COMMENCEMENT 2014
Class Cheer

CELEBRATION SCENE: Members of the Class of 2014 celebrate on the Eastman Quadrangle after receiving their degrees during this spring’s ceremony for Arts, Sciences & Engineering. Reminding students that life is not always a straight path, MSNBC political analyst Chris Matthews told graduates, “If you don’t have a clear hunch about what you want and how to match it with reality, it may come to you later if you find a way to give it a chance.” More than 3,000 degrees were conferred during three days of ceremonies this spring.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEITH WALTERS FOR ROCHESTER REVIEW
PERFORMING ARTS

Room to Move

INTRODUCING SLOAN STUDIO: Rainya Heath ’14 (left) and Kasandra Reyes ’17 take part in movement exercises as instructor Darren Stevenson leads a class in the new Linda E. Sloan Studio in Todd Union. Formally dedicated this spring, the renovated rehearsal space is named in recognition of support from Linda Fisher Sloan ’67 and her husband, University Trustee Tom Sloan ’65, ’67 (MS). The studio provides needed space for the International Theatre Program, the Program of Dance and Movement, and other performing arts initiatives, as well as serving as a space where students can study and work on projects.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM FENSTER
LASER LAB

Diagnostic Operations

HOME TO OMEGA EP: Mason Schleigh, an experimental systems technician at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics, maneuvers a piece of equipment known as a “parabola alignment diagnostic” around the target chamber of the lab’s four-beam laser. Part of a suite of technology used to set up experiments, the diagnostic helps optimize the focus of high-powered, short-pulse laser beams, enabling researchers to study matter at extreme temperatures and pressures.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM FENSTER
IN REVIEW

ADMINISTRATION

Eastman and Simon Introduce New Deans

Highly regarded academic leaders in business and music move into new roles.

TWO OF ROCHESTER’S MAJOR ACADEMIC units have new leaders going into the 2014–15 school year.

Eastman School of Music

Jamal Rossi, a member of the Eastman faculty and administration who has served in leadership roles in music for more than two decades, was named the Joan and Martin Messinger Dean of the Eastman School of Music.

A saxophonist and professor of woodwinds, Rossi joined Eastman in 2005 as senior associate dean. In 2007, he was named executive associate dean, supervising the award-winning $47 million project to renovate Eastman Theatre and construct the Eastman East Wing. Rossi was dean of the music school at the University of South Carolina before joining Eastman.

Rossi was formally named Messinger Dean in May, presiding over the school’s commencement ceremony this spring. Last fall he was appointed dean when the late Douglas Lowry, who had served as dean from 2007 to 2013, resigned because of illness.

As executive associate dean, Rossi was responsible for Eastman’s academic programs and personnel, including faculty hiring and promotions, and for academic and student affairs and enrollment management, among other duties. He oversaw a review of the undergraduate curriculum and led the school’s reaccreditation review by the National Association of Schools of Music. He also founded RocMusic, a collaborative partnership of arts and education institutions in Rochester to establish a free after-school music program for Rochester inner-city students.

Simon Business School

Andrew Ainslie, an administrator at UCLA’s Anderson School of Management, was named dean of the Simon Business School. He succeeds Mark Zupan, who finished a 10-year tenure as dean on June 30.

An associate professor of marketing at Anderson, Ainslie joined the faculty there in 2000. From 1997 through 2000 he was an assistant professor of marketing at Cornell University’s Johnson Graduate School of Management.

As senior associate dean for Anderson’s full-time MBA program, he had responsibility for admissions, student services, and career placement. During his tenure, the school increased its admissions more than 60 percent, increased placements more than 20 percent, and revised its curriculum.

Before beginning his academic career, Ainslie had a 10-year career in business, including as an electrical engineer, in sales and marketing, and in corporate finance.
Global Rochester: South Africa
Helping Build Community

Two Rochester undergraduates are building connections with the people of Egoli, a squatter community on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa.

During study abroad programs earlier in their Rochester programs, John Dawson ’13, ’14 (T5) and Katherine Wegman ’15, both of Pittsford, N.Y., first visited the settlement, one of several largely unrecognized communities that trace their origins to the country’s apartheid era.

Working with the settlement’s 2,000 residents and the Cape Town nonprofit Ikhayalami, the two returned this summer, with plans to help build a new community center. The students’ work is funded with a $10,000 grant from Davis Projects for Peace, an initiative that encourages students to design grassroots projects that promote peace and address the root causes of conflict.

