Meliora Milestone

Campaign Tops Fundraising Goal

Historic Meliora Challenge campaign raises more than $1.37 billion, exceeding initial goal.

The University is celebrating a milestone achievement this fall—the success of The Meliora Challenge, a $1.2 billion fundraising initiative.

The largest fundraising initiative in the University’s history, the effort serves as a platform for the University to achieve future goals, said Joel Seligman, president, CEO, and the G. Robert Witmer, Jr. University Professor.

“These accomplishments will help us ascend to the Next Level as one of the nation’s top research universities,” Seligman said. “We look forward to strengthening our national leadership in data science, neuromedicine, and clinical and translational research, and continuing to achieve excellence across the University—in undergraduate education, professional training, our health system, and the creative arts.”

As the Campaign came to a formal close on June 30, Advancement leaders announced a preliminary total of more than $1.37 billion, exceeding the goal set when the Campaign was publicly launched in 2011.

During this fall’s Meliora Weekend, October 6–9, the success of the Campaign, and what the effort means for the University community and Rochester’s future, will be highlighted. Additional celebratory events will occur throughout the coming year in select cities across the country.

Cochaired by University Trustees Cathy Minehan ’68 and Rich Handler ’83, the Campaign encompassed all aspects of the University, its schools, and programs. More than 200,000 alumni, friends, faculty, staff, parents, and students around the world made gifts to the University during the Campaign. Nearly every goal established for the Campaign was achieved. That includes support for student scholarships and faculty (see pages 10–11); facilities and infrastructure...
$1.37 billion raised

669,996 total gifts from

200,000 donors including alumni, friends, foundations, corporations, faculty, staff, parents, and students

Highlights include

$225 million in student support including 406 new scholarships and fellowships

$426 million in faculty support including 103 new professorships

$430 million in program support

$129 million for new and improved facilities and infrastructure
2005  Joel Seligman is named 10th president of the University. In his first public address after taking office in July, he announces, “The campaign for the University of Rochester has begun.”

2008  Ed Hajim ’58, a longtime trustee who had been elected chair of the Board of Trustees a few months earlier, announces a $30 million commitment in October. In 2009, the Edmund A. Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences is named in his honor.

2011  A $20 million gift from Rochester entrepreneur and philanthropist B. Thomas Golisano kicks off plans for a new, $145 million Golisano Children’s Hospital, the largest single capital project in University history. Also in 2011: University Trustee Rich Handler ’83 and his wife, Martha, announce their intention to make a gift of $20 million that will raise their total giving to $25 million—the largest contribution to student scholarship in University history; and University Trustee E. Philip Saunders makes a $10 million gift to support research programs in muscular dystrophy, cancer, and translational medicine. The Saunders Research Building is named in recognition of the gift.
2014 Trustee Danny Wegman, CEO of Wegmans Food Markets, announces a $17 million gift from the Wegman Family Charitable Foundation: $10 million for a new data science building, named Wegmans Hall, and $7 million for Golisano Children’s Hospital.

2015 An $11 million commitment from Board Chair Emeritus Robert Goergen ’60 and his wife, Pamela, to support the Goergen Institute for Data Science, puts The Meliora Challenge over its $1.2 billion goal—15 months ahead of schedule.

2016 The Meliora Challenge raises more than $1.37 billion when the campaign officially concludes on June 30. The total exceeds the initial $1.2 billion goal by more than $170 million.

CAMPAIGN KICKOFF: At a 2011 Meliora Weekend celebration to formally launch The Meliora Challenge, guest speakers made presentations that drew on components of the University’s mission statement, Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—and Make the World Ever Better. Then a student, Emily Hart ’12 (above) focused her remarks on “Learn.”
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Scholarships  Altogether, the Campaign raised more than $225 million in student support, including the establishment of 406 new endowed scholarships and fellowships. During commencement ceremonies in 2014, Shay Behrens ’14 graduated as a Handler Scholar, a scholarship program established through a gift of $25 million from University Trustee Rich Handler ’83, and his wife, Martha. The gift is the largest contribution for student scholarships in University history.

As a major component of the Campaign, the Medical Center raised nearly $700 million for medical, nursing, and dental education, research, and patient care—almost $50 million more than its original goal.

Danny Wegman, chair of the University’s Board of Trustees, said the Campaign’s success has galvanized the University of Rochester family. “Together, we are transforming lives in Rochester and throughout the world.”

Larry Bloch ’75, a trustee who chairs the Advancement Committee, praised the combined efforts of donors and contributors as well as faculty and administrative leaders. “Our success is emblematic of a large and dedicated community of leaders and volunteers,” he said. “Their passion and enthusiasm for the University of Rochester is without bounds.”

Thomas Farrell ’88, ’90W (MS), senior vice president for Advancement, said the success of the Campaign is a milestone for Rochester. He thanked co-chairs Minehan and Handler, as well as “the generosity of all our trustees, volunteers, and University leaders whose efforts inspired and engaged so many others.”

“This moment marks the start of a new phase in the University of Rochester’s evolution, one that will be driven by the remarkable philanthropy and ongoing engagement, advocacy, and giving that has become an integral part of the culture of this institution,” he said.

For Seligman the Campaign’s success represents a new era for Rochester: "This is a historic moment for everyone who cares so deeply about this University and our future."
Faculty Support  A total of 103 new professorships were established during The Meliora Challenge, nearly doubling the number of such positions at the University.

