BELL MAN: A worker maneuvers a bell in Rush Rhees Library in 1973 as part of the process of replacing the tower's original 17-bell chime with the 50-bell set of the Hopeman Memorial Carillon. None of the chime bells was incorporated into the carillon because of limited space in the tower and because of concerns about the loudness of the instrument. For more about the carillon, see the story on page 46.

River Campus

Undergraduate

1937 Garson Merinsky celebrated his 100th birthday in May. He lives in Rochester.


1953 Joseph Pagano, the director emeritus of the University of North Carolina's Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, received the 2011 Hyman L. Battle Distinguished Cancer Research Award. The award honors an exceptional cancer researcher at the University of North Carolina's medical school. A virologist, Joseph was among the first to discover the molecular links between viruses and cancer.

1956 Sarah Miles Bolam is coauthor with her husband, Thomas, of *Fictional Presidential Films: A Comprehensive Filmography of Portrayals from 1930 to 2011* (Xlibris). This is the couple's second book on the topic of film. In 2007, they published *The Presidents on Film*, a guide to 400 films made since 1903 that included a president.

1958 Jerry Gardner ’65 (MA) sends a photo and an update. He has three grandchildren: Isabella, Ella, and Dylan. Ella and Dylan are the children of his son, Bradley ’96. Jerry is a life trustee of the University.

1959 Richard Davis writes that he married his high school sweetheart, Marjorie, in September 2010 after a 53-year separation. They were married at the foot of Canandaigua Lake by Mayor Ellen Polimeni. He adds that he and Marjorie are “paragons of vigor and good health at age 72. I work full time in the energy industry and Marjorie holds a position at the Canandaigua Hospital. There’s no dust on either of our shoulders.”

1961 Arnold Sucher sends a photo of a Class of 1961 Sigma Alpha Mu reunion. He writes: “Most of us were not able to be at the 50th reunion at the U of R, but we did wish to get together, and were able to do so in New York in early May.” Pictured are (standing, left to right) Barton Kraft’69M (Res), Marvin Grote, Michael Savin, Bernard Jaffe, Arnold, Myron Belfer; (sitting, left to right) Larry Ossias’66M (Res), Joe Zelson, and Edward Feller. Also attending...
the reunion were Leslie Sucher, Leslie Miller Kraff ’63, ’69W (MA), Jacquelyn Grote, Adrien Savin, Marlene Lambert Jaffe ’62, Sandy Belfer, Linda Michaelson Ossias ’64, Myra Zelson, and Arlene Feller. Arnold notes that a few Sigma Alpha Mu brothers and their spouses were not able to be there, including Bill Smith and his wife, Barbara; Melvin Dell and his wife, Barbara; and Bob Rosen. Arnold also notes the absence of Jerry Steinberg Stone. Jerry passed away in 2001.

1962 Marlene Lambert Jaffe
(see ’61).

1963 Carol Gracie has published a book, Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History (Princeton University Press). Carol is a retired naturalist, photographer, and writer, and formerly an educator and tour guide at the New York Botanical Garden. . . . Leslie Miller Kraff ’69W (MA) (see ’61).

1964 Linda Michaelson Ossias
(see ’61).

1965 Dick Hull writes that he’s the interim dean of Lenior-Rhyne University’s College of Professional and Mathematical Studies in Hickory, N.C. He continues to teach mathematics and computer science and play jazz guitar on the side.

1968 Cathy Jones Minehan was the keynote speaker at YWCA Boston’s annual YW Boston Academy of Women Achievers luncheon in June. Cathy was inducted into the Academy of Women Achievers in 1996. She’s the dean of the Simmons College School of Management, a University trustee, and a former president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

1971 Jack Dornan
(see ’72).

1972 Career diplomat Gene Cretz was nominated by President Barack Obama in April to serve as the U.S. ambassador to Ghana. He previously served in Libya as the first American ambassador to the north African nation in 36 years. . . . Valerie Pierce writes that she and Jack Dornan ’71 “reconnected and were married in October, among close family and friends. Jack is retired from the chemical industry and I’m a high school foreign language teacher. We attended the 2011 reunion and anyone visiting mid-coast Maine is most welcome chez nous.”