Serving as a library, church, childcare center, and meeting place, Egoli’s current community center is an important resource, but its poor condition and small size limit gatherings and make adding programs, like health clinics, difficult.

Wegman says that Ikhayalami brings to the project a network of resources to support Egoli community leaders as they create a strategic plan.

Together, they plan to hold focus groups and community development workshops to help ensure that Egoli residents have a voice in charting their own course for development, she says.

Dawson, who studied molecular genetics at Rochester and plans to attend the School of Medicine and Dentistry this fall, and Wegman, an anthropology major who studied public health during a semester abroad in Jamaica and England, worked with Jennifer Kyker, an ethnomusicology professor at the Eastman School of Music, who helped them with the project’s design and with writing grant proposals.

Ikhayalami founder Andrea Bolnick says that Egoli will benefit tremendously from the new center.

“A common space everyone has a vested interest in can become a powerful asset in a community,” she says. “It can build trust, unity, pride, and a sense of dignity.”

—Melissa Greco Lopes

EGOLI: Katherine Wegman ’15 first visited South Africa while studying abroad.

People
18 Alumni living in South Africa
4 Undergraduates from South Africa
1 Graduate student from South Africa
86 Students who have studied abroad in South Africa since 1996

Connections
The College’s Office of Admissions and Financial Aid has partnered with the African Leadership Academy, a private, selective secondary school outside Johannesburg, since its founding in 2008. More graduates of the academy have enrolled at Rochester than at any other university in the United States. Rochester is host to the academy’s fourth annual reunion this year.

Rochester and the University of Cape Town are two of 17 members of the Worldwide Universities Network, a consortium of research universities designed to foster research collaboration among international institutions.

Faculty members representing departments such as psychiatry, psychology, pediatrics, history, earth and environmental sciences, political science, and others have research and scholarly exchanges with colleagues at academic and medical institutions in South Africa.

COURTESY OF KATHERINE WEGMAN ’15 (PHOTO)
Andes Mountains Formed by ‘Growth Spurts’

The Atliplano plateau, a region of the Andes Mountains that sits about 12,000 feet above sea level, may have risen to its great height through a series of rapid growth spurts. That’s according to new research by Carmala Garzione, professor of earth and environmental sciences, and her colleagues at the University of South Carolina.

Scientists have long been working to understand how the Andes and other broad, high-elevation mountain ranges were formed—in particular, asking how quickly have the Andes risen, and what was the process that enabled their rise?

In a paper published in Earth and Planetary Science Letters, Garzione reports that the Altiplano—and most likely the entire mountain range—was formed through periodic rapid pulses rather than through a continuous, gradual uplift of the surface.

Garzione and Andrew Leier, an assistant professor at South Carolina, used a relatively new temperature-recording technique in two separate studies in different regions of the Andes to determine whether pulses of rapid uplift were the norm, or the exception, for the formation of mountain ranges like the Andes. Garzione found that the southern Altiplano region rose by about 2.5 kilometers between 16 million and 9 million years ago, which is considered a rapid rate in geologic terms.

—Peter Iglinski

Awkward Moments: a Documentary Staple

Television shows like The Office, Curb Your Enthusiasm, and 30 Rock have built large followings around their use of awkward and cringe-worthy comedy.

But according to Jason Middleton, assistant professor of English and director of the film and media studies program, the use of staged “awkwardness” in documentaries, TV shows, and YouTube videos has a history that goes far beyond contemporary popular culture.

In his new book, Documentary’s Awkward Turn: Cringe Comedy and Media Spectatorship (Routledge, 2014), Middleton explores awkward moments in film to explore cultural irony and track how it arises in documentary films and reality-based media.

“When people think of comic elements in documentary film, they typically think of Michael Moore, but this approach was used in some of the earliest documentary films, like Nanook of the North,” says Middleton, who points to staged scenes and comic interactions between the actor and the filmmaker in the 1922 silent documentary.

“The things for which Moore was faulted—from his use of comedy to his failure to uphold objectivity—are consistent with the history of documentary films.”

—Valerie Alhart

RANGE FINDERS: Rochester researchers are exploring the mechanisms behind the rapid rise—in geological terms—of the Andes Mountains.

EARLY IRONY? With staged scenes and other “mockumentary” staples, Nanook of the North (1922), is an early example of today’s “cringe comedy,” a Rochester professor writes in a new book.
Do Hispanic Seniors Face Medicare Barriers?

