

PALESTRA PARTY

Rocking and rolling on the River Campus.

THE 'BLACK INDEX'

The value of self-representation in art.

'ALWAYS AN ATHLETE'

An optics major has sights on the Paralympic Games in 2026.

Rochester

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER/SPRING 2023

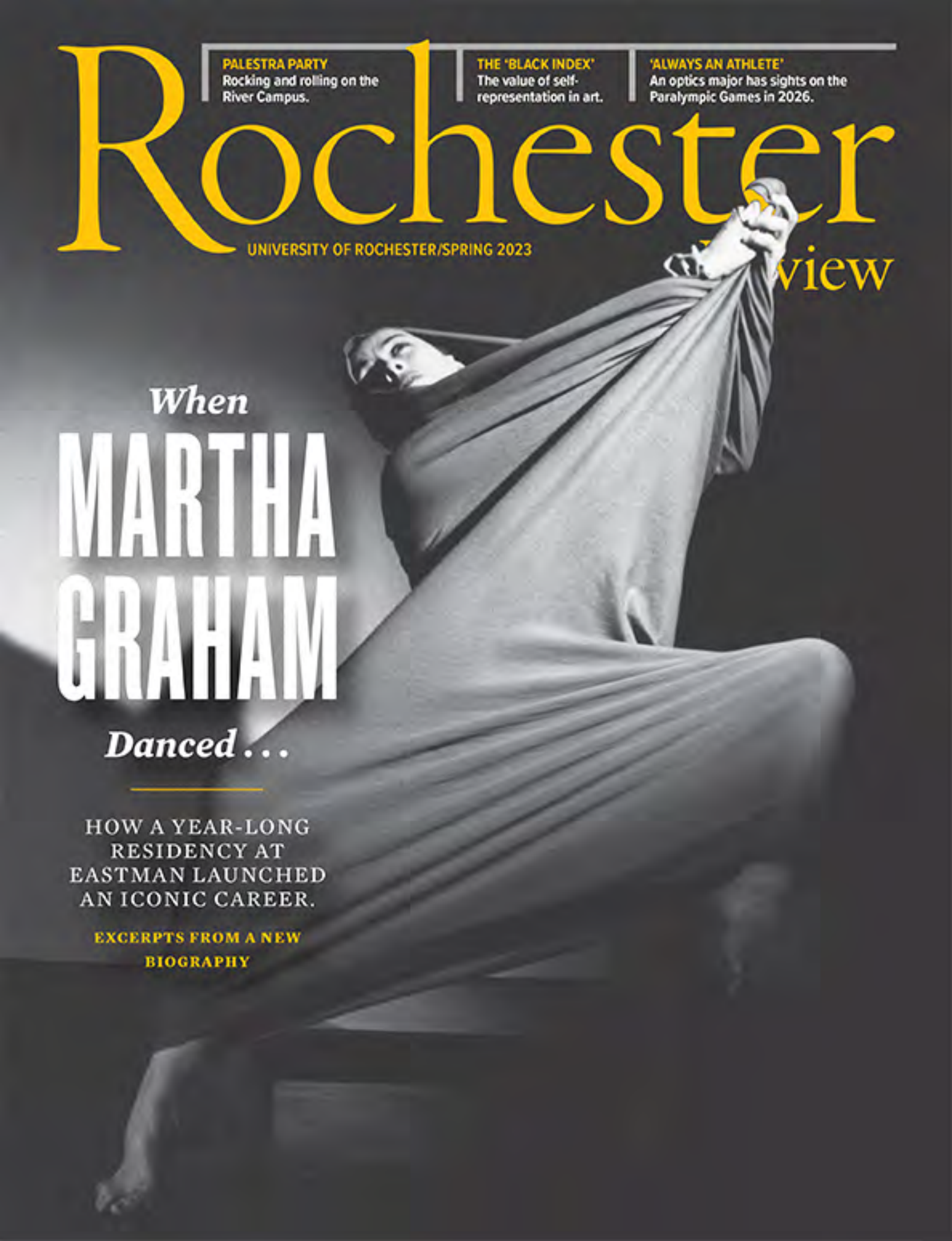
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When
**MARTHA
GRAHAM**

Danced...

HOW A YEAR-LONG
RESIDENCY AT
EASTMAN LAUNCHED
AN ICONIC CAREER.

EXCERPTS FROM A NEW
BIOGRAPHY





*Lisa Norwood,
Retired Assistant Dean of the
Hajim School of Engineering,
University of Rochester*

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in the dust*

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*Emily Robbins,
T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia survivor*

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SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 1

Wilmot Warrior Weekend

OCTOBER 5–8

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Experience Rochester

Our signature online and regional event series exemplifies the University of Rochester's commitment to lifelong learning and features topics and speakers unique to the University.

REAL Conversations

This virtual lecture series offers authentic discussions featuring brave and candid dialogues around equity, measurable action, and meaningful change.

Features

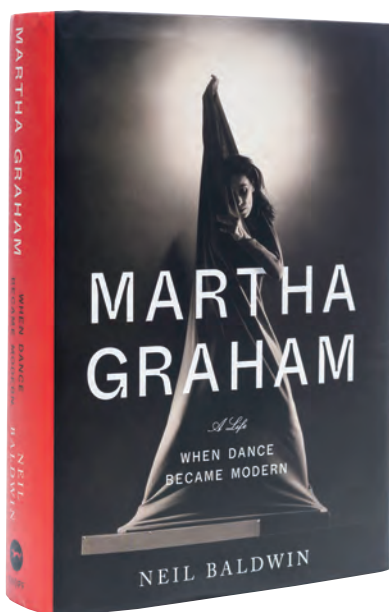
SPRING 2023

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Dance Hall Days

In March 1989, the Bangles (above) took the stage for a concert at Rochester's Louis A. Alexander Palestra. The then LA-based band is just one of many stars—and soon-to-be stars—who have played a role in a musical legacy at the iconic building on the Brian F. Prince Athletic Complex. From the Kingston Trio to Janelle Monáe, we offer a historical lineup of some of the musical greats who have rocked out on the River Campus. *By Jim Mandelaro*

ON THE COVER: Martha Graham in *Lamentation* (1930). Photograph by Barbara Morgan. Barbara and Willard Morgan Photographs and Papers, Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA/Getty Images



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With his sights set on the Paralympics in 2026, sled hockey player Sam Becker '25 has found happiness in two pursuits—academics and athletics. *By Jim Mandelaro. Photographs by J. Adam Fenster*

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The 'Boundless Possibility' of Rochester

We're mapping a strategic plan to strengthen our place as a global research university that remains rooted in our commitment to community.

By Sarah C. Mangelsdorf

One of the most rewarding aspects of being part of a University community like Rochester is discovering anew the exciting opportunities that await students as they map out their academic paths.

The University's nature as a preeminent research university located in a mid-size city offers many ways for students to work with faculty on research and scholarly projects, to undertake independent and cross-disciplinary work, to volunteer both on campus and off, to engage in student activities, and find other ways to involve themselves in the life of the University and the community.

Many students and alumni whom I meet often tell me that such activities—the “non-classroom” work, if you will—often turn out to be among their most memorable, if not life-changing, experiences of their years at Rochester.

Having the opportunity to study abroad is high on the list of such experiences.

As the world becomes ever more interconnected and diverse, the perspectives we gain through an appreciation for people and cultures other than our own can be an invaluable part of our sense of self, our independence, empathy, and judgment.

The idea to incorporate academically based travel programs into the educational experiences of students was an innovation of research universities of the past century.

I'm pleased that our education abroad programs are on their way back to full strength since they were paused by the pandemic.

With an emphasis on health and safety, the programs, administered through the Center for Education Abroad, are sponsoring about 70 undergraduates who are studying outside the United States this spring. That's not quite back to full operations, but it's a heartening sign that an important part of the student experience is coming back to life.

As someone who took part in study abroad programs myself as an undergraduate, I'm excited—and a little jealous—to



know that our students will return to campus and their “normal” lives enriched by the opportunities to go abroad.

Administered through the Office of Global Engagement, our work with institutions of higher education in other countries as well as with international associations and consortia and nongovernmental organizations is a key part of our reputation as an institution—a research university of global impact.

Our renowned faculty play an integral role in growing and maintaining international relationships in their work as research partners, project sponsors, and as leaders of education abroad programs.

Such work enables our students to explore life-altering possibilities and to help create positive change throughout the world.

Rochester students have their choice of nearly 100 academic opportunities established through international agreements, representing nearly three dozen countries.

They also can take part in shorter, field-based programs in places like Bermuda, Italy, the Galapagos Islands, and other academically interesting parts of the world.

In addition to Rochester students going abroad, nearly 4,000 students from out-

side the United States study—at all levels—each year at Rochester.

We truly are a global institution, one that recognizes both our place in the world of higher education as well as our role in providing students the absolute best academic and residential experiences possible.

Over the past several months, I've been thinking a lot about the kind of institution we want to be as the University community has been engaged in a conversation about the future.


Since 2022, we have been fine-tuning a new University strategic plan, titled *Boundless Possibility*, for what will be an actionable road map to move toward our goals.

Our guiding principles for the project include strengthening our reputation as a global research university; contributing to and benefiting from a just and vibrant city of Rochester and the Rochester region; and furthering our commitment to actionable and accountable growth in diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and justice.

The conversations are part of a collegial process that has incorporated insights from faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the Board of Trustees. A draft of the plan was presented to the board and senior administrators this winter and met with enthusiasm and excitement.

While we have much work to do in the coming months, I am confident that the plan reflects our values and what I believe to be essential goals and objectives to chart our path forward.

The animating spirit of leading universities like Rochester is that we are always looking ahead, always looking outward, and always looking out for one another.

I'm certain that each of us will see the spirit of *Meliora* in the plan, knowing that together we will make our communities—and the world—ever better. 

Contact President Mangelsdorf by email at thepresidentsoffice@rochester.edu.

You can also follow her on Instagram: [@urochestermangelsdorf](https://www.instagram.com/urochestermangelsdorf).

An Encore for the Marching Band

I was glad to see that the mystery of the identities of the marching band members was solved (Letters, Fall 2022).

I must take exception to the statement by Fenton Williams '73 that the band was not on the field after 1970.

I, too, played sousaphone during the years 1973–77, and we definitely were on the field doing our precisely choreographed and perfectly executed formations. We were not Ohio State but we tried hard. “If you can’t play and march, MARCH,” we were admonished.

Good times and good memories.

*Richard Rubin '77
Slingerlands, New York*

Prompted by alumni memories and questions about the marching band, University Archivist Melissa Mead offers a brief history of the marching band in this issue’s Ask the Archivist column on page 18. Suffice it to say, the band marched on beyond the 1970s.—Scott Hauser

Remembering Excellent Teachers

I was very sorry to read about the deaths of two of my professors in the early 1970s (In Memoriam, Fall 2022). Both were excellent teachers, and were memorable in different ways.

Political scientist Peter Regenstreif taught my very first class as a freshman—Poli Sci 101. At that time—in the late summer of 1970—the country was dealing with the Vietnam War. Earlier that summer, I had read about something called the “National Petition Committee” that hoped to collect millions of signatures to pressure the American government to withdraw from Vietnam.

I was vaguely aware that Rochester—where I had been accepted earlier in the year—was somehow involved. In the first class that September, Dr. Regenstreif spent the first half hour giving an overview of the course and a summary of curriculum. He then announced that he would spend the remainder of the class talking about the National Petition Committee. He assured us that any who wished could leave the room at any time with no repercussions, and that the subject would not be brought up again during any subsequent classes.

He kept these promises—and taught the remainder of the semester sticking

to the textbooks and the curriculum. I learned a lot about the political systems of other countries that semester, and would never have known anything about his own political perspective except for that first class.

Economist Ronald Jones taught a class in international economics, his specialty, in my senior year. The textbook was one he had just finished writing (with a coauthor). He gave us all xeroxed copies of the book—which was not in print until several weeks into the semester—and taught us a great deal about the theory behind the benefits of international trade, and how it was applied in the real world in the 1960s and 1970s. He also told us what was different about his book compared to the one used in previous years; there were some points of theory that had been known to the economic community for some time but had never made it into the undergraduate textbooks.

While most of my professional career revolved around IT, I will always be grateful that, as an economics major and poli sci minor, I benefited from the instruction of Professors Regenstreif and Jones, as well as many of their other outstanding colleagues.

*Bob Kimmelfield '74
Shaker Heights, Ohio*

Corrective Measures

We owe apologies to two faculty members from the Department of Chemistry whom we misidentified in the Fall issue. In an item noting a ceremony to celebrate inductees of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the photo showed William Jones, the Charles Houghton Professor of Chemistry, with President Sarah Mangelsdorf and University Trustee Cathy Minehan '68. The item misidentified Jones as Richard Eisenberg, the Tracy H. Harris Professor of Chemistry Emeritus who, along with Jones, Mangelsdorf, and Minehan, is also an inductee of the academy.

Review welcomes letters and will print them as space permits. Letters may be edited for brevity and clarity. Unsigned letters cannot be used. Send letters to Rochester Review, 22 Wallis Hall, Box 270044, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627-0044; rochrev@rochester.edu.

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UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER

Calling all Campus Times alumni!

Did you know the CT is turning 150 this year?



That's right! The first edition of *The University Record*, an ancestor of the *Campus Times*, came out in October 1873. We are planning a few events in Fall 2023 to commemorate this monumental anniversary.

We're working with Rare Books and Special Collections on an exhibit of *CT* through the years, on view in the Friedlander Lobby of Rush Rhees all of Fall 2023. If you're in the area, stop by and check it out!

Most importantly, we'd love to hear from past *CT* staff! Please take the time to fill out the form below to share a fun memory (or two) about your time with the paper and indicate your interest in coming back for a Meliora Weekend 2023 event.

Scan the QR code to access the form or type <https://bit.ly/3LQYoHw> into your browser.



CAMPUS HISTORY

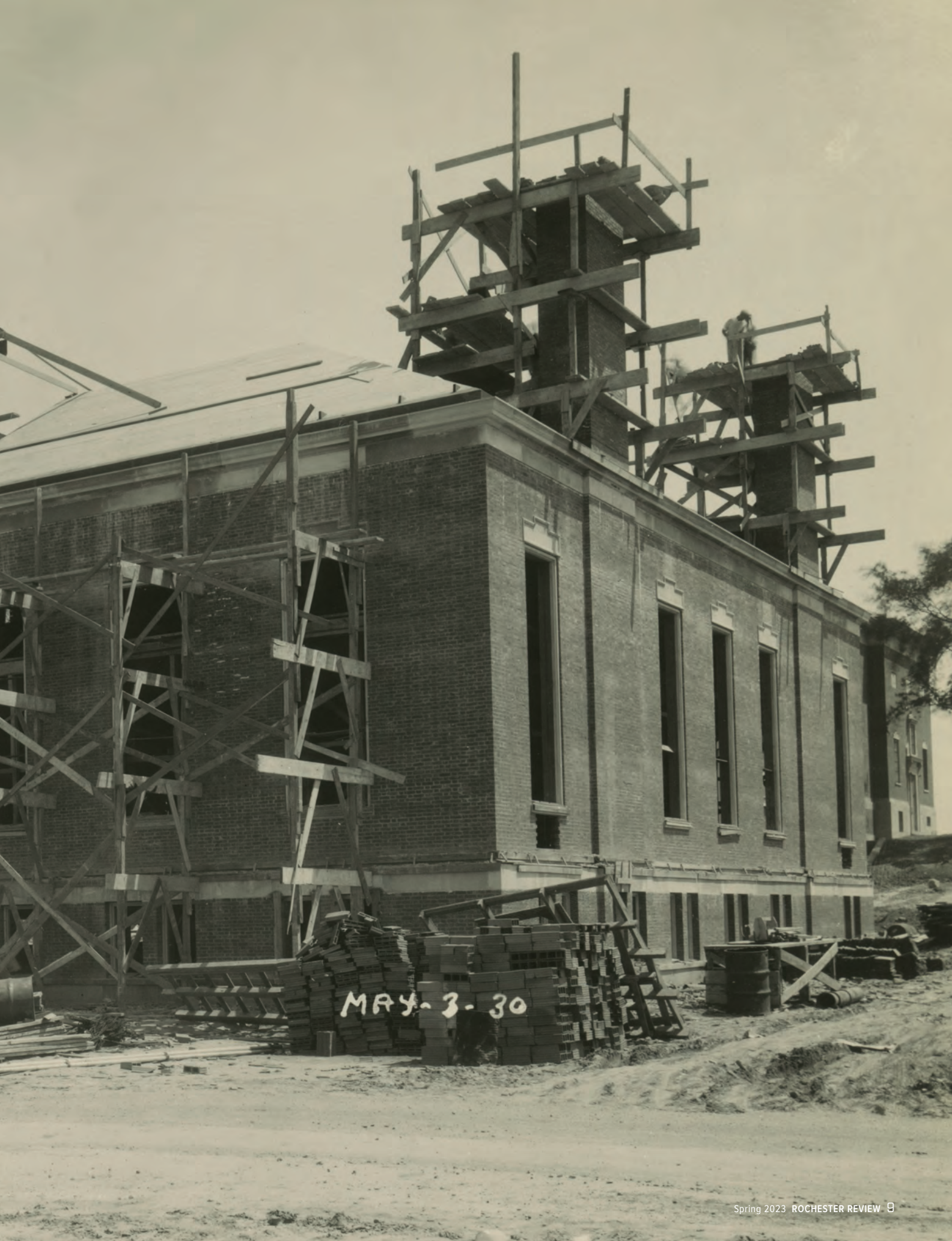
Power of a Union

NATIONAL RECOGNITION: Todd Union, a Georgian Revival building that has been a key part of student life on the River Campus for nearly a century, has been recommended for historical recognition at state and national levels. New York Governor Kathy Hochul this spring announced that the state's Board for Historic Preservation has approved Todd as a site to be added to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. In making the recommendation, Hochul noted that Todd was a "key site associated with Rochester's LGBTQ+ history." In the 1970s, Todd was home to an office of the University's Gay Liberation Front, an organization that advanced the gay liberation movement on campus and in the city of Rochester and paved the way for numerous Rochester-based LGBTQ+

organizations that continue their work and advocacy. Opened in 1930, the building was originally designed as a campus activity hub and included dining, social, shopping, barber, game, and club facilities for students, which was men-only until 1955.

In a twist of Rochester history, the state board also recommended that Oak Hill Country Club in the Rochester suburb of Pittsford be added to the state and national registers. Originally located at the site of the River Campus, the Oak Hill golf course relocated to Pittsford as part of a land exchange that allowed the University to move the College for Men from Prince Street to the site of the former course. The first tee of the former Oak Hill course was roughly where Todd Union stands today.





MAY-3-30

COURSE WORK

Getting the Digital World We Want

Students in a philosophy course put AI tools to an ethics test.

By Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

Course: Data, Algorithms, and Justice (PHL 235/435)
Spring 2023

Instructor: Jonathan Herington, Assistant Professor
of Philosophy

Overview

Last November, the release of the artificial intelligence (AI) application ChatGPT was making headlines as Jonathan Herington, an assistant professor of philosophy and expert on ethics in science, health, and technology, was gearing up to teach Data, Algorithms, and Justice, a course he has offered to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Spring 2023 marked the fourth time Herington has taught the course, but it's never the same twice. It addresses the nascent, fast-developing field of digital justice, which identifies biases in machine-learning algorithms and points the way toward solutions. Algorithms, after all, help determine such things as “who gets bail, parole, a job, or a loan,” Herington notes. They're also systems designed to achieve fairness and objectivity but developed by fallible human beings who also come at problems with assumptions and values that are rarely universal.

Who takes the course?

There were 38 undergraduates and two graduate students in the course this spring. About half of the undergraduates were computer science majors, and the other half split among the humanities and social sciences, clustered around philosophy, political science, and digital media studies. Several students were double majors in computer science and philosophy, “which is becoming a progressively more popular option,” Herington says.

What do students learn?

Herington requires students to have taken at least one prior philosophy course, but that still means some students may be unfamiliar with the field of AI, which has a language of its own, including many acronyms that have yet to enter common parlance. Fortunately, the uninitiated have a machine-learning algorithm (it goes by the name of “Google”) to help them school themselves in such details so that lessons can focus exclusively on larger learning objectives, such as:

- identifying ethical challenges posed by machine learning
- describing major theories of justice and applying them to the technical framework of machine learning
- assessing various solutions to ethical challenges
- constructing an argument for a solution and communicating it clearly and persuasively.

Herington guides students through the objectives in a series of units organized around specific ethical questions and challenges. They include how values are embedded in algorithms; how programmers strive for accuracy and fairness (and how and where they fall short); and how a digital world based on algorithms can limit speech, encourage echo chambers, and spread false information.



DIGITAL JUSTICE: Machine-learning algorithms are making consequential decisions, with deep impacts on individuals and society. How can we identify and eliminate bias?

Assignment: ChatGPT encouraged

This spring, Herington used ChatGPT as a teaching tool. ChatGPT relies on a type of algorithm called a large-language model (LLM). One assignment required students to use it or a similar LLM to help them write a short paper, after which they analyzed the algorithm's performance. The topic: Given that we disagree about the limits of free speech, how should we design content filters for large-language models?

Herington offered a few highly specific prompts for students to provide the LLM—for example, “summarize either the well-farist or egalitarian approach to the ethics of algorithmic systems in the context of moral disagreement.” In assessing the LLM's performance, the students gained a sense of where it excelled and where it struggled.

Their verdict? Says Herington: “LLMs made the mundane parts of writing much less painful, from summarizing general knowledge topics to editing their prose for clarity and concision. It isn't the lazy writer's one-click solution, though. It fabricated quotations, cited articles inaccurately, and struggled to explain—much less critique—the details of authors' arguments.”

Reading and discussion: An algorithm helps evaluate

Instructors who assign a lot of reading rarely escape the problem of students who come unprepared. Herington's remedy is an online annotation platform that students use to access the readings, enter comments, respond to the comments of others, and pose questions. An algorithm evaluates their contributions based on criteria that Herington sets. For example, if you don't understand something, clearly articulate the point of confusion. If you disagree with the author or with a classmate's comments, offer reasons. Make at least four high-quality contributions. And make sure they're not all on the first page. 🗣️

COMMENCEMENT 2023

Governor Josh Shapiro '95 to Address Graduates

The first alumnus elected as a state's chief executive will join the Class of 2023 and their families in this May's University-wide graduation ceremony.

The newly inaugurated governor of Pennsylvania, Josh Shapiro '95, is scheduled to deliver the address to the Class of 2023 during this spring's University-wide Commencement ceremony.

The May 12 ceremony will mark the 173rd commencement in the University's history.

Held in Fauver Stadium at the Brian F. Prince Athletic Complex on the River Campus, the event will mark the conferral of academic degrees for both undergraduate and graduate students.

The ceremony will also be livestreamed at Rochester.edu/commencement.

The first Rochester alumnus elected to a state's top executive position, Gov. Shapiro made history in November 2022 as the highest vote getter in Pennsylvania gubernatorial history, winning the election as the Democratic candidate. He was officially inaugurated as governor in January.

As an undergraduate political science major, he was elected to some of his first leadership roles, starting as Students' Association senator and then becoming president—notably as a first-year student.

The first Rochester alumnus elected to a state's top executive position, Gov. Shapiro made history in November 2022 as the highest vote getter in Pennsylvania gubernatorial history, winning the election as the Democratic candidate.

During his time on campus, he emerged as a respected student government leader, advocating for such things as increased lighting on campus, new food locations, additional student parking options, and improved communication between students and administrators.