1974 Frank Koch writes: “I’ve retired after a 31-year career at Chevron and have begun my second career as an executive coach at Koch Decision Consulting, where I guide senior executives making strategic decisions. I’ve recently become president of the Society of Decision Professionals. My wife, Elizabeth, and I have relocated to Eugene, Ore., and spend our time traveling and enjoying retired life.”
1976 Harriet Washington, a journalist and medical ethicist, has published Deadly Monopolies: The Shocking Corporate Takeover of Life Itself and the Consequences for Your Health and Our Medical Future (Doubleday). Harriet’s 2007 book, Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present (Anchor Books) won the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction and has been cited by Toni Morrison as an inspiration for her latest novel, Home (Doubleday).

1977 Daniel Kimmel’s 2011 book Jar Jar Binks Must Die... and other Observations about Science Fiction Movies (Fantastic Books) is one of five nominees for a Hugo Award, a top award in science fiction, in the category of Best Related Book, which covers nonfiction works about the science fiction genre. Voting continues through July and the final winners will be announced in August at the 2012 World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago. Daniel teaches in the communication and journalism department at Suffolk University and is the former president of the Boston Society of Film Critics.

1979 Peter Blanck has been elected to the board of trustees of the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse. Peter is a professor at Syracuse University.

1981 Fred Guterl has published The Fate of the Species: Why the Human Race May Cause Its Own Extinction and How We Can Stop It (Bloomsbury, 2012). Fred is a veteran science writer and the executive editor of Scientific American.


1987 David Levine writes: “On May 2, four of the six suitemates of Chambers 110 got together in Boston for a 25th reunion warm-up. We all made a pact to be in Rochester this coming October for the reunion and Meliora Weekend.” Pictured from left to right are Robert Cutting, Seth Read, David, and Eric Carlson. Julie Anne Taddeo ’97 (PhD) has published Catherine Cookson Country: On the Borders of Legitimacy, Fiction, and History (Ashgate). Julie is a visiting associate professor of history at the University of Maryland.

1990 Julie Bentley ’96 (PhD) has been named a fellow of the Society of Photographic Instrumentation Engineers, an honor for scientists who have made significant contributions in the fields of optics, photonics, and imaging. Julie is an associate professor of optics at Rochester, where she’s been on the faculty since 1998 and teaches courses on lens design to undergraduates and graduate students.

1991 Mike LaMontagne has published a fantasy novel for middle school readers, The Carter Girls and the Battle of Frontenac Island (Ozbo Productions). Navy Commander Michelle Morse deployed in March on the final mission of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise. Commissioned in 1961, the Enterprise is the oldest and largest active
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Paul Sharlow has been named partner at the Syracuse law firm of Gilbert Stinziano Heintz & Smith. He joined the firm as an associate in 2003.


Fred Beer has been named president of ITX Corp. Fred has been an executive at ITX, a business technology and web solutions company based in Pittsford, NY, since 2009.

Bradley Gardner (see ‘58). . . Brian Grimberg delivered a talk, “Buzzkill: How Malaria Has, and Is, Changing the World We Live In,” for the online conference website TED in April. Later that month, on World Malaria Day, he joined 19 other scientists studying the disease on a trip to Capitol Hill, where they discussed their research with members of Congress. An assistant professor of international health at the Center for Global Health and Diseases at Case Western Reserve University’s medical school, Brian received a $7.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to test malaria therapies in Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific.

Carrie Johnson Adelman has received the Future Leaders in Cancer Research Award from the American Association of Cancer Research. A postdoctoral fellow at the London Research Institute of Cancer Research UK, Carrie has helped identify a tumor suppressor gene as well as a probable link between human ovarian cancer and a mutation of the gene. She presented her research, along with the three other winners of the international contest, at a symposium in April. . . Frank Hayn has been named vice president of retirement plans at National Planning Holdings, an affiliate of the Lansing, Mich., firm Jackson National Life Insurance Co. Frank will work at the affiliate’s Santa Monica, Calif., headquarters.

In January, Tamberla Latray Perry starred in a performance of Race, the 2009 Broadway play by Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright David Mamet, at Chicago’s Goodman Theatre. Tamberla played the role of Susan, a black attorney hired, along with a white counterpart, to defend a wealthy white man charged with the rape of a black woman.