Hispanic seniors are 35 percent less likely to have prescription drug coverage despite the existence of the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan—also known as Part D—and the availability of assistance to help pay insurance premiums. The findings are part of a study published in the journal Health Affairs and coauthored by Robert Strawderman, chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology, Yue Li, associate professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, and Brian McGarry, a graduate student in the same department. Medicare Part D was implemented in 2006 to help make prescription drugs, and premiums for prescription drug insurance plans, more affordable to seniors. Using 2011 data from the National Health and Aging Trends Study, researchers found lower enrollment numbers for Hispanics despite the fact that an estimated 65 percent of Hispanics without coverage were eligible to receive premium support. The authors argue that addressing such disparities should be a public health priority.

—Mark Michaud

Study Finds Connection between Pollution and Autism

Medical Center research is providing new evidence that exposure to air pollution early in life may be harmful to brain development.

In a paper published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, Deborah Cory-Slechta, professor of environmental medicine, reported the results of three sets of experiments, in which her team exposed mice to levels of air pollution typically found in mid-sized U.S. cities during rush hour. The exposure was conducted during the first two weeks after birth, a critical time in the brain's development.

The researchers found rampant inflammation throughout the brain, and the lateral ventricles—chambers on each side of the brain that contain cerebrospinal fluid—were enlarged two to three times their normal size.

Inflammation to that part of the brain is seen in humans who have autism and schizophrenia. The mice also performed poorly in tests of short-term memory, learning ability, and impulsivity. The findings are consistent with several recent studies that have shown a link between air pollution and autism in children. Most notably, a 2013 study in JAMA Psychiatry reported that children who lived in areas with high levels of traffic-related air pollution during their first year of life were three times as likely to develop autism.

—Christopher DiFrancesco
SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Biologist Gloria Culver Named Interim Dean

Longtime dean Joanna Olmsted steps down from administration; humanities leader Thomas DiPiero named dean at SMU.

The chair of the department of biology will oversee the School of Arts & Sciences during the 2014–15 academic year as a national search gets under way to succeed the school’s longtime dean, Joanna Olmsted.

Gloria Culver ’94 (PhD), professor of biology who has chaired the department since 2010, will serve as interim dean through June 30, 2015. She will oversee one of the largest portfolios among the University’s deans, working closely with chairs and faculty from 18 departments and 12 programs in the humanities and the arts, social sciences, and natural and physical sciences.

Olmsted, who stepped down after seven years as dean of the school, earned wide admiration from faculty and colleagues for her broad interest in and respect for research across all disciplines.

“In every dimension of our activities, Joanna’s distinctive attributes—invasive thinking, unflinching integrity, great personal humility, and unfailing generosity—have moved us powerfully forward, and have earned the respect and affection of all those who have worked with her,” says Peter Lennie, provost and the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Sciences & Engineering. Olmsted joined the biology department in 1975 after completing a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and her doctorate at Yale. Supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, she explored the function and regulation of cellular organelles. In 1995, she was appointed as the inaugural associate dean of faculty, later serving as dean of faculty development and interim vice provost and dean of faculty, before becoming dean of Arts & Sciences in 2007.

Also late this spring, Thomas DiPiero, dean for humanities and interdisciplinary studies in Arts, Sciences & Engineering, was named dean of the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

As Rochester’s first dean for humanities, DiPiero helped develop initiatives in digital media studies and curricular activities for Rettner Hall, the University’s new digital media arts and innovation center. In 2013, he helped the University secure a $1 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to create a training program for graduate students in the digital humanities.

A scholar of French literature and French cultural studies, he has been a member of the faculty since 1987.
Celebrating John Gower

Long overshadowed by Chaucer, Gower’s star is rising.

John Gower was a medieval English poet and a contemporary and friend of Geoffrey Chaucer. Both were equally well known, cited, and admired in their own times until about 1700. After that, Chaucer’s star began to eclipse Gower’s. Yet ask a young medievalist whose work is capturing the notice of up-and-coming scholars, and the answer is once again as likely to be Gower as it is Chaucer.

Early this month, nearly 150 scholars and students from as many as 20 nations convened at the University to share their research on Gower at the conference “John Gower: Language, Cognition, and Performance,” the Third International Congress of the John Gower Society and the first to be held in the United States.

Why is Gower so hot? According to Russell Peck, the John Hall Deane Professor of Rhetoric and Literature at Rochester, and a leading Gower scholar, one reason is that Gower’s work relates to many modern disciplines, from literary craftsmanship and gender studies, to cognitive science and medical humanities.

