Eyram Joan Adedze ’17

Hometown: Ghana
Majors: Economics and Psychology

Campus Involvement:
- Residential Assistant
- Pan African Student Association
- Research Assistant for Motivation Lab
- SALSEROS dance group

Achievements:
- 2015 Davis Project for Peace Prize recipient

Career Interests:
- Economic Development and Financial Services
- Consulting

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I like to explore different fields of study and I was drawn to University of Rochester because of the open curriculum system. Also, I am very interested in research and I was intrigued by the numerous research work that professors and students are involved in.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
Students, faculty and staff are very welcoming and always willing to assist you in any way possible. This has made my transition to the UR a smooth and memorable one.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
I really enjoy Wilson Day as it is a great way to give back to the community. It is interesting to know that UR places huge importance on Community service and I am proud to be part of an institution that supports such a great cause.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I always boast of our beautiful campus and motto. UR has a beautiful campus all season and I am amazed by that. Also, our motto, MELIORA is a true definition of what we stand for on campus, making our lives ever better with the numerous opportunities we are presented with.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
My UR experience has been a wonderful learning experience. I have made great friends and also getting closer to realizing my career path more through the classes I take each semester. The support system has been great and every day I look forward to making my life ever better.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
I will stay connected with UR by maintaining close contact with the Alumni office. I will be very willing to assist current students by providing advice on college life and also share insight about my career path. I also plan to connect current students with internship opportunities through my network.
**Jason Altabet ’17**

**Hometown:** Scarsdale, NY  
**Majors:** Economics and Political Science  
**Minor:** Language, Media, and Communications

**Campus Involvement:**
- Mock Trial  
- Campus Times  
- Class Council  
- Committee for Political Engagement  
- Speaking Fellows

**Achievements:**
- 3 Time Award Winning Attorney and Witness for Mock Trial

**Career Interest:**
- Political Communications or Policy

**What made you select Rochester as your University?**
I had the pleasure of staying overnight with a student during my first visit to UR. I had already done the same at a few other schools, but what I had never seen were students actually sitting down and discussing academic topics, until Rochester that is. Right then I knew I belonged here.

**What has surprised you the most about UR?**
Definitely the weather. I kept getting told that it would be non-stop winter 24/7, but it hasn’t been bad at all. As a veteran of the northeast already it was nothing I hadn’t seen before.

**What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?**
The economic reasoning behind why we buy health insurance. Seems pretty obvious at first, but the underlying reasoning gets a lot more complicated than you’d expect. It ends up being a combination of everything you learned in ECO 108 and 207.

**What do you wish was different about UR?**
I would want to see more of those same discussions that so interested me during my first visit and larger in scale. I have been working on creating more public discussions as a member of the Committee for Political Engagement, but there’s always room for more.

**How have you changed since your first day on campus?**
I am much more organized. Thanks to my friends in Mock Trial, I always carry around a legal pad to keep track of what I have to do. Pen and paper is much more flexible than iPhone apps and it’s always rewarding to physically cross something off your list.

**If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)–what would you say?**
Exhausting and rewarding. I ended up juggling five classes and three eboard roles my first year and haven’t slowed down for this one. It may not lead to a lot of sleeping, but it’s without a doubt worth every 4am bedtime.
Andrew Arjana ’17

Hometown: Las Vegas, NV  
Major: Biomedical Engineering  
Minor: Chemical Engineering  
Cluster: Behavioral Psychology

Campus Involvement:
- Meridian (Tour Guide)
- Delta Upsilon Fraternity
- Biomedical Engineering Society

Achievements:
- Dean’s List

Career Interests:
- Chemical and Pharmaceutical Consulting
- Medicine

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I always hated the idea of having to take a general education and the freedom of the cluster system and open curriculum that Rochester proves gave me the freedom I was looking for in my education. I have now explored all avenues of my academic interests while have a great college experience.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
The coolest things I have learned while at the UR has been human anatomy. It was a class I took over at the Medical Center in which I held a human brain and heart in my hand. In fact, I was able to watch a full, live dissection of a cadaver.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
I love the not so official tradition of climbing to the top of Rush Rhees. After a long week of tests and problems sets, it is just immensely gratifying. It gives a perspective of the school only the students who climb it ever get.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
The biggest change I have seen from myself is how involved I have become in the school. Back in high school, I was really only a part of the sport teams. But now, I am a part of multiple clubs on campus have held leadership positions in them, a tour guide for the school.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
I will stay most through my fraternity, Delta Upsilon. As the Vice President of External Relations, my current responsibilities involving alumni have given me a new perspective on post-graduate life. It has cemented how I would like to continue my connection with my chapter after the four years as an undergraduate.
Bechir Ayachi ’18

Hometown: Sousse, Tunisia
Major: Financial Economics
Minors: Mathematics and Computer Science
Cluster: French

Campus Involvement:
- E-Board
- Freshman Fellow
- Meliora Capital Management
- $ 5K Challenge Project Coordinator

Achievements:
- Research & Innovation Grant
- Phi Beta Kappa Iota Book Award
- Research Assistant in the Mathematics department.

Career Interests:
- Public policies and regulations
- Finance and Actuarial Science

What made you select Rochester as your University?
After interviewing here and talking to current students and staff, I felt that the admission office is dedicated to enabling young individuals to grow and pursue what they are passionate about. I appreciated that and the sense of community that it created.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
I was definitely surprised by the degree of diversity there is in this school. Students and professors come from all over the world. This brings so many insights to class topics and conversations and definitely shapes our understanding of the world.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I always talk to my friends from back home about the chance I have to discuss and work with professors. Faculty here is always open to work with you and explore your interests. I think this is an enriching opportunity.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I definitely learned to be more relaxed and attentive to the things I am learning. I learned to not fear challenges or being out of my comfort zone. Most importantly, I learned to say more often “yes, let’s do this”.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
Priceless and enriching come to mind. After high school, I made a hard decision to pursue an education far from home. I was looking for more than just academics. I wanted to be in a constant learning journey about my world and its people. UR fulfilled that desire extraordinarily.
Devan Baijal ’19

Hometown: Brentwood, TN
Majors: Public Health and Business
Minor: Biology
Cluster: Theater

Campus Involvement:
- 2019 Class Council
- UR Bhangra
- Sigma Phi Epsilon
- GlobeMed
- Lab Assistant at Susiarjo Lab at URMC

Career Interests:
- Global Medicine
- Healthcare Management
- Making others happy

What has surprised you the most about UR?
The most surprising thing I’ve noticed at Rochester is that everyone always seems to know how much they can handle. Whether it is academics, research, their social life, or outside clubs and organizations, everyone is able to perfectly balance their day-to-day routines, without taking on too many time commitments.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
Growing up, I always strived to be the center of attention and never wanted to be alone. However, in college, while constantly surrounded by other people, the best thing I learned is the value of alone time. Sometimes it’s rejuvenating to simply kick your feet up and relax by yourself!

