too many women leave the legal profession in mid-career, says Ambler, who has worked to develop initiatives to help women succeed as lawyers.

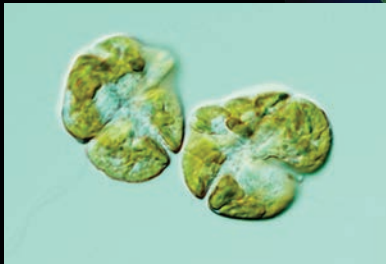
some 1,800 lawyers worldwide. Many of the initiatives developed by the women's group have since been adopted as a firm-wide vision to help their female lawyers succeed.

A problem that remains to this day is that too many female lawyers leave the profession in mid-career, says Ambler, who is also a member of the executive boards of both the Women in Law Empowerment Forum and the National Association of Women Lawyers.

"We need to make sure they have options, good mentoring, and the institutional backup needed to be successful." 

## Deadly Dust

The cycles of algae blooms known as red tides that are plaguing the Gulf of Mexico have their origins half a world away, rising out of the Sahara in Africa. While the blooms have existed for millennia, the cycles have been happening with more frequency and intensity, say Rochester alumni who study red tides and their impact.



The Florida red tide is caused by *Karenia brevis*, a single-cell organism belonging to a group of algae called *dinoflagellates*. *Karenia brevis* can reproduce very rapidly under the right conditions.

Widespread dust storms this year in the Sahara have blown large amounts of iron dust into the atmosphere. The dust drifts west to the Gulf of Mexico, where it is processed by bacteria, increasing the amount of nitrogen in the water and setting the stage for the rapid growth of toxic algae.

MICHAEL PARSONS '90 AND MICHAEL SAVARESE '81, '84 (MS)

# Red Tide: A Looming 'Planetary Problem'

What does a persistent bloom of algae indicate about the health of the planet?

By Lindsey Valich

While the harmful algae known as red tide have historically been common in warm waters like those of the Gulf of Mexico, the troublesome blooms are no longer seasonal. The algae kill marine animals and make life miserable for beachgoers.

A particularly robust cycle that began last fall prompted Florida Governor Rick Scott to declare a state of emergency this past summer for seven counties in southern Florida.

**Michael Parsons** '90 and **Michael Savarese** '81, '84 (MS) are leading an effort to study red tide and determine what can be done to mitigate its effects. As researchers at Florida Gulf Coast University, they analyze the blooms and environmental changes in coastal settings, particularly in response to human development, sea-level rise, and global warming.

"Regions of harmful algal blooms across the globe have increased in size, number and frequency," Savarese says. "This isn't just a Florida problem or a Gulf of Mexico problem, this is a planetary problem."

### What is red tide?

When algae grow out of control and produce toxins harmful to humans and wildlife ecosystems, they are called harmful algal blooms (HABs). Red tide is just one type of HAB, common in the Gulf of Mexico and characterized by explosions of single-celled

algae called *dinoflagellates*. Each cell is about the size of a grain of salt, but when concentrations become greater than 100,000 cells per liter of water, the harmful algae can severely lower oxygen levels and give water a reddish or brownish color.

### What are the effects on humans?

Red tide is harmful to humans if ingested, either by eating tainted shellfish—which can cause nerve and respiratory damage—or breathing in the neurotoxin brevetoxin, which the algae produce. Breathing the toxin can cause people to sneeze or cough, and red tide may exacerbate symptoms of asthma or other pre-existing respiratory ailments. Most of the respiratory irritations are easily fixed, though: "You just leave the beach," Parsons says. "But when you leave the beach, you're disrupting the tourism economy."

Florida is hit especially hard economically by red tide because of the state's reliance on tourism. Fort Myers Beach, for example, announced this year that the area has been losing \$2.6 million per day because of red tide, Parsons says. "The economic impacts are huge."

### What causes red tide?

Poor water quality does not directly lead to red tide algal blooms, Parsons says. "Everyone assumes the cause of red tide is agricultural nutrients coming off the landscape, but it's not that simple. Red tides have existed for millennia."



A 2002 red tide bloom along Florida's west coast was clearly visible from orbit (top). This year's bloom, which has caused mass die-offs of fish and other marine wildlife, has hit Florida particularly hard because of its dependence on tourism.

Poor water quality can exacerbate the problem, but red tide algal blooms actually form far offshore, triggered by a natural cycle. Iron-rich dust from the Sahara scatters into the Atlantic Ocean and fertilizes the water, creating ideal conditions for *dinoflagellates* to thrive. The Florida coast is fairly shallow until about 100 to 200 miles out, where the gulf drops into extremely deep water. When those deep waters rise up toward the surface, they can bring in new nutrients that further feed the red tide.