Another reason is the wide accessibility of Gower’s work online, including a digital project of the Robbins Library called the Middle English Text Series, which has been embraced by the National Endowment for the Humanities as a model of what the field of digital humanities can offer.

John Gower

C. 1330 to 1408

Lived from c. 1340 to 1400

Wrote in Latin, Old French, Middle English

Wrote in Middle English

Related to land holders in northern England and Kent.

Related to land holders in northern England and Kent.

Family origins Born to London wine merchant. Not of the nobility, but close to the household of John of Gaunt.

Family origins Courtier, diplomat, MP, civil servant, chaperone to the Queen’s court.

Profession Strong links to law and the Inns of Court. Chaucer’s legal executor in the 1370s.

Profession "Confessio Amantis (Confession of the Lover)

Confessio Amantis (Confession of the Lover)

Politics, laws, institutions, and ethics.

Politics, laws, institutions, and ethics.

Best known for "A great storyteller, classicist, and lover of books."

Best known for "The Canterbury Tales and Troilus and Criseyde"

Common themes Politics, laws, institutions, and ethics.

Common themes Ordinary people, human nature, and social satire.

It’s often been said that he’s...

It’s often been said that he’s...

John Gower scholars wish it were more often said that...

John Gower scholars wish it were more often said that...

Report Details University’s Economic Reach

The University is directly and indirectly responsible for supporting an estimated 50,300 jobs in the region, according to a new report by the Center for Governmental Research.

With 22,451 full-time-equivalent employees, the University is the eighth-largest private sector employer in New York, the report notes.

The report also finds that the new Institute for Data Science is expected to create 460 construction and permanent jobs and an estimated $530 million in research funding over a 10-year period.

Sculpture Supports Psychiatry Patients and Families

The Department of Psychiatry and renowned Rochester metal sculptor Albert Paley are joining forces to support patients with mental health disorders and their families.

A new sculpture by Paley was installed this spring in the atrium garden at the department’s clinical service, Strong Behavioral Health. Titled Portal, the eight-foot-tall sculpture of weathered steel is surrounded by greenery and natural light and is intended to inspire contemplation and enhance the dignity and warmth of the entranceway.

Part of a nine-piece series of sculptures, Portal was exhibited throughout Europe and the United States before being placed on long-term loan to the University.

Headliners Set for Meliora Weekend 2014

Pulitzer Prize–winning presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, actress Laverne Cox, and comedian Jason Alexander will headline this year’s Meliora Weekend, Oct. 16–19.

Friday evening will feature entertainment, including a performance by Alexander, best known for playing the role of George Costanza on the NBC series Seinfeld, at Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre. A limited number of tickets will be available for the event.

On Saturday, Goodwin will deliver the keynote address. Goodwin, a regular commentator on the presidency, was an assistant to President Lyndon Johnson. She’s the author of six critically acclaimed New York Times best-selling books and winner of the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for History for No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II.

There will be no lottery for tickets to the event; it will, however, be simulcast.

At the Palestra, Cox, who plays an African-American transgender woman on the popular Netflix series Orange Is the New Black, will speak about her role as the first transgender woman of color to play a leading part on a mainstream television show.

For the second year, the weekend will also feature a series of MEL Talks by faculty, students, and alumni on topics related to research, innovation, and artistry.

The inaugural series of MEL Talks, held on stage at the Palestra, are available for viewing online on the University’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/UniversityRochester.
UR Medicine Launches Wilmot Cancer Institute

The University’s clinical and research programs in cancer, along with a growing network of satellite locations, have been reorganized under the newly launched Wilmot Cancer Institute. As part of an effort to expand and deepen the institute’s mission, UR Medicine also launched a $30 million comprehensive campaign with a focus on cancer research. The spring announcement included $4 million in support from the Wilmot family and the James P. Wilmot Foundation.

With the Wilmot Cancer Center at the Medical Center as its hub, the new institute encompasses seven satellite treatment facilities and all cancer research activities at the University. The institute is designed to provide the highest level of care by making the expertise and capabilities of clinicians, faculty, and health care professionals available to patients.
SPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS

Spring Sports Celebrate with Super Softball Season

The Yellowjackets make their first appearance in the NCAA national softball championships.

By Dennis O’Donnell

The Yellowjacket softball team finished the season ranked No. 13 in the country after making the program’s first trip to the NCAA Division III national championship this spring.

The trip to the title rounds in Tyler, Texas, and the ranking by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association capped a remarkable season in the sport’s 17-year history at Rochester.