After marrying his high-school sweetheart, Lori, and welcoming their first child, he returned to his hometown of Upper Dublin Township, Pennsylvania, and successfully ran for state representative of the 153rd district.

After winning that role, he helped write and pass some of the toughest ethics laws in Pennsylvania state history. His work

Commencement 2023


For more news about this year's graduation ceremonies and celebrations, visit the Commencement website at Rochester.edu/commencement.



Josh Shapiro

earned him a reputation as a rare public servant willing to take on the status quo.

As chair of the Board of Commissioners in Montgomery County, he led a fiscal and ethical turnaround, put the county back on solid financial footing, took early steps to combat the heroin epidemic, and helped the first LGBTQ+ couples in Pennsylvania marry. In 2017, he was elected Pennsylvania's attorney general and went on to serve two terms before launching his campaign for governor.

The University-wide ceremony kicks off a weekend of celebratory events for graduates, their families and friends, faculty, and staff. While President Sarah Mangelsdorf will confer degrees during the ceremony, graduates will receive their diplomas and be personally recognized as they walk the stage at individual celebration ceremonies conducted by their respective schools and academic departments. Those celebration ceremonies begin on Friday, May 12, and run through Sunday, May 14. 

HEALTH EQUITY

For Black Cardiac Patients, More Access to Less-Safe Procedures

Traditional heart surgery, which involves opening the chest by cutting through the breastbone, comes with a high risk of complications and a long recovery time. Newer, minimally invasive procedures avoid a lot of that risk and can get people back on their feet more quickly.

But a new Medical Center study suggests that Black patients have less access to the safer procedures compared to white patients. The study, led by Laurent Glance, a professor of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, appears in *JAMA Network Open*.

Glance and his colleagues found that non-Hispanic Black patients were 35 percent less likely to undergo minimally invasive mitral valve surgery and 62 percent more likely to have serious complications or to die compared to non-Hispanic white patients. Hispanic patients were 26 percent more likely to have major complications or die compared to white patients, but unlike Black patients, were not less likely to get minimally invasive surgery.

The findings were based on an analysis of data from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons National Adult Cardiac Surgery Database. Nearly 104,000 patients across 1,085 hospitals who underwent mitral valve surgery between 2014 and 2019 were included in the analysis.



DISPARITY: Black patients are more likely to receive the most invasive form of heart surgery.

The authors note several patterns in the data that may offer reasons for the inequity: Black patients were more likely to have Medicaid than commercial insurance, seek treatment at under-resourced hospitals, and be treated by less experienced surgeons.

Based on the findings, the authors argue in favor of several reforms: increasing access to commercial insurance; lowering the age

of eligibility or creating a buy-in model for Medicare; eliminating federal incentives that unintentionally impose financial penalties on hospitals that serve the greatest number of vulnerable patients; and regionalizing care, which enables high-risk patients to be referred to centers where they receive expert, specialist care.

—Susanne Pallo '15M (PhD)



MOVE OVER, SILICON: Make way for perovskites.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Cheaper, More Efficient Solar Cells

Perovskites—a family of materials nicknamed for their crystalline structure—have been identified as a much less expensive, equally efficient replacement for silicon in solar cells. Now, a study led by optics professor of Chunlei Guo suggests that perovskites may be far more efficient silicon replacements.

The key, Guo reports in *Nature Photonics*, is taking a physics-based approach that relies on unique properties of metals. In a solar cell, photons from sunlight interact with and excite electrons, causing the electrons to leave their atomic cores and generate an electrical current. But the electrons can also recombine with their atomic cores. Research-

ers typically synthesize perovskites in a wet lab, and then apply the material as a film on a glass substrate.

But by introducing substrates made instead of either a layer of metal or of alternating layers of metal and dielectric material, Guo and his coauthors found they could increase the efficiency of light conversion by 250 percent.

“A piece of metal can do just as much work as complex chemical engineering in a wet lab,” says Guo, adding that the new research may be particularly useful for future solar energy harvesting.

—Bob Marcotte

NEUROSCIENCE

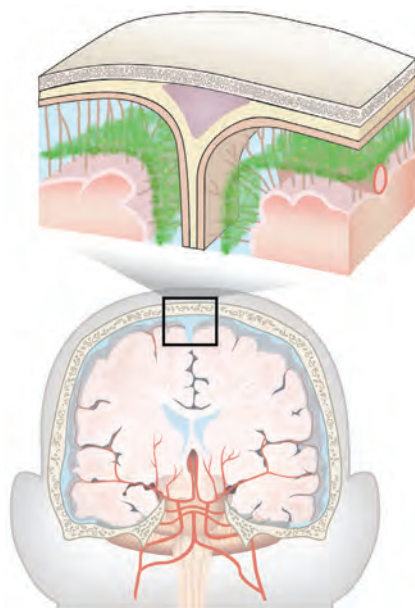
A Newly Discovered Membrane Shields and Monitors the Brain

Researchers have described in the journal *Science* a previously unknown component of brain anatomy. Maiken Nedergaard, codirector of the Center for Translational Neuromedicine, and Kjeld Mølgård, a professor of neuroanatomy at the University of Copenhagen, where Nedergaard also has an appointment, describe a membrane that acts as a protective barrier and a platform from which immune cells monitor the brain for infection and inflammation.

According to Nedergaard, the membrane—called SLYM, for subarachnoidal lymphatic-like membrane—“segregates and helps control the flow of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in and around the brain.” In doing so, it “provides us much greater appreciation of the sophisticated role that CSF plays not only in transporting and removing waste from the brain, but also in supporting its immune defenses.”

Nedergaard and her colleagues have transformed the understanding of the fundamental mechanics of the human brain by detailing many critical functions of previously overlooked cells as well as the brain’s unique process of waste removal, which the lab named the glymphatic system.

Just a few cells in thickness, the membrane acts as a tight barrier, allowing only very small molecules to pass through. It



SLYM: The subarachnoidal lymphatic-like membrane is shown in green.

also seems to separate “clean” and “dirty” cerebrospinal fluid. The second observation hints at the likely role played by the membrane in the glymphatic system, which the researchers suggest will lead to a more precise understanding of the system.

—Mark Michaud

MEDICINE & HEALTH

Hope for Reversing Hearing Loss

The most common cause of hearing loss stems from damage to cochlear hair cells, the primary cells to detect sound waves. People who have repeated exposure to loud noises—military personnel, construction workers, and many musicians and frequent concertgoers, for example—are most at risk for such hearing loss.

Because cochlear hair cells can’t regenerate, the most common cause of hearing loss is also progressive. But not in birds and fish, whose hair cells can regenerate.

Researchers at the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience are getting closer to identifying the mechanisms that may promote such regeneration in mammals, as explained in research published in *Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience*.

Previous research conducted in the lab of Patricia White, a professor of neurosci-

ence and otolaryngology, showed that the expression of a gene called *ERBB2* was able to activate the growth of new hair cells in mammals. The new research, led by Dorota Piekna-Przybylaka, a staff scientist in White’s lab, shows the mechanism for that activation.

The researchers found that in adult mice, the gene initiates the expression of multiple proteins, including one that activates a receptor known to be present in cochlear-supporting cells. The increase in cellular response promoted mitosis in the supporting cells, a key event for regeneration.

“This discovery has made it clear that regeneration is not only restricted to the early stages of development,” says Piekna-Przybylaka. “We believe we can use these findings to drive regeneration in adults.”

—Kelsie Smith Hayduk

RNA BIOLOGY

A Novel Way to Suppress Mutations

Researchers at the Center for RNA Biology have discovered a new way to suppress mutations that lead to a wide range of genetic disorders. A study in the journal *Molecular Cell* describes a strategy that co-opts a normal RNA modification process within cells to transform disease genes into normal genes that produce healthy proteins. The findings may ultimately help researchers alter the course of devastating disorders such as cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, and many forms of cancer.

Around 15 percent of mutations that lead to genetic diseases are called nonsense mutations. Aply named, nonsense mutations occur when an mRNA molecule contains an early “stop” signal. When the mRNA takes genetic instructions from DNA to create a protein, the early stop sign orders the cell to stop reading the instructions partway through the process. The result is the creation of an incomplete protein that can lead to disease.

A team led by Yi-Tao Yu, Dean’s Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, designed an artificial guide RNA—a piece of RNA that can modify other types of RNA. Guide RNAs are a natural mechanism that cells use all the time, but Yu’s team designed one that targets mRNA molecules containing early stop signals by rendering the signals invisible. As a result, cells can read the genetic instructions all the way through and create full-length, functional proteins.

The team also discovered that the artificial guide RNA suppressed another mechanism in the cell known as nonsense-mediated mRNA decay, a process that eliminates mRNAs with early stop signals so that no protein is produced. Curbing it offered a second way for the artificial guide RNA to ensure that a significant amount of mRNA was present in the cell, and that the genetic instructions carried by the targeted mRNAs were read completely.

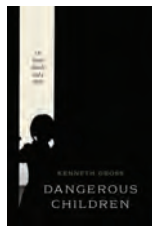
—Emily Boynton



NO NONSENSE: Faulty RNA molecules can produce so-called “nonsense” mutations.

Books

Dangerous Children: On Seven Novels and a Story



Kenneth Gross, the Alan F. Hilfiker Distinguished Professor of English at Rochester, explores works of fiction from Victorian to modern times centered on the figure of “a strange and dangerous child.” Works include Carlo Collodi’s *Pinocchio*, Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland*, and others. (*University of Chicago Press*)

Public Health Then and Now: Landmark Papers from *AJPH*



Theodore (Ted) Brown, professor emeritus of history and of medical humanities, coedited a collection of 30 key *American Journal of Public Health* articles reflecting the major “issues, achievements, ethics, and stumbling blocks” in the field since the late 19th century. (*American Public Health Association*)

Wisdom’s Journey: Continental Mysticism and Popular Devotion in England, 1350–1650



Steven Rozenski, an associate professor of English at Rochester, shows how translated devotional and mystical writings influenced lay religious experiences in England from the 1400s into the 17th century—even as scholars have excluded such writings from studies of popular literature. (*University of Notre Dame Press*)

Martha Graham: When Dance Became Modern



Neil Baldwin ’69—noted biographer and professor emeritus of theater and dance at Montclair State University—presents the first biography in several decades of the trailblazing 20th-century dancer and choreographer. (*Alfred A. Knopf*)

This Room Is Made of Noise



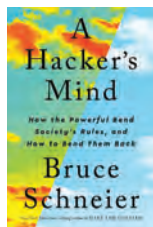
In **Stephen Schottenfeld**’s second novel, a divorced, 40-something handyman and an elderly widow find their lives increasingly intertwined, as each grows in dependence on the other. Schottenfeld is an associate professor of English at Rochester. (*University of Wisconsin Press*)

The Complete Works of W. H. Auden: Poems, Vols. I & II



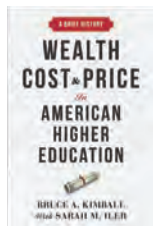
Edward Mendelson ’66—the Lionel Trilling Professor in the Humanities at Columbia and the literary executor of the estate of W. H. Auden—edits, introduces, and annotates the complete works of the renowned poet. (*Princeton University Press*)

A Hacker’s Mind: How the Powerful Bend Society’s Rules, and How to Bend Them Back



Cybersecurity expert **Bruce Schneier** ’84 explores hacking—“activity allowed by the system that subverts the system”—not just of computer networks, but by powerful actors in economic, political, and legal systems in the United States. (*W. W. Norton*)

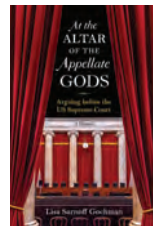
Wealth, Cost, and Price in American Higher Education: A Brief History



Bruce Kimball and **Sarah Iler** ’04 explore the roots of the “wealth-cost double helix” in American higher education, arguing that the spiraling wealth of higher education institutions,

coinciding with spiraling costs for students, has contributed to public resentment of higher education. Kimball is a former associate dean at the Warner School; Iler, a former PhD student of Kimball’s, is assistant director of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. (*Johns Hopkins University Press*)

At the Altar of the Appellate Gods: Arguing before the US Supreme Court



Lisa Sarnoff Gochman ’80, former deputy attorney general in the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, recounts her “terror, wonder, and joy” in arguing *Appendi v. New Jersey* before the US Supreme Court in 1994. (*Red Lightning Books*)

The Greatest Telugu Stories Ever Told



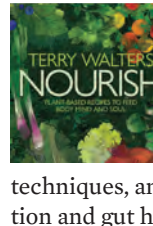
Tamraparni Dasu ’91 (PhD), cofounder of the nonprofit IndiaWrites, offers an anthology in English of contemporary works by Indian writers, selected and translated in collaboration with her father, the journalist Dasu Krishna-moorty. (*Aleph Book Company*)

From Conflict to Community: Transforming Conflicts without Authorities



Gwen Olton ’04, codirector of the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, presents a guide to handling conflicts, providing real examples with conflict analysis and conversational tools to navigate difficult interpersonal dynamics. (*Microcosm Publishing*)

Nourish: Plant-based Recipes to Feed Body, Mind, and Soul



Terry Walters ’88 presents a cookbook including 200 new plant-based recipes organized by season, tips on healthy cooking techniques, and a section on fermentation and gut health. (*Terry Walters*)

As If a Song Could Save You



Betsy Sholl ’69 (MA), an award-winning poet and former poet laureate of Maine, presents a collection as part of the Wisconsin Poetry Series. (*University of Wisconsin Press*)

An Unbounded Experience in Random Walks with Applications



Michael Shlesinger '76 (PhD), a physicist in the Office of Naval Research, traces the influence of a single paper by Elliott Montroll over a 50-year period. Montroll was the Albert Einstein Professor of Physics at Rochester from 1966 to 1981 and Shlesinger's PhD advisor. (*World Scientific*)

The Chessmaster's Daughter



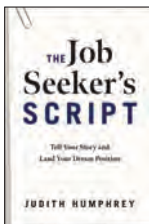
Barbara Regenspan '73, '94W (EdD) presents her debut full-length poetry collection. Regenspan is a professor emerita of educational studies at Colgate University and teaches writing workshops in Ithaca and Syracuse, New York. (*Cayuga Lake Books*)

The Sunshine Camp Story (Second Edition)



Marking the Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp's 100th birthday, **Bob Klie** '89S (MBA) edits and produces a second edition of the book telling the story of the 157-acre camp for children with disabilities and their families. (*Rochester Rotary Club*)

The Job Seeker's Script: Tell Your Story and Land Your Dream Position



Judith Humphrey '70 (MA), founder of the leadership communications firm the Humphrey Group, offers job seekers a template for creating a powerful and persuasive personal "script" for letters, interviews, networking conversations, and more. (*Fast Company Press*)

Tacking Stitch



Victoria Korth '84M (MD), '03M (Res) presents her second poetry chapbook. Korth is a psychiatrist with Rochester Regional Health System and a prize-winning poet. (*Finishing Line Press*)

Financial Freedom Rx



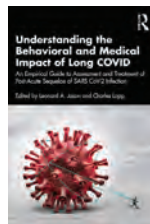
Chirag Shah '99, '04M (MD), an assistant professor at Tufts University's medical school and a vitreoretinal surgeon, coauthors a physician's guide to financial literacy, investing, and wealth management. (*Slack Incorporated*)

Suburban Bigamy: Six Miles Between Truth and Deceit



Michael Zimmerman '93 chronicles two families, both built on his father's deceit and forever linked through betrayal, infidelity, and bigamy. (*Conversation Publishing*)

Understanding the Behavioral and Medical Impact of Long COVID



Leonard Jason '76 (PhD) coedits a guide to the assessment and treatment of long COVID. Jason is a professor of psychology at DePaul University and director of its Center for Community Research. (*Routledge*)

Interact and Engage! (Second Edition): 75+ Activities for Virtual Training, Meetings, and Webinars



Thomas Stone '95, a senior research analyst at the Institute for Corporate Productivity, and his wife, Kassy LaBorie, offer a post-pandemic updated edition of their 2015 primer on virtual training, meetings, and webinars. (*ATD Press*)

Deliver Me from Nowhere: The Making of Bruce Springsteen's Nebraska



Based on interviews with Springsteen and other major artists, musician and scholar **Warren Zanes** '02 (PhD) tells the story of the rough, unfinished 1982 album that many critics claim was Springsteen's most significant. (*Penguin Random House*)

Recordings

Hodges: Front and Center, Vol. 1



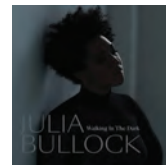
Owen Broder '12E and his quintet perform a tribute to the legendary alto saxophonist Johnny Hodges. (*Outside in Music*)

En Motion



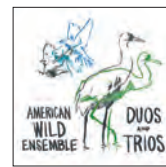
Trumpeter and composer **Nabaté Isles** '99E merges jazz and rap in his second album. Bassist **Kaveh Rastegar** '01E joins Isles as a core performer, and guests range from jazz saxophonist **Ben Wendel** '99E to rapper Chuck D. (*Ropeadope Records*)

Walking in the Dark



Soprano **Julia Bullock** '09E presents her debut solo recording with London's Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by her husband, Christian Reif, who also accompanies her on piano. (*Nonesuch Records*)

Duos and Trios



The American Wild Ensemble features flutist **Emlyn Johnson** '08E, '15E (DMA), clarinetist Ellen Breakfield-Glick, cellist

Daniel Ketter '10E, '10RC, '17E (DMA), '20 (PhD), and works by **David Liptak** '76E (DMA), **David Mettens** '15E (MA), and **Aaron Travers** '05E (PhD). (*New Focus Recordings*)

Red Clay Blue Sky



Laura Sumner '89 presents an EP of original songs rooted in SoCal folk music. (*Independently released*)

Books & Recordings is a compilation of recent work by University alumni, faculty, and staff. For inclusion in an upcoming issue, send the work's title, publisher, author, or performer, a brief description, and a high-resolution cover image to Books & Recordings, Rochester Review, 22 Wallis Hall, Box 270044, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627-0044; or by email to rochrev@rochester.edu.

MATCH DAY 2023

Medical Moment



MATCHING MOODS: Indigo Gill '23M (MD) reacts after learning that she will undertake her residency at the University of California at San Francisco during this spring's Match Day for graduating MDs from the School of Medicine and Dentistry. Gill, celebrating with her father, Saeeda (holding phone), was one of 102 Rochester students who joined medical students across the country for the annual day to mark when they learn where they will be assigned for their medical training.

Tuition-Free Nursing Education Program Launches

The first cohort of nursing students to enroll under an innovative program to provide a tuition-free education is expected to start their studies this fall. Part of a program to combat nursing shortages in the Rochester region, the Medical Center and School of Nursing announced the new program this winter.

The UR Nursing Scholars Program will cover 100 percent of tuition costs for students in the accelerated bachelor's in nursing program for about 11 students a year. To be eligible, students have to pass a licensure exam for registered nurses and commit to working at participating UR Medicine facilities for three years after graduation.

New York state faces a projected shortage of nearly 40,000 registered nurses by 2030 due to the pandemic, an aging population, and nursing retirements.

Major Gift for Business, Music Education, and Libraries Highlights Key Support

University Trustee Evans Lam '83, '84S (MBA) has committed \$15.7 million in a major show of support for academic and other programs in business and music as well as for emergency resources for undergraduates and for capital projects for River Campus Libraries.

The managing director of wealth management and the senior portfolio manager at UBS Financial Services, Lam announced the gift this spring.

The new commitment will establish the Lam e.Hub of Undergraduate Business Engagement at the Simon Business School, part of an effort to provide undergraduate business students with greater access to

Simon's resources; establish the Evans Lam Research Professor of Music and Medicine at the Eastman School of Music to bolster research within the Eastman Performing Arts Medicine program, and create the Lam Caring and Agile Resources for Emergencies Fund to support undergraduates across the University who need immediate assistance.

The gift will also ultimately establish endowed funds to support student scholarships at Simon and in Arts, Sciences & Engineering, among other priorities.

Lam's gift is one of several recent commitments from alumni and friends, who are providing support for new faculty

positions, named deanships, and scholarships at units across the University.

At Eastman, a gift from Susan Ain '78E and Aron Ain will establish an endowed violin professorship. The Susan and Aron Ain Professorship for Violin will support, recognize, and honor as well as attract and retain exemplary faculty at the school.

Also at Eastman, Robert (Robin) Lehman, an internationally known Rochester-based glass artist and documentary filmmaker, has established the Marie Rolf Dean of Graduate Studies Endowed Fund.

The gift creates two named positions: the Marie Rolf Dean of Graduate Studies and the Robert

O. Lehman Graduate Fellowship. Both honor Eastman's senior associate dean of graduate studies and professor of music theory, Marie Rolf '77E (PhD), who is also Lehman's wife.

At the Warner School of Education and Human Development, former Wegmans Food Markets executive Mary Ellen Burris '68W (EdM) has committed to making the largest single gift in Warner's history.

Funded through Burris's estate, the gift will support academic leaders, faculty research, and student success through the establishment of a deanship, professorship, and scholarship.

Burris retired from Wegmans in 2020.

Community Partnerships Leader Named

The superintendent of the University's eight-year partnership with East High in the Rochester City School District, has been named as the first vice president for community partnerships.

Shaun Nelms '04W (MS), '13W (EdD), the superintendent of the East Educational Partnership Organization, will report directly to President Sarah Mangelsdorf in the new role, effective July 1.

Nelms will develop structures for the University's wide-ranging work with local and national partners. That includes devel-

oping an actionable plan for cultivating and stewarding productive collaborations in support of the University's new strategic plan.

In addition to reporting to Mangelsdorf, Nelms will work with Provost David Figlio for community-based learning opportunities and research, including those at the Center for Urban Education Success. Based in the Warner School of Education and Human Development and developed from the East project, the center aims to support the success of K–12

urban schools in Rochester and beyond.

Nelms will continue to serve as the William and Sheila Konar Director of the center and as a clinical professor of educational leadership at Warner.

Succeeding Nelms at East is longtime city school district teacher and administrator and current East principal Marlene Blocker. Blocker's appointment is also effective July 1.

In 2021, the New York State Education Department extended the EPO through 2025.



Shaun Nelms

'Stronger as One': Diversity Awards Presented

Members of the University and Rochester community and a key department at the Medical Center were recognized this spring by the University's Institutional Office for Equity and Inclusion.

Recipients of the 2023 Presidential Stronger as One Diversity Awards were celebrated for their efforts and achievements to reinforce the University's commit-

ments to being an inclusive and welcoming campus.

The recipients were Astrid Müller, assistant professor of chemical engineering, Advocacy and Action Award; Rohsennase Dalton LaBarge, a first-generation, fourth-year medical student, and Martez D. R. Smith, a PhD candidate at the School of Nursing, Change Maker Award;

Information Systems Division of the Medical Center, Inclusive Workforce Award; Shaquana Patrice Divers, a longtime community activist who led the University's well-being program before joining Excellus Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the Social Impact Award; Kellie Miller, a transport assistant at the medical center, Bridge to Equity Award; and University Trustee Lizette Pérez-Deisboeck '87, Empowering Equitable Change Award.

DIVERSITY AWARDS: Honorees include Rohsennase Dalton LaBarge, Kellie Miller, Lyn Boyd-Bauer, Astrid Müller, Lori Gacioch, Michelle Venezia, Fremel Backus, and Shaquana Divers. Not pictured: Martez D. R. Smith and Lizette Pérez-Deisboeck.



Strong Expansion Project Receives State Funding

A project to greatly expand, renovate, and modernize the Emergency Department and the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program at Strong Memorial Hospital has received \$50 million in state funding.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced the funding, through the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program, this winter.