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
By far, Wilson Day during Orientation Week. Learning about and giving back to the city that I would be living in for the next 4 years was an amazing experience. It was also a great bonding experience for my hall, providing many inside jokes that are still talked about today!

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
Like a partially stuck zipper. Sometimes, no matter how hard you try, things just don’t go your way. But as long as you change your approach or perspective, everything will eventually work out, and UR is amazing at teaching you how to do that, both inside and outside the classroom.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
I want to stay connected with UR through alumni interviews with prospective students. One of the biggest reasons I chose this school was from hearing all the great things current students and alumni had to say about it, so I can’t wait to share my experiences with the next generation!
**Liz Beson ’17**

**Hometown:** Linwood, MI  
**Majors:** American Sign Language and International Relations and Linguistics

**Campus Involvement:**
- 2017 Class Council
- Campus Times Senior Staff
- American Sign Language Club
- Alpha Phi

**Career Interests:**
- Language Interpreter/Translator
- International Ambassador

**What made you select Rochester as your University?**
I stayed overnight to see the school my senior year, and fell in love with the people. I came from a small school and community, and loved the feeling of home the campus had. From that visit on, I knew I wouldn’t be happy at any other school!

**What has surprised you the most about UR?**
I didn’t expect everyone to be so friendly. Yeah, I knew the people were nice coming into this school, but I didn’t expect them to be completely over the top, warm and welcoming 24/7. I’m definitely not complaining though!

**What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?**
UR is very friendly towards double majoring, and students can take almost any classes they’re interested in. A lot of colleges don’t even let students take classes for their major until they fill the colleges prerequisites, which I’m also thankful this school has near to none of!

**What do you wish was different about UR?**
I wish the sun liked Rochester more than it does. I don’t know what we did to make it dislike us so much, but I’d like to apologize to it on behalf of the Rochester community. Please come back.

**How have you changed since your first day on campus?**
I don’t think I’ve changed that much as a person. But, I know I’ve definitely learned the hard way that you have to buckle down when it comes to academics. Even though I love being so involved on campus in so many activities, academics always come first.

**If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far) what would you say?**
It’s been everything I’ve hoped for and more. I never expected to say this place was ‘home’ so fast.
Rylan Blowers ’18
Hometown: Canandaigua, NY
Majors: Computer Science and Business

Campus Involvement:
- Spark Entrepreneurs
- Computer Science Teaching Assistant
- International Baccalaureate Student Ambassador
- Delta Upsilon
- Chamber Orchestra

Achievements:
- Founded two startups

Career Interests:
- Computer Science/Data Science
- High Tech Sales

Family members that attended UR:
- Nikole Blowers ’15

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I am most proud to tell everyone about the people at UR. I quickly have learned that everyone here is passionate about what they do, and they can’t wait to tell you about it. I have learned more through my peers than I ever thought possible.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I came into college with the single-track mindset of belief that “college is only a step to employment”. I have since realized that there is so much more to UR than that, and that one must seize every opportunity to become not only a better employee, but a better person.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
I would describe it as an eye-opening experience. The student body is so diverse in every aspect, and yet everyone meshes very well. By hearing their stories and outlooks, I have become more well-rounded and appreciative for the opportunities given to me.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
How fun UR is. Everyone here is so hard working, but they know how to balance their workload in a way that many high school students could not.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
I hope to stay connected to at least a few students in a mentorship role. I have been fortunate enough to have an alumni mentor throughout my time here, and he has been an invaluable resource to me.
Shanique Caddle ’18

Hometown: Barbados
Major: Psychology
Minor: Anthropology

Campus Involvement:
- EcoReps
- Tiernan Project
- PAWS
- Freshman Quad Hall Council
- URMC Strong Ophthalmology

Career Interests:
- Cultural Research
- United Nations

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I chose Rochester because of its open curriculum, endless research opportunities and experiential learning. The opportunity to be a RENS scholar and interact with amazing young men and women was the ultimate deal breaker for me.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
The resources the school allocates to assist its students in whatever path they decide to take. The resource offices are more than capable to handle any situation thrown at them with the utmost professionalism.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
In my cultural anthropology class, I learned about the ‘travesti’ culture in Brazil and their gender system. It was all quite interesting because it challenged my views of a ‘universal’ gender system – being strictly male or female.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
The classes! I am constantly telling my friends back in Barbados about some cool class I’m taking just for the fun of it this semester.

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
My favorite piece of UR history is the acceptance of women into the college in 1900, heavily credit to the efforts of Susan B. Anthony. Susan B. Anthony’s work with civil rights and the feminist movement resonates with me because she went after something she was passionate about.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
I thoroughly enjoy the Wilson Day of Service because community service has always been a core principle in my life and I love support those in need.

What do you wish was different about UR?
Besides the dreadful winter months, I wish for greater consolidation between student groups. There are many groups on campus that all do the same activities and it would be nice if they could work together to truly make an impact.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
Over the past several months, I have definitely grown out of my shell. I am more involved here at the University of Rochester than I have ever been at all of my schools combined.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
My experience so far perfectly embodies the school’s motto – ‘meliora’. Each and every day brings the opportunity for me to improve myself as a person and they’re always greater than the previous week.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
After I graduate, I hope to be able to encourage more Barbadian students to attend UR and to help them in any way I can.
**MaryKate Chester ’17**

**Hometown:** East Greenbush, NY  
**Majors:** History and Brain and Cognitive Science  
**Cluster:** Totalitarian Europe: History, Philosophy, Represe

**Campus Involvement:**
- University of Rochester Calling Center
- Kappa Delta Sorority
- Off Broadway on Campus
- Undergraduate History Council

**Achievements:**
- Study Abroad in Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Career Interests:**
- Professorship
- Museum and Archival Research

**Family members that attended UR:**
- Tanner Chester ’17

**What made you select Rochester as your University?**
I choose Rochester as my University because I loved the open curriculum concept, especially being a student with interests in two very different majors. I also participated in the overnight host program and fell in love with the school and its sense of community.

**What has surprised you the most about UR?**
What had surprised me most about the UR is that despite it having a strong medical and science influence, the social sciences departments are so amazing. As a history major I’ve gone on incredible field trips and had the chance to conduct research.

**What UR traditions do you enjoy?**
I really enjoy Meliora Weekend. It is so fun to have alumni return to the university and to get to talk to them about their experiences. So much has changed over the years and it’s great to talk to someone with a different experience than my own.