Amir Dehestani married Jen Srbaker in February in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in a ceremony conducted by Daniel Britton ‘04. Amir writes: “We met six years ago when I helped my sister open up the Uptown Espresso Caffe in Boston, where Jen was a customer.” Pictured are: (back row) Damon D’Arienzo, Raymond Brown ‘03, Jameson McNeil ‘03, Daniel, Adam Fine ‘08, Colleen Whitecar ‘98, Craig Pipal ‘04; (front row) Nathan Higgins ‘08, Nicole Lehman Britton ‘05, Jen, Amir. . . Alison Martinez Finstad and her husband, Korey, welcomed a daughter, Abigail, in December 2010. They live in Denver, where Korey is the pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church and Alison owns Benezet Advisors, a consulting firm that helps nonprofits develop fundraising strategies.

Ieva Gruzina writes that she’s been appointed to the Central Election Commission of Latvia by the Latvian Parliament. The commission is a nine-member body charged with enforcing electoral laws. . . Dan Quinn writes: “Greetings from South America! After eight years in Texas, I relocated to Bogotá, Colombia, where I’m opening a new branch office for National Instruments, covering Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, and the Caribbean. I’ve hired a team of engineers, and we’re working hard to keep up with the demands of the booming business environment down here. Otherwise, I’m finding time to explore the region, leading some weekend motorcycle tours, and trying to perfect my Spanish language skills (I should have taken some classes at UR). It’s an exciting time to be in South America!”

Daniel Britton (see ’01). . . Corinne Samler has joined the Philadelphia law firm Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg as an associate. She practices in the bankruptcy and corporate restructuring department.

David Hochbaum (see ’08).

George McCrory has been named investment analyst and
client services support advisor at Cooper/Haims Advisors in Rochester. . . . Julie Mihalek writes that she married Scott Allen last September in Blowing Rock, N.C. Brian Moravan ’04 and Melissa Arms-Moravan ’04 were in attendance. Julie and Scott live in Morrisville, N.C. . . . Oscar Pedroso writes that he won third place out of 26 entries in the Rochester area’s Startup Weekend last April. Startup Weekend is a 54-hour event in which participants create a web or mobile application with market potential during that time period. Oscar formed a team with three other participants who together created GradFly, “a website that pools social media streams on engineering programs from Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, and organizes them in one place by school.”

2007  Ebony Richards sends an update. She graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin with an MD and will be a resident in pediatrics at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis starting this summer.

2008  Eric Janosko (see ’09). . . . Meggan Patterson writes: “David Hochbaum ’05 and I were married last October in Mamaroneck, N.Y., after Hurricane Irene forced us to postpone our original late August date.” Pictured are Paul Szymanski ’05, Seth Berkowitz ’05 (best man), Tim O’Brien ’06, James Patterson, Rachel Robinson (maid of honor), Meagan Friedman, Sherry Hochbaum, Karen Bachmeyer ’10 (MS), Becky Patterson, and Emily Patterson (flower girl). Also in attendance were Cynthia Czapla, Katie Olson, Beckie LaRocque ’09, Beth Springate ’05, Laura Yanoso Scholl ’05, ’08 (MS), Summer Romasco ’07, and Dan Gross ’03. Meggan and David live in Manhattan, where David is director of search marketing at MEC and Meggan is a graduate student in media studies at the New School.

2009  Kristen DeCarlo writes that she and Eric Janosko ’08 will marry in September. Kristen is the marketing director at ServiceMaster by ASAP, a Rochester company offering cleaning and restoration services. Eric is a chemical engineer at RefleXite’s Henrietta, NY, location. They live in Farmington, NY.

River Campus Graduate

1965  Jerry Gardner (MA) (see ’61 undergraduate).

1969  Leslie Miller Kraff W (MA) (see ’61 undergraduate).

1971  Charlotte Mendoza W (EdD), professor of education at Colorado College, has been awarded the 2012 Distinguished Teacher Educator Award from the Association of Teacher Educators. The national award is given to one faculty member each year. Charlotte directs the elementary teacher education program at Colorado College and teaches courses on elementary and secondary literacy, social studies, and language arts, as well as elective courses on contemporary issues in education.