Part of an effort to address chronic bed shortages and overcrowding issues that the Rochester community has faced for years—and that were further highlighted during the pandemic—the project will nearly triple the square footage for the department and its programs and add a nine-story inpatient tower.

The project will increase the square footage from 46,000 to 175,000 square feet.

A portion of the original facility, with some sections dating to 1926, were torn down this winter to make way for the tower, which will be built west of the current hospital entrance on Elmwood Avenue.

The project is scheduled to be completed in 2027.

Ask the Archivist: Are Reports of the Marching Band's Last Hurrah Greatly Exaggerated?

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

I was both surprised and very pleased to see the photo of Yellowjacket marching band members in the Fall 2022 issue of *Rochester Review* and both interested and sad to learn of the probable year of the band's demise. I had been wondering for decades about when the band stopped functioning. Can you tell me why the band was discontinued?—Harrington (Kit) Crissey Jr. '66

Letters from alumni of the 1970s to *Review* also dispute the end date of the marching band proposed in the Fall 2022 issue, echoing a 1974 *Campus Times* letter from Michael Horowitz '77: "Perhaps few people realize it, but the UR Marching Band is alive and well." And so it would be—for about another decade.

The end of the band can probably be attributed to several factors, including competition from other activities and funding. Considered a student group providing a service to the University, the band could not receive Students' Association funding and relied on an academic department—or in this case, two departments: music and athletics. In the September 20, 1982, *Campus-Times*, Sharmila Mathur '85 reported that athletics became the band's sole sponsor in spring

1981 but lacked a budget line to support it. With practice time in Fauver Stadium scarce, there was less stepping on the field and more pepping in the stands, and the baton was passed to the Varsity Pep Band, which continued to "create spirit in the fans by displaying spirit" as noted in the 1985 *Interpres*.

The origins of the University's marching band—or perhaps the marching University Band—are no clearer than its coda.

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.

In the Winter 1984 issue of *Review*, Frederick Fennell '37E '39E (MM), '88 (Honorary) recounted his role in starting the band. "It was on a September afternoon just fifty years ago last fall when I, a pea-green Eastman School freshman . . . hiked over to the new River Campus to found the University of Rochester Marching Band."

While hesitating to suggest Fennell was beating his own drum, there is considerable evidence that an organization known as the University Band, which performed and marched at football games, predated his Rochester arrival by some 25 years.

"Our University band should be the rallying point for our improved cheering and for the rendering of our really good college songs," announced the November 18, 1908, *Campus* newspaper. In the years that follow, information about the band appears sporadically; each successive article announces a new band almost as though there had been no previous group.




STANDING OVATION: Tracing its origins to the early 20th century, by the mid-1980s, the University's marching band moved from on-field performances at football games to a pep band that performed from the stands of Fauver Stadium, a tradition that continues today.

Thus the October 1926 issue of *Rochester Review* trumpeted the news to alumni: "A praiseworthy addition to student life is a new University band, which made its initial appearance of the season at the Clarkson game, strikingly garbed in yellow jerseys (sic), blue sailor trousers, and blue toques with yellow tassels . . . The band was organized by [Eastman School of Music professor] Sherman A. Clute . . . with the co-operation of Matthew D. Lawless, '09 . . . and Eugene Loewenthal, '28, student manager."

The next *Review* issue pointed out that "quite aside from the rendition of music . . . [the band] is providing a definite tie-up between the college and the Eastman School of Music. Only about one-third of the band members are students of the college; the remaining two-thirds are from the School of Music."

Home games were played at University Field, in the area where East High School is currently located—bounded by Culver Road, East Main Street, Ohio Street, and Atlantic Avenue. When the River Campus opened in the fall of 1930, the band, directed by Theodore Fitch, Class of 1922, joined the football team in the new Varsity Stadium. (The stadium was named for Edwin Fauver in 1951 and is now part of the Brian F. Prince Athletic Complex.)

Fennell took over the marching band in early 1934, and by all accounts (not just his own), the ensemble was a rousing success even after he passed on the baton about a decade later. In the off-season, he converted the group into a true University Band. Fennell directed its first concert in Strong Auditorium, won Eastman director Howard Hanson's approval, and embarked on one of the University's most illustrious careers.

Fennell's reminiscence may resonate with that of other marching band alumni: "Whatever has happened to me in the fifty years since then, no matter where, when, or with whom, all dates from that beautiful early-autumn afternoon with my own first group. And I don't intend, ever, to forget it." 

To see the long blue and yellow line march on, visit <https://rbscpl.lib.rochester.edu/blog/ata-spring2023>.

A Championship-Winning Run

Women's relay team claims a national title in a record-setting, All-American performance.

By Scott Sabocheck

The women's track and field program has a new milestone to add to a long history of success.

The women's 4-by-400-meter relay team of Madeline O'Connell '23, Kate Isaac '24, Megan Bell '25, and Susan Bansbach '23 claimed the Division III national title this spring in a record-setting performance at the indoor track and field championships in Birmingham, Alabama.

The first national title for a relay squad in Yellowjacket history, the performance marks the ninth national title in Rochester women's track and field team history and is the first since Kylee Bartlett '19 won the heptathlon title outdoors at the 2018 championships.

Follow the Yellowjackets

For those who can't cheer on Rochester in person, you can follow the Yellowjackets online. Live coverage is available for nearly all home events. Find live stats and livestreams at Uofrathletics.com/ coverage.

Finishing with a time of 3:44.84, the team established a new Division III championship meet record and smashed the Rochester school record by more than three seconds—a record that had been set by a slightly different Yellowjacket lineup at the regional track meet the week before.

O'Connell led off for the Yellowjackets and handed off to Isaac. Running third was Bell, and Bansbach ran the anchor leg.

All four runners earned All-American status, with Bansbach picking up her ninth All-American honor and O'Connell picking up her fourth. 🏆

Yellowjacket Champions

In addition to this year's relay team, Rochester women national champions in track and field include the following alumni:

- 2018: Kylee Bartlett '19, heptathlon (outdoors)
- 2017: Kylee Bartlett '19, pentathlon (indoors) and heptathlon (outdoors)
- 1989: Josefa Benzoni '88, '92W (MA), 1,500 and 3,000 meters (indoors)
- 1988: Josefa Benzoni '88, '92W (MA), 1,500 meters (indoors)
- 1986: Michelle Mazurik Maybaum '86, 55-meter dash (indoors)
- 1985: Renee Schmitt Somerville '87, heptathlon (indoors)

HISTORIC FINISH: The indoor relay team of Megan Bell, Susan Bansbach, Kate Issac, and Madeline O'Connell (left to right) captured a national title this spring, the first for a relay team in University history.



'Always

by **Jim Mandelaro**

photographs by J. Adam Fenster





an Athlete'

As he sets his sights on the 2026 Paralympic Games, Sam Becker '25 says he's found happiness in two key pursuits—academics and athletics.

When he was 15, Sam Becker '25 was faced with a brutal choice: keep the metal prosthesis in his weakened right leg and endure more infections, or have his leg amputated below the knee.

His parents did plenty of research and talked to numerous doctors. “But in the end, it was Sam’s decision,” his mother, Karen Becker says. “The toughest decision of his life.”

Becker had been diagnosed five years earlier with osteosarcoma, a bone cancer prevalent among children and teens. The tumor and bone in his leg were removed, and doctors inserted a metal prosthesis. Becker learned to walk again and endured months of chemotherapy.

But bacterial infections twice forced doctors to replace the prosthesis, and each time Becker followed the same routine: wheelchair, crutches, cane, walking. The process took months, and he was in constant discomfort, with little mobility. Doctors believed it was a chronic condition that could reappear at any time.

It was sled hockey that ultimately convinced Becker to choose amputation.

Becker had begun playing the sport two years earlier. In sled hockey, players with mobility limitations sit in specially designed sleds atop two skate blades. Each

player uses two sticks instead of the traditional one.

“I saw that amputees were more active than I was,” he says. “They were playing a sport they loved and having fun. Having my leg amputated below the knee was the hardest decision of my life, but I had found something that would keep me active. Sled hockey gave me back my competitive spirit.”

Five years later, Becker is an optics major, a player on the Buffalo Sabres sled hockey team, and a member of the US Men’s Development sled hockey squad, with his eyes set on the 2026 Paralympic Games in Italy. He’s pursuing two career paths—academics and athletics. And he’s more active, and happier, than ever.

A CANCER DIAGNOSIS AT 10

Becker grew up in Olney, Maryland, the middle child to Aaron and Karen Becker. He loved playing sports growing, especially soccer.

In 2012, at age 10, he began experiencing pain in his right leg. “I didn’t give it much thought,” he says. “Then, one day at recess, I jumped for a soccer ball and landed on my leg—and it completely collapsed.”

Doctors suspected he had a torn anterior cruciate ligament and sent him for an MRI. A tumor was discovered in his right femur, and Becker was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. His first question after being diagnosed was, “Can I still play soccer?”

Becker began an eight-month course of chemotherapy treatments. Halfway through, limb-sparing surgery was performed to remove the tumor and bone from Becker’s leg and replace it with a metal prosthetic femur—one that would need to be extended numerous times as he grew taller so his legs would match. He also had multiple biopsies and work performed on his left leg to make sure both legs were balanced.

“Since his initial diagnosis, Sam has endured more than 20 surgeries on his leg,” Karen Becker says.

The good news was that the cancer disappeared after his chemo treatments stopped—and has not returned. “I’ve been very fortunate,” he says, “because osteosarcoma is known for returning even worse.”

The bad news was that Becker developed a bacterial infection in his leg a year after the surgery, and then a few years after that. Each episode requires a two-month recovery.

After much thought, Becker agreed to another surgery that involved the removal of the bottom of his femur, knee, and upper tibia. His lower leg was rotated 180 degrees and attached to the femur, and a prosthesis serves as his lower leg. “So my ankle is basically my knee,” Becker says. “It’s a medical marvel.”

CATCHING SLED HOCKEY FEVER

Before his illness, hockey was something Becker avidly watched but never played. “My family is big fans of the Washington Capitals (of the National Hockey League),”

COMPETITIVE SPIRIT: Since enrolling at Rochester, Becker has joined the Buffalo Sabres sled hockey team, an opportunity to continue competing at a high level in a sport that has become a big part of his life. “I was always an athlete and was eager to stay active,” he says. “Sled hockey gave me that.”





LUCKY STICKS?: Leading up to his selection to the US development team last fall, Becker worked with engineer Jim Alkins at the Fabrication Lab in Rettner Hall (left) to create new sticks, an important part of the equipment used in sled hockey. Becker continues physical therapy (below) as part of his regular routine. The optics major decided to have part of his right leg amputated to avoid repeated infections after surgery to remove cancer in his leg.



says Becker, the middle of three children. “We went to a lot of games.”

Soon after Becker’s cancer diagnosis, he had a chance to see—and meet—his favorite hockey team when the Make a Wish foundation gave Becker and his family tickets to a Capitals game. Becker was able to chat with players, attend practice, visit the locker room, and even speak on the television broadcast.

At roughly the same time, his mother went online to search for sports that Becker could play and discovered sled hockey. Invented in the 1960s by two Swedish men who, despite physical disabilities, wanted to continue playing hockey, it’s a full-contact, fast-paced sport. Many of the rules mirror standup hockey: same size rink, same penalties, and five-on-five with a goalie for each team.

Becker has grown to love it.

“I was always an athlete and was eager to stay active,” he says. “Sled hockey gave me that.”

He played for the DC Sled Sharks youth team, then moved on to the Philadelphia Hammerheads junior team. At Rochester, he has joined the Buffalo Sabres of the Ontario Sled Hockey League.

A year before the surgery to remove parts of his leg, Becker was invited to the USA sled hockey development camp. “You play hockey all week, which is awesome, and you’re coached by a member of the US Paralympic team,” he says. “At the end of camp, there are tryouts for the development team.”

As he recovered from surgery, he made it his mission to master the sport. The game was a huge factor when deciding which college to attend.

ELITE SPORTS, ELITE ACADEMICS

“I wanted a school close enough to a high-level sled hockey team,” he says. Buffalo, Chicago, Nashville, and New Hampshire made his list.

He also wanted to study physics and astronomy. That, Rochester’s proximity to Buffalo, and the beauty of the campus, drew him in. “I came to the River Campus for a tour and immediately thought ‘wow, this is a really nice campus,’” he says. “I really wanted to come here.”

After spending some time at Rochester, Becker pivoted slightly, deciding to major in optics. Home to the first higher education institution in the United States to develop an academic program in the field, Rochester’s nearly 100-year-old Institute of Optics awards nearly half of all optics degrees in the nation. “Optics is huge here, and I heard a lot about it from my friends and the department,” Becker says. “I decided to give it a try, and I am really enjoying it.”

Given the importance of equipment in sled hockey, Becker asked Jim Alkins, a senior laboratory engineer and manager of the University’s Fabrication Studio in Rettner Hall, to help him create new hockey sticks.

“Your sleds are custom made for your body because some people are amputees, and others are double amputees,” Becker says. “The other main component is your sticks. Everyone has a different length and style. And for the longest time, I was using sticks that were too short.”

The new sticks were the lucky charm. Last November, Becker was added to the US development team, a group of players

training for a spot on the national Paralympic squad.

Becker goes to the gym five days a week for one-hour workouts and skates three times a week. “The only reason I don’t train on Sunday is because I go climbing with a friend, and that’s a workout in itself,” he says.


Becker says he feels “incredibly fortunate” to have support from Dustin Newman, the undergraduate coordinator for optics, and Nick Valentino, assistant director of undergraduate programs at the Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences.

“Professors are also very accommodating when I have exam conflicts,” he says.

US development teammate Daniel Malloy has been playing sled hockey with Becker since their days with the DC Sled Sharks. He says Becker’s work ethic is inspiring.

“Sam got comfortable with sled hockey very quickly,” Malloy says. “He’s a great hockey player, and an even better person. He’s one of the hardest workers I know, and it’s that determination to be better that sets him apart from everyone.”

The US didn’t form a sled hockey team until 1990 but has dominated international competition, winning gold medals at the past four Winter Paralympics—which follow the traditional Olympic Games in the same host city. Next up are the 2026 Paralympic Games in Italy.

“My dream is to be there,” Becker says. 

DANCE

**BEST KNOWN AS HOME TO YELLOWJACKET SPORTS TEAMS,
ROCHESTER'S ICONIC PALESTRA HAS PLAYED HOST TO
SOME OF THE BIGGEST NAMES IN MODERN POPULAR MUSIC**

HALL

DAYS

**STORY BY
JIM MANDELARO**

PAGE 24



AS A STUDENT REVIEWER FOR THE *CAMPUS TIMES*,

Jeffrey Newcorn '73, '77M (MD) logged more than a little overtime in the Louis B. Alexander Palestra. ¶ There was, for example, the epic 1970 jam session with the Grateful Dead and members of Jefferson Airplane that kept students in the gymnasium until 3:30 a.m., screaming for more. ¶ Now a psychiatrist in Greenwich, Connecticut, Newcorn was a self-described “Dead freak” and jumped at the opportunity to attend the concert. ¶ The historic show—named the ninth greatest jam at a Grateful Dead concert by Rolling Stone magazine—was one of many opportunities that students have had to attend concerts by some of the biggest names in modern popular music. ¶ While the Eastman School of Music has famously hosted some of the most influential artists in classical, jazz, and world music of the 20th and 21st centuries, beginning in the 1960s, the Palestra became something of a musical magnet of its own, drawing performers and fans alike to the iconic River Campus arena. ¶ “The Palestra was just a great concert venue,” Newcorn says. “It was big enough to hold a large show but also intimate. We loved it.” ¶ We revisit some of the more memorable concerts in that music-loving history. ⑥

KINGSTON TRIO OCTOBER 22, 1959

The Kingston Trio helped launch a folk revival in the late 1950s and scored a number one hit in 1958 with “Tom Dooley.” Their fourth album—and first stereo studio album—*The Kingston Trio at Large*, was released on June 1, 1959, less than five months before they played the Palestra, and spent 15 weeks atop the *Billboard* charts.

The trio of Dave Guard, Nick Reynolds, and Bob Shane played to a sold-out campus audience who paid \$1.80 each for tickets. The trio’s catchy tunes were bolstered by a new, \$500 sound system paid for by the Social and Traditions Committee that helped eliminate echoes and distortions throughout the building.

1 RAY CHARLES NOVEMBER 8, 1963

The concert, two weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy, was the Social and Traditions Committee’s most expensive to date, costing \$5,000 (about \$47,000 in today’s dollars), with tickets selling for less than \$3.

The Palestra was packed, and the committee made a profit of \$900. Nicknamed “The Genius” for combining blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, and gospel music, Charles remarked to committee cochair Hayward Paul '64, that he enjoyed “the warm, enthusiastic, and controlled” crowd. Charles would return to the Palestra for another sellout show on November 3, 1966, backed by the female group the Raelettes.

By then, Charles had sold more than 15 million records and had been called “a scholar of popular music by *Life* magazine.

2 SIMON & GARFUNKEL

APRIL 5, 1968

Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel performed before a packed Palestra one day after the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The two opened with “Mrs. Robinson” from the hit movie *The Graduate*, which had been released just three months earlier. Other hits followed—“The Sound of Silence,” “America,” “Feelin’ Groovy,” and more—and the duo performed two encores. “If it’s possible to give sitting ovations after each song, then this deed was done,” wrote *Campus Times* reviewer Jan Zuckerman ’71.

JUDY COLLINS

FEBRUARY 29, 1968

Judy Collins’s performance at the Palestra came in the aftermath of the Tet Offensive—a major turning point in the Vietnam War in which an increasing share of the American public came to believe it had been misled about the duration and human costs of the war. The folk singer performed about 20 numbers, including an antiwar song called “La Colombe.”

3 DIONNE WARWICK

OCTOBER 10, 1968

Although Warwick performed a beautiful rendition of “One Hand, One Heart” from *West Side Story*, which transitioned into “What the World Needs Now Is Love.” *Campus Times* reviewer Ray Singer ’72 found her performance “disappointing,” but noted that Warwick shone while singing “Always Something There to Remind Me.”

4 SMOKEY ROBINSON AND THE MIRACLES

NOVEMBER 1, 1968

The smooth quartet from Detroit wowed the crowd with hits such as “Tracks of My Tears,” “I Second That Emotion,” and “Ooo Baby Baby.” But it was their rendition of “The Look of Love”—the first time they had ever performed the Burt Bacharach number live—that drew the loudest cheers. Three photographers documented the show for possible use on the group’s next album (alas, Rochester did not make the cut).

5 BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS

FEBRUARY 20, 1969

The blues-rock band had performed on the popular *Ed Sullivan Show* the week before and had recently released the album *Blood, Sweat & Tears*, with hits such as “You’ve Made Me So Very Happy” and “Spinning Wheel.” The recording would reach number one on the charts and be named Album of the Year at the 1970 Grammy Awards. Six months later, the band would enjoy headliner status at the legendary Woodstock music festival.

6 PETER, PAUL AND MARY

APRIL 11, 1969

The legendary folk trio turned in a masterful performance, singing hits such as “If I Had a Hammer,” “Blowin’ in the Wind,” and “Puff the Magic Dragon.” As Daniel Smirlock ’72 wrote in the *Campus Times*, “They put on a show so entertaining and so vital—yet so unlike the majority of concerts today—that it suddenly became 1960 instead of 1969.”

7 B. B. KING

SEPTEMBER 19, 1970

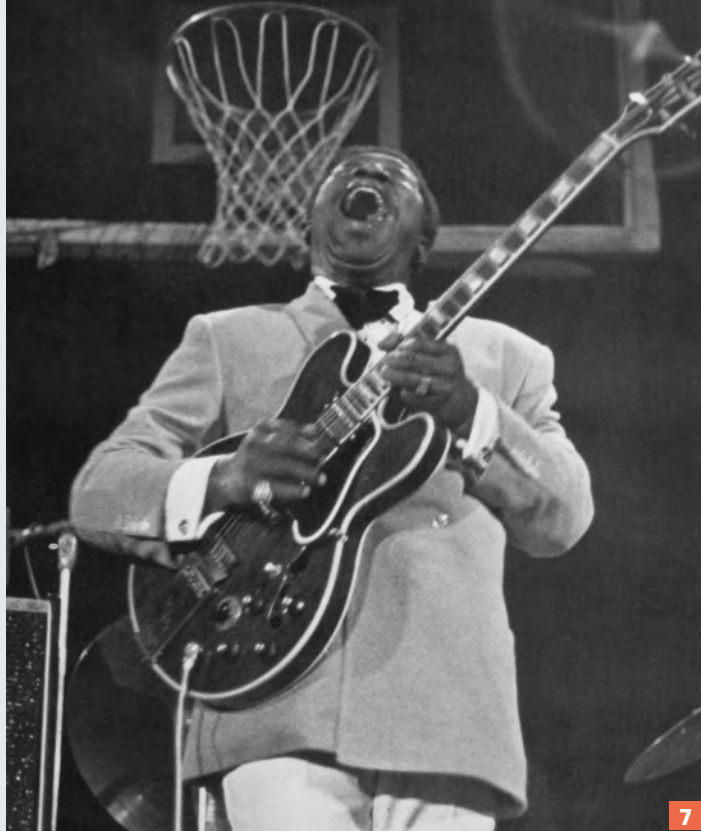
More than 3,500 people showed up—perhaps the largest gathering at the Palestra to date—on a hot Saturday evening, and the heat inside forced King to take a 10-minute break. The blues legend dedicated “Please Accept My Love” to his late friend, Jimi Hendrix, whose death had taken place just the day before. Hendrix, King said, “made a lot of us very happy while he was alive.” The crowd was still stomping and shaking the floor when the house lights were turned on. “The gym floor seemed to take abuse equal to 750,000 basketball games,” the *Campus Times* noted.

8 THE GRATEFUL DEAD

NOVEMBER 20, 1970

In what possibly is the most memorable concert in Palestra history, the Grateful Dead rocked the building with a concert that lasted until 3:30 a.m. and had fans screaming for more. After the second set, it was announced that





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“some friends from across town” had joined the party.

Jefferson Airplane—like the Dead, a San Francisco Bay Area-based band—had been playing two miles away at the Community War Memorial. After their show ended, guitarists Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady learned the Dead were still playing and headed to the Palestra.

Kaukonen and Casady jammed with the Dead for a few songs, including “It’s All Over Now” and “Reelin’ and Rockin,” before an excited crowd.

Freelance photographer Peter Corrigan remembers a “buzz passing through the crowd” after the Dead sang “Casey Jones.”

“Casady could be seen behind the Dead’s amplifiers, and when some in the crowd noticed him, (Dead guitarist) Phil Lesh began playing the opening bass line to ‘White Rabbit,’” Corrigan remembers. “Jorma came on stage with his guitar, did some tuning, and then they launched into the incredible jam. It was an unforgettable evening.”

So amazing, in fact, that *Rolling Stone* magazine ranked it the ninth greatest jam at a Grateful Dead concert.

The Dead would return 11 months later. Fans waited three

that stole the show. Long before it would become a staple on the *Billboard* charts with hits like “Can’t Fight This Feeling,” “Time for Me to Fly,” and “Keep On Loving You.”

9 DAVE MASON
OCTOBER 6, 1973

The former lead singer for Traffic played to a half-empty Palestra. “What a waste!” wrote Vincent Frank ’74 in the *Campus Times*. “You passed up a chance to see one of the most underrated rock performers play an evening of some of the greatest music you’d ever want to hear.”

Frank predicted Rochester students would regret the decision. “Dave Mason won’t have to play to half-filled gyms very much longer,” he wrote. “Not if he keeps delivering such great performances.”