**How have you changed since your first day on campus?**
I think the most important change since my first day is that I have become much more confident. Through the support of clubs on campus I have become a leader and with the help of Professors I have advanced in my academics beyond what I expected.

**How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?**
I think that I will definitely be returning for Mel Weekend and Alumni events at the University. However, I will also try to make contributions to the University post-graduation because I know how much they mean since I am a student on scholarship and would love to give back.
Madalina Ciocanu ’17

Hometown: Denver, CO and Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
Majors: Anthropology and International Relations

Campus Involvement:
- WRUR Radio Station
- All-Campus Judicial Council
- Students for a Democratic Society
- Douglass Leadership House
- Political Science Department
- Research Assistant

Career Interests:
- Peacekeeping and conflict resolution operations
- Human rights implementation and documentation

What made you select Rochester as your University?
As a musician and an artist, UR offered the best combination of the academic life and music and art through Eastman School of Music and the vibrant visual art community of Rochester.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
Anthropology, or empirical philosophy, should be used in every domain. Looking at things with an ethnographic eye helps me (re)discover and unpack what I thought I already knew.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
Whenever I talk about UR, I always talk about the people here. The exposure I get to a global community makes learning outside the classroom more tangible and valuable.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I would like to think that I have become more flexible and understanding with people, due to the exposure to a huge spectrum of personalities on campus. This increased relatability and compassion with others’ experiences enhances the education I get.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
After graduation, I would like to continue my contribution to continuously reengineer the university through development participation and most importantly, connecting with students and offer them the opportunities I have been fortunate to receive.
Timothy Dick ’17

Hometown: Honeoye Falls, NY
Major: Audio and Music Engineering
Minor: Computer Science

Campus Involvement:
- AME/ECE Research
- Peer Advisor
- Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
- Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo
- IEEE

Achievements:
- Undergraduate research project – Plate reverberation and plate acoustics
- Research assistant – Glass panel distributed mode loudspeakers

Career Interests:
- Audio Electronics
- Acoustics Research

Family members that attended UR:
- Vincent Dick ’79, ’82 (MS)
- Patricia Corbett Dick ’81N, ’87N (MS),’11N (PMC)

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I chose Rochester for a number of reasons, but the most obvious reason is the unique freedom it offers in curriculum and topics of study. Almost no other university offers such diverse programs, like Audio and Music Engineering, and encourages taking classes in different subject areas.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
How dedicated the staff is. Professors, administrators and workers all care a lot about the student’s experience and I am really grateful for that. I never imagined coming into college that I would have had close relationships with my professors and administrators, but they have proven me wrong. In getting to know them, I have gained various connections and opportunities that had previously seemed farfetched or unobtainable.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
How interesting and diverse all of my friends are. I absolutely love hearing people's life stories and experiences, and how they differ from my own. Everyone I meet seems to have a new perspective to offer or something fascinating about them.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
One of my favorite UR traditions is Meliora Weekend. Seeing everyone come out to celebrate the University is truly inspiring. Meeting alumni and hearing their stories about their time here at UR makes me very thankful to be a part of such a great place.

What do you wish was different about UR?
Tunnels to the engineering buildings! Don’t get me wrong, I love the snow, but trudging to the engineering buildings when the wind chill is in the negatives…that’s definitely not my favorite part of the day.
Jorilee Gayle ’16 (Take 5)

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
Majors: Linguistics and American Sign Language

Campus Involvement:
- Meridian Society
- University of Rochester’s Tango Club
- ASL Club
- Starbucks Barista

Achievements:
- Study Abroad: Barcelona, Spain

Career Interests:
- Speech Language Pathology
- Interpreter

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I fell in love with the university after a school representative came to visit a program I was a part of in New York City. Later I researched the school and realized that it was a place that I would really love to attend. I saw the open curriculum, the courses in American Sign Language and the school size and I knew that it would be perfect for me.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
The coolest thing that I have learned since being at the university is how similar I am to a lot of different people. I have been able to learn that although all the students here come from different backgrounds, we can all find something in common.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I am proud of the variety of cultures that are represented on the campus. I am very interested in learning about different cultures and customs.

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
My favorite piece of UR history is the creation of Gleason Library. I really love being in that library. The atmosphere is very laid back and I don’t feel the need to keep quite. To me Gleason is like a Library café.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
Since my first day I have come to understand myself as a person more. I am surer about who I am and the things that make me happy. The social atmosphere, variety of choices and experiences offered here give me the chance to decide what is wrong or right for me.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
I plan to stay in touch with the people who I interact with by updating them on things I am doing and finding out what is new on the campus. I also plan to come to Meliora weekend to visit people and see what the weekend is like from the prospective of an alumnus.
Gillian Gingher ’19

Hometown: West Islip, NY  
Majors: Art History and Business  
Minor: Italian  
Cluster: Calculus

Campus Involvement:  
- Women’s Varsity Swimming and Diving  
- Meridian Society  
- Delta Gamma, Zeta Delta Chapter

Achievements:  
- Dean’s List

Career Interests:  
- Art Gallery or Museum Management  
- Commercial Real Estate Development and Historical Restoration

Family members that attended UR:  
- Stephanie Drew ’84  
- Robert Gingher ’84

What made you select Rochester as your University?  
I knew that Rochester could offer me everything I needed from my college experience. For example, so many schools advertise as a “medium-sized” college or university, but the U of R pulls it off effortlessly.

What has surprised you the most about UR?  
I was surprised to learn that, yes, the U of R does have a studio art program, and it’s great. It’s not that I expected to be the only person interested in the arts when I arrived, but that I’m overjoyed that there are as many students as passionate about art and art history as I am.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?  
I am fascinated with Rush Rhees, especially the rare books library. Last week I found out that a lot of the original plans for the library are in Rare Books; I’m hoping to check that out soon.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?  
The open curriculum and the sense of a global community definitely separate the U of R from the rest of the schools that are like it. Being able to take the classes that I want and not waste time on GenEd requirements has been a blessing. I could triple major if I wanted to!