The Campaign raised more than $426 million in faculty support, helping to enable the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty across the University.

Each figure represents one named professorship established through the support of alumni, faculty, friends, and other donors.
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Campus Transformed  The Campaign raised more than $129 million for new and improved facilities and infrastructure projects. Those projects include Golisano Children’s Hospital, the largest capital project in University history; Raymond F. LeChase Hall, a new home for the Warner School of Education; Ronald Rettner Hall for Media Arts and Innovation, an Arts, Sciences & Engineering building designed to advance practical skills and theoretical understanding of digital technology; the Saunders Research Building, a hub for clinical and translational research; the Imaging Sciences Building; which houses the William and Mildred Levine Autism Clinic; the Brian F. Prince Athletic Complex, providing renovated and expanded outdoor athletic facilities; a new facilities program, the Rettner Campus Improvement Fund, to preserve historic architecture while making spaces start-of-the-art; and Wegmans Hall, which will house the University’s new Goergen Institute for Data Science in 2017. Shown here in red are new buildings and some major facilities projects undertaken since 2005.

College Town
Located on 14 acres of land owned by the University, College Town is a mixed-use development that includes a bookstore, hotel and conference center, retail stores, and restaurants.

Frederick Douglass Building
Renovated in 2015-16
The building is being renovated as a student center that will include new dining facilities, student gathering spaces, the Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center, and a new Language Center.

University Health Service
Opened in 2008
The building is the main clinical site for undergraduates and graduate students.

Wilmot Cancer Center
Opened in 2008
The James P. Wilmot Cancer Center, which added three floors in 2012, serves as the hub of the 11-location Wilmot Cancer Institute.

Rush Rhees Library
Gleason Library, 2007
Messinger Graduate Study Rooms, 2009-10
Lam Square, 2016
The spaces inside Rush Rhees Library feature individual and group study areas as well as a new collaborative, multimedia work space.

Golisano Children’s Hospital
Opened in 2015
With eight floors and approximately 245,000 square feet of space, the hospital features all-private rooms and specialized technology. Still under construction are six operating rooms and a new pediatric intensive care unit.

Wilson Commons/Danforth Dining
Renovated in 2010 and 2011
New eateries were added to renovated dining facilities in Wilson Commons and Danforth was revamped as a residential restaurant.

O’Brien Hall/Jackson Court
Opened in 2013
Housing 150 students, O’Brien Hall completes the complex of buildings that make up Jackson Court.

New Residence Hall
Opening in 2017
Construction began in 2016 on a new 72,000-square-foot residence hall that will house 151 first-year students.

Prince Athletic Complex
Renovations 2012-16
Revamped facilities include new lights, turf, a new press box, and other renovations.

Riverview Apartments
Opened in 2008
Owned by a private developer, the 120-unit complex serves exclusively as a residence hall for about 400 University undergraduates.
**Brooks Landing**  
Opened in 2008-09; Residence Building, 2014  
A commercial hotel and retail complex that includes space leased by the University, the development also has a student residence that opened in 2014.

**Ford Education Wing**  
Completed in 2006  
The expansion included classrooms, other spaces, and computer technology for the School of Nursing.

**Goergen Hall**  
Opened in 2007  
The building is home to programs in optics and biomedical engineering.

**Hajim Science and Engineering Quadrangle**  
Opening in 2016  
The four-acre space will include new walkways, trees, and seating areas.

**Imaging Sciences Building**  
Under construction  
The Medical Center building will provide imaging services for outpatients, as well as serve as the home to the William and Mildred Levine Autism Clinic.

**LeChase Hall**  
Opened in 2013  
The building is the first permanent home for the Warner School of Education.

**Memorial Art Gallery**  
Centennial Sculpture Park  
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**Sketches**  
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**Eastman School**  
Renovation of Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, 2009  
Addition of Eastman's East Wing, 2010  
Renovations to Kilbourn Hall, 2016  
The renovation and expansion projects included work to improve acoustics and update amenities, as well as add rehearsal, performance, and technological resources.
The new eight-story Golisano Children’s Hospital opened its doors in July 2015 to families like Danielle Scarborough, of Elba, New York, and her son, Hudson (above). A key part of the Medical Center’s component of The Meliora Challenge, the hospital is named for Paychex founder and philanthropist B. Thomas Golisano, who provided the lead gift of $20 million. The new hospital includes 52 private patient rooms and family-friendly spaces and designs (right) to welcome parents and their children. The hospital is also the first children’s hospital in the country to house an integrated PET-MRI scanning system, a medical imaging system that reduces radiation exposure while allowing for two different types of measurement to be taken at the same time. A second phase of the hospital project, which includes a new pediatric intensive care unit and a suite of specialized operating rooms (far right), is slated for completion in 2017.
New Initiatives  The Campaign raised more than $430 million to support programmatic and academic initiatives in areas such as data science, the humanities, and the performing arts. In early 2017, a new building, Wegmans Hall, will open as the home of the Goergen Institute for Data Science, a growing field in which students like Ling (Kelly) He ’17 (top) and Ian Manzi ’18 (middle) are already pursuing degrees. The University also established a new Institute for Performing Arts and a new Humanities Center, where cultural historian Gerald Early (bottom photo) was the first guest lecturer. A professor of English and of African and Afro-American studies at Washington University in St. Louis, Early (center) spoke with Joan Shelley Rubin, the Dexter Perkins Professor in History and the acting director of the center, and President and CEO Joel Seligman before his presentation.