Frank was right. Mason remains a popular act on tour and in 2004 was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

THE TEMPTATIONS
MARCH 31, 1974

The Temptations came in fresh from their win as Favorite Soul/R&B Group at the American Music Awards six weeks earlier. Sponsored by the Black Students’



There was arguably no greater year for concerts at the Palestra than 1976, when three budding superstars performed within a nine-month period.



hours outside the Palestra and were treated to a two-and-a-half-hour show.

REO SPEEDWAGON
DECEMBER 1, 1972

Blues and rock band Canned Heat was the headliner, but it was a young group from Illinois added to the bill just two days earlier

Union, the performance featured the Temptations accompanied by a Motown rhythm section and a nine-piece brass orchestra and included what the *Campus Times* called “a brief but intense set of about 15 of their greatest hits,” including “Can’t Get Next To You,” “Get Ready,” “The Way You Do The Things You Do,” and “My Girl.”



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**10 PETER FRAMPTON,
11 BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN,
12 BILLY JOEL**

**FEBRUARY TO
NOVEMBER, 1976**

There was arguably no greater year for concerts at the Palestra than 1976, when three budding superstars performed within a nine-month period.

Peter Frampton played before a capacity crowd of 3,000 on February 7, 1976—just one month after *Frampton Comes Alive!* was released.

It would be the best-selling album of that year, with hits such as “Show Me the Way,” “Baby I Love Your Way,” and “Do You Feel Like I Do?”

Frampton strode onstage in a yellow outfit, looking “like a lean Roger Daltrey,” according to the *Campus Times* review, and performed for nearly three hours. “Frampton put on the most electrifying rock performance the Palestra has seen in years,” the *Campus Times* wrote.

Two months later, on April 17, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band rocked the arena with another two-and-a-half-hour show.

The bearded Springsteen, whom the student newspaper called “a 26-year-old rock and roll poet from New Jersey,” wore a blue suit and turned in an energetic performance, with songs such as “Thunder Road,” “Growin’ Up,” and “Born To Run.”

“Bruce Springsteen turned the Palestra into a sweat rock theater Saturday night,” the *Campus Times* wrote.

The 1976 trifecta was completed on November 7, when a rising star from the Bronx named Billy Joel played before 2,000 fans, a strong crowd but 500 shy of a sellout.

The concert cost the Concert Committee \$12,500, and \$5,200 went to Joel and his band. The rest was used to cover production and other costs. Tickets were \$3.50 for students and \$4.50 for the public.

Joel played “Angry Young Man,” “Piano Man,” and “New York State of Mind” among other songs.



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He made the crowd laugh with an impression of Jimmy Carter, who had been elected president just days earlier.

“Last night at the Palestra, Mr. Joel played and sang with a fury and confidence few performers could match,” reviewer Brian Kelly wrote in the *Campus Times*.

“After his fourth encore, Joel shook as many hands as he could grab and took a deep bow before leaving the court.”

13 BONNIE RAITT
MARCH 2, 1977

Raitt gave Rochester something to talk about with a 15-song concert that included two encores and a preview of what would be her first hit: a cover of “Runaway,” the song made famous by Del Shannon in 1961. The song was included on Raitt’s sixth album, *Sweet Forgiveness*, which was released a month after her Palestra concert.

THE KINKS
DECEMBER 8, 1977
APRIL 28, 1990

The English group was one of the most influential bands of the 1960s, and their song “You Really Got Me” reached number one on the charts in 1964. The band, led by brothers Ray and Dave Davies, played at the Palestra late in 1977 and again for Dandelion Weekend in 1990.

14 HALL AND OATES
NOVEMBER 8, 1980

The popular duo opened their Saturday evening show with a rarity—John Oates on lead vocals—for “How Does It Feel to Be Back,” which had peaked at number 30 on the *Billboard* charts earlier that year. Other hits followed, including “Rich Girl,” “She’s Gone,” and “Sara Smile.” *Campus Times* reviewer John Swanson ’83 found the show “solidly entertaining” but noted that “many people considered the \$7.50 ticket price too high.”

R.E.M.
APRIL 13, 1983

The alternative rock band later scored chart hits with “Losing My Religion,” “Everybody Hurts,” and “It’s the End of the World As

We Know It.” But in 1983, they were just a three-year-old group struggling for success.

R.E.M. opened for the English Beat, which fused Latin, pop, soul, reggae and punk rock, as part of Dandelion Weekend. The *Campus Times* review was not kind: “Their biggest handicap seemed to be a lead singer (Michael Stipe) who was hard to understand in the first place and pseudo-esoteric lyrics such as ‘Gardening at Night’ in the second.”

**10,000 MANIACS,
VIOLENT FEMMES,
THE FLESHTONES**
FEBRUARY 16, 1985

The Fleshtones were the biggest “crowd pleasers” according to *Campus Times* reviewer Chris Bourne, who correctly predicted that the obscure opening act—10,000 Maniacs—had the brightest future. “(Lead singer) Natalie Merchant has great style on stage and is altogether pleasant to watch,” Bourne wrote. Four albums by 10,000 Maniacs would reach the top 50 in the US, and their 1989 hit “These Are Days” reached number one on the *Billboard* charts.

THE RAMONES
APRIL 12, 1986

The New York City–based punk rock band put on a loud, spirited concert for nearly 2,000 fans. The tone was set by opening act the Mosquitos, who emerged from “manhole covers” on the Palestra floor.

15 THE BANGLES
MARCH 31, 1989

With hits like “Manic Monday” and “Walk Like an Egyptian,” the band performed before a crowd that included hundreds of screaming teenagers. “Thanks for the nice spring evening, Rochester!” lead guitarist Vicki Peterson shouted out on a chilly evening. “We’re not really used to this since we’re from Southern California, but we’ll try our best to heat things up.”

The next day, April 1, “Eternal Flame” became the number one pop song in the US. Six months later, the Bangles broke up.

GOO GOO DOLLS
OCTOBER 7, 1995

The alternative band from Buffalo came to the Palestra one month after the release of their single “Name.” That song would reach number one on the *Billboard* charts and remains one of their biggest hits. The album *A Boy Named Goo* was released seven months earlier and was certified double platinum (two million copies sold) by year’s end.

BECK
MARCH 29, 1997

Beck David Hansen—known simply as “Beck”—was the headliner for a triple act concert that began with Atari Teenage Riot, who took the stage at 8 p.m. “and did not stop swearing or screaming for a half hour,” *Campus Times* reviewer Otis Hart ’97 wrote.

They were followed by the Cardigans, who played their hugely popular song “Lovefool.” At 10 p.m., Beck took the stage, just a month after winning a Grammy Award for Best Alternative Music Performance. “Beck was amazing,” says Anne-Marie Algier ’16W (EdD), associate dean of students at the College. “He walked through the crowd in a hooded sweatshirt when Atari Teenage Riot played, and no one knew he was there. When he returned backstage, he said, ‘These people

deserve a great show, and I am going to give them all I’ve got!’ ”

Hart wrote: “Beck put on what might have been the best concert UR has ever held.” Algier agrees. “That was the best sounding show in that space,” she says. “Beck brought his own soundboard, and it was top of the line.”

**16 LIFEHOUSE,
MICHELLE BRANCH,
THE CALLING**
SEPTEMBER 23, 2001

A trio of rising acts played the Palestra just 12 days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Lifehouse had a big hit with “Hanging By a Moment,” which peaked at number two on the *Billboard* Top 100 that June. Branch’s “Everywhere” was climbing the charts and would peak at 12 on *Billboard*’s Top 100 that November. The video from the song won the 2002 MTV Video Music Awards “Viewer’s Choice Award.”

JANELLE MONÁE
OCTOBER 1, 2011

The multitasking singer, songwriter, science fiction author, and actor came to the Palestra just a year after winning an MTV Video Music Award. She would go on to earn eight Grammy Award nominations and win the Billboard Women in Music Rising Star Award in 2015.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WERE YOU THERE?

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES OF ROCK AND ROLL AT THE PALESTRA.

EMAIL

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EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH:
When Martha Graham arrived to teach at the Eastman School of Music in 1925, she was just starting to develop the ideas about movement that would become her signature approach to modern dance, captured here in a 1940 performance. "She was told that she could use the class to experiment in developing her individual technique, which is what she was really itching to do at that point," says biographer Neil Baldwin '69.

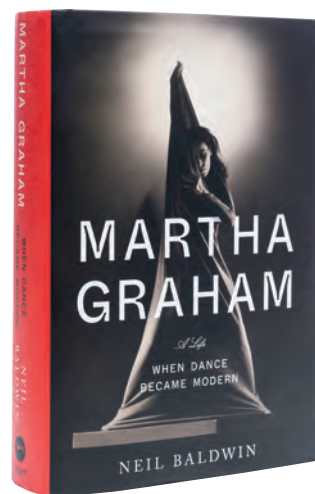




WHEN MARTHA GRAHAM DANCED . . .



A YEAR-LONG
teaching post at the
EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
provided
MARTHA GRAHAM
with “a new adventure
of seeking” that
WOULD PROVE
pivotal to her
PLACE AS A
PIONEERING DANCER
AND CHOREOGRAPHER,
according to a
new biography.



AN EXCERPT



THE MID-1920S, AFTER a decade as a touring dancer, Martha Graham was offered an unusual opportunity. She was invited to join a new music and theater school in Rochester, one that entrepreneurial business leader George Eastman had launched at the University as part of an innovative effort to develop a new kind of performance education. ¶ Interested in sharing the experience of music far more broadly, Eastman had hired an equally ambitious, Stanislavsky-trained theater veteran, Rouben Mamoulian to head what was then the Eastman School of Dance and Dramatic Action. The school's newest department would be "dedicated to dance choreography embracing 'a much wider scope than just ballet ... [and] employ[ing] the most modern ideas," as Neil Baldwin '69 recounts in his acclaimed new biography of the iconic dance pioneer, *Martha Graham, When Dance Became Modern: A Life* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2022).

For nearly a year, Graham divided her time between Rochester and Manhattan, teaching and performing, but most importantly, honing her ideas about dance and movement while also inventing how to introduce future generations of students into what would become her signature technique.

Here are excerpts from Baldwin's book about Graham's time at Eastman.

THE DANCE PROGRAM AT EASTMAN offered classes for children, senior classes, health education, and private instruction. Under Martha Graham's supervision, "[t]he word 'ballet' was being dropped," Mamoulian said, "because the new dance training will be of much broader scope, comprising all forms of the dance." The curriculum stressed the relationship of technical training to professional preparation—through pantomime, plastic movement, makeup, stage deportment, and diction, as well as attention to dance history. Every student was given the opportunity to perform before audiences in the Eastman Theatre and Kilbourn Hall and promised the experience of being filmed in their classes, "the motion pictures [then] thrown on the screen to illustrate the effects in technic."

To Mr. Eastman, "acting" and "theatre" were not isolated activities. He wanted the unity of dramatic action, with emphasis upon the cause and effect of events onstage. Mamoulian came up with the wording for the announcement bulletin published for the opening of the school, "to recognize anew the close kinship of the arts of the Dance and Drama, and to develop a new form of theatrical art in which drama and dance, linked with music, will combine into an inseparable unity." He strove to "revive the ideal of the Greeks"—*choros*—engendering theatre-as-dance/dance-as-theatre.

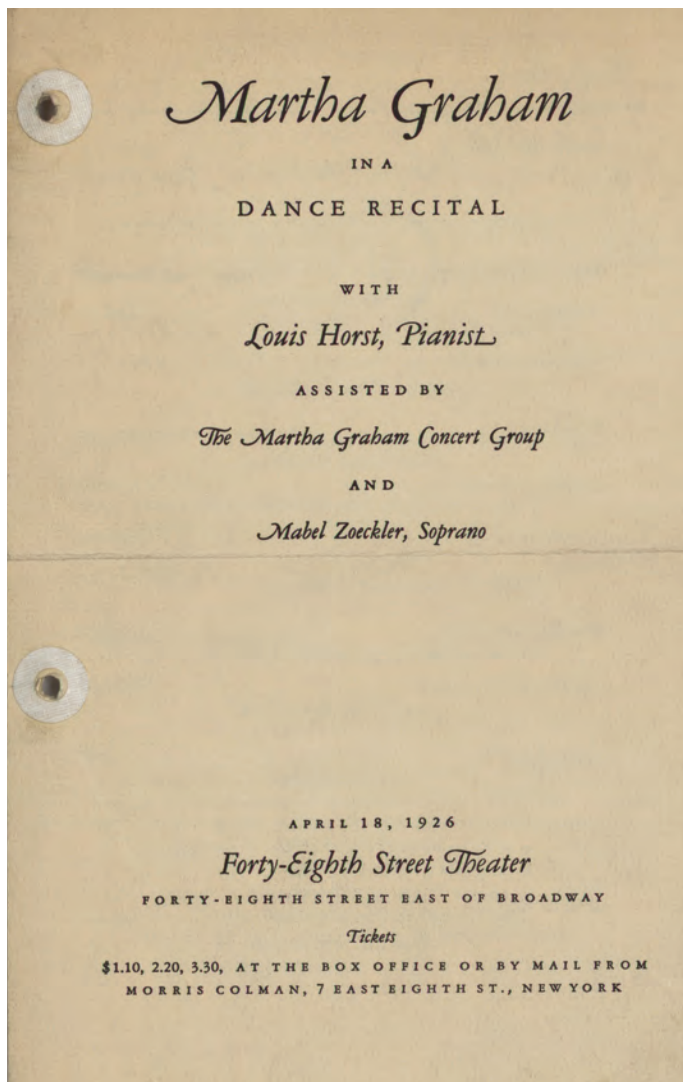
This was the milieu into which Martha Graham, at a salary of \$260 per week, made a grand entrance on September 14, 1925. As she crossed the threshold of the Eastman Annex on Swan Street and mounted the stairs to Dance Studio B on the third floor, the solitary pilgrim hoped

the day marked the beginning of a new adventure of seeking. Her teaching contract guaranteed that Graham would be given time in class to devise her own compositions. The Eastman School would become the setting for "that glory [she] had never touched." Graham recalled "the first morning [she] went into class," how she "wanted to begin, not with characters . . . but with movement—walking, running, skipping, leaping" across the room, no decorative presentation for its own sake. Through strength-building weight changes and deep stretches. Graham's students would awaken energies within and become aware of "inner meaning . . . something to dance *about!*"

The crowded class included several boys, but Graham singled out the three most promising girls. Seven months later, Evelyn Sabin, Betty Macdonald, and Thelma ("Teddy") Biracree would take the stage at the 48th Street Theatre to perform in the New York City premiere of Graham's dance group where she shone like Venus enfolded in the angelic perfection of veiled handmaidens, "those gracious Virgins three."

The youngest of the sister goddesses, the "exquisite" Evelyn Sabin, was destined, Graham said, to "be a dreamer all her life." Seventeen when she came to Eastman, Sabin described the exercises instigated by Graham in a progressive sequence, "the





floor work . . . walking, running, jumping, leaping . . . and the falls . . . The movement, to me, was always changing, developing and growing.”

“The first day Martha walked in the door of the dance studio,” eighteen-year-old Betty Macdonald said, she stood absolutely still, like a statue, facing the class, draped in an “East Indian sari à la Ruth St. Denis. . . . She hadn’t even moved yet [but] she illuminated the whole place with her presence. . . . [She] was finding her own way of moving the body. . . . She wanted to move the body differently,” initiating ideas in her center of gravity and carrying them over into her students. In Graham’s classes, parts of the body other than the feet would come into contact with the floor, sculptural lines supporting one’s earthbound weight. Spiraling around the back, torso twisting, “Graham falls . . . [were] percussive, as though someone hit you. . . . When you came [back] up, you came up with your entire body naturally,” pressing down with your weight into the floor to gather energy and rise upwards again “not like a [ballet] toe-dancer who came up with prettiness and beauty.”

Thelma Biracree agreed. “We learned how to kneel. . . . The floor was a very important place for Martha.” The oldest of the East-

EASTMAN BEGINNINGS: Graham (left, standing) and her diaphanous first dance group at the Eastman School of Music, (left to right) Evelyn Sabin, Betty Macdonald, and Thelma Biracree, 1925–1926. The students were featured in Graham’s debut New York performance (above).

man muses, at twenty-one, and with a \$25-per-week scholarship, Teddy became Graham’s rehearsal assistant and demonstrator. Teddy idolized her teacher, hoarding stray “threads and little ravelings” that fell to the ground from the long dress Graham wore over leotards. Graham demanded that Teddy sit cross-legged, close her eyes, and visualize the Kundalini serpent power coiling up her spine, from the sacral plexus to the many-petaled lotus crown at the top of her head, and breathe deeply. “imagin[ing] a spiral going around and around.” Graham told she girls to forget turn-outs. . . . She was an incandescent teacher,” Teddy said. “She set us on fire! . . . It was all quite revolutionary for upstate New York!”

GRAHAM’S PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE at Eastman followed the crammed pace of vaudeville. There were three shows a day, every day except Sunday, for the six-day run of a “deluxe” program. A typical Eastman Theatre show during the fall of 1925 took place during the week of October 25. The “opener” was Wagner’s overture to *Rienzi*, performed by the Eastman Theatre orchestra under the baton of Guy Fraser Harrison. This was followed by a newsreel, “Eastman Theatre Current Events,” then a presentation arranged for the students by Martha Graham, a Delsartian “Pompeian Afternoon” warmly welcomed by the *Democrat & Chronicle* as “an indication of delightful dance divertissements, including a series of exquisite stage pictures, set against a background of four Greek columns.”

The misses Sabin, Macdonald, and Biracree were featured. After they departed into the wings, the lights came down for the feature film presentation, *Little Annie Rooney*, starring Mary Pickford, followed by a Mutt and Jeff comedy, *Mixing in Mexico*. “Now we’re set to symphonic music and presented in natural color,” the cartoon duo proclaimed. Two weeks later, November 8–14, again with three performances a day (at “3:14, 7:14, and 9:14 p.m.”), Graham arranged “A Serenade in Porcelain” that came on fifth in the lineup, preceded by an overture, the “current events,” a comedy routine, and a vocal number by a student from the Eastman opera department; and followed by a dramatic “sketch” and the featured movie.

Leading up to [the Kilbourn debut of the opera] *Sister Beatrice*, Martha Graham was credited as Eastman’s “sole arranger of dance routines” such as “A Cornet in Spain,” accompanied by Claude Debussy’s impressionist piece, *Danse Arabesque* in which Sabin, Macdonald, and Biracree “are robed in flowing white; the stage light is dimmed and given a hint of color . . . The gesture of arm and body is made to flow down the line of figures and a group pose in the stage center is taken . . . This is a music that has grace and prismatic tone color [and] rhythmic flow that travels through no set routine but moves fancy free with beauty as a goal.”

SPRINGTIME AT EASTMAN continued with an efflorescence of dances “produced by Rouben Mamoulian and arranged by Martha Graham”—“Gavotte,” “A Corner in Spain,” “Dream in a Wax Museum” (including “Dance of the French Dolls”), and “Forest Episode.”

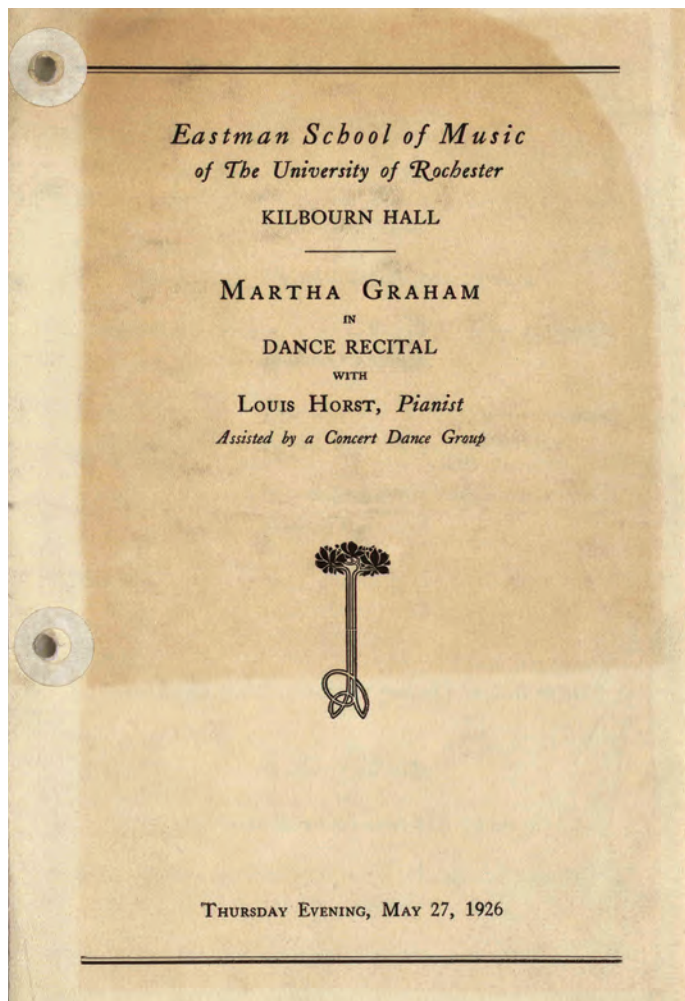
Rouben Mamoulian resigned on June 24, the cusp of summer 1926. And as meteoric as its rise nine months earlier, the Eastman School of Dance and Dramatic Action plummeted. Rumors of his

discontent had been circulating since winter, fueled by clandestine trips to New York and public arguments with [opera director] Vladimir Rosing. Mr. Eastman, expressing annoyance with the meager cash generated by the theatre and dance program, made it known that his pockets were not inexhaustible. Mamoulian's transition to the venerable Theatre Guild, and the directorship of its theatre school in New York, came as no surprise to his Rochester confrere, Paul Horgan, who had felt "it was only a question of time" until his mercurial supervisor, whom he nicknamed Dr. Faustus, "took flight for broader fields. . . . We had intimately watched his work . . . we knew the penetration, the ingenuity, and the superb taste he brought to every theatrical problem." A year later, Mamoulian would make his Broadway directorial debut at the helm of the Theatre Guild's triumphant production of Dorothy and DuBose Heyward's *Porgy*.

Although Martha Graham's brief tenure at Eastman had been a noble experiment, she remained troubled and restless. On June 26, after *Ave Maria*, her final performance of the season, she was called to an appointment with Howard Hanson, director of the Eastman School of Music, to renew her contract to teach and choreograph for a second year. Unable to bring herself to sign on the dotted line, Graham summarily "turned, walked out, packed [her] things, and returned to Manhattan."

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ENCORE: Graham and her Eastman students reprised the New York City debut for a late spring recital in Rochester (below).



GRAHAM'S EASTMAN ROOTS



As a scholar and author, Neil Baldwin '69 willingly expresses an affinity for the currents of American culture that lead to reinvention—older currents being reconfigured and recast in new ways.

If through lines can be found in his life's work as poet, critic, and biographer, that might be one. The former founding executive director of the National Book Foundation and now a professor emeritus at Montclair State University, Baldwin has written highly regarded books about poet and physician William Carlos Williams, visual artist Man Ray, inventor Thomas Edison, and auto magnate Henry Ford, among others.

A new biography of modern American dance icon Martha Graham—the first in more than 30 years—seemed a logical addition to that pantheon.

"I felt like [Graham] had been left out of the narrative that I've been creating for my whole life about American art," Baldwin says. "I thought, 'Wait a second . . . what about dance? I did art. I did literature. I did technology.'"