1974  Thomas Perry (PhD) has published Poison Flower (Mysterious Press), his seventh suspense novel featuring the fictional Seneca heroine Jane Whitefield. . . . Richard Thaler (PhD), the Ralph and Dorothy Keller Distinguished Service Professor of Behavioral Science and Economics at the University of Chicago, was awarded the Nicholas Molodovsky Award in May. The award, given by the CFA Institute, an international association of investment analysts, recognizes innovative research that makes a wide impact on the investment profession. Richard’s research on behavioral economics culminated in his co-authorship of the bestselling book, Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness (Yale University Press, 2008).

1985  John Wecker (PhD) has been named president and CEO of the Pacific Northwest Diabetes Research Institute. John was formerly the global program leader of vaccine access and delivery at the global health nonprofit PATH.

1991  Amit Goyal (PhD) has been named a 2012 fellow of the Materials Research Society. Amit is a materials scientist at the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory, near Knoxville, Tenn. His specialty is
Dinner with Coach

For the seventh straight year, Yellowjackets who played under football coach Pat Stark gathered in the spring to honor their coach and to reconnect with one another.

In attendance were members of Stark’s early Rochester teams who played for him from 1969 to 1977.

(Front row) Mike Roulan ’71, Stark (seated), Frank Perillo ’73, and Bill Hammond ’73; (middle row) Bill Costello ’72, Jim Dunnigan ’73, Greg Conrad ’72, Rick Magere ’72, Tony Daniele ’71, Phil Chrys ’75, Paul Caputo ’73, Jim Juraska ’73, Mike Garritano ’76, Mark McAnaney ’75, Dave Cidale ’71, and Jim Mazur ’78; (back row) Kevin Maier ’78, Dave McNeil ’74, Ed Heffernan ’76, Dick Rasmussen ’72, ’79 (MS), ’97W (EdD), Quentin Call ’76, John Badowski ’77, Denny Hennigan ’75, Paul Macielak ’72, Joe Novak ’73, Bob Kulinski ’71, ’73 (MS), ’86 (MS), and Len Champion ’73.

1995 Anthonie (Ton) Langleer S (MBA) has published a book, Innopreneur: 100 Chronicles on How Circumstance, Preparation, and Brilliance Advance Innovation (Channel V Books).

1996 Julie Bentley (PhD) (see ’90 undergraduate).


2004 Melissa Bernstein Ser (PhD) (see ’87 undergraduate) writes that she’ll be starting this summer as the director of congregational learning at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Eastman School of Music

1955 John Beck ’62E (MM) (see ’70).


1975 Stanley (Kingsley) Day (MA) writes: “I have done a new reconstruction of the sketch of Chopin’s posthumous Mazurka in F Minor, generally considered his last composition. This edition—Mazurka in F Minor, Opus Posthumous by Frédéric Chopin (Schirmer Performance Editions, Hal Leonard Corp.)—is the first to include every measure (except those the composer crossed out) of the sketch. The publication also offers alternate readings for individual passages and surveys previous reconstructions of the piece.”

1976 Judith Paniccia Ricker ’81E (MM), ’91S (MBA), the executive vice president of brand research at the marketing research firm Market Probe, has been awarded the 2012 Great Minds Silver Innovation Award by the Advertising Research Foundation. The award recognizes Judith’s research on “brand passion”—what drives consumers’ passion for brands in various industries and over time.
1978 Steven Herbert Smith (DMA), professor of piano at Penn State, sends an update. He writes: “I’ve completed a series of 11 recitals at the University Park main campus, ‘Piano Masterworks of Beethoven.’ The series began in 2009, and encompassed all 32 sonatas as well as many other major works, including Diabelli, Eroica/Prometheus, Rondos, Opus 81, and Bagatelles, Opus 126. I also performed a solo recital in Morgantown, WVa., and a lecture-recital for the Philadelphia Music Teachers Association, both featuring Beethoven works. I also performed Tchaikovsky’s Concerto No. 1 in March with the Nittany Valley Symphony, Michael Jinbo conducting.”

1984 Charles Pillow (MM) sends news of his most recent recording, Van Gogh Letters (ELCM, 2010). He writes that it’s “an original tone poem using melodies based on the words of Vincent Van Gogh to his brother, Theo.” The recording features Charles playing oboe, English horn, and bass clarinet, Gary Versace ’93E (MM), accordion, and Jim Ridl, synthesizer.