What is your favorite piece of UR history?  
There used to be a sports bar in the Commons called the Rat, and my parents used to go there, and there used to be a pub in Slater, which is where they lived their senior year. Go figure.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?  
I am just simply a better version of myself. Rochester has helped me grow into a more confident and happier person than I ever imagined I could be.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?  
Seeing as my parents go to all of their reunions and I’ve met a lot of their college friends, I think that I won’t have any problem keeping in touch with the U of R after graduation. I plan on helping students who are interested in the arts cultivate their passions and staying in touch with old professors.
Carlos Yuki Gonzalez ’17

Hometown: Asunción, Paraguay
Major: Financial Economics
Minor: Computer Science

Campus Involvement:
- Club Soccer
- E-board
- ITS Help

Achievements:
- Delno Sisson Award recipient

Career Interests:
- Support decision-making using data science in the securities market
- Access to quality education

What has surprised you the most about UR?
Honestly, I did not truly understand the fact that the UofR has one of the most diverse student bodies in the USA until I started college. Finding out that you can have breakfast with a student from Africa, then lunch with a student from Asia, and dinner with a student from Europe, all in one day is mind blowing. My goal of traveling around the world when I finish college is not only becoming more important but also more meaningful as I have dear friends spread all over the globe.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
The coolest thing I’ve learned is about everything the Rettner building has to offer: 3D-printers, 3D-scaners, go-pro cameras, Google glasses, and oculus rift goggles. I love the fact that any student can come and loan out these items either for a class, research project, or just for personal use. For everything it offers, Rettner is the coolest building on campus.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I am most proud of our school curriculum. Here you set your own limits and the school provides the opportunities. I believe the flexibility to change your mind at any time during college is both great and scary. Scary because you probably don’t want to change your major in your senior year but great because you can always choose what you want and explore your passions. Once you find that passion, you become a stellar professional.

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
The epic life story of George Eastman. Before he died, he decided to donate, without restrictions, his entire wealth to help further education at the UofR. He did not leave anything to his family. Further, he was a benefactor to institutions like RIT and MIT. Unlike typical philanthropists, he was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, his upbringing was full of what seemed insurmountable challenges due to his father's death and mother's health pain. Yet despite all adversities, he was a smart, purposeful man who worked hard to leave a legacy behind him. He even made it clear before committing suicide he wrote a note that read "To my friends: my work is done. Why wait?" and he shot himself in March 14, 1932. He lived a short but meaningful life and I believe that is worth learning.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I’ve changed both on a personal and a professional level. On the former, I became more aware of my weaknesses and strengths so throughout my two years in school I set goals to improve my communication and work skills. And for the latter, I realized is fine if you don’t always have the answer for everything. Instead what matters is how you work together as a team to get the answer. Every time I need to work with people I remind myself of the African proverb that says “if you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Thus far, my school experience allowed me to better understand my weaknesses and use my strengths to benefit my team.
Ryan Grimes ’18

**Hometown:** Rochester, NY  
**Majors:** Molecular Genetics and Psychology  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Cluster:** Bioethics

**Campus Involvement:**
- Meridian Society
- Biology Workshop Leader
- Delta Gamma Fraternity, Director of Scholarship
- Strong Hospital Volunteer

**Achievements:**
- Rochester Early Medical Scholars
- Oxford University Direct Enrollment—St. Catherine’s College (Fall 2016)

**Career Interest:**
- Dermatologist
- Orthopedic Surgeon

**Family members that attended UR:**
- David Grimes ’06M (Res)
- Paul Sabin ’05N

**What made you select Rochester as your University?**
Definitely the flexible curriculum. When I asked a current student why she was taking a certain class, her response was, “Because I love it.” To be able to learn what I love, and to have that be enough, that is the most I could ask for in a University.

**What has surprised you the most about UR?**
How much learning occurs outside of the classroom. I expect to learn in lecture halls, but I find that some of my most meaningful learning experiences are those I have in Gleason at 3:00am discussing material with my fellow students. I am consistently humbled by every person I meet.

**What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?**
How the students are so incredibly collaborative. I think my friends are surprised at how frequently we work together and how little competition there is among students. Relationships at Rochester are synergistic; what is exchanged between us is more than the sum of our parts.

**How have you changed since your first day on campus?**
How haven’t I changed since my first day on campus? Being surrounded by a community that endlessly supports me and pushes me to try new things has helped me learn about myself and mature in ways I never imagined. I also own a lot more blue and yellow.

**How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?**
4 years at UR is not enough, and that’s why I signed on for 8. (I’m also pretty sure that 8 won’t be enough either; Residency recruiters, I’m looking at you). As a Rochester medical school student, you can look for me at every alumni event.
Jackie Ibragimov ’18

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
Majors: Business and Art History
Minor: Audio and Music Engineering
Cluster: Brain and Cognitive Sciences

Campus Involvement:
- Gamma Phi Beta Sorority
- Music Interest Floor
- WRUR
- Blue Crew
- Campus Manager for University Tees

Career Interests:
- Marketing/PR for the music or entertainment industries
- Business Consultant or Marketing Strategist for start-up companies

What made you select Rochester as your University?
The University of Rochester is one of those rare research universities that strongly encourages undergraduate as well as graduate students to do research. I especially appreciated that on my application, I had the option to immediately apply for a research grant as an incoming freshman. There are so many departments here that conduct research or have study abroad opportunities that no matter your discipline, whether it be engineering or studio arts, there is definitely something for you. I also love UofR’s open curriculum; it’s given me the freedom to diversify my majors/minors.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
I definitely did not expect the West Coast to be so different from the East Coast. I expected a change in my usual weather (L.A. has only one setting: sunny), but I didn’t expect to learn about so many things that are unique to the East Coast and as common as “Menchie’s” on the West Coast. These include: “Bean Boots”, “ratchet”, “Sperry’s”, and “Tim Horton’s”.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
I love UR’s emphasis on hosting festivals, like Winterfest, Meliora Weekend, YellowJacket Weekend, and D-Day. It’s really nice to feel that we, as a campus, have our own “holidays”.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
Coming from a small suburb in Los Angeles, I didn’t have much opportunity to be engaged in a community; everything there is just so spread out and unreachable without a car. So my first day/year on campus saw a lot of changes to my personal beliefs and interests. This campus has so many opportunities to become involved, and through those activities, I’ve really been able to define myself more. I especially want to give a shout out to the music community.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
My UR experience has been a whirlwind. It’s definitely been a culture shock, but a good one. I have met so many inspiring people here on this campus, and they have all inspired me to discover a new part of myself. Honestly, I would describe my UR experience as eye-opening; I have learned so much about myself and the world these past two years.
Talia Jaffe ’18
Hometown: Lexington, MA
Major: Religion
Minor: Anthropology
Cluster: BCS
Certificate: Stage Management

Campus Involvement:
- Meridian Society
- Todd Theatre
- Rock Climbing Club
- UR Hillel
- ROC Players

Career Interests:
- Non-Profit Management
- Stage Management

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I chose the University of Rochester because I wanted to go to a school that would allow me to explore my wide variety of interests and push me to discover new topics of study outside of my comfort zone.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
Every day I am amazed at how involved and passionate each and every student is. It is incredible to be in an environment where the conversations continue outside of the classroom and into everyday activities.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
There is no doubt that the coolest thing I’ve learned at Rochester is what I’m passionate about. Through the open curriculum I was able to explore a wide variety of subjects until I finally settled on what excites me the most. I have learned that waking up to go to class can be something to look forward to!