"At a rather late point in my career, I suddenly am hit over the head with this physical nature of modernism,

“[GRAHAM] WAS HIRED WITH THE EXPRESS REASSURANCE THAT SHE WAS GOING TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN JUST CONVENTIONAL BALLET AT EASTMAN. AND SHE WELCOMED THAT. . . THE ROOTS OF HER MODERN MODE CAN DEFINITELY BE TRACED TO THAT YEAR.”

movement-wise, and how she used her body to create a new aesthetic,” he says. “Again, the key note is new, to make it new, as Ezra Pound says, to carve space and to create shapes with the body that no one’s ever done before—Graham was the pioneer of physicality.”

After more than a decade of research and dozens of interviews with Graham dancers—former and current—Baldwin published *Martha Graham, When Dance Became Modern: A Life in 2022*.

Listed in many year-end round-ups as one of the best books of the year, the biography recounts Graham’s creative life, from growing up in Pittsburgh to her status as one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

Among the many institutions where Graham left a lasting mark was the Eastman School of Music. From the fall of 1925 to the spring 1926, Graham participated in an innovative, but short-lived, program of “dance and dramatic action” at Eastman.

“She was hired with the express reassurance that she was going to do something different than just conventional ballet at Eastman. And she welcomed that,” Baldwin says. “In terms of the theme of the book, ‘When Dance Became Modern,’ that’s really important because the roots of her modern mode can definitely be traced to that year.”

What brought Graham to Eastman?

At that point, she was starting to develop her own choreographic style of movement. And when she was hired by Rouben Mamoulian who was the head

of a newly established school of dance and dramatic action under George Eastman, she was told that she could use the class to experiment in developing her individual technique, which is what she was really itching to do at that point.

She had paid her dues in vaudeville and as a showgirl. She had traveled back and forth across the country and performed in all these little towns from east to west and north to south with Ted Shawn and Ruth St. Denis and their dance company.

Did she have a plan in mind as she joined the faculty?

When she left the Greenwich Village Follies and moved beyond vaudeville, she said she wanted to create her own dances in her own body and that was crucial to the Eastman residency.

Intrinsic to the origin of modern dance, is there was no formal, pre-existing repertory. There’s no, “Oh, let’s do *Swan Lake*.” Everybody has the pattern and the narrative and the staging of *Swan Lake* to follow, whereas Graham was concocting dances from simple, pedestrian movements like walking, running, skipping, and leaping and drawing upon her students’ inner energy to make new movement patterns come to life.

Is it fair to say the roots of the Martha Graham Dance Company can be traced to her time at Eastman?

Three Eastman students—Evelyn Sabin, Betty Macdonald, and Thelma Biracree—were the nucleus of what became her company. Looking back upon that nascent period, which was less than a year, she was teaching in New York City at John Murray Anderson’s school and then

she would take the train up to Eastman and teach her classes and she went back and forth like that from New York to Rochester. She featured Eastman students in her New York City premiere in April 1926.

Did you work with Eastman as you were recounting Graham’s time in Rochester?

The Eastman School’s historian, Vince Lenti, and his books, for example, *For the Enrichment of the Community: George Eastman and the Founding of the Eastman School of Music* (Meliora Press, 2004), were very helpful. The head of special collections at the Sibley Music Library, David Peter Coppen, was also extremely helpful. Paul Horgan’s memoir of Mamoulian was a gem, as were some old Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* clippings files I discovered in the Reading Room of the Library of Congress.

I would say that the story of Graham’s time at Rochester is

more known among the Eastman community than the larger University community.

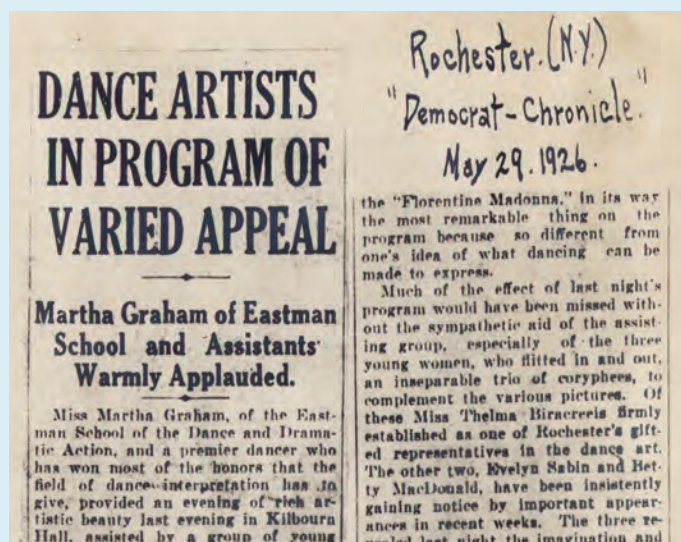
How do you think your time as a student at Rochester set you on your path as a writer and scholar?

It was my freshman or sophomore year, when the Outside Speakers Committee brought the charismatic cultural critic Susan Sontag to campus. I don’t think she was even 30 years old. She had just published what would become her most enduring classic, *Against Interpretation*.

I remember all of us students sitting on the floor in a circle around her. That was my first really vivid inspiration about how you could write about the alchemy of societal mores and art and performance and visual art. I still return to *Against Interpretation* every few years.

During my freshman year, I took a course called American Intellectual History with the brilliant, resonant-voiced, impassioned professor Loren Baritz in the history department. The startling keyword for me was “intellectual”—the core of his thesis in his book *City on a Hill*. That was a major cataclysmic epiphany for 18-year-old me.

—SCOTT HAUSER



RAVE REVIEWS: Local reviews highlighted Graham’s three principal Eastman students: Thelma Biracree is “firmly established as one of Rochester’s gifted representatives in the dance art,” the *Democrat and Chronicle* wrote, while Evelyn Sabin and Betty Macdonald “have been insistently gaining notice by important appearances in recent weeks.”



METHOD TO MOZART: “Every time I heard someone play [Mozart’s] music, I was baffled by how terrified they sounded of doing the wrong thing,” Bezuidenhout says. “I was determined to find a way to bring out more passion, relaxation, and romance. And I could do that on these old pianos in a way that I just never could on a Steinway.”

KRISTIAN BEZUIDENHOUT '01E, '04E (MM)

The Magic of Mozart—As Mozart Would Have Created It

An Eastman keyboardist aims to capture the passion and romance of classical music as it sounded in the late 18th century.

By Robin L. Flanigan

Kristian Bezuidenhout '01E, '04E (MM) watched *Amadeus*, the 1984 semibiographical movie about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, when he was 10.

The “super lonely” child, as Bezuidenhout describes himself at that age, was “completely bamboozled by how beautiful the music was” and became obsessed both with the film and Mozart’s compositions, which he felt gave him a way to escape his solitude.

“Those feelings you have as a kid with music like that just never go away,” he says from his home in London.

Today, Bezuidenhout is a leading period-instrument keyboard player, best known for his fortepiano interpretations of the complete keyboard music of Mozart (Harmonia Mundi record label). Earlier this year, he released his 25th album—the last volume of the complete Beethoven Concertos (*Piano Concertos Nos. 1 & 3*) recorded with the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra.

A regular guest with the world’s leading ensembles—and with conductors including Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Philippe Herreweghe, Giovanni Antonini, and Daniel Harding—Bezuidenhout was named Most Exciting Young Musician for the 2005–06 season by the Dutch Federation of Music and Drama and earned a nomination in 2013 as *Gramophone* magazine’s Artist of the Year.

During the 2017–18 season he became an artistic director of the Freiburger Barockorchester and principal guest conductor with the English Concert.

Future projects include Bach Christmas Cantatas and Handel Dixit Dominus—both with the Freiburger Barockorchester—and the English Concert, featuring Purcell Odes and Handel Chandos.

In one music review, the *New York Times* wrote that Bezuidenhout’s performance of keyboard works by Mozart demonstrated the “dazzling variety of colors he can draw from his instrument.”

Bezuidenhout's repertoire extends beyond Mozart to works by Baroque and Romantic composers, including Purcell, Handel, and Bach, to the music of Schubert, Mendelssohn, and Brahms. But Mozart has remained a main focus for the Austrian/South African pianist—in part to interpret the prolific composer's works in new ways.

"Every time I heard someone play his music, I was baffled by how terrified they sounded of doing the wrong thing," he says. "I was determined to find a way to bring out more passion, relaxation, and romance. And I could do that on these old pianos in a way that I just never could on a Steinway.

"While there is a great deal to be learned from historical sources, an equally important aspect of my approach is based on 'gut' feelings; on the realization of sounds in my imagination," he adds. "It is a highly postmodern exercise in a sense—deeply subjective and based on background and personal experience."

Bezuidenhout says the Eastman School of Music was instrumental in allowing him to develop that trial-and-error approach as an advanced keyboard student.

He remembers "a constellation of important people" at Eastman who valued that process much more than a heavily structured curriculum.

"It was this free, open environment where there was so much experimentation," he says. "They allowed me to be myself at a time when—at least hypothetically—other faculty might have tried to suppress these slightly fantastical tendencies."

Those tendencies included bouncing between the fortepiano, harpsichord, flute, and chamber music.

For example, Rebecca Penneys, a professor emerita of piano and Bezuidenhout's principal piano instructor, was "unbelievably open-minded." Meantime, Paul O'Dette, a professor of lute, inspired him to use historical information to enliven and enrich music making. (Bezuidenhout became O'Dette's assistant for several years). He also counts his work with Malcolm Bilson (fortepiano) and Arthur Hass (harpsi-

chord) as deeply stimulating: "Both teachers instilled in me a newly found appreciation of the myriad possibilities offered by these instruments; they are both scrupulous stylists, too—remarkable."

"We were renegades in a way," he says of himself and his peers, "with the consent of our teachers."

That preference for unconventionality paid off. The year Bezuidenhout received his bachelor's degree, he recorded his first disc of Mozart, titled *Sturm und Drang*, and captured first prize at the prestigious Bruges Fortepiano Competition.


About 60 percent of Bezuidenhout's typical music season is solo work, which he finds the most demanding. When recently preparing to perform the Schumann Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54 for the first time, he spent between five and six hours a day for several weeks before he felt ready.

He also performs chamber music—the accompaniment of vocal repertoire is a particular source of joy—and collaborates with musicians such as tenor Mark Padmore, Carolyn Sampson, Anne Sofie von Otter, and Isabelle Faust.

"It's a fantastic mix," he says. "I could never get bored because there's such constant variety in this field. I always wanted a career that would challenge me in many different directions."

For another challenge, Bezuidenhout is thinking about buying a harpsichord so that he can delve into the instrument more deeply. He's looking forward to several years of intense training and possible future recordings including the Bach Harpsichord Concertos (with single strings).

But it needs to be the right kind of training—the kind he received generously at Eastman at a time when he was trying to build a child's dream into what would become a professional career.

"It was an entire atmosphere of collective acceptance and flexibility," he says. "I had that in a complete sense from everyone I came across there." 

Flanigan is a Rochester-based freelance writer.

IN THE NEWS

NFL Coach of the Year

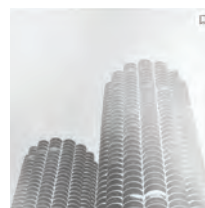


Brian Daboll '97 was named the National Football League's Coach of the Year by the Associated Press after leading the New York Giants to the playoffs in his first season. An economics major at Rochester, Daboll guided the Giants to a

9–7–1 record and the team's first postseason win in 11 years—a major turnaround from a 4–13 mark the year before and the team's first winning season since 2016. His coaching path began at Rochester after he suffered a career-ending injury while playing defensive back for the Yellowjackets his junior year. He told *Review* last fall, "I hung around my senior year and worked with the coaches. I loved it." AP voting was conducted by a nationwide media panel of 50 people who regularly cover the NFL.

Grammy Winners

Recording engineer **Bob Ludwig '66E, '01E (MM)** received a 2023 Grammy Award in the category of Best Historical Album for his work as mastering engineer on the 20th-anniversary "super deluxe edition" of the album *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* (Nonesuch) by the band Wilco. **Renée Fleming '83E (MM), '11 (Honorary)** won a 2023 Grammy Award in the Best Classical Solo Vocal Album category for *Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene* (Decca) with pianist Yannick Nézet-Séguin. And **Kevin Puts '94E, '99E (DMA)** won a 2023 Grammy Award in the Best Contemporary Classical Composition category for his triple concerto *Contact*, which was recorded by Philadelphia Orchestra under the direction of Xian Zhang on the album *Letters for the Future* (Deutsche Grammophon).



‘The Black Index’

When it comes to images of Black people, viewers have expectations, says Bridget Cooks '02 (PhD). Her aim is to disrupt them.

By Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

A few years ago, **Bridget Cooks** '02 (PhD)—an expert on visual culture, a curator, and a professor of art history and African American studies at the University of California, Irvine—posed a difficult question, first to herself as a Black American and then to several contemporary Black artists.

It was sometime after a white supremacist's murder of eight congregants and their pastor at Charleston's Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church; after the fatal beating of Freddie Gray by Baltimore police officers, and the shooting death of motorist Philandro Castile by police in Minnesota; but still well before the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and the deaths of Breonna Taylor in Louisville and Daniel Prude in Rochester, all at the hands of police, during the spring and summer of 2020.

She asked: “How can we acknowledge that death; how can we acknowledge that threat and find some kind of will to go on?”

Her aim, she says, was to acknowledge personal and collective trauma, and then “to look at how artists, as creative problem solvers, are trying to survive and resist and create in a moment of spectacular Black death and anti-Blackness.”

Cooks selected artists who responded to her call and mounted an exhibit. *The Black Index*, which received its lead funding from the Ford Foundation, opened on the Irvine campus and traveled nationally for a year. It won national acclaim in the art world and, for Cooks, a 2022 Award for Excellence from the Association of Art Museum Curators.

As Cooks explains, the artists “build upon the tradition of Black self-representation as an antidote to colonialist images”—in other words, to racist images of Black people constructed and disseminated by whites.

In part because the exhibit coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, it had an especially robust website, and at Theblackindex.art, viewers can still navigate it along with recordings of several accompanying conversations and lectures.

As Cooks explains, the artists “build upon the tradition of Black self-representation as an antidote to colonialist images”—in other words, to racist images of Black people constructed and disseminated by whites. These latter images, far more pervasive in American life than ones created by Black people, compromise the full humanity of their Black subjects in favor of categorizations, she argues. To see the works in *The Black Index* is, for most viewers, to confront the unexpected.



SCHOLAR AND CURATOR: Cooks is an alumnus of the Graduate Program in Visual and Cultural Studies.

A series of drawings by Lava Thomas, for example, transforms mug shots of Black women arrested for participation in the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott into dignified portraits. **Dennis Delgado** '97, whom Cooks met at Rochester, uses facial recognition software to create composite images in a series he calls “The Dark Database.” Delgado constructed the composites from a database of facial images taken from films such as Spike Lee’s *Do the Right Thing* and Ryan Coogler’s *Black Panther*. The resulting images are lighter than one might expect, given the preponderance of Black actors in the films. That’s precisely because, as research and tests have confirmed, the technology is ill-suited to recognizing darker skin tones. Many Black faces are simply not included in the vast datasets on which facial recognition software relies.


When Cooks entered the Graduate Program in Visual and Cultural Studies in the fall of 1993, Rochester was the only university in the country offering a graduate degree in the field. While art history tended to focus on an evolving canon of masterpieces, visual and cultural studies was dedicated to the study of images with reference to the social and cultural contexts of their creation and consumption. The program aligned well with Cooks's approach to the study of art.


Her dissertation became the basis for her 2011 book *Exhibiting Blackness: African Americans and the American Art Museum* (University of Massachusetts Press). In it she traced the efforts of major museums to exhibit work by Black artists, beginning with the Art Institute of Chicago in 1927 right up to the early 21st century. Those efforts, intended to be forward looking, revealed a preoccupation with situating Black artists in reference to a white norm or in correcting past omissions. Neither context considered Black artists on their own terms.

The Black Index does. Cooks points to 100 ink drawings by Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle inspired by records of Black women who are murdered or disappear every year in the United States with little attention. Hinkle calls them "unportraits." They're not representative, in the traditional sense.

"She makes these impossible bodies," says Cooks. "Women with six breasts, with five legs, with multiple heads. They're moving; they're doing things. There's something magical and witchy about them." Like the depictions of Black subjects by the other artists, they invite viewers to notice the gap between their expectations and what they see before them. They compel us "to be aware of how much we don't know about these women, to be disoriented a bit, to become curious about who they are."

The Black Index suggests a path forward for museums that have articulated the goal of diversity, equity, and inclusion in their exhibitions, collections, and programming. Cooks sees some bright spots, citing the University's Memorial Art Gallery, which has taken significant steps toward those ends in the past decade. "I was impressed," says Cooks, recalling a visit to the museum. "I loved the labels. I loved the selection of artwork."

But for many, much larger museums, she has seen little progress. "I think the problems are many," she says. Major museums tend to be hierarchical, run and largely funded by boards whose members are often at odds with their younger, more progressive curatorial staffs. Until there is widespread change in the composition of boards, she concludes, "we're not going to see systematic change." 



ARTIFICIAL AI: *The Black Index* includes a series of works by Dennis Delgado '97, whom Cooks met while at Rochester. In *Do the Right Thing*, Delgado, uses facial recognition software to create a composite image of faces from the landmark 1989 film by director Spike Lee. The composite, which draws from a database of all facial images the software can recognize, underscores the software's omission from the database of many Black faces. Research has indeed shown that widely used facial recognition software does a poor job recognizing darker skin tones. Delgado majored in film studies at Rochester, and later earned an MFA from City College of New York.

LIFETIMES

A ‘Music-Infused’ Life: Mezzo-Soprano Katherine Ciesinski ’18M (MS)

Interview by Kristine Kappel Thompson

Since winning the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions at the age of 23, **Katherine Ciesinski** ’18M (MS) has achieved worldwide recognition as a performer and recording artist. The *New York Times* has called her a “singer of rare communicative presence and a musician of discrimination and intelligence.”

In 2008, Ciesinski joined the faculty at the Eastman School of Music, where she is now the Martin E. and Corazon D. Sanders Professor of voice. A decade later, she earned a master’s degree in medical humanities from the School of Medicine and Dentistry.

“Music has infused, inspired, and directed my life,” says Ciesinski. “I will sing and teach for as long as I can until it ceases to give me the great joy that it does.”

My childhood

My parents told me that I babbled musically to the radio when I was a baby. As a toddler, they couldn’t tear me away from the piano at my grandmother’s house (which soon made its way to our family’s living room). I sang in our church choir and throughout grade school, middle school, and high school. At an early age, my teachers recognized that I had perfect pitch.



JOY OF MUSIC: From star-making performances in the world’s foremost opera houses to teaching at Eastman to connecting music and medicine, Ciesinski plans to sing and teach “until it ceases to give me the great joy that it does.”

My early training and career

I earned a bachelor’s and a master’s in applied voice performance from Temple. After Temple, I went to the Curtis Institute of Music for a three-year intensive opera certificate program. During that time, I went to a summer music academy in Salzburg, Austria—Mozart’s hometown. It was an eye-opening experience. International opera stars were treated like movie stars and every storefront featured life-sized portraits of them. After Curtis, I spent the summer in France and won major competitions in Geneva and Paris. Soon, I was performing at acclaimed opera houses and with leading orchestras around the globe.



My lucky breaks

When I was living in New York City in my early 30s, an opera company in Mexico called me, desperate. They were doing *Samson and Delilah*, and they needed a new lead, fast, to perform live and on TV with Plácido Domingo, the lead tenor who played Samson. I was given the score just a day or two before getting on a plane. I was awestruck by Plácido and all the talent there, and people were shocked I’d never performed this opera before.

My life as a teacher

In my heart and soul, I am a teacher. I enjoy the ardor, the problem solving, and the experience of working with very talented students. Teaching allows for the full circle of what I’ve learned and practiced musically. It has been the fulfillment and greatest gift of my life to be a voice teacher, to be a conduit to advance the artistic abilities of others.

My interest in the medical humanities

To be a strong singer, I’ve always known that I must be a healthy person. At one point, I made a connection between why I sing and why others go into medicine. We share a desire and capacity to heal people. I started dreaming of a time when I could offer some understanding of the healing aspects of music to the medical community. I loved being in the inaugural class of the UR medical humanities program. I am currently interested in exploring long-haul COVID and how singing affects lung function.

My life today

My husband, **Mark Powell** ’19E (DMA), is a conductor who teaches at Queens College in New York City and commutes from Rochester. In the summers, I teach in Italy and Mexico. I also attend international music conferences throughout the year, where I sometimes present, and I chair Eastman’s voice, opera, and vocal coaching department. I serve my community in all these roles with great joy. Eastman is truly my home. 🎵

JULIA SKLAR '14

The Science of Storytelling

A journalist aims to help readers understand the latest in scientific discoveries and how that news shapes their lives.

By Scott Hauser

Like many people at the start of the pandemic, **Julia Sklar** '14 found herself spending a lot of time at home, trying to keep up the professional connections she had built as an independent science journalist.

Interviews with scientists in their labs were out, and conferences had been postponed.

Like most people, Sklar's professional and social life began taking place entirely through video calls, particularly the video conferencing app Zoom.

And she noticed a refrain: Why was it, so many wondered aloud and on Twitter, that they could feel emotionally and creatively energized by a day of in-person interaction, yet so drained after a day on Zoom?

Having worked as a science journalist for a decade, Sklar knew there was research that could explain the experience.

She recalled learning about a study at Boston Children's Hospital that explored how children with autism engaged more effectively with their speech and language therapists when those meetings were video-mediated compared to when therapy took place in person.

"I thought that was so fascinating, because just anecdotally in my own life, I felt the opposite—I always had a really hard time with video chatting and found it really tiring."

When a *National Geographic* editor joked on Twitter about commissioning a "10,000-word cover story" about the phenomenon, Sklar was ready.

"I wrote a story for them about the neuroscience of 'Zoom fatigue,' and the perspective of how, for many people with autism, Zoom calls were making their regular jobs and social interactions a little bit easier and more accessible."

The story ended up going viral and was one of the internet's most-read articles in 2020.

But as other outlets picked up the story and wrote their own versions, Sklar noticed that the positive aspects were drowned out.

"Zoom fatigue just became the word that everybody was talking about and the angle about the technology being an accessibility tool for some people completely got lost," she says. "To me, that was the most exciting and interesting part of this. It was disheartening to watch the news cycle turn out that way."

Since the first query to that editor, the Rochester brain and cognitive sciences and anthropology double major has written several stories for *National Geographic*, and last year, produced *The Brain: Discover the Ways Your Mind Works*, an 18,000-word volume that the publisher calls a "bookazine."

The work draws on the latest research into the neuroscience of perception, flavor, chronic pain, and consciousness to provide



SCIENCE TIMES: An independent science journalist, Sklar writes regularly for *National Geographic* and other outlets, combining her grounding in brain and cognitive sciences and anthropology to explore both the latest in breakthroughs and the ways that stories are told.

a status report of sorts on the human brain, "the final frontier of human biology," as Sklar notes. Forthcoming from *National Geographic* in April 2024 is her second bookazine, a new volume devoted to the science behind stress.

Sklar credits her double major and other campus opportunities with setting her on her path as a science journalist. In BCS classes, she became grounded in the world of modern science and how research takes place. She then honed many of her journalism skills at the *Campus Times*, where she worked as an editor throughout college.

After reading a profile of **Fred Guterl** '81, then the executive editor of *Scientific American*, in *Rochester Review*, she reached out to Guterl, who provided helpful advice on how to pursue her goal of bringing the two interests together and becoming a professional science journalist.

Now, she sees her anthropology courses as also having played a pivotal role.


