1957 George Shaw, a professor emeritus of geology at Union College, is the author of Earth’s Early Atmosphere and Oceans, and the Origin of Life (Springer); and the editor of Earth’s Early Atmosphere and Surface Environment (Geological Society of America).

1966 Lynn Maunula Cleveland is the author of a mystery e-book, A Fish Out of Water (Index, 2015). … Hank Kaplan ’72M (MD) was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Washington’s medical school, where he was a chief resident. Hank is a medical oncologist practicing in Seattle.

1972 Martin Morrissey retired in November as an international 767 captain for American Airlines. Martin’s aviation career began with NROTC training as a freshman at Rochester in 1968. After graduation, he served in the Navy for six years, followed by a 37-year career at American.

1974 Charles Waugh has written a science fiction novel, Nu Book 1: The Ess Advance (Lulu), the first in a trilogy.

1972 Seth Margolis has written his seventh novel, The Semper Sonnet (Division Books). He writes: “My earlier novels include Losing Isaiah, which was adapted as a film starring Halle Berry and Jessica Lange, and Closing Closets, a satire of the overheated New York real estate market. In addition to writing novels (and the occasional travel piece for the New York Times), I am still very active in my ‘day job’ as a branding consultant, working with organizations in financial services, pharmaceuticals, and philanthropy.” Seth adds that he’s married to Carole Zelner, and that Carole is a real estate broker with the Corcoran Group. They live in Manhattan. In addition, they have “two grown children, Maggie and Jack, who also live in Manhattan (but pay their own rent!).” Maggie Margolis ’12 is an associate producer at NY1, the Time Warner 24-hour news channel.

1978 Ed Goodman founded and runs a nonprofit organization, Tootsie’s Vision, advocating for blind dogs. He writes that he was inspired to start the nonprofit after the death of his first blind dog, Tootsie, and following his own diagnosis of early-onset Macular Degeneration.

Global Families Negotiate Change across Generations (FamilyWealth Consulting), with coauthor Dennis Jaffe. My work with North American and global family enterprises continues to grow over time. I also continue to be blessed with my near-40-year marriage to my wife, Jeanne, and with my wonderful children and grandchildren, all in the Massachusetts area.”

ALUMNI HONORS

Celebrating ‘Mr. Rochester’

G. Robert Witmer Jr. ’59 recognized with the Eastman Medal

One of the University’s most prominent alumni leaders, G. Robert Witmer Jr. ’59, received the University’s George Eastman Medal in recognition of his career achievements and his service to the University and the Rochester-area communities.

Witmer has been an attorney with the Nixon Peabody law firm in Rochester since shortly after his graduation from Harvard Law School in 1962. As senior counsel at the firm, he has represented clients at the state and federal levels in cases that have helped shape real estate and environmental law.

Known as “Mr. Rochester” for his wide-ranging engagement as a civic leader in his hometown, Witmer has served as past president of the New York State Bar Association. He received the 2013 Rochester Rotary Award, the oldest civic award in the city, given to those who personify the organization’s motto of “Service Above Self.”

Witmer’s career at the University began in the 1950s, when he was an active undergraduate student, serving as cocaptain of the basketball team, and president of the Theta Chi fraternity.

Rochester Rotary Award, the oldest civic award in the city, given to those who personify the organization’s motto of “Service Above Self.”

Witmer’s career at the University began in the 1950s, when he was an active undergraduate student, serving as cocaptain of the basketball team, president of the Theta Chi fraternity, and as a member of multiple other campus organizations. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and with honors in history.

Currently holding the title of Board Chair Emeritus, Witmer has served in important advisory roles for the College, alumni affairs, the Medical Center, the Eastman School of Music, and the Board of Trustees. Elected as a trustee in 1979, Witmer served as chair from 2003 until 2008, a tenure that included the selection of Joel Seligman as the University’s 10th president and CEO and that put in place the groundwork for the 2011 launch of The Meliora Challenge Campaign. He is a member of a remarkable alumni family, counting more than a dozen relatives as graduates of the University.

He and his wife, Nancy, are charter members of the George Eastman Circle, the University’s leadership annual giving society. In recognition of the couple’s support and to honor his father, G. Robert Witmer Sr. ’26, and his mother, Marian Witmer, the residence of the University president was renamed the Witmer House in 2006. In March, the Witmers announced a $2 million commitment to establish the G. Robert Witmer, Jr. University Professorship to provide financial support for the University presidency.

MEDALIST: Witmer received the Eastman Medal this spring.