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I am always so proud to tell my non-UR friends about the people! Whether it is something about one of my professors, someone I’m on an executive board with, or just a friend, it is hard for me not to rave about the people I interact with on a daily basis. Everyone here is so unique and has such an interesting, important story to tell.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
Surprising! There isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t meet someone new, learn something new, or try something new. There is no such thing as a consistent schedule as a University of Rochester student, and that allows me to be constantly engaged in different and meaningful ways.
Elizana-Marie Joseph ’17
Hometown: Binghamton, NY
Majors: Health, Behavior & Society and Language, Media & Communication
Minor: Music

Campus Involvement:
- Speaking Fellow
- Off Broadway On Campus (OBOC)
- Todd Theater PR & Marketing Intern
- Early Connection Opportunity (ECO) Program Mentor
- One Community Program Peer Facilitator
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Public Health

Career Interests:
- Health Policy
- Journalism
- Public Relations

What made you select Rochester as your University?
UR is the Disney World of colleges/universities! “Where dreams become you” - because UR helps make dreams reality. My UR tour guide was a quadruple major, graduating on time, with a good GPA, a social life and time for sleep. If that’s not magic, I’m not sure what is. Everyone is friendly, encouraging, smart, hardworking and eager to learn. And even though it isn’t in Florida - I could not be happier!

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
I went to a concert at the Eastman School of Music where I learned that, six-time Tony Award winner, Audra McDonald approves of my Public Health major!

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
What don’t I tell my friends about UR? I use “meliora” appropriately in everyday conversations, I take selfies with Rush Rhees Library as if it were one of my best friends, I brag about the open curriculum like it’s my job, I share all of our Buzzfeed highlight stories, I remind people that yellowjackets and bees are some of our greatest global contributors (both related to pollination/ecological sustainability and our impressive alumni), and my UR Pinterest board is also pretty noteworthy. In short – everything UR makes me proud.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
My favorite UR traditions include tunnel painting, Meliora weekend, Dandelion Day, Winterfest, sledding behind Sue B. and trying to guess what’s in the secret Mel sauce.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
As a singer and reading enthusiast, I have always had a deep love and appreciation for tea. So it is incredibly surprising that I drink coffee now! I’m honestly not always sure if it is out of “necessity” during finals week, due to the infinite amount of flavors at Starbucks or simply because I have acquired a taste for it but that was definitely a surprise.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)–what would you say?
So far my UR experience has been incredible and I’m sure it’ll only get “ever better!”
Anis Kallel ’17
Hometown: Sfax, Tunisia
Majors: Computer Science and Business

Campus Involvement:
- Teaching Assistant
- Computer Science undergraduate Council (CSUG)
- RocHack
- Research Assistant – Human Computer Interaction Lab.
- Club Volleyball.

Achievements:
- Study Abroad: Madrid, Spain

Career Interests:
- Software Engineering - Program Management
- Social entrepreneurship - Online education

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I liked the CS department’s focus on Big Data as well as the freedom I would still have to explore other interests.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
Artificial intelligence. It’s fascinating to see the different algorithms and machine learning techniques and how they are applicable to real life situations from decision making (using labeled sets of old data) to facial recognition (The way Facebook can tell you who to tag in a picture!) and even feelings ‘understanding’ and simulation.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
The environment is great for learning. Students are not only very friendly and helpful, but also involved in their own projects or research outside class. Professors are also usually very active in their field and are constantly looking for undergraduates (even freshmen!) to mentor.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I came to the UR with 4 intended majors and +10 clubs that I wanted to join. I learned to make choices and stay focused. I realized that Prioritizing tasks and responsibilities is essential to have a positive college experience and that it is okay to not be involved in everything.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)–what would you say?
I am thankful for every second I spent here. My experience has not been perfect, but it’s those imperfections, struggles and moments of doubt that make the rest worth celebrating. I feel lucky to have met people I will be friends with for the rest of my life and to study something I truly enjoy.
Anisha Khosla ’18
Hometown: Weston, CT
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Minor: Chemical Engineering
Cluster: Psychology

Campus Involvement:
- She’s The First – Rochester
- RC MERT
- Biomedical Engineering Society
- Chi Omega Sorority
- Biology and Biomedical Engineering Teaching Assistant

Achievements:
- Independent Research in a Biomedical Engineering Lab – 3D Printing Model Kidneys

Family members that attended UR:
- Inder Khosla ’89 – Ph. D, Simon School of Business

What made you select Rochester as your University?
Rochester was ultimately the only school that presented the opportunity for me to customize my studies, pursue knowledge without constraint, and at the same time, maintain my record of involvement on campus, without making sacrifices at either end.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
I love the passion and intensity that the pursuit of knowledge brings out in our student body. Whether it’s what they’re studying, or a club that they’re involved in, every student has something they love to do, and is willing to share that love with others.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I love being part of a small campus, because it really gives me the opportunity to know my peers and professors, I think it’s easy to get lost on larger campuses, and miss out on opportunities just because you didn’t realize they existed until too late.

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
I recently learned that the Annex on campus has rooms that are permanently sealed off to the public due to radioactivity present from experimentation for the Manhattan Project. I find it fascinating when I am able to connect parts of campus to significant moments in world history.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
This past semester I was able to help paint the tunnels for the first time, and I loved it. It’s amazing to think that under those hundreds of layers of paint lie announcements for some of the biggest events for organizations on our campus.
Nicolette Kober ’18

Hometown: New Market, MD
Major: International Relations
Minor: Arabic
Cluster: General Science

Campus Involvement:
• NROTC
• Women’s Varsity Soccer
• Fellowship of Christian Athletes
• Grassroots Soccer Academy

Achievements:
• Accepted to Project Global Officer so I will be studying abroad in Muscat, Oman this summer where I will be studying Arabic.
• I was the Athletics Chief this past semester for my battalion so I helped to train Midshipmen to meet their physical fitness goals.

Career Interest:
• I want to be a Pilot in the Navy. Flying jets is my main goal.