#### Why was red tide so bad this year?

While scientists are still studying the connection between climate change and red tide, there "is clearly some sort of relationship," Savarese says. "For algae to bloom and thrive, warmer waters are important. The current Gulf of Mexico temperatures are unprecedented in recent history."

Warmer waters are just one of a "perfect storm" of factors contributing to the intensity of the current red tide, Parsons says. Other factors include more persistent winds blowing offshore blooms inland and "legacy" nutrients—litter, fertilizers, and wastewater runoff—from Hurricane Irma, which hit Florida in September 2017.

Red tide used to be more common in the winter, but even that's changing: the current red tide has been a continuous presence in Florida since October 2017. "I don't know when red tide season is anymore, and the reason I don't know is scary: there seem to be red tides year-round now," Savarese says.

With this bleak picture, is there any hope that the red tide may go away any time soon?

Yes, surmises Parsons. "It's hard to predict, but we are seeing the system change. Nutrients are moving into different pathways, which should basically starve the red tide. But things could change back at any time." 📍

#### JOSH CASSADA '00 (PHD)

### Making History: An Astronaut Prepares for Flight



Josh Cassada

**Josh Cassada '00** (PhD) is making plans to be part of the first US crew in history to journey to space in American-made, commercial spacecraft.

The spacecraft capsules, Boeing's "Starliner" and SpaceX's "Crew Dragon," are scheduled to carry astronauts to and from the International Space Station, beginning in 2019. Cassada and the rest of the crew will be the first astronauts to launch from

American soil since 2011, when NASA announced the end of its own space shuttle program.

Cassada, who has been training as an astronaut since 2013, would be the third Rochester alumnus to go to space, joining **Jim Pawelczyk '82** and **Ed Gibson '59** (who set a record in 1974 for his time on Skylab).

#### ANDREA KALYN '02E (PHD)

### New England Conservatory: Meet the New President



Andrea Kalyn

The oldest independent school of music in the United States has a new president. In January, **Andrea Kalyn '02E** (PhD) becomes the president of the New England Conservatory, the internationally recognized Boston institution that was founded in 1867.

Most recently the dean of the Conservatory at Oberlin College, Kalyn will become the 17th president of the New England Conservatory.

A pianist, Kalyn is a scholar of American music of the 20th century. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Western Ontario.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO '95

### Pennsylvania Investigation: 'Abuse Scarred Every Diocese'



Josh Shapiro

Pennsylvania Attorney General **Josh Shapiro '95** has become one of the nation's most prominent public officials investigating claims of child sexual abuse by clergy in the Roman Catholic Church. In August, Shapiro's office released the results of a two-year grand jury investigation that alleged more than 300 priests in the state's dioceses had abused more than 1,000 children over decades.

Considered one of the most comprehensive investigations of such claims, the 884-page report also alleged that senior church officials often covered up the abuse. The grand jury recommended changing the state's criminal and civil statutes of limitations on sexual abuse to allow those who were abused as children to reopen their cases.





## LIFETIMES

## Researcher, Scientist, Diplomat: Norman Neureiter '52

One of the world's best-known science diplomats, **Norman Neureiter '52** has lived a life that reads like a novel, with compelling settings, political intrigue, and a global cast of characters. The story of the one-time advisor to Richard Nixon, Madeleine Albright, and Colin Powell could be written in six languages: he reads and speaks German, Russian, Polish, French, Spanish, and Japanese.

Widely honored over the course of his more than 40-year career for his efforts to share scientific and technological information and negotiate cooperative agreements around the world, Neureiter this summer received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the School of Arts & Sciences.

### My childhood

My father was an Austrian immigrant who came to the US to teach college chemistry and science in Illinois. My mother was a farm girl who made wonderful jams and jellies. When I was about five years old, our family moved to Geneseo, New York, as my father took a teaching position at the college there.

### My passion for language

Although my father was fluent in German, he never spoke it at home. This was around the time of the Second World War, when

speaking German was not something many in the US did. In high school, I took to Latin quickly, and my affinity for language flourished in college.

When I started at Rochester, I recall my dad telling me to study whatever I wanted but to learn Russian because it would be very useful someday. It was the best advice I was ever given.

For a short time, I even taught Russian. That was back in 1957, when Sputnik went off.

### My Rochester days

Four years at Rochester influenced me greatly. It was a pivotal time for me, including working at WRUR, being a letter sorter in the post office downtown, selling vanilla ice cream on a stick at a local theater, and even working for the famous wrestler, Gorgeous George, when he came to town. My job entailed walking him into the ring and helping him remove his robe for dramatic effect.