During the season, the Yellowjackets hosted their first super regional, as well as an earlier regional competition. The team won the Liberty League championship, and just missed tying the program’s record for most wins in a season, finishing at 32–14.

To advance to the national tournament, Rochester defeated 15th-ranked Rowan University in the super regionals, a best-of-three stand that included a dramatic game-winning home run from Nina Korn ’14 in the second game—played on the day before commencement.

At the national tourney, the Yellowjackets lost both games: 8–7 to then 20th-ranked Wisconsin-Whitewater; and 9–1 to 13th-ranked St. Thomas.

Korn, who finished her tenure as a Yellowjacket with eight career records, was named a first team All-American by the coaches association, and Tayler Fravel ’14 was named to the third team.

Brittany Grage ’15, who was the Liberty League Pitcher of the Year, finished 17–7 with a 1.53 ERA. And Eleni Wechsler ’17 was the Liberty League Rookie of the Year. She was 15–5 on the mound with a 1.76 ERA.

Golf: The Yellowjackets won the Liberty League championship over Skidmore in match play and earned an automatic bid to the NCAA championships. Dominic Schumacher ’16 sank a birdie putt on his...
first extra hole to defeat his Skidmore opponent and clinch the team win. At nationals, Nick Palladino ’14 finished sixth out of 210 golfers and earned first team All-America honors. He fired a four-over 292. As a team, the Yellowjackets finished with 1,213 strokes, the best team score in school history. Matt vanNiekerk ’17 was named to the all-freshman team by the Golf Coaches Association of America.

**Rowing:** Emily Widra ’15 earned second team All-America honors from the College Rowing Coaches Association. Rochester’s first varsity eight squad earned a silver medal at the Dad Vail national championships. The Yellowjackets finished 14th in the final poll.

**Baseball:** Rochester went on a 21–4 tear to secure second place in the Liberty League at 25–16 overall. The Yellowjackets reached the championship round of the league playoffs before falling to Union. Five players earned postseason honors. Three of those were named to three postseason all-star teams: Ethan Sander ’14 (all-region honors from the American Baseball Coaches Association, all–UAA, and all–Liberty League), Evan Janifer ’16 (Coaches Association, D3Baseball.com, all–Liberty League), Lance Hamilton ’16 (ABCA, all-UAA, All–Liberty League).

**Women’s track and field:** Cameron Edwards ’16 and Emily VanDenburgh ’16 competed at the NCAA Division III championships. VanDenburgh finished 18th in the long jump, clearing 5.28 meters. Edwards ran a 1:02.44, the second best time of her career, in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles, finishing 16th. At the ECAC championships, Rochester finished 22nd of 61 teams that scored at least one point.

**Men’s track and field:** Rochester was 19th of 57 at the ECAC championships. Patrick Rice ’16 finished fourth in the decathlon. Adam Pachek ’14 was seventh in the 10,000 at ECACs and he won the New York state title in the event. Justin Roncaoli ’14 (3,000-meter steeplechase) and Yuji Wakimoto ’14 (5,000 meters) each finished sixth in their events.

**Men’s tennis:** The Yellowjackets ran off seven straight wins and finished 15–7 overall. Julian Danko ’15 led the team in singles wins with 17. Boris Borovcanin ’14 won 15. Jonny Baker ’17 had 16. As a doubles team, Borovcanin and Danko were 8–2.

**Women’s tennis:** Rochester defeated NYU, 6–3, to secure seventh place in the UAA standings. The Yellowjackets were 6–11 overall. Six of Rochester’s losses came against nationally ranked foes. Molly Goodman ’16 and Christine Ho ’16 led the team in singles wins with 13.

**Women’s lacrosse:** The Yellowjackets finished ninth out of 250 teams in caused turnovers per game (12.5), and they were 22nd in scoring defense, allowing 7.86 goals a game. Jamie Wallisch ’17 and Kathryn Maisch ’17 earned honorable mention all–Liberty League honors in a 6–8 season.

**Three Named Academic All-Americans**

Yellowjackets Adam Pachek ’14, Alex Swanger ’15, and Lauren Bailey ’16 were named Division III Academic All-Americans, selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America and sponsored by Capital One.

Pachek, a biomedical engineering and physics double major from Baldwinsville, N.Y., was named to the second team for men’s cross country and track and field. Swanger, an economics major from Penfield, N.Y., was named to the second team for men’s soccer.

Bailey, a chemical engineering major from Ossining, N.Y., was named to the at-large second team for her performance as a swimmer.

—Dennis O’Donnell