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I chose to attend the University of Rochester because it encompassed everything that I was looking for. Here I have the opportunity to be a member of an NROTC unit, to receive a high quality education and to compete at a high level athletically.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I am most proud of the culture of our campus, which encourages an attitude of learning and being inquisitive—especially with all of the research opportunities. We also have fun, whether it is exploring the city or just hanging out with a group of friends.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
My favorite traditions are Meliora Weekend and the 5k Challenge. The best part about Meliora Weekend is getting to talk to veterans about their lives and careers after leaving UR. The 5k Challenge is awesome because our student government is concerned with how we feel we can improve our campus.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I have become much more capable of managing all of my commitments and I am far more engaged in school activities outside of soccer and NROTC.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
When I think about my time here at UR I think about all of the people that have made it so incredible. Because of the size of the campus, it is easy to develop more meaningful relationships and I love that this community is so interesting and diverse.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
First of all, I definitely want to come back and see Meliora Weekend from the alumni point of view. Furthermore, I will definitely be giving back to UR because it has given so much to me.
Anna Kopp ’18
Hometown: Madison, WI
Major: Chemical Engineering
Minor: Materials Science
Cluster: Psychology

Campus Involvement:
- Varsity Swim Team
- She’s the First
- Chi Omega Sorority
- American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Career Interests:
- Pharmaceuticals
- Nanotechnology

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I was initially interested in University of Rochester because of the academic environment and open curriculum. When I had the opportunity to visit, the people I met and the friendly atmosphere on campus made it clear that Rochester was the right fit for me.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
I was nervous going to college far from home, so I was surprised by how quickly I adjusted and felt at home here. The sense of community and the friends I met made it much easier than I expected to transition to college.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
When I talk about Rochester to my non-UR friends, I usually tell them how impressed I am by the people here. I love being surrounded by a group of talented people that are so passionate about a wide range interests while still having a supportive environment.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I’ve learned how to better manage my time while not letting the stress of a heavy work load stop me from enjoying my time here. I’ve also become more openminded and more willing to step outside of my comfort zone.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)–what would you say?
My college experience has been better than I could have expected. I’ve had opportunities here that I never thought I would have and as a result I’ve learned so much both academically and socially.
Yunqi Li ’17  
Hometown: Chengdu, China  
Major: Optical Engineering  
Minor: Mathematics

Campus Involvement:  
- Freshman Fellow  
- CETL Study Group Leader  
- Optical Society of America  
- Fencing Club  
- Raising Leader Program

Career Interests:  
- Lens Design and Biomedical Optics in Industry  
- Research on Optoelectronics and Lasers

What made you select Rochester as your University?  
I chose the University of Rochester, wanting to find my true passion. And I know after I do, I can find supportive professors to help me further develop my interest. I can step out of my comfort zone to meet new people, joining interesting clubs and take parts in all kinds of school activities.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?  
Professor Emil Wolf, working with The Institute of Optics, wrote the book Principles of Optics with Max Born.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?  
Of all the UR traditions, I especially love the Wilson Day. On that day, all the incoming UR students would go into the city of Rochester and provide communities service for our city. It is a great way for students to connect with their hall, with other students and with the local community.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?  
I talk a lot about the freedom we have to explore our academic interest. We don’t have a fixed curriculum for any major. At UR, You get to explore your interest through clusters in completely different field, and you can keep looking for your interest until you find your true passion.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?  
I am a better scholar now. With all the academic training through class discussion, workshops and projects, I learned to think logically, critically and also creatively. I also truly enjoyed working with other fellow students, and often feel fortunate having the chance to collaborate with them.
Destiny Maitland ’17

Hometown: Jamaica, Queens, NYC
Major: Linguistics and Spanish

Campus Involvement:
- Residential Advisor
- Sophomore Committee

Career Interests:
- Professor of Linguistics
- Education

What made you select Rochester as your University?
The U of R was everything that I looked for in a school. They are very generous with Financial Aid and I wanted to be at school that didn’t have too many curriculum requirements because I was Undecided as far as my major went. Now, I have the freedom to explore and cultivate my passions and study what I love.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
All of my friends back home and at other schools are jealous of our tunnels! Honestly, I don’t know what I’d do without them this winter. They are truly a lifesaver!

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I have changed tremendously since my first day on campus. Everything that I’ve been involved in since my freshman year has truly shaped the kind of person and leader I am today. I have become a better well-rounded person and leader. I also learned that life is not about doing everything that makes your resume look pretty. It’s the experiences and lessons learned that what makes me most grateful for being here.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
This school is always changing, so I will be curious to know all of the latest campus updates after I graduate. I plan on being at every Meliora Weekend and getting involved with the Alumni scene in New York City. Also, the Office of Minority Student Affairs and Kearns Center have been two major support systems for me on this campus and I plan to stay connected throughout my life’s endeavors.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
The coolest thing that I have learned about is the wealth of research that happens at this University. From our weekly trends on Facebook, we are always making new discoveries and keeping the world on their toes. This makes me even more excited to go to class, because I know that my professors are passionate and experts on the subjects they teach.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
I enjoy the candle light ceremony on the first night of Freshman Move-In Day. For me, it signified the opening of a new chapter in my life and gave me that though of “Wow, I’m actually growing up!”
Vito Martino ’17
Hometown: Wappingers Falls, NY
Major: Chemical Engineering
Minors: Biomedical Engineering and Chemistry

Campus Involvement:
- URFoot
- AIChE
- Delta Upsilon
- Immunology and Vaccinology Researcher
- Biomedical Engineering Society

Achievements:
- George Eastman Leadership Fellow
- Xerox Fellow
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow

Career Interests:
- Neurosurgery
- Neuroengineering Research

What has surprised you the most about UR?
The one thing that has surprised me most about this University is the sense of community I feel when I am going about my business every day. It is uncommon for someone not to ask how you are, or how classes are going. People here care. They don’t pretend to care, or ask because it’s what they should do, they truly and honestly care about one another and it makes me proud to be a part of such a kind network of individuals, of whom I hope to meet each and every one of them.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
The research I am doing is my go to statement when someone asks why I am proud to be a student at this University. As a RA/VH university, students here have access and the ability to pursue independent academic research that most undergraduates won’t be able to experience. This “intellectual openness” is one of the many things that makes the U of R such a unique institution.

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
The Azariah Boody Society is one of my favorite pieces of UR history. I love that even though it hasn’t been a continuous group, there exists a collective of students who are willing to veil themselves in secrecy in order to promote and foster school spirit throughout our college community.

What do you wish was different about UR?
The cost of attendance. I know that the price we pay for college allows for all the great experiences and amenities we have access too, but I can’t stop but to think about all of the bright young minds who won’t be able to experience this wonderful institution because of the hefty price tag.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
I believe I will stay connected with the University after I graduate by returning to campus on occasions such as Meliora Weekend in order to share experiences I have gained in my field, or any real world experience I have gained, with current students.
Coumba Mbodji ’17

Hometown: Dakar, Senegal
Major: Business
Minor: Statistics

Campus Involvement:
- Teaching Assistant
- Tutor and Tutor-mentor
- Ma’Frisah Co-captain
- Pan-African Students Association Business Manager
- Indulgence Dance Crew member

Achievements:
- Nominated for the National Honor Society in the University of Rochester Chapter
- Davis Peace Project Finalist

Career Interests:
- Finance/Investments/Banking
- Entrepreneurship/Business development

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I chose the University of Rochester because of its open curriculum. The education system in Senegal only allows you to pursue a specific path while at UR, you can take your major requirements and take other subjects to expand your intellectual curiosity at the same time.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
What surprised me the most about UR is the amount of resources students have. Whether it is academic related, about social life or career development, there are always people you can talk to who are ready to help you with any concern.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
I will attend events that will be in my area and also key events on campus if possible. I will mentor students to help them get opportunities I received during my time and guide them.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
The UR traditions I enjoy the most are the Candlelight ceremony and Celebrate Diversity. These were the first events that left a mark on me my freshman year. They showed me the diverse community that we have and also the amazing network I would be part of.