"We dissected some of the problematic history of anthropology, particularly through a colonial lens. I find that really helpful today," she says. "Whose right is it to tell a certain community's story? That comes up a lot with representation and diversity in the journalism industry."

Based in Boston, Sklar was in Vienna, Austria, this winter for a fellowship at the Complexity Science Hub, where she worked on a project exploring how urban infrastructure influences human health. At the same time, she was teaching an online graduate level science journalism course at Johns Hopkins.

As part of the fellowship, she conducted workshops designed to improve the ways in which scientists and journalists engage with one another.

Improving those conversations is key to ensuring that the public remains informed about how scientific advances influence modern life, she says.

While fascinating, news about scientific discoveries, breakthroughs, and other research is only part of the story.

"The thing that's always the most interesting to me is how all of these innovations impact real lives or have the potential to change the society that we live in." 

Class Notes



MEDIEVAL MERRIMENT: The late English professor Russell Peck (see page 54) is being remembered for his scholarship as well as for his campus celebrations of medieval studies, like this game of “human chess” in spring 1987. Recognize anyone? Email us at rochrev@rochester.edu.

College

ARTS, SCIENCES & ENGINEERING

MEDALLION REUNION

Meliora Weekend
October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/reunion

1937 Richard Lee (see '89 Simon).

1951 David Ocorr (see '64)

1956 Neal Marsh Jewell is being remembered as “always proud of his long alumni connection with UR, no more so than with the graduation of two of his granddaughters from Rochester, **Julie Stoltman** '06 and **Jane Taylor** '11,” writes Neal’s daughter, Darcy Taylor (Julie and Jane’s mom). Neal died in November.

1957 Bill Anderson writes: “Although our numbers have been diminished over the years for several reasons, the Theta Chi men of the U of R Class of 1957 met once again—this time to celebrate their 65th graduation anniversary. Over the years they have met a number of times, beginning with

their first postgraduation gathering at their 50th reunion in 2007 in Rochester. This summer a limited group gathered on the *MS American Melody* of the American Cruise Lines for a Mark Twain–themed cruise up the Mississippi River beginning in St. Louis and ending in Minneapolis from July 21 to 29.” (Bill notes that he hoped to have a sharper photo to share, “but we had a bystander take the photo and he did a lousy job.”) Attendees included (left to right) Bill, **Kay Stiles Anderson** '58, '59N, **Mark Sharnoff**, his wife, Marcia Halio, “Mark Twain” (aka “Samuel L.

Clemens,” aka Richard Garey), **Roy Whitney** '73S (MBA), **Fay Wadsworth Whitney** '60, '61N.”

1958 Bob Birnbaum has published *The Exemplary Department Chair: Small Leadership and Advice from the Stone Age* (independently published). A professor emeritus of higher education at the University of Maryland, Bob says the book “is a page-turner, but only if you are chairing a college or university department.”

1959 Kay Stiles Anderson (see '57).



1957 Anderson

1960 Fay Wadsworth Whitney (see '57).

1962 Mark Rochkind, a retiree of Bell Labs, Philips Electronics, and AT&T, sends a photograph of **Roger Rochat**, Susan Rochat, and himself (left to right). Roger and Mark “spent a day together in Atlanta after not seeing each other for 60 years,” writes Mark. Roger is a professor emeritus at Emory University and a retired director from the Division of Reproductive Health within the Centers for Disease Control.

1963 Norman Fienman writes: “Just before the COVID pandemic, I

Abbreviations

E	Eastman School of Music
M	School of Medicine and Dentistry
N	School of Nursing
S	Simon Business School
W	Warner School of Education
Mas	Master’s degree
RC	River Campus
Res	Medical Center residency
Flw	Postdoctoral fellowship
Pdc	Postdoctoral certificate

retired after 50 years as a pediatrician in suburban Philadelphia. At 80, I was still skiing. I am now a docent at the Brandywine River Museum and do one-on-one English tutoring. We have been able to resume traveling. I have been married to my wife, Marla, for almost 58 years. Together we have five grandchildren. Note, when I was at the U of R, total expenses, including tuition, room and board, were under \$3,000.00. Now that doesn't even pay for nursery school."

1984 Dick Cavagnol and John Denison write, "The recognition of the long and successful association of **David Ocorr** '51 with the University, including his starring in three sports as an undergraduate; coaching football, basketball, and baseball; working as director of sports information; and, serving as director of athletics, was ultimately fulfilled at a ceremony in the Stark Meeting Room of Fauver Stadium on January 13, when the men's baseball locker room was named in his honor. This celebration prompted members of the "Geezers"—former U of R football, baseball, basketball, wrestling, and lacrosse athletes from the classes of 1963–67 who were coached by Dave—to come to the U of R from Vermont, Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey, North Carolina, and the Rochester area to honor Dave and participate in the ceremony. **Terry Gurnett** '77, associate director of athletics, and **Dave Wormuth** '65, former football quarterback and admissions and aid administrator, led the effort to formally recognize Dave's career accomplishments. Moving testimonials were delivered by U of R Hall of Fame members **John Burchett** '65 and **Dave Wormuth** '65. Joining members of the current baseball team and other alumni were the Geezers pictured with Dave and June Ocorr." Left to right: **Charlie Rathbone, Dave Wormuth, Dick Cavagnol, Dave Noonan, Jerry Manioci, John Burchett** '65,



1962 Rochkind

Tom Jones, John Denison, and Stu Levison. Photo by Carol Wormuth. . . . **Neil Cullen** (see '66).

1985 Gwen Greene (see '19).

1986 Cecily Drucker shares a photo from a trip to Palermo, Italy, that she organized with **Neil** '64 and **Betsey Weingart Cullen, Richard Woodrow** and his wife, Charlou, and several others. "Interesting and culturally very rich trip," writes Cecily. . . . **Edward Mendelson**, the Lionel Trilling Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University and the literary executor of the estate of W. H. Auden, published both volumes of *The Complete Works of W.H. Auden: Poems, Volume I: 1927–1939* and *Poems, Volume II: 1940–197* (Princeton University Press) in 2022, the 100th anniversary of the year in which Auden began to write poetry. The set is the first complete edition of Auden's poems.

1988 Evan Longin has written *The Roots of Evil—A Postmodern Exploration of the Unintended Consequences of Civilization* (self-published), a work that the *Salem (Massachusetts) News* called "a very readable and highly informed exploration of what may be civilization's most perplexing subject: the existence of evil." Evan has practiced clinical psychology for more than 40 years and was a professor of graduate counseling for more than 25 years at Salem State University. He has also worked as a consultant to school systems in the Salem area; cofounded the Salem Center, a training center for postmodern practices in therapy; and was a principal at Artsbridge, an organization dedicated to bringing Islamic and Jewish children together in Palestine and Israel.

1989 Neil Baldwin, a professor emeritus of theater and dance and the founding director of the Creative Research Center at Montclair State



1964 Cavagnol



1966 Drucker



1972 Quirk

University, has written *Martha Graham: When Dance Became Modern* (Knopf). The book includes a chapter on Graham's connection with the Eastman School of Music, where she taught dance and "dramatic action" and performed from 1925 to 1926. After leaving Rochester, Graham established the Martha Graham School for Contemporary Dance in New York City. (See page 30.)

1971 Lettie Burgett, a physician in Los Angeles, is being remembered for her dedication to her family, patients, and community. Lettie died last August, writes her son, Ben Cowan. (See page

52). . . . **John Cogar**, a veterinarian in upstate New York, traveled to Ukraine last fall as a volunteer to help pets in the war-torn country. (See page 44). . . . **Clayton Press** is the editor of *Georgy Frangulyan, Off-Modern* (Milan: Skira Editore), the first English monograph (with Russian translation) focusing on a major artist from the late-Soviet and post-Soviet eras. It's one of two books expected this year. The other is *Joan Mitchell and Christine Ay Tjoe, "Vis-à-Vis"* (New York: Mnunchin Gallery).

1972 Bill and Marian Kwiatkowski Chapman share the news that they celebrated their 50th wedding

JOHN COGAR '71

Treating the Pets of War-torn Ukraine

John Cogar '71 became a veterinarian to help animals in need. He never expected he'd be doing it in a war zone, in his 70s, more than 4,500 miles from his regular practice in Ray Brook, New York.

"It was the experience of a lifetime for sure," he says of a two-week volunteer trip to Ukraine last October.

The trip was organized through Cogar's connections as an Olympic-level bobsledder, a sport he undertook after graduation. As a member of the US team, he befriended former US luge coach Dmitry Feld, who eventually moved to nearby Lake Placid, site of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics.

After Russia invaded Ukraine, Cogar offered his help to the former coach, who had been raising money and support for Ukrainians. Feld told him that many of the nation's pets needed medical attention because their owners had been killed, some had fled the country, and some were incapacitated. He and Feld flew to Ukraine to set up clinics.

From an operating room in Irpin, northwest of the capital city of Kyiv—about 50 miles from the front lines—he performed surgeries, treated injured animals, gave vaccinations, and conducted physical examinations. Over the course of 10 days, he performed roughly 80 operations, often working by flashlight when the electricity was knocked out.

Starting at Rochester as a mechanical engineering major, Cogar switched to biology. A standout running back in football and a sprinter in track, he was elected to the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996.

After graduating from Cornell Veterinary School, he bought a practice near his home in Saranac Lake and operated it until 2008. He now works at the business part time.

From his home this winter, Cogar says his work in Ukraine isn't finished. "When you lose everything and have nothing left, your pets mean everything. This experience is something I'll cherish forever."

"I intend to go back and perform more surgeries when the war ends. I know they'll be desperate for the help, and I'll be there." 📍

—Jim Mandelaro



STAFF SUPPORT: The staff of a Ukrainian clinic presented Cogar with a flag to thank him for his service treating abandoned dogs and cats as a volunteer veterinarian near the capital of Kyiv.



1973 Deutch

anniversary in September 2022. . .

. **Tom Cunningham**, **Ron Haines**, **Paul Macielak**, and **Bob Quirk** send a photo (see page 43) from Meliora Weekend, described by Bob as showing "Tom, Ron, Paul, and me: all Class of 1972 and roommates for junior and senior years." Tom writes, "Those three all played football together; Ron was named an All-American, and he and Paul are in the Rochester Hall of Fame." Paul writes, "[The photos] had me laughing." "Doesn't seem like 50 years since we were roomies," notes Ron. Bob adds, "BTW, we did visit the original Nick's while in Rochester."

50TH REUNION

Meliora Weekend

October 5 to 8, 2023

Rochester.edu/reunion

1973 Gary Clinton (see '76). . .

Nathaniel Deutsch writes that last fall, he and **Laura Balsam** '76 celebrated 50 years of friendship. He writes, "We met at the U of R in the fall semester of 1972 and have been close friends ever since!" . . . **Barbara Regenspan** '94W (EdD) writes that, after a long career in social-justice-focused teacher education and existentialist educational philosophy, she has published her first book of poems, *The Chessmaster's Daughter* (Cayuga Lake Books). She says that writing her second and last academic book, the auto-ethnography *Haunting and the Educational Imagination* (Brill), ignited her new passion for poetry and prompted her to retire from Colgate while she still loved teaching and her department of educational studies. She now enjoys "the best of all worlds: teaching Challenges of the Modern World for the writing department at Cornell during summer session, taking classes at the Downtown Writers' Center of the Syracuse Y, and leading writing and poetry workshop gigs interspersed with writing letters to the editor in an effort to

shore up dwindling democratic process and challenge the globe's descent into fascism." . . . **William Savino**, a senior partner in the Buffalo Office of Woods Oviatt Gilman, has been selected to receive the 2023 Edwin F. Jaekle Award, the highest honor that the University at Buffalo School of Law and the UB Law Alumni Association present to alumni. The award is given annually to a person who exemplifies the highest ideals of the law school and its alumni association and who has made significant contributions to the school and the legal profession. . . . **Elba Serrano** writes that she is a Regents Professor at New Mexico State University, a Hispanic-serving institution, where her team does research on systems involved in hearing, balance, and brain function. A first-generation-to-college Latina at Rochester, Elba earned a PhD at Stanford University, then completed postdoctoral training at the medical schools of Stanford and UCLA. "I am committed to facilitating the career path of students who aspire to advanced degrees in STEM disciplines and, especially, achievement of a doctorate and entry to the professoriate. Over 130 diverse students have participated in mentored research in the Serrano laboratory, earned advanced degrees, and continued to careers as faculty, physicians, engineers, pharmacists, veterinarians, research scientists, public servants, ministers, and educators around the country." Among her research and outreach roles, Elba is New Mexico State's lead principal investigator for a National Science Foundation program to increase STEM student success at Hispanic-serving institutions. "I would enjoy hearing from others who attended Rochester in the early '70s," she writes.

1974 Since 1986 **John Gonzales**, **Paul Lytle**, **Greg Soehner**, and **Bob Vavrina** '76 have been playing the Crosstown Legends of Golf tournament.

Since then, “The Legends” have played a four-round tournament for 36 consecutive years. Says Greg: “A remarkable example of enduring friendships lasting some 50 years. The Legends are pictured along with the trophy.” . . . **Francis Price** ’75S (MBA) has been inducted into St. George’s College (Kingston, Jamaica) Hall of Fame for excellence and achievement in business, inspiring leadership, international recognition, and service to the college. The citation reads: “Francis is grateful for the many opportunities he has received in his adopted country and has created opportunities for students who have the propensity for science and mathematics, nurturing their talent, and in so doing, supporting low-income and first-generation university students.” Named to Rochester’s Board of Trustees in 1995, Francis became a life trustee in 2020.

1975 Frank Baillargeon has published *Ambitions: The Life and Love of John and Susannah Morrissey* (self-published). Frank writes that it is the first of a three-book series of novels based on the 19th-century political couple. . . . **Catherine Coates** writes: “I am now a published author with the book *Longing for Intimacy—Glimmers of Hope* (Flower of Life Press). It is a collection of nontraditional poems and prayers which attempt to shine light on life’s mystery. I write as an interspiritual minister who affirms all spiritual paths that have compassion and peace as their central tenets.” . . . **Howard Stein** has been named managing partner of the Long Island law firm Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman. He has practiced at the firm his entire career and serves on its executive committee. Howard taught courses in real estate law and serves on the board of governors at Touro Law Center, where he was chairman from 2005 until 2022. . . . **Mark Waldman** ’78 (MS) writes that he

retired in June from a 45-year career in optical engineering. “I worked at the Eastman Kodak Company Commercial and Government Systems (and its subsequent owner ITT Space Systems Division) until 2008, and then continued on-contract with NASA. From 2005 to 2022, I was fortunate to work on the James Webb Space Telescope, first on the cryo-vacuum optical system test performed at the Johnson Space Center in 2017, and then on the Science Instrument Commissioning Team. I’m enjoying my retirement in a 55-plus resort community in the California Bay Area.”

1976 Laura Balsam (see ’73). . . **Don Millinger** writes that he and **Gary Clinton** ’73 celebrated their 50th anniversary in October 2022, having met as undergraduates at the University. They married in 2011, when same-sex marriage was legalized in New York. Don and Gary say they proudly provide funding for the University’s LGBTQ+ programs and for support of LGBTQ+ students through the Don Millinger/Gary Clinton LGBTQ+ Fund, which they established in January 2018. . . . **Bob Vavrina** (see ’74).

1977 Ira Emanuel has been selected by Thomson-Reuters to the 2022 Metro New York SuperLawyers list for land use and zoning attorneys. Ira writes, “For over 40 years, I have concentrated on land use and land development issues in the lower Hudson Valley. Over the years, I have represented clients in obtaining approvals for regional malls, audio-video studios, schools, multifamily apartments, subdivisions, and other projects.” . . . **Lewis Rothberg** (see ’15). . . **Eric Stetler** (see ’15).

45TH REUNION

Meliara Weekend
October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/reunion



1974 Soehner



1976 Millinger and Clinton

1978 Michael Cohen writes that in November, he was elected to the Township Committee of Millburn, New Jersey. The committee is the local governing board for the town and is responsible for adopting a budget, enacting ordinances and resolutions, and appointing personnel.

1980 Lisa Samoff Gochman, a retired deputy attorney general in the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice who currently serves of counsel to the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office in Freehold, has published a memoir, *At the Altar of the Appellate Gods* (Red Lightning Books). The book traces the arc of a racially motivated crime by a white supremacist in rural New Jersey as the case made its way to the US Supreme Court, where Lisa defended the constitutionality of New Jersey’s hate crime statute. . . . **David Levine**, a freelance journalist based in Albany, New York, writes that his book *The Hudson Valley: The First 250 Million Years* (Globe Pequot) is being republished in paperback this spring. The book, a collection of David’s magazine articles and essays, “traces the history of the Hudson Valley from the first peoples and European settlement, from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War to the world wars, from the robber barons and bootleggers to the building of the Thruway and the happy rise of craft beer pubs.”

1981 Jill Mestel Sqyres Groubert, a psychotherapist in private practice, published her first book, *8-Week Couples Therapy Workbook* (Rockridge Press) last May. She writes, “My book was published while I was on my honeymoon in Paris, so I carried the book in my backpack and took photos with it at all the sites we visited. It was so fun. The accompanying



1981 Groubert

photo was taken in Sainte Chappelle in Paris.”

1982 Neil Halin writes, “After 32 years at Tufts Medical Center as, at various times, chief of interventional radiology, codirector of advanced cardiac imaging, interim chair of radiology at Tufts University School of Medicine and lots of other stuff, I am moving on to other ventures. I will be doing consulting in my areas of interests and experience (including radiology informatics) as well as spending time with family and my homestead farm in central Massachusetts and wandering the East Coast racing BMWs and teaching high-performance driving. I may find some time for photography and other hobbies as well!” . . . **Cheryl Lyght La Monica** writes that she’s been appointed to the advisory board of Western New England University in Massachusetts. . . . **Jeff Lyness** ’86M (MD), ’87M (Res) (see ’86 Medicine).

40TH REUNION

Meliara Weekend
October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/reunion

1983 Jon Cagan ’85 (MS), the George Tallman and Florence Barrett

Ladd Professor in Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, has been named head of the university's mechanical engineering department. Since joining Carnegie Mellon's faculty in 1990, Jon has served the engineering college in many roles: as interim dean, associate dean for graduate and faculty affairs, and associate dean for strategic initiatives, among others. His new appointment began in November. . . **Barbara Weber** sends a photograph from the wedding of **Ellen Danto** and **Jay Nocton**'s son. Pictured (counter-clockwise from right front) are Ellen, Jay, **Michael Fox**, the bride's friend **Drew Goter** '16 (MA), **Steven Meyers** '94M (Flw), and Barbara.



1983 Weber

who are in Nashville or nearby." . . . **Bruce Schneier**, a fellow and lecturer at Harvard's Kennedy School, a board member of Electronic Frontier Foundation, and the chief of security architecture at Inrupt, has written *A Hacker's Mind: How the Powerful Bend*

Society's Rules, and How to Bend Them Back (W. W. Norton).

1985 Larry Sternbane Lee writes that he retired in 2022 from federal service after 14 years with the US Patent & Trademark Office. "I am now enjoying

my fun, 'stress-free' retirement job as a gate agent for Piedmont Airlines at Washington National Airport (DCA). We handle regional jets flying under the American Eagle banner to cities large and small—including Rochester. On my days off, I enjoy taking short trips to places I've never been, like Huntsville and Grand Rapids. Looking forward to retiring again, in a little less than 10 years, with lifetime flight benefits. I invite all to come say "hi" should you fly through concourse E at DCA."

1986 David Fitts writes that he was recently promoted to senior manager of marketing at Spectrum Enterprise of Charter Communications. He adds, "I also completed my sixth consecutive New York City Marathon in November." . . . **Brian Gabriel** retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs two years ago and is "enjoying life." He writes, "I recently came across

TEAM SPIRIT

Football Alumni Celebrate Late Coach Pat Stark

Several members of past Yellowjacket football teams gathered at the Brian F. Prince Athletic Complex during Meliora Weekend last fall to mark the dedication of the Stark Meeting Room in Fauver Stadium in honor of late coach Pat Stark. A Rochester and a Syracuse Hall of Famer, Coach Stark is credited with elevating the stature of the Yellowjacket football program during his coaching tenure at Rochester from 1969 to 1983, including a No. 1 Division III ranking in the East. Stark died in 2020. About three dozen of the team members gathered after the ceremony for the annual "Dinner in Honor of the Coach" in East Rochester. Among those who returned to celebrate Stark's life and legacy were Don Barber '79, Erick Bond '77, Quentin Call '76, Erv Chambliss '76, Len Champion '73, Phil Chrys '75, Dave Cidale

'71, John Cogar '71, Jim Dunnigan '73, Ed Elze '76, Leo Fusilli '80, Mike Garritano '76, Ralph Gebhardt '76, Sam Guerrieri '87, Bill Hammond '73, Ron Haines '72, Ed Heffernan '76, Pete Havey '79, Jon Hunter '72, '88W (EdD), Jim Juraska '73, Ray Kampff '74, Rich King '78, Mark Kirsch '80, John Kowba '79, Rocky Lamuro '78, Paul Macielak '72, Rick Magere '72, Kevin Maier '78, Jim Mazur '78, Mark McAnaney '75, Dave McNelis '74, Brian Miga '71, John Minora '81, Tom Murray '82, Herm Neid '76, Joe Novak '73, Chris O'Connor '79, Brian Pasley '76, Bob Quirk '72, Dick Rasmussen '72, '97W (EdD), Mike Recny '79, Sam Shatkin '79, Steve Sloan '78, Tyrone Southerland '84, Ron Spadafora '77, Lou Spiotti (assistant coach from 1971 to 1973), Rick Stark '79, Roger Watts '72, and Jim Wesp '74, '76M (MS), '78S (MBA).



my Nautilus instructor T-shirt and my WRUR T-shirt. I have great memories from being involved in both activities!"

1987 Amylyn Silbert Blake, an associate justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, writes, "I was appointed the District One director of the National Association of Women Judges. NAWJ is a dynamic gathering of women judges who are dedicated to preserving judicial independence for women, minorities, and other historically disfavored groups while increasing the number and advancement of women judges and providing cutting-edge judicial education." . . . **Lisa Shaari** (see '90). . . . **Julie Anne Taddeo '97** (PhD), a research professor of history at the University of Maryland, is a coeditor of *Writing Australian History On-screen: Television and Film Period Dramas "Down Under"* (Rowman & Littlefield). The book is a thematic collection of essays that explore the intricacies in Australian history as represented in Australian filmic period drama, taken from an Australian perspective. . . . **Gary Worobow '89S** (MBA) (see '90).

35TH REUNION

Meliara Weekend
October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/reunion

1988 Shane Coppola '89S (MBA) (see '90). . . . **Terry Jacobs Walters** has published her fourth cookbook, *NOURISH: Plant-based Recipes to Feed Body, Mind, and Soul* (Terrywalters.net), featuring vegan and gluten-free recipes.

1989 Betsy Greenberg Abramovich writes that she retired at the end of 2018, after working for 28 years as a clinician social worker in both medical and mental health settings in New York City and Arizona. Since retiring, she

and her husband, Moti, spend summers volunteering with the Oregon State Parks. "We love the opportunity get out and meet different people from all over the world. When not volunteering we have been able to visit a few of the National Parks." She sends a photo from Oregon's Crater Lake. . . . **Larry Abrams**, a high school teacher and the founder and executive director of the nonprofit BookSmiles, writes that the organization was featured in an episode of *CNN Heroes* in September. Since 2017, BookSmiles has collected, sorted, and distributed nearly a million books to children in "book deserts" throughout New Jersey and the Philadelphia area. . . . **Michelle Saperstein Coppola** (see '90). . . . **Tracy Frommer Duberman** (see '90). . . . **Jill Tuchman Harris** (see '90). . . . **Laura Sumner** released *Red Clay Blue Sky* (independently released), a five-song EP of original songs last June. She describes it as "a modern throwback bathed in colors of SoCal folk music" and adds that the EP has been met with critical acclaim. . . . In January, national security attorney **Mark Zaid** was a guest on the *Pan Am Podcast* Episode 32: Terror on the Airline, New Lockerbie Arrest, and the Quest for Justice. Mark will be a recurring guest throughout 2023 in this second season of the podcast to discuss new information as it develops during the federal trial of the suspected bomb maker in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Two Rochester students—**Eric Coker** and **Katharine Hollister**, both from the Class of 1990—were killed in the bombing.