1985 Stephen Rush (DMA) writes that he recorded 8–8–88 by composer and saxophonist Roscoe Mitchell of the Art Ensemble of Chicago (RogueArt) in 2011. Also in 2011, he released Naked Dance! with drummer Jeremy Edwards and clarinetist Andrew Bishop. It includes six of Stephen’s compositions and was released on uncompressed vinyl and as an MP3. Stephen is a professor of music at the University of Michigan.

1986 Alan Weinstein (MM), assistant professor of music at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, has won the 2012 Virginia Tech Alumni Award for Teaching. Created by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the award recognizes two Virginia Tech faculty members each year. A faculty member at the Blacksburg, Va., university since 2003, Alan has developed cello, bass, and chamber music courses for music majors and minors, and is a cofounder of the Virginia Tech String Project, which offers string instruction to elementary school students as a means to recruit and train future string teachers.

1993 Gary Versace (MM) (see ’94).

2000 Chris Vatalaro (see ’03).

2003 Trumpeter and composer Andre Canniere (MM) writes that he’s living in London and has released a CD, Forward Space (Whirlwind Recordings).

2005 Violinist Kathleen Carter (MM) has released Amy Wurtz String Quartets (Chicago Q Ensemble) as part of the Chicago Q Ensemble. The ensemble is a quartet devoted to performing the works of living composers and to collaborations across musical genres. The CD is their debut recording.

2010 Singer and songwriter Christina Custode released a CD, I (Christina Custode), her first recording of original music. Christina has been named Best Female Vocalist twice by the Buffalo newsweekly Artvoice. … Sarah Franz performs in My Fair Lady this summer at the Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival. The summer-long festival, held in Auburn, NY, includes 250 performances by more than 200 professional actors from across the country. My Fair Lady runs from July 25 to August 15.

2011 Jennifer Sansom writes that she married Jon Ney in June 2011. Pictured are Katelyn Benedict, Emily Schroder, Aimee Morris ’10E, and Jennifer. The photo was taken by Kate Lemon ’12E.

School of Medicine and Dentistry

1966 Larry Ossias (Res) (see ’61 undergraduate).

1969 Barton Kraff (Res) (see ’61 undergraduate).

1970 Gary Fanning (Res) has written a book, Things I Didn’t Learn in Medical School: Tough Lessons from a Lifetime of Practice (Xlibris). Gary is a retired anesthesiologist and lives in Minnesota.

1971 Joseph Martin (MD), ’96 (Honorary) has written a book, Alalfa to Ivy: Memoir of a Harvard Medical School Dean (University of Alberta Press), about his journey from a farm village in Alberta, Canada, to Harvard, where he served as medical school dean from 1997 to 2007. The book offers a window into academic politics and health care in Canada and the United States.

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TRIBUTE

Zvi Zeitlin: Portrait of an Artist

Zvi Zeitlin, who died in May at age 90, was among the finest violinists of the 20th century. Born in Russia, he emigrated with his parents to Israel when he was 2, and to the United States to study at Juilliard when he was 12. In 1951, he made his performance debut in New York City, followed by years of touring with almost every major orchestra in the world, and fostering friendships with fellow musical icons such as Igor Stravinsky and Itzhak Perlman. In 1967, he joined the Eastman School faculty, where in 1974 he became the school's first Kilbourn Professor and in 1998 was named Distinguished Professor of Violin.

The following is based on an essay I wrote as a freshman in Mr. Zeitlin's studio. The student described is not just me, but every student touched by Mr. Zeitlin.

—Gregory Perrin '12, '12E

PROFESSOR & PERFORMER: A noted concert violinist, Zeitlin joined the Eastman School faculty in 1967.

In his antique cushioned chair, wearing his dark blue sweater vest, Professor Zeitlin, 87, regards a fresh-faced student. “What do you have for me?”

The young man has seen Zeitlin walking slowly through the Eastman halls, smiling at all who catch his gaze. Yet the freshman now knows to expect the most demanding violin lessons as he feels each student needs.

Instantly Zeitlin interrupts, laughing. “But that is better. Visibly nervous, the freshman begins.

“You speak the language, but you have no idea what you are saying!” Zeitlin demonstrates on his violin, and the student again begins.