What do you wish was different about UR?
Even though you can tell that students are really happy to be part of the UR community, some UR students lack school pride compared to other schools. We do not see a lot of people cheering during games for example and I wish that was different about the UR.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
When I talk to my non-UR friends, I tell them about the diversity of food we have and brag about our ranking as the 6th best campus dining service in the nation. I also mention the fact that my university makes sure that everyone feels at home by organizing events for different nationalities.
Pegga Mosavi ’18
Hometown: College Station, TX
Majors: Political Science and Environmental Studies
Cluster: Bioethics

Campus Involvement:
- Triathlon Club- Founder and President
- Cycling Club
- Alpha Phi- VP Campus Affairs
- Building Manager at GAC

Achievements:
- RIG Grant Recipient

Career Interest:
- Environmental Lawyer

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I originally found Rochester because of their varsity swim program. Sadly, an injury took away my ability to swim; however, I had already fallen in love with UR. From the moment I stepped foot on campus, I felt like I was a part of the community. UR has this amazing ability to make everyone feel at home.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
The amount of organizations on campus definitely surprised me. UR has everything ranging from a cappella to club sports to Greek life. As a UR student you can take part in all of these and still balance academics and that never ceases to amaze me.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I constantly find myself raving to my friends back home about how lucky I am to go to a school where I can be challenged by rigorous academics but still have a dynamic social life. UR allows me to balance my academics and my friends.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
I have always appreciated UR’s love for a cappella. It draws so many alumni and it brings the Rochester community together more than every other event.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
Since coming to UR, I’ve grown substantially as a leader. UR has provided me so many opportunities to lead. I’ve had the privilege of starting a club, holding an executive position within my sorority, and building a budget for a club sport.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
My UR experience has been absolutely amazing. I never thought it was possible to have so much love and pride for a university. I love UR and I can honestly say that I consider it my home.
Susan Ojukwu ’17
Hometown: Franklin, MA
Majors: International Relations & Public Health

Campus Involvement: (i.e. activities and employment)
- Black Students’ Union, Business Manager
- Learning and Exploring at Play, Tutor
- Xclusive Step Team, Co-Captain
- Douglass Leadership House

Career Interests:
- Global Health
- International Development, non-profit

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I took a tour during the summer and I fell in love with the beautiful campus. I could envision myself as a student here. Add to that the freedom to explore through the open curriculum and endless study abroad opportunities; it was everything I wanted in a school.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
The mentorship and encouragement from upperclassmen to get involved surprised me. I’ve met so many older students who genuinely look out for younger students. They have helped me take full advantage of the resources and opportunities around me.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
I attended my first Boar’s Head dinner this year. It was a unique and exciting celebration and is by far my favorite tradition.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
My experience has been incredibly fulfilling. I have tried a little bit of everything from the track team to an Acapella group and met great people along the way. Given the space to explore, I have discovered my passion and cultivated friendships that I hope will last forever.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
After I graduate, I plan to come back for Meliora weekend and enjoy events from the alumnae side. I will also maintain ties with the step team. I will come back for shows to see what new routines the team has created and which old routines the team has retained.
Carly Pavia ’18
Hometown: Rochester, NY
Major: Biology
Minor: Public Health

Campus Involvement:
- Delta Gamma Sorority
- Catholic Newman Community

Career Interests:
- Biotechnology
- Preventative Medicine

Family members that attended UR:
- Michael Pavia ’87
- Sam Guerrieri ’87
- Nancy Guerrieri ’88

**What made you select Rochester as your University?**
I chose U of R because it has a great biology program, the perfect sized campus, academic freedom, and enthusiastic school spirit.

**What has surprised you the most about UR?**
I have been surprised in the way that everyone is always so friendly and outgoing. Everyone is passionate about learning, and sharing their knowledge with others.

**What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?**
I am most proud of being a legacy, and continuing the tradition of a Rochester education.

**What UR traditions do you enjoy?**
I love Meliora weekend because I have been attending since a very young age. It is a family tradition that my parents, cousins, and grandparents all go together.

**How have you changed since your first day on campus?**
Since my first day on campus I have become more open-minded. I have met people from many different cultures and backgrounds that have allowed me to look at situations in different ways.
Raul Ramirez ’18

Hometown: Collierville, TN, USA
Major: Optical Engineering
Minor: Dance
Cluster: French

Campus Involvement:
- UR DREAMers
- Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity Inc.
- Spanish and Latino Students’ Association (S.A.L.S.A.)
- Douglass Leadership House (DLH)
- One Community Program Peer Facilitator
- Orientation Volunteer
- Multicultural Greek Council
- Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) Program
- Upward Bound Program Assistant
- Early Connection Opportunity (ECO) Program

Achievements:
- Part of a video of more diversity within staff and faculty

Career Interests:
- Medicine, Working as a nurse
- Education, Teaching Health Science Education

What has surprised you the most about UR?
Out of the many surprises that the U of R has, I have really been surprised by the open curriculum, opportunities to do research as a freshman, and the diversity that there is on campus. These not only add to the surprise of the UR, but also adds to just how unique it is from other universities that I have visited. Weather is also something that never stops surprising me every single day that I am here and it just adds to the excitement of being able to study here at the UR.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I really enjoy how everyone here is so welcoming and willing to help each other and how everyone is so willing to work with each other, even if they have not met each other before. I really enjoy telling my friends how we are really encouraged to stay here for an extra year to do something different than what we are used to and also to study abroad so we do not miss out on a great opportunity.