### My time as Fulbright scholar

After Rochester, I went to Northwestern University, where I earned a PhD in chemistry. During graduate school, I went to Munich, Germany, as a Fulbright scholar. This was exactly 10 years after the war. American occupation had officially ended.



**STUDENT & DIPLOMAT:** Neureiter (center, opposite) talks with former American Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel (left) and a colleague (right); and Neureiter's yearbook photo (opposite, below) as an undergraduate.

## When Ivan Came to the Fair

In the January 1960 issue of *Rochester Review*, Neureiter published "Ivan Came to the Fair," an article about the Russian exhibition where he was a guide. He wrote that the cultural fair showcased "the very credible collection of American gadgetry, household items, clothing and consumer goods, including 18 automobiles, a color television studio, and a model home (\$14,500)."

Neureiter's final words in the article read, "Let us not just flex our military muscles, rather let us strengthen ourselves from within, let us solve our own problems, eliminate our own injustices, and thereby demonstrate that America is indeed a fitting model for the rest of the world."

All around me, I saw destruction. So much was in ruins and I thought to myself: What for? Why war? I decided then that I wanted to do what I could to make the world a little better and more peaceful. It sounds idealistic and naive, but it set the course for my life.

### My early career

After the Fulbright, I went back to Northwestern to complete my graduate work. Then I went to work as a research scientist at Humble Oil, which later became Exxon, and I was there for about five years. The State Department put a call out looking for Russian interpreters. At that time, a top-ranking Russian official, Alexander Topchiev, was coming to the US to give a series of organic chemistry lectures at universities across the country. The real purpose of his visit, though, was to discuss, in closed-door meetings, the control of nuclear weapons. As a chemist who spoke Russian, I translated the lectures and the secret meetings.

### My first time in Russia

My wife, Georgine, and I met at Northwestern. We've been married 60 years now. A three-month trip to Moscow turned out to be our honeymoon. I had accepted a position as a guide for a cultural exhibition to be held there. Its purpose was to show how American life was. The Russians previously held an exhibition in New York City.

### My continued global service

After the Russian exhibition, I returned to Humble Oil for two years and subsequently went to work for the National Science Foundation. I directed a program, started by President Kennedy, that was committed to developing diplomatic science programs with Japan. I eventually learned Japanese and spent quite a bit of time there.

After the NSF, I became a foreign service science officer for the State Department. I worked in Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia. Eastern Europe was behind the iron curtain, and the people who lived there did not have experience with science officers or even with Americans. Sometimes, they thought we were spies. Other times we were followed, and our house was bugged. Knowing that, Georgine and I would turn on the faucet and whisper if we had anything private to discuss.

### My time with the State Department

While we were living in Poland for the State Department, a colleague rang to say he was going to retire as the international advisor to the White House Office of Science and Technology. He asked if I wanted the job. I took it.

The late 1960s and early 1970s were interesting

international times. There was Vietnam, of course. And there was also China. The US had lacked a formal relationship with China since 1949, but President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger changed that. They asked my office to come up with some ideas, and we presented 40 joint science initiatives. When an official communiqué was issued, we were excited to see that science cooperation was included. It became a key part of our country's relationship with China back then. Before his resignation, Nixon closed the Office of Science and Technology. I then went to Texas Instruments, where I was a marketing executive for 25 years and worked around the US, Europe, and Asia, spending five years in Japan.

### My commitment to science diplomacy

Science diplomacy is such a key part of fostering cooperation among countries. By the early 1990s, interest and support for it seemingly waned. The scientific community thought the government had forgotten that



**MEDALIST:** Gloria Culver, dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, awarded a Dean's Medal to Neureiter this summer to recognize his achievements and service.

science can be an important tool for engagement. The pendulum began to swing back in its favor, though. After I retired from Texas Instruments, I was invited to join the Department of State as its first science advisor to Secretary Madeline Albright and then Colin Powell.

Following a three-year term, I was asked to join the American Association for the Advancement of Science. I became very involved in science diplomacy with countries where our overall relationships were strained: Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria. I remain involved, particularly in activities with North Korea. I have visited there five times, as we try to use science diplomacy as a tool for engagement. Stay tuned.

With so many countries having access to nuclear warfare and biochemical and other weapons, science diplomacy is more important now than ever. Committing to it helps us all understand how to use science and technology responsibly, which undeniably helps keep the world at peace. **R**

*As told to Kristine Thompson.*