“Now!” shouts Zeitlin. “Don’t just copy me! But that is better. Use your imagination and phrase according to the harmony and what the composer wrote.”

All this criticism, distilled from a lifetime of performing and teaching at the highest levels, is painful to students. Yet any observer is likely to sense Zeitlin’s deep love—for his students.

To conclude two hours of incisive instruction and commentary, Zeitlin says, calmly, “I am on your side. But I am preparing you for the people who aren’t.”

In Memoriam

Alumni

Louise Davids Rickers ’31, April 2012
Doris Wilson Vickery ’32, April 2012
Alice Vanderbilt Del Junco ’34, March 2012
Ruth Simpson Hartwell ’34E, April 2012
Margaret Wright ’34, ’38 (MS), March 2012
Lorraine Woolston ’36E, ’41E (MM), April 2012
Ethel Griffiths Leary ’38E, May 2012
Margaret Willers Mabee ’38, April 2012
Robert A. Rosevar ’39E, ’43E (MM), April 2012
Clara Bates Allen ’41, May 2012
Lorene Carpenter Osborn ’41E, ’44E (MM), May 2012
Frank G. Stewart ’42E, May 2012
William L. Greer ’43M (MD), April 2012
Robert L. Swan ’44E, March 2012
Robert J. Ferris ’45, April 2012
John B. Flick ’45M (MD), March 2012
Alice Hopkins Foster ’45, ’48M (MD), October 2011
Lewis Hogg ’45M (MD), February 2012
Jean Hamilton Johns ’45, March 2012
Gordon Shillinglaw ’46, ’48S (MBA), March 2012
Bruce L. Brown ’47M (MD), April 2012
Stanley D. Gauger ’47E, January 2012
Helen Tappan Shaddix ’47E, April 2012
Margaret Atherton Utegg ’47N, May 2012
Ruth Woodcock Willet ’47, February 2011
Lois Mann Easton ’48, May 2012
Donald H. Porter ’48, January 2012
Robert T. Redden ’48 (Mas), May 2012
Roland L. Wheele ’48, April 2012
Edward J. Farrell ’49, ’53 (Mas), April 2012
William E. McKee ’50E (MM), September 2011
John D. Murphy ’50, ’53 (MA), February 2012
Robert D. Newton ’50, April 2012
Neil E. Pfouts ’50 (Mas), May 2012

KURT BROWNEELL FOR THE EASTMAN SCHOOL
TRIBUTE

Ernest Del Monte: ‘Cut from a Different Cloth’

My first encounter with Ernie Del Monte, University life trustee, was over lunch at the Pittsford Del Monte Lodge in May 2002. Ernie’s grandson, Lee Halligan, a premed student at Reed College, was curious about neuroscience and neurosurgery and had asked his grandfather to introduce him to a neurosurgeon at the U of R. I offered to have Lee observe an awake brain operation and Ernie graciously thanked me. Then he ordered a cup of coffee and started asking me questions. What does the brain look and feel like at surgery? What can be done to improve the care of patients in Rochester and what barriers need to be overcome? What is the status of research at the U of R that might lead to a cure for brain diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease and stroke?

By the end of this first of many four-hour lunches with Ernie, I realized that I had encountered a man who was cut from a different cloth than most of us.

Ernie died in April at age 87. He had assembled an extraordinary legacy of success in business: first in assembling missile generators, later in real estate, and finally by assembling hotels around the world using a patented construction method that was the product of his creative mind. And now to me: “U of R neuromedicine is bigger than you think; and I want it to get even bigger.”

From that moment on, Ernie nurtured his passionate dream of bringing together talented physicians and scientists so that “some day, Alzheimer’s and stroke will go the way of polio through the discovery of new treatments.” In 2009, he provided significant support to establish the Medical Center’s Ernest J. Del Monte Neuromedicine Institute.

Sharing a personal friendship with Ernie, his beautiful wife, Thelma, and his wonderful family over these past 10 years has been a priceless gift that I will always treasure. Never one to abandon center stage, Ernie told me several times: “Webster, you have taught me a lot about neuromedicine but I still don’t think that I could do brain surgery; of course, I’m not sure that you could build a hotel either.”

Ernie will be missed. But his legacy of generosity to the Rochester community and his contributions to U of R neuromedicine will live on.