1990 Ivy Braun '90N sends a photograph from a mini reunion celebrating **Michelle Saperstein Coppola's** birthday and "38 years of U of R friendship, family, and fun." From left: **Shane Coppola '88, '89S** (MBA),



1990 Braun



1992 Jablonowski

Jennifer Saperstein Kalapoutis '94, Gary Worobow '87, '89S (MBA), **Jill Tuchman Harris '89, Michelle Saperstein Coppola '89, Tracy Frommer Duberman '89, and Lisa Shaari '87.**

1991 Sylvia Hysong, a professor at Baylor College of Medicine, was awarded a five-year grant from the Veterans Health Administration to lead the Houston Evidence-based Rapid Measurement and EvaluationS (HERMES) center. She writes, "HERMES conducts timely evaluations of health-care-related initiatives that inform and drive VA health policy, with a focus on systems-level factors surrounding coordination, workflow, and clinical efficiency. The new center will initially support 10 faculty and staff with room for more in later years." . . . **Julie Peyton**, co-owner and cofounder of Under the Sun, a natural hair product line, writes that she received the National Leadership Award from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum at its 30th Anniversary South Florida Dinner in January. The award honors an outstanding individual in recognition of exceptional contribution to benefit the community in ways that advance the values and mission of the museum. The museum's website says, "Julie, a national patron and regional ambassador for the museum, has

made an indelible mark in educating and building national and global understanding of the atrocities of the Holocaust and other genocides."

1992 David Jablonowski, an agent for the Chicago-based brokerage @properties Christie's International Real Estate, sends a photo and a note that he and John Peller were married last August in a private ceremony at the residence of close friends in Provincetown, Massachusetts. John is the CEO and president of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. David and John live in Chicago and have been together for 23 years.

30TH REUNION

Meliara Weekend
October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/reunion

1993 Michael Zimmerman announces publication of his memoir, *Suburban Bigamy: Six Miles between Truth and Deceit* (Conversation Publishing), a "painful story of two families built on one lie, forever linked through betrayal, infidelity, and bigamy" yet also "a story of resilience, recovery, and hope."

1994 Grace Bacon Garcia has been elected president of the



1989 Abramovich

ALUMNI LEADERS

Thank You for Being a Friend

The Friends of Rochester Athletics support students, alumni, and teams.

By Kristine Kappel Thompson

About 20 years ago, George VanderZwaag—new in his position as Rochester’s executive director of Athletics and Recreation—had an idea. He wanted to find a way to recognize the significant contributions of former Yellowjacket athletes while engaging others and advancing the mission of the department: to provide Rochester students with exemplary educational as well as athletic experiences.

That was the beginning of the Friends of Rochester Athletics, a group that started with about 20 people, mostly alumni, and today includes about 15,000 alumni, parents, friends, and fans. All who support the department in any way are counted as members. “Every kind of support matters—from dollars given to attendance at our games and events,” says VanderZwaag. “The Friends network is strong and well connected, too, which benefits everyone.”

Founding member John Mattioli ’79, who played basketball throughout college, says he got involved because many of the important people in his life came from Rochester, including Theresa, his wife of 42 years (also a founding member), and the late Jim Klimschot ’78 who was Mattioli’s business partner until his death in 2001.

Mattioli says the organization has been a great way to stay in touch with former teammates and remain connected with his alma mater. Four times a year, Mattioli and former teammates get together to play golf, and whenever Rochester plays a game in Atlanta—Mattioli’s hometown—he’s there. Last January, Mattioli, Tom DiChristina ’82, David Bence ’81, and their former coach, Mike Neer ’88W (MS), cheered on Rochester in a game against Emory.

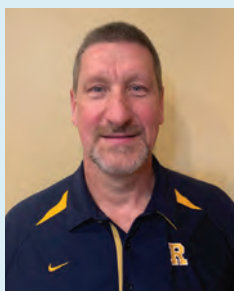
Friends often become part of a student’s professional network, too. Dennis Braniecki ’91—another founding member, former football player, Hall of Fame inductee, and parent of an alumnus—has talked with prospective students and introduced alumni to people in his network for 30 years.

For much of that time, Braniecki owned a moving company and gave summer jobs to Rochester students, alumni, and assistant coaches, and moved a number of people to Rochester as well.

“So many of the best parts of my life tie back to my time at Rochester,” says Braniecki. “Being a Friend has provided a framework to pay it forward in whatever ways I can.”



Theresa and John Mattioli



Dennis Braniecki

Massachusetts Bar Association for the 2022–23 year. She serves as the leader of the association’s officer team and represents the 10,000-member state bar at meetings of lawyers and other organizations across the state, before legislators at the State House, in Washington, DC, and to other bar associations across the country. Grace is a partner at Morrison Mahoney in Boston, where she has more than 20 years of trial experience. In 2022, the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association named her Lawyer of the Year. . . . **Jennifer Saperstein Kalapoutis** (see ’90). . . . **Renee Radbill Keats** (see ’95).

1995 Gary Disbrow, director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response in the US Department of Health and Human Services, and his incident management team were recognized as a group finalist for a 2022 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal in the COVID-19 Response category. With the first reports of COVID-19, Gary’s team worked to develop medical countermeasures, engage with pharmaceutical companies, and ensure reliable diagnostic tests were being developed and brought to market. Known as the Sammies, the awards program for career federal employees honors accomplishments that benefit the nation. . . . **Adam Keats** sends a photo of “Philadelphia on election night, celebrating **Josh Shapiro**’s historic win as governor of Pennsylvania.” From left are Adam with his wife, **Renee Radbill Keats** ’94, **Seth Fox**, and Josh. . . . **Thomas Stone**, a senior research analyst with the Institute for Corporate Productivity, has coauthored with his wife, Kassy LaBorie, the second edition of *Interact and Engage!* (ATD Press), a book they first published in 1995. Tom says that interest in the book increased beginning in 2020, “when the pandemic led so many meetings

and training to shift to online instead of in person. Even now, the use of Zoom, Teams, etc., is remaining very high, so our new second edition is well timed to support . . . making online training, meetings, and webinars more engaging and effective.”

1996 Joseph Brown has joined Goldberg Segalla’s employment and labor group in Buffalo. He was previously with Hurwitz Fine in Buffalo.

25TH REUNION

Meliora Weekend
October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/reunion

1998

1999 Chirag Shah ’04M (MD), an assistant professor at Tufts University School of Medicine, a lecturer at Harvard Medical School, and vitreoretinal surgeon in Boston, has coauthored *Financial Freedom Rx* (Slack Incorporated) to help physicians navigate their personal finances. Chirag writes, “The book educates physicians on the fundamentals of financial literacy, investing, and wealth management. It might be the most important (nonmedical!) book physicians will read.”

2000 Khartoon Ohan Weiss writes, “My colleague **Jiayi (Ray) Cao** ’11S (MS) and I both run large global divisions at TikTok/ByteDance. We’re very proud to be alumni—and working together at that. In fact, our U of R connection was the first thing we bonded over, and we have been inseparable at work ever since. Most recently, Ray and I launched TikTok’s product showcase, TikTokWorld, and it’s garnered a ton of industry pickup and success.”

20TH REUNION

Meliora Weekend
October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/reunion

2003



1995 Keats

2004 Gwen Olton, codirector of the University-affiliated M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, has written *From Conflict to Community: Transforming Conflicts without Authorities* (Microcosm Pub). A book launch party was held at the institute in December, with proceeds going toward its annual appeal campaign. . . . **Sarah Iler Pfeiffer**, an adjunct professor of US history at Columbus State Community College in Ohio and Wake Technical Community College in North Carolina, has written a book with former Rochester professor Bruce Kimball, now a professor emeritus of educational studies at Ohio State University. In *Wealth, Cost, and Price in American Higher Education* (Johns Hopkins University Press), Sarah and Bruce explore how increasing higher education costs and resulting student debt trends began 150 years ago and why they have intensified in recent decades. . . . **Kimberly Silver Stein**, a partner at Ulmer & Berne's trusts and estates practice group in Cleveland, has been elected a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. In addition to her practice, Kim has held leadership roles with several professional organizations, and she also serves on the local board of directors of the Anti-Defamation League and on the professional advisory council of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

2006 Patricia Tehan '08 (MA) writes that she has been accepted to the US State Department Virtual English Language Educator program, in which she will engage online with English language learners and teachers in Russia. Patricia has worked as an English language teaching professional for many years and is among the first to be selected for the new program. Her project will involve leading discussions centered around contemporary American short stories with English teachers in Siberia.

2007 Jackie Borchardt writes that she was promoted to senior news director of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and relocated with her family in June 2022 from Columbus, Ohio, to "the Queen City." She previously covered Ohio politics as a reporter and editor for newspapers in Dayton, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. . . . **Ashley Weagraff Dube** (see '08). . . . **Jenn Peacock Grow** (see '08).

15TH REUNION

Meliora Weekend
October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/reunion

2008 Darby Wade Grant and Samuel Taylor Thorne were married in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in July with family and friends from Rochester, St. Louis, Washington, DC, and other parts of the country in attendance. Yellow-jacket soccer teammate **Tammy Brewster Cain** served as a bridesmaid. The couple sends a photo of Darby, Tammy and other teammates who gathered to celebrate the wedding: from left to right, **Molly Leitch Leitner**, **Jenn Peacock Grow '07**, Rochester women's soccer coach **Ashley Van Vechten**, Darby, **Ali Streeter Endres '10S (MBA)**, **Ashley Weagraff Dube '07**, and Tammy. The couple resides in Washington, DC.

2010 Daniel Ketter (see '08 Eastman).

2011 Sarah Ackroyd '16M (MD) and **Miles Nowak '17S (MBA)** were married in Chicago last July. They were joined by friends from undergraduate and medical school. From top to bottom, left to right, are Kayla Florian, **Adrian Hadiono '16M (MD)**, **Pat Abt**, **Kevin Rhie '16M (MD)**, **Jason Kopec '16M (MD)**, **Dana Albert '12W (MS)**, **Jason Birnbaum '12, '16M (MD)**, **Jill Kulla '12**, **Meredith Boyd '12**, Sarah, Miles, **Sunisa Mathews '14**, **David Oles '14**, **Daniel Charen '16M (MD)**, **Kim Bui '16M (MD)**, **Sthuthi David '12, '17M (MD)**, and **Hanna Algattas '16M (MD)**. . . . Cancer survivor **Drew Adams** was one of more than 120 fellow employees of Bristol Myers Squibb who were set to take part in the company's annual Coast 2 Coast 4 Cancer, a cross-country bicycle ride to raise money for cancer research. Last fall's ride took place in September and October. . . . **Sarah Gerin** (see '19).

2012 Zachary Barber '21 (MA), a current doctoral degree student in philosophy and a graduate instructor in Rochester's Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program, was honored at the AS&E Graduate Student Research Symposium hosted by the AS&E Office of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs last fall. . . . **Jason Birnbaum '16M (MD)**, (see '11). . . . **Meredith Boyd** (see '11). . . . **Sthuthi David '17M (MD)** (see '11). . . . **Jill Kulla** (see '11). . . . **Zakariya Niazi** and his company Circle Optics received a silver award in the "most fundable company" competition organized by the business school at Pepperdine University. The company, which includes **Leonard Lanzi '84** and **Ian Gauger** as executives, makes a 360-degree camera and other imaging systems.



2008 Grant



2011 Ackroyd and Nowak



2012 Niazi

10TH REUNION

Meliora Weekend
October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/reunion

2013 Marisa Straub Maslek (see '15)

2014 Farrell Cooke '19N, currently an MBA student at the Simon Business School, writes that she and **Tyler Viterise** got engaged on campus last July. They are planning a fall 2024 wedding "surrounded by family and our fellow Yellowjackets!" . . . **Sunisa Mathews** (see '11). . . . **Luis Navarrete '15 (MS)** (see '14). . . . **David Oles** (see '11). . . . **David Stelter** (see '15).

2015 Kristin Abramo and **David Stelter '14** were married last August in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire. They



2014 Cooke and Viterise

share a photograph of themselves with other Yellowjackets at the wedding. From left to right are **Luis Navarrete** '14, '15 (MS), **Louisa Bauer** '14, **Julia Morris-MacGuigan**, **Dan MacGuigan** '14, **Eric Stelter** '77, **Brandon Wilson** '14, David, **Kyle Mecca** '14, Kristin, **Brian Wu** '14, **Abbas Shikari** '14, **Marisa Straub Maslek** '13, **James Maslek**, **Andrew Brink** '14, **Milo Gard** (a current College student), and **Lewis Rothberg** '77.

2016 Magdalena Rieders has been selected as a 2023 Wind Fellow by the Philadelphia-area community art resource InLiquid. Magdalena's work was scheduled to be featured in an exhibition put on by the organization. . . . **Aaron Schaffer** has been named assistant editor for the 202 newsletter team of the *Washington Post*.

5TH REUNION

Meliora Weekend
October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/reunion

2018 Franziska Mangot has joined the law firm Faegre Drinker. She practices insurance law in the firm's Florham Park, New Jersey, location.

2019 Elizabeth Bourne has been named an associate attorney at the

Colligan Law firm in Buffalo. . . . **Talia Cohavi** '22M (MPH), a program manager at the Flaum Eye Institute, and **Brian Gearing**, a personal trainer at Esporta in Rochester, were married at Stablegate Barn and Vineyard in Castleton-on-Hudson, New York, in September. Pictured from left to right are **Elizabeth Finer**, **Shaun Turner**, **Payal Morari**, **Aaron Raymond** '18, **Sarah Gerin** '11, Brian, **Talia**, **Gwen Greene** '65, a University trustee, **Emily Kumpf**, **Cindy Juarez**, **Julia Fraser**, **Emily Scarpulla Raymond** '18, and **Hannah Goldring**.

Graduate

ARTS, SCIENCES & ENGINEERING

MELIORA WEEKEND

October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/melioraweekend

1957 Alice Holloway Young (Mas), '69W (EdD) was awarded the Monroe Community College Foundation's Salute to Excellence Award for volunteerism at a ceremony last November. Her son, Rodney Young, accepted the award on her behalf. Alice was the first Black principal in the Rochester City School District and pioneered an urban-suburban program there that

still exists today. She was named a founding trustee of MCC in 1961.

1968 A new collection of poetry by **Betsy Neary Sholl** (MA) has been recognized as the winner of the Four Lakes Prize in Poetry sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Department of English. The collection, *As If a Song Could Save You* (University of Wisconsin Press), is Betsy's second to be selected for the prize. A former poet laureate of Maine, Betsy teaches at the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

1970 Jim Acheson (PhD), a member of the faculty of the University of Maine for 45 years, is being remembered by family and friends. His wife, Ann, writes: "A highly regarded applied anthropologist, he was also a pioneer in maritime anthropology. Jim was an eminent, interdisciplinary scholar with an international reputation, best known for his work on the Maine lobster industry, especially its territorial and self-governance systems. Applying insights from his research, Jim was integral in establishing a co-management system in the Maine lobster industry, which has become a national model." Jim died in June.

1974 The latest mystery novel from **Thomas Perry** '74 (PhD) is *Murder Book* (Mysterious Press), which features a retired police officer turned private detective who's asked to investigate a brutal Midwestern crime organization.

1976 Len Jason (PhD), director of the Center for Community Research and a professor of psychology at DePaul University, has published a memoir, *Experiencing Sacredness: A Psycho-Spiritual Journey* (Wisdom). "Before starting graduate school at the U of R in 1971, I spent the summer hitching from London to India," he says. "I have now written a memoir of this adventure." Len also has an academic book scheduled for release in April: *Understanding the Behavioral and Medical Impact of Long COVID* (Routledge). "It is an edited volume with an international group of authors and the first academic volume that will be available on this important subject." . . . **Michael Shlesinger** (PhD), chief scientist for nonlinear science at the Office of Naval Research, has written *An Unbounded Experience in Random Walks with Applications* (World Scientific). He says, "The book traces, over 50 years, the influence of a single paper of Dr. Elliott Montroll, the [University's] Einstein Professor of

Physics. [It] is autobiographical and recounts some Montroll stories and those of Harvey Scher, with whom we collaborated at Xerox in Webster. I did my physics PhD under the supervision of Montroll and Scher. Today I'm in my 40th year as a physicist at the Office of Naval Research."

1978 Mark Waldman (MS) (see '75 College).

1985 Jon Cagan (MS) (see '83 College).

1989 David Mason (PhD), a professor emeritus of English at Colorado College and a former poet laureate of Colorado, has written *Pacific Light* (Red Hen Press). David writes that while he was born in Washington State, 40-odd degrees north latitude, he now lives on the Australian island of Tasmania, 40-odd degrees south latitude. He discusses poetry and his life experiences and recites poems from the book in a film that can be found on YouTube.

1991 Dasu Tamraparni (PhD) has published *The Greatest Telugu Stories Ever Told* (Aleph Book Company). She writes, "The anthology is particularly dear to me because it is a collaboration with my 96-year-old father. Although I am a research scientist by profession, I am also a novelist and translator and cofounder of the New Jersey-based nonprofit IndiaWrites Publishers, focused on providing exposure to contemporary writers who write in Indian languages by translating their works into English."

1997 Julie Taddeo (PhD) (see '87 College).

1999 Tadeusz Lewandowski (MA), a professor at the University of Opole in Poland and at the University of Ostrava in the Czech Republic, has published *The Life of Sherman Coolidge, Arapaho Activist* (University of Nebraska Press). The biography chronicles the turn-of-the-20th-century life of one of the most prominent Indigenous leaders in the United States.

2008 Patricia Tehan (MA) (see '06 College).

2015 Luis Navarrete (MS) (see '15 College).

2016 Drew Goter (MA) (see '83 College).

2021 Zachary Barber (MA) (see '12 College).



2015 Abramo and Stelter



2019 Cohavi and Gearing

Eastman School of Music

MELIORA WEEKEND

October 5 to 8, 2023

Rochester.edu/melioraweekend

1966 Recording engineer **Bob Ludwig** '01 (MM) won a 2023 Grammy Award in the category of Best Historical Album for his work as mastering engineer on the 20th anniversary "super deluxe edition" of the album *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* (Nonesuch) by the band Wilco. . . . **Janice Larson Razaq**, director of keyboard studies at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, Illinois, has been named 2023 National Teacher of the Year by the Music Teachers National Association. She also was named Illinois State Music Teachers Association 2022 Teacher of the Year.

1976 **David Liptak** (DMA) (see '08).

1977 **Brad Nelson** (DMA), an independent composer and publisher of Gladde Music Publications, is being remembered by his family and friends. His wife, Merryl, shares that Brad died last April. During his career, he taught at Butler University before leading music programs for congregations in Indiana and California. Merryl writes: "Brad left a legacy of many fine choral anthems, both sacred and secular. His music has been performed all over the United States, Europe, and many other parts of the world, in such venues as Westminster Abbey, Chicago Symphony Hall, the Kennedy Center, and San Diego's Copley Symphony Hall."

1983 **Renée Fleming** (MM), '11 (Honorary) won a 2023 Grammy Award in the Best Classical Solo Vocal Album category for *Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene* (Decca) with pianist Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

1988 **Tom Nazziola** writes that he won the grand prize for the Classic Pure Vienna Composition Competition (2022) for "Velvet Carnival" (solo piano). "This is the fourth piece to win an award from my recent album *Distant Places* (Goju Records)."

1990 **Mark Steinbach** (DMA), a senior lecturer in music, university organist, and curator of instruments at Brown University, performs the music of Philip Glass and J. S. Bach on the 1755 Silbermann organ in Dresden, Germany, on the recording *Glass-Bach Dresden* (Orange Mountain Music).

1993 **Kelly Hall-Tompkins** was a special guest at a Black History Month event put on by the George Walker Center and the Black Students Union at Eastman in February. The recital featured students from BSU as well as Kelly. Also, Kelly writes: "Composer **Jeff Beal** '85 and I are working together on a new violin concerto that he is writing for me, and we have teamed up with conductor Leonard Slatkin for the premieres of the new work starting next season. I look forward to sharing more news about this exciting project," writes Kelly. She adds, "It's not every day that your friend gets an opera premiered at the Met, so I want to congratulate my friend and colleague **Kevin Puts** '94, '99 (DMA) on his magnificent new opera *The Hours*. I attended the premiere and continue to be moved and inspired by the entire experience."

1994 **Kevin Puts** '99 (DMA) won 2023 Grammy Award in the Best Contemporary Classical Composition category for his triple concerto *Contact*, which was recorded by Philadelphia Orchestra under the direction of Xian Zhang on the album *Letters for the Future* (Deutsche Grammophon).

1996 **Benjamin Rankin** writes, "Happy to share that I have just bought my first hotel and that it is running better than expected. You will all be welcome for a University of Rochester special price in Sathonay Camp, a nice quiet place with easy access to Lyon, which is the gastronomic capital of France."

1997 Flutist **Jennie Oh Brown** (DMA), executive and artistic director of the ensemble collective Picoso and a faculty member at Wheaton College, writes, "I have begun a new position as artist-in-residence and artistic director at Epiphany Center for the Arts, Chicago."

1999 **Kevin Puts** (DMA) (see '94).

2001 **Bob Ludwig** '01 (MM) (see '66)

2002 **Janinah Burnett** (MM) writes that last September, she performed her album *Love the Color of Your Butterfly* to a sold-out audience at the Victory Hall Opera in Charlottesville, Virginia, with an ensemble including Terreon Gully, Keith Brown, and Luques Curtis. In January, Avie Record released a recording of "Credo," composed by Margaret Bonds with text by W. E. B. DuBois with Janinah as the featured soloist. Also in January, she joined col-

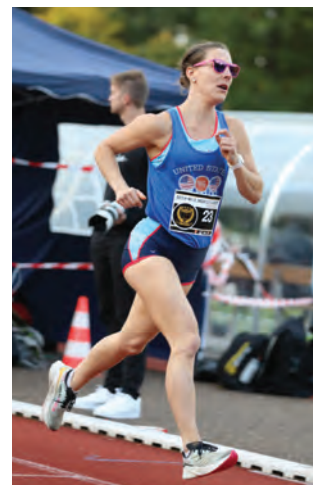
leagues Robert Mack, Phillip Bullock, and Christopher Laysath in the presentation of *And Still We Rise: Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* at the Elizabeth Boatright Coker Performing Arts Center in Hartsville, South Carolina. . . . Soprano **Erin Morley** was nominated for a Grammy Award in the best opera recording category for the Metropolitan Opera and Chorus production of composer Matthew Aucoin's *Euridice*. Erin is also one of three recipients of the 18th annual Opera News Awards. The honorees are to be celebrated this spring, with proceeds from a gala benefiting the education programs of the Metropolitan Opera Guild, publisher of *Opera News*.

2003 The State University of New York at Fredonia has named **David Stringham** '11 (PhD) as dean of the music school. He has been a part of James Madison University's music school and its College of Visual and Performing Arts since 2010 and most recently served as the executive director of the Office of Creative Propulsion. In addition to being a full professor of music, David cofounded the university's Center for Inclusive Music Engagement and served as its founding director.

