

Corpus Christi food shelter. The project is the longest-running such effort on campus.

“Our goal is just to expose our students to urban poverty,” says Leah Gregorio ’12, one of the leaders of this year’s trip who has participated since her sophomore year. “Each night we have a reflection time and those always blossom into discussions of social justice and urban poverty.”

Though the students live simply and stay at a parish church, they have plenty of time to see Baltimore, and the last day is reserved for a cultural trip to Washington, D.C. Gregorio, a political science major from Wethersfield, Conn., and her fellow leaders aim to continue similar service projects in Rochester when they return, “just so our volunteers can see that these problems aren’t unique to the city of Baltimore, that they exist in our communities here at school and communities back at home.”

Newman, Habitat, Roteract, Circle K, and other service-oriented organizations can receive logistical and financial support for their projects from the Community Service Network, a student-run umbrella organization for service groups. The network partnered with Alpha Phi Omega, a coed community service fraternity, for a trip to Boston.

“Our goal is to introduce students who are participating in the trip to different types of community service,” says Mallory Laboulaye ’12 (T5), president of the network and Alpha Phi Omega.

“This is an opportunity for [students] to dedicate a whole week of service to people they don’t know and just to see that they’re not isolated individuals in society,” says Laboulaye, a neuroscience major from Horseheads, N.Y.

Whether groups venture to a different country or volunteer in Rochester, those who go on alternative spring break say the experiences prove to be fun and rewarding.

“These are students who are giving up their time, a whole week where they could be going on vacation, going home, relaxing, and they’re giving up their time to help the environment, or people, and I think it just says a lot about the Rochester students,” says Gregorio. “It’s a lot of kids who spend their spring break—when many other people are going to Cancun or doing things like that—just really being selfless.” 

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UNIVERSITY HISTORY

New Residence Hall, Courtyard Honor Presidents O'Brien and Jackson

The names of two recent Rochester presidents will become part of the River Campus landscape later this year.

A new 150-student building, scheduled to open this fall, will be named in honor of Dennis O'Brien, who served as Rochester's eighth president from 1984 to 1994.

A newly redesigned courtyard will be named in recognition of Thomas Jackson, who served as Rochester's ninth president from 1994 to 2005. Jackson Court is adjacent to the new O'Brien Hall.

“It is fitting that our newest residence hall and its beautiful outdoor gathering space will honor Dennis O'Brien and Thomas Jackson,” says President Joel Seligman. “Their commitment to and investment in undergraduate education continues to make Rochester a leader in recognizing that student living and learning are integral to a successful college experience.”

O'Brien Hall is situated at the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and Intercampus Drive and overlooks the Genesee River.

Designed to complement the existing Anderson, Sage, and Wilder halls—all named for important figures in the University's history—the new building is part of an effort to establish a quad-like courtyard, the new Jackson Court, to help

unify the area and draw students toward a natural gathering place.

The construction of O'Brien Hall is targeted to meet LEED gold certification standards—a first for the River Campus—to reduce negative environmental impacts and improve energy performance, among many goals.

As the first residence hall built on the River Campus in 42 years, the interior design of O'Brien Hall will differ dramatically from other River Campus living spaces.

Upper floors will offer more study rooms and lounges while common areas on the first floor will be flexible for meetings, event planning, and music and dance rehearsals, among other activities.

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will live in O'Brien Hall with a combination of singles, doubles, and adjoining doubles.

The established buildings surrounding Jackson Court have been named for Martin Anderson, the University's first president (1853-88); John Wilder, the first chairman of the Board of Trustees (1850-58); and William Sage, the first secretary and treasurer of the Board of Trustees (1850-90).

A naming ceremony for the new building and courtyard will be held in May.

—Sharon Dickman