—Webster Pilcher ’83M (MD/PhD)

Pilcher is the Ernest and Thelma Del Monte Distinguished Professor in Neuromedicine.
Robert Joynt: Icon in Modern Neurology

In 1966, Robert Joynt, a native of LeMars, Iowa, a radio operator in the Signal Corps in World War II, an MD and PhD recipient from the University of Iowa, left his faculty position at Iowa and founded the Department of Neurology at the Medical Center. In 1974, I was privileged to join the faculty, receive his mentorship, and become his colleague and friend. Under Bob's leadership, his mentees thrived and created a department of international prestige. In his introductory remarks at the Medical Center-sponsored Joynt Colloquia in 1992, Bob said, “From the outset, I wanted to build a department that offered outstanding patient care, training, and research.”

He accomplished this goal through his unpretentious, powerful, “family style” leadership, nurtured by his wife, Margaret, and their six children. Bob was a wonderful bedside teacher. He was well known for his use of aphorisms in after-dinner speeches, in social settings, and on rounds in teaching residents. House staff affectionately called them “Joyntisms.”

For example: “If you have half an hour to spend with a patient, spend the first 29 minutes on the history,” he would say. To emphasize the need for hard work in correctly diagnosing and treating patients, he often said, “Even a blind hog in Iowa can find an occasional acorn, but not without sticking his nose in the mud and rooting.”

He wrote and edited with great skill, serving as editor of the Archives of Neurology, of the classic textbook Baker & Joynt’s Clinical Neurology, and coeditor of Presidential Disability, a book on presidential health and how the 25th amendment applies to presidential succession in the case of incapacitation. He held the top leadership positions in the American Academy of Neurology, the American Neurological Association, and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, and in 1989 was elected to the Institute of Medicine.

At the School of Medicine and Dentistry, Bob served as dean from 1984 to 1989 and as vice provost for health affairs from 1985 to 1994. In 1997, he was named a Distinguished University Professor. Bob died in April at the age of 86.

The first recipient of the Robert J. Joynt Chair in Neurology, Karl Kieburtz, summarizes Bob well. “Bob was the first person to teach me neurology as a medical student, the editor of my first paper as a neurologist, and my foremost mentor and exemplar. He embodied everything good in a person.”

His two sons, Bob Jr. and Tom, remembered their father above all for his kindness, noting another Joyntism Bob lived by: “You can’t always be right, but you can always be kind.”

—Richard Moxley

Moxley is the Helen Aresty Fine and Irving Fine Professor of Neurology at the School of Medicine and Dentistry.

David Craighead: ‘Gentle Giant’

“A gentle giant.” That is how Michael Barone, host and producer of the nationally broadcast public radio program Pipedreams, characterized David Craighead in a program devoted to David’s life and art that aired in September 1997. Those three words exemplified, in a minimalist way, all that David embodied in his legendary career as a concert organist, as professor of organ at the Eastman School for 37 years, and as a dedicated church musician at Rochester’s St. Paul’s Episcopal Church for 48 years.

David died in March at age 88. As a performer, he’d been at the pinnacle of his profession. He possessed a prodigious technique, and could play the most demanding literature with ease and fluency. David Higgs, professor and chair of organ and historical keyboards at the Eastman School, noted upon David’s passing: “He was a virtuoso performer, able to make the most difficult technical passages seem easy; he was a tireless champion of new music for our instrument.”

David was geared in the most positive way possible toward helping his students achieve that same fluency, making his job obsolete—for them, at least. In 1974, the Eastman School awarded him its first Eisenhart Award for Teaching Excellence. As a mentor, he was always encouraging, but never directing, or suggesting a particular career path. At the same time, he had an uncanny way of asking the right questions to help students discern for themselves the relative merits of one possibility over another.

David’s influence on the organ world over the past seven decades is more than a ripple on a pond. It’s like a tidal wave spread far and wide through his unparalleled performances, his careful and disciplined teaching, and the weekly ministry of countless church musicians leading congregations and choirs in worship. In their playing and in their teaching, his legacy lives on. —Peter DuBois

DuBois is an assistant professor of sacred music and director of the Sacred Music Diploma program at the Eastman School; director of music and organist at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, and host/producer of the nationally syndicated public radio program “With Heart and Voice.”