2005 **Aaron Travers** (PhD) (see '08).

2008 Flutist **Emlyn Johnson** '15 (DMA) writes that the American Wild Ensemble has released its second album, *Duos and Trios* (New Focus Recordings), featuring three members of the group. Along with Emlyn, the recording includes clarinetist **Ellen Breakfield-Glick** and cellist **Daniel Ketter** '10, '10RC, '17 (DMA), '20 (PhD). Emlyn and Daniel codirect the ensemble, which originated with a commissioning project and national tour celebrating the National Park Service centennial in 2016. Three of the four works commissioned for *Duos and Trios* were written by composers tied to Eastman: "Two Nocturnes" by **David Liptak** '76 (DMA), an Eastman professor of composition since 1986, "Avaloch Sketches" by **David Mettens** '15 (MA), and "Stillwater Marsh" by **Aaron Travers** '05 (PhD).

2009 **Julia Bullock** has made her solo recording debut with *Walking in the Dark* (Nonesuch Records), released in December. She is joined on the album by London's Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by her husband, Christian Reif, who also accompanies her on piano. Julia's recent notable positions include artist-in-residence of



2012 Pozdol

London's Guildhall School (2020–22), of the San Francisco Symphony (2019–20), and at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (2018–19).

2010 **Daniel Ketter** (see '08).

2011 **David Stringham** (PhD) (see '03).

2012 Saxophonist and music educator **Owen Broder** has released his second album as a leader. *Hodges: Front and Center, Vol. 1* (Outside in Music) pays tribute to saxophonist Johnny Hodges, who played a key role in the Duke Ellington Orchestra. Owen and his quintet explore nine compositions associated with Hodges. . . . **Melanie Pozdol** (MM) sends news. Last October she traveled to Leuven, Belgium, as a member of Team USA to compete in the Beer Mile World Classic, where she emerged as the Women's World Champion with a time of 6:41. The event featured more than 20 women from 13 countries competing in the largest women's championship field ever. In November Melanie started a new position at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management as associate director for prospect management and analytics.

2015 **Emlyn Johnson** (DMA) (see '08). . . . **David Mettens** (see '08).

2017 **Daniel Ketter** (DMA) (see '08).

2020 **Daniel Ketter** (PhD) (see '08).

2022 **Pallas Catenella Riedler** (MA) was awarded an American Dissertation Fellowship from the American Association of University Women. A PhD student, Pallas was one of three Rochester graduates recognized by

TRIBUTE

Lettie Burgett '71: The Fierce Love of a Pediatrician

Lettie Burgett '71 was seven when she announced her career goal: pediatrician. She was inspired by her own doctor in St. Louis, Helen Nash, a pioneer in the history of Black women physicians.

Burgett was true to her word, making an impact on thousands of children and parents in a 47-year career as a pediatrician in southern California. She died in August 2022 at her home in Palos Verdes Estates, California, at 73.

"My mom was greatly influenced by Dr. Nash," her son, Ben Cowan, said. "Even as a little girl, she perceived pediatricians as people who made others healthy, happy, and more whole."

Burgett was born in St. Louis in 1949, the third of Arthur and Ruth Burgett's six children. Older brother, Paul Burgett '68E, '76E (PhD) served as a teacher and University leader at Rochester for more than half a century before his death in 2018. Lettie followed him to Rochester, where she majored in biology and served as a senator in the Students' Association government. She was a member of the Black Students Union when that group staged a protest in 1969, demanding improved opportunities for Black students, staff, and community members. When the University




BE PATIENT: "Don't become a grown-up," Burgett would whimsically advise her young patients as a pediatrician in her Los Angeles practice.

announced in 2014 that the Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center would be housed on the third floor of what's now Frederick Douglass Commons, Paul noted with emotion that it was the same floor Lettie and others occupied during the BSU protest.

Burgett earned her medical degree at Harvard University—one of only five Black women in a class of nearly 150. She began a residency in Los Angeles at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and met Benjamin Cowan in 1975, when both were interns. The couple married in 1976 and had two sons, Ben and Christopher. Humble but driven, Burgett also taught for decades as an assistant clinical professor at Harbor-UCLA.

But her greatest joy was as a pediatrician. She would whimsically advise her young patients, "Don't become a grown-up!"

"The way that my mom loved and was loved was fierce and beautifully uncomplicated," her son Ben said. "She loved wholly, without reservation, and she taught those around her how to love

unconditionally. This was such an incredible gift. I don't have the words to describe what it felt like, how unusual it was, or how inspiring." 

—JIM MANDELARO

the association. The others were Anaar Desai-Stephens, a postdoctoral student at Eastman, who received the American Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship, and Maria Castaño, a PhD student in biology, who received the International Doctoral Degree Fellowship.

School of Medicine and Dentistry

MELIORA WEEKEND

October 5 to 8, 2023

[Rochester.edu/melioraweekend](https://rochester.edu/melioraweekend)

1982 Philip Templeton (MD), the chief medical officer and cofounder of DocPanel Technologies, has released *Cyberbolt* (self-published), which he describes as "the result of years of work coming from a passion to ring loud an alert about medical cybersecurity—as well as to create an exciting thriller novel."

1985 Mark Eisenberg (MD), a professor of medicine and director of the

MD-PhD program at McGill University in Montreal, has been named a James McGill Professor of Medicine. The distinction recognizes outstanding and original researchers who are international leaders in their fields. . . .

Victoria Korth (MD), '03 (Res) has published her second poetry chapbook, *Tacking Stitch* (Finishing Line Press). She writes that in addition to writing poetry, flash fiction, and book reviews, she is a psychiatrist with Rochester Regional Health System. Victoria holds an MFA from the Warren Wilson College Program for Writers and an MA in English and creative writing from SUNY Brockport.

1986 Paul Strumph (MD) sends a photograph taken with classmates **Jeff Lyness** (MD), '87M (Res), **Thomas Perls** (MD), and **James Schuster** (MD), '88 (Res), '91 (Res), who have stayed close since graduating. Together, he writes, they "took a trip to The Hague in the Netherlands and reminisced on anatomy lessons at Rochester, this time with a Rembrandt twist featuring *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp*, painted in 1632."



1986 Strumph

1994 Steven Meyers '94M (Flw), (see '83 College).

1999 Michael Tracy (Res) received the 2022 Laureate Award from the Wyoming Chapter of the American College of Physicians. Michael has practiced internal medicine and pediatrics in Powell, Wyoming, since

2002. He is a cofounder of 307Health, a multi-physician direct primary care practice in Wyoming.

2003 Victoria Korth (Res) (see '85).

2004 Chirag Shah (MD) (see '99 College).

2016 Sarah Ackroyd (MD) (see '11 College). . . . **Hanna Algattas** (MD) (see '11 College). . . . **Kim Bui** (MD) (see '11 College). . . . **Jason Birnbaum** (MD) (see '11 College). . . . **Daniel Charen** (MD) (see '11 College). . . . **Adrian Hadiono** (MD) (see '11 College). . . . **Jason Kopec** (MD) (see '11 College). . . . **Kevin Rhie** (MD) (see '11 College).

2017 Sthuthi David '17M (MD) (see '11 College)

School of Nursing

MELIORA WEEKEND

October 5 to 8, 2023

[Rochester.edu/melioraweekend](https://rochester.edu/melioraweekend)

1959 Kay Stiles Anderson (see '57 College).

1961 Fay Wadsworth Whitney (see '57 College).

1990 Ivy Braun (see '90 College).

1993 Dianne Morrison-Beedy (PhD), the Centennial Professor of Nursing and chief talent and global strategy officer at Ohio State University's nursing school, writes that she was recently honored by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She was conferred as a Fellow Ad Eundem for her contributions to nursing, health care, education, and research. Dianne also received the 2022 Global Intrapreneur of the Year Award in Education from the Global Intrapreneurs Institute in Australia for her creative approaches to expanding nursing education.

2019 Farrell Cooke (see '14 College).

Simon Business School

MELIORA WEEKEND

October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/melioraweekend

1973 Roy Whitney (MBA) (see '57 College).

1975 Francis Price (MBA) (see '74 College).

1985 Jon Cagan (MS) (see '83 College).

1989 Shane Coppola (MBA) (see '90 College). . . **Bob Klie** (MBA), the late **Richard Lee** '37RC, and Audrey Velepec produced a second edition of *The Sunshine Camp Story* (published by the Rochester Rotary Club). The 100th anniversary edition tells the story of the Rotary's Sunshine Camp from 1922 to 2022. The 157-acre camp in Rush, New York, serves children with disabilities and their families. . . **Gary Worobow** (MBA) (see '90 College).

2009 Jorge Castro (MBA) published *Manage Your Money Manager* (Golden Cross Publications) last October. He writes that the book "guides the individual investor through a series of easy steps to set up an online tool that has long been used by market technical analysts both on and off Wall Street for decades to protect and grow investment portfolios."

2011 Jiayi Cao (MS) (see '00 College). . . **Ali Streeter Endres** (MBA) (see '08 College).

2017 Miles Nowak (MBA) (see '11 College).

Warner School of Education and Human Development

MELIORA WEEKEND

October 5 to 8, 2023
Rochester.edu/melioraweekend

1989 Alice Holloway Young (EdM) (see '57 Graduate).

1994 Barbara Regenspan (EdD) (see '73 College).

2012 Dana Albert (MS) (see '11 College). . . **Karen Taylor** (EdD), reports that she retired in July 2022 after spending 38 years as an educator.

2013 Julie Manley White (PhD) was named chancellor and CEO of Pierce College District in Washington in November and assumed the duties of her new role in January. She previously served as president of Pierce College Fort Steilacoom.

In Memoriam Faculty

Andrew Ainslie, who served as dean of the Simon Business School from 2014 to 2020, died last April. After stepping down as dean, he was appointed the Benjamin Forman Professor in Marketing and continued his research interest in economic and statistical models of consumer behavior.

Serving as Simon's seventh dean, Ainslie led strategic recruitment and curriculum innovations, including the successful effort to make Simon the first business school in the country to offer students a STEM-designated MBA degree.

John Walker, an ordained minister and counselor who held teaching and administrative positions in the Department of Psychiatry, died in December. Before joining the department in 2007, he held several leadership roles in Rochester community organizations, including serving as director of the Baden Street Settlement Counseling Cen-

ter and as the pastor of Christian Friendship Baptist Church.

Among his University roles, he helped lead a program that brought together faculty leaders from the University's Clinical Psychology Training Program and community leaders from faith-based and community-based organizations and health and human service agencies in Rochester.

Life Trustees

William Peck '60M (MD), '00 (Honorary), a leader in academic medicine who served as dean and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs at the Washington University School of Medicine, died in February. The founder of Wash U's Center for Health Policy, Peck also served as president of the university's medical center.

Peck was named to the University's Board of Trustees in 2005 and became a life trustee in 2011.

Carl Williams '75S (MBA), a pioneer in technology management who held executive positions at Xerox, Amoco, MacMillan Publishing, and Principal Financial, died in July. He also was a founding member of the Information Technology Senior Management Forum, an organization dedicated to supporting and developing Black talent among technology professionals.

Williams was named to the University's Board of Trustees in 1999 and became a life trustee in 2012.

Faculty Emeriti

William Cave, an endocrinologist and a member of the Department of Medicine. November 2022

Anthony Di Sant'Aganese, a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine. September 2022

Wallace Iglewski, a professor of microbiology and immunology. December 2022

George Kimmich, a professor of biochemistry and biophysics. October 2022.

Rufino Pabico, a nephrologist and a member of the Department of Medicine. November 2022

Sydney Shapiro, a former chair of electrical and computer engineering. September 2022

Melvin Zax, a professor of psychology. November 2022

Alumni

Stuart C. Finch '44M (MD), July 2022

Dorothy Maciol Osika '44N, September 2022

Judy Strubhar Ross '44E, August 2022

J. Alyce Crawford Christ '46E, October 2022

Ernest L. Dunning '46, December 2021

David R. Kominz '47M (MD), November 2022

Nancy Jones Lyke '47, '73W (EdM), October 2022

Elsie Hotchkin Moon '47N, October 2022

Jane M. Stellwag '47, '58W (EdM), September 2022

Bernice Newkirk Van Steenberg '47E, December 2022

Kevin P. Bunnell '48, July 2022

John R. Hoff '48, November 2022

Olga Ostapchuk Mahlstedt '48E, August 2022

Michaela Loose Williams '48E, August 2022

Joyce Kaiser Holter '49, October 2022

Jane Kotary Van Alstyne '49, October 2022

Margery Rosenberg Baittle '50, October 2022

Jean Cutler Henty '50, August 2022

Gerald Morreale '50, '51 (MA), November 2022

Thomas W. Mou '50M (MD), October 2022

June Wilkins Smith '50 (MA), November 2022

Stanley E. Stahura '50, October 2022

Peter A. Broikou '51, December 2022

Laura Hakes Brown '51N, October 2022

Beverly Wood Eisenbraun '51N (Diploma), '75N, '87N (MS), November 2022

Richard J. Hurysz '51, November 2022

Jerrold M. Lyons '51, November 2022

Meline Kulhanjian Markarian '51E, January 2022

Charles T. Willis '51, December 2022

Franklin L. Angevine '52, November 2022

Barbara Ann Garvey Jackson '52E (MM), September 2022

Suzanne Chandonnet Magrane '52, October 2022

Stanley L. Wiener '52, '56M (MD), November 2022

Barbara Skasko Dino '53N, September 2022

Robert B. Frame '53, September 2022

Ruth Fisher Whitcomb '53, '54N, October 2022

Matthew P. Cornelia '54, September 2022

Francis J. Drago '54, November 2022

Mary Dawson Evangelista '54, March 2021

TRIBUTE

Russell Peck: Scholar, Teacher, and Mentor to Generations

Each of us should be lucky to earn a single crowning achievement in our time, but the life of Dr. Russell Peck was so unquestionably well-lived—both personally and professionally—that he earned dozens of them.

Russell's keen scholarly output continues to shape our understanding of medieval literature, particularly when it comes to the remarkable poet John Gower. Russell's founding of the Middle English Texts Series fundamentally changed not just what we know about centuries of our history, but also how we teach it. Influential programs of study at home and abroad owe their existence to him. So does one of the greatest libraries for medieval studies in the world, Rochester's own Russell Hope Robbins Library in Rush Rhees.

And all this pales in comparison to his human impact. This is a man, after all, whose tireless energy and boundless enthusiasm inspired generations of students and colleagues during more than five decades as a pillar of the English department. We sadly lost Russell in February at the age of 89, but it is no exaggeration to say that there are thousands of us, all around the world, who count ourselves blessed to have known him, to have been shaped by his gentle guidance and his sparkling wit.

Russell's Wyoming upbringing never left him, so I hope he'll smile when I say that I'd have better luck trying to lasso the moon than I would in trying to encapsulate his impact on this world. Even here I feel the pull of the man. For, rather than despair



PAST & PRESENT: Understanding the past helps “enable people to live more vitally in the present,” wrote Peck, the John Hall Deane Professor Emeritus of Rhetoric and Poetry, who joined the English Department in 1961.

at the impossibility of giving testament to him, I find myself turning to his words and his lessons.

In his introduction to the second volume of his monumental edition of Gower's masterpiece, *Confessio Amantis*, Russell wrote that “without history, there can be no memory; and without memory, there can be no history.” This complex idea was one Russell recognized early in the poet's work, and it never ceased to fascinate him. “But the point of historical knowledge is not to enable people to live in the past,” he went on to say, “or even to understand the past in the way we would expect a modern historian to proceed; rather, it is to enable people to live more vitally in the present.”

That open-eyed engagement with the world—cognizant of the past but passionately focused on the present—is how he lived his life, and how he asked us all to live our lives in turn.

If in doing so we achieve only a measure of what he did, we should count ourselves very lucky indeed. 🍷

—MICHAEL LIVINGSTON '06 (PHD)

Livingston, whose research focuses on the military history of medieval Europe, was named The Citadel's first-ever Citadel Distinguished Professor in March. A student of Peck's, Livingston has posted a personal tribute, “Russell Peck, My Friend and Mentor,” at Michaellivingston.com/russell-peck-my-friend-and-mentor/. For more about Peck's life as a scholar and teacher, see Rochester.edu/newscenter/medievalist-russell-peck-remembered-552632/.

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J. Richard Szeremany '54E,
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(MM), December 2022

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(Res), August 2022

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John A. Reed '55E, September 2022

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(MM), December 2022

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August 2022

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August 2022

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September 2022
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December 2022
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September 2022
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November 2022
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September 2022
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November 2022
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October 2022
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September 2022
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September 2022
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August 2022
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November 2022
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November 2022
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February 2021
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- Ming Taw Lu** '70 (PhD), May 2021
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December 2022
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November 2022
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November 2022
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December 2022
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(EdM), September 2022
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October 2022
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September 2022
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- Susan May Schneider** '78E,
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August 2022
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(MS), October 2022
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October 2022
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November 2022
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(MS), '99N (PhD), October 2022
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October 2022
- Larry O. Maynard** '85W (EdD),
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2022
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November 2022
- Eric S. McConnell** '93S (MBA),
October 2022
- John C. Hanson** '03D, October 2022
- Jeanne Appleby Leasure** '04N,
December 2022
- Joseph Nvayo Ndongwa** '05N,
August 2022
- Oliver R. Young** '13S (MS), July 2022
- Lucinda M. Olson** '14E,
November 2022

The Aesthetics of Imperfection

Through a deep dive into an iconic album, Warren Zanes '02 (PhD) explores a lost virtue in recorded music.

Interview by Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

I've written songs almost my entire life. I became part of a roots-rock band, the Del Fuegos, in the early 1980s, when I was 17. I went to college after I left the group and continued to write songs. I was writing songs in Rochester, when I was a student in the visual and cultural studies program. Those actually became my first solo album, *Memory Girls*.

I've been working on a book, just out, about the making of a single album in 1982: Bruce Springsteen's *Nebraska*. Some records stay with you, and *Nebraska* has been that for me. It's mysterious. It's imperfect and unfinished. And to come out with a record like that when you've just been in the top 10 of the popular music charts was unthinkable. I wanted to know why he did it. And answering that question was going to take me years—until I sat down with him and got to ask. And I don't think he has an answer fully in the can.

The imperfections in the music were significant, and I say this knowing plenty of imperfect records had come before. But that was mostly music that lived out on the margins. This was imperfect music right in the hot center of the marketplace.

Warren Zanes '02 (PhD)

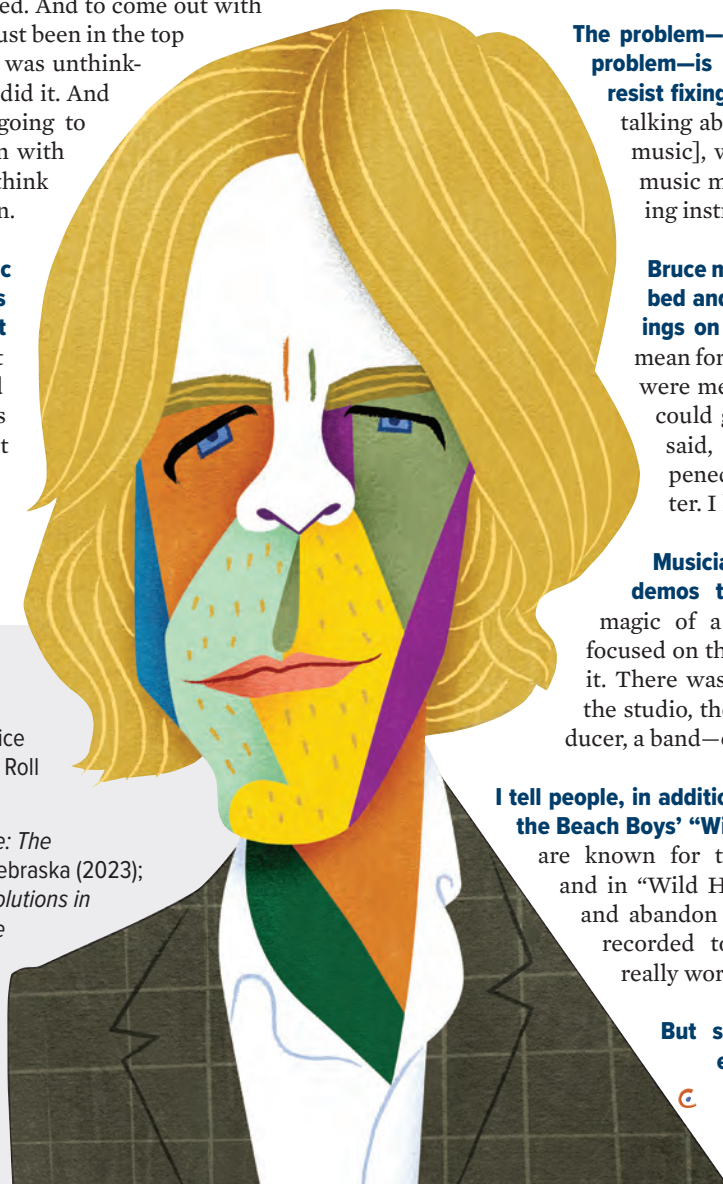
Scholar, teacher, musician

Faculty member, NYU Steinhardt program in songwriting; former vice president of education, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Books: *Deliver Me from Nowhere: The Making of Bruce Springsteen's Nebraska* (2023); *Petty: The Biography* (2015); *Revolutions in Sound: Warner Bros. Records, the First Fifty Years* (2008); *Dusty in Memphis* (2003)

First solo recording: *Memory Girls* (2003)

Most recent recording: *The Biggest Bankrupt City in the World* (2020)



One of the things that makes this record a touchstone is that around 1982 recorded music was stepping into the digital era. It was the same year *Time* magazine's person of the year was the personal computer. And for music makers, the digital era was when the possibility of making perfect music became more accessible with every passing year.

When people started recording music digitally, they started looking at music as waveforms. Engineers who used to close their eyes and listen were now opening their eyes and looking. And they would see, for instance, where a vocal is off pitch. Or when the drummer starts to speed up.

The problem—and I'm going to label it a problem—is that it became harder to resist fixing the imperfections. I'm not talking about EDM [electronic dance music], which lives on the grid, but music made by human beings playing instruments in a room.

Bruce made *Nebraska* sitting on his bed and turning songs into recordings on a little cassette. He didn't mean for them to go anywhere. They were meant to be a reference so he could go rerecord them. Then he said, "I don't know what happened, but I can't make this better. I have to put it out like this."

Musicians did often prefer their demos to the final product. The magic of a demo was that you just focused on the song and getting to know it. There was an absence of scrutiny. In the studio, there'd be an engineer, a producer, a band—everybody looking at you.

I tell people, in addition to *Nebraska*, go listen to the Beach Boys' "Wild Honey." The Beach Boys are known for these gorgeous harmonies, and in "Wild Honey" there's so much joy and abandon in that vocal. If that were recorded today, the engineer would really work it over.

But sometimes the best, most emotionally resonant music, isn't perfect. It changes speed. The pitch wavers. And there's an intimacy to that. 🎧

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PERFORMING ARTS

Music & Medicine

CLINICAL CHORD: Patrick Peralta, a doctor of musical arts student at the Eastman School of Music, performs classical guitar in the lobby of Wilmot Cancer Center this spring. The performance was part of the Eastman Performing Arts Medicine initiative, a collaborative effort to integrate the performing arts into hospital environments, promote research, offer specialized care to artists, and provide music therapy in clinical patient care. PHOTOGRAPH BY J. ADAM FENSTER