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
I really enjoy the urban legend of walking under the clock tower and not being able to graduate in 4 years, because that has always been a fun tale to tell all of the incoming students and it’s a good motivation to stay an extra year to do one of the awesome 5th year programs that the UR offers. I also enjoy the hearing about the abandoned pool that has been filled with desks in Spurrier Gym.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
Out of all the awesome traditions that U of R has, I really enjoy taking part in Meliora Weekend, Winterfest, Dandelion Day, Tunnel Painting, and Wilson Day. I enjoy being able to spend some fun time with my friends on campus with these events.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I feel that I have grown so much since I first came to the U of R. I know that I am a better leader, more outgoing, more social, better at talking to people and I owe that to this campus and the people here. I know that I would not have grown as a person if it was not for me deciding to attend this institution that is always pushing us to be ever better.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
I will definitely try to come to Meliora Weekend as many times as possible. I will definitely stay connected to the organizations that I am a part of so that in case they ever need alumni, I will be there to show my support. I will also try to work with organizations to create events that have undergraduates and alumni interacting more often as well.
Tate Richards ’17
Hometown: Southaven, MS
Majors: Business and Statistics

Campus Involvement:
- Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
- Inter Fraternity Council
- URFoot
- Consent is So Frat
- Men Opposing Violence Everywhere
- University of Rochester Survivor Empowerment Group
- Orientation Leader

Career Interests:
- Limited Liability Low-profit Corporations

What made you select Rochester as your University?
When I visited I felt the university was genuinely showing me what their strengths and weaknesses were. They told me that it’s a great school that can open nearly every door if you try but the food is mediocre and the weather awful.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
The students. In this elite academic environment I was expecting cutthroat people. Instead everyone is very co-operative and uplifting. I love that about the U of R

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
That everyone is constantly analyzing the costs and benefits of everything that we do without even thinking about it.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I always tell my friends about the amazing opportunity here. There are so many different clubs and organizations doing terrific things all over the world. It’s inspiring.

What do you wish was different about UR?
The food. I am a Southerner raised on Granny’s cooking and the food here just doesn’t measure up.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I learned to love learning and appreciate being busy. I find that everything regardless of its nature is more interesting to me now and that I get more stressed when I don’t have work than when I do.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
I would call it enlightening. I have learned so much about the world, people, and myself. Oh, and I’ve learned some stuff in class as well.
Adam Rosenkranz ’17
Hometown: Dobbs Ferry, NY  
Major: Business  
Minor: Art History

Campus Involvement:
- Sigma Phi Epsilon  
- Gift of Life Committee  
- Walk a Mile in My Shoes Committee (UR SEGway)  
- Western NY Incubator Program

Career Interests:
- Business/Marketing Strategy Consulting  
- Marketing and PR

What has surprised you the most about UR?
The biggest thing that pleasantly surprised me is how well the community embraces personal growth. The student culture here makes it incredibly easy to be involved and push your own limits – everyone pushes each other to be better at all times.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
The coolest thing I’ve learned since I’ve arrived is how to say, “yes” to new experiences. Learning from experiences is incredibly valuable to anybody’s growth. This campus offers so much; all you have to do is say, “yes”. Explore and enjoy the moment!

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
If the first day of spring counts as a tradition, it would be my absolute favorite. Seeing so many students soaking in the Vitamin D out on the Eastman Quad on the first nice day of the spring semester builds our sense of community and gives us hope that the weather will get better.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
Absolutely. With such a culture that promotes so much personal growth, it’s difficult not to change for the better. Today, I’m far more open to try new things, to take on new roles and responsibilities, and much more prepared to learn from new experiences.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)–what would you say?
So far, it has been amazing. Joining a fraternity and taking on new roles and responsibilities through various outlets have pushed me to learn more about myself than I thought that I could. I’ve grown in every facet of life – academically, socially, emotionally, you name it.
Sophia Rosman ’19
Hometown: Reisterstown, MD
Majors: Undecided (Philosophy, Humanities/Social Sciences)

Campus Involvement:
- Strong Jugglers
- Spark Entrepreneurs
- Running Club
- Alpha Phi Sorority

Achievements:
- University of Rochester Research Innovation Grant
- Founded a professional body painting business

Career Interests:
- Arts and Entertainment
- Improve the World

What made you select Rochester as your University?
The students I met seemed genuinely interested in exploration, and their pursuits were aimed at benefitting greater things than themselves. I knew they would show me how to go about doing great things.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
What surprised me is how much I appreciate the compactness of the campus. As I sprint from a practice in GAC to a rehearsal in the May room, I realize that at a larger school I probably wouldn’t be able to be involved as many back-to-back activities.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I tell friends that everyone here gives strangers the benefit of the doubt. Students enter conversations assuming the other person is the most interesting person in the world, and they make it their mission to discover how. This makes for a welcoming environment conducive to great growth.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
At the start I figured I would graduate with a couple majors, some minors, and maybe 2 clusters. I also expected to actively attend around 8 clubs. I now see value in streamlining my focus; I still value exploration, but no longer at the expense of developing deep bonds with people and activities.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
My UR experience brims with exploration of diversity, both of new activities and life stories. I have met people with stories I couldn’t have even imagined. Listening to them has made me incredibly grateful for the opportunities I had my entire life, and their outlooks provide endless inspiration. For me, this is the collaborative diversity that characterizes UR.
Dayvi Sandoval ’18

Hometown: Bronx, NY
Major: Bachelors of Science in Data Science
Clusters: Spanish and Psychology

Campus Involvement:
- GreenSpace
- Alpha Phi Omega
- The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
- The Spanish and Latino Students’ Association
- International Student Mentor

Achievements:
- The Emerging Leaders Program

Career Interests:
- Aerospace Technology
- Internet & Computer Software

What has surprised you the most about UR?
To this day, I am immensely surprised about how innovative and creative the U of R is as a community. The intimate relationships students form with professors and faculty members demonstrates itself through our recent advances in technology or studies developed on campus.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
One of the most inspiring concepts I have learned on campus is putting someone’s humanity before their disability. The TOUR Program at UR has taught me how to be a stronger advocate for individuals with DD or ID through their students and multiple campus-wide events.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
Our flag lounge in Wilson commons is one of the many aspects I brag about to my non-UR friends simply because it vividly captures how unique we all are. Whether you are in Starbucks or a conference room, there will always be a mixture of personalities you will be inspired by.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
Every single college community weekend we host are and will forever be my favorite UR traditions because they remind us that college is not always about trying to maintain an average GPA. It is perfectly okay to take a breather and enjoy a day off from our academic responsibilities with friends.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
Not only have I learned to continuously take risks, but I have also molded myself into being a stronger and more efficient leader. If my high school teachers could track my undergraduate experience on a daily basis, I’m sure they would be content with the person I am progressively becoming.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
Intellectually challenging. Every figure on campus will undoubtedly encourage you to look deeper within your personal capabilities because they know we are much more than what we often identify ourselves as. This not only helps build our character, but also makes us powerful role models within the lives of others.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
I look forward to attending numerous alumni retreats and talks which allow us to provide future student generations with additional support. The one-on-one interaction which the U of R offers alumni, such as the sophomore dinner, is an effective way graduates can remain connected with their undergraduate experience.
Becca Selznick ’19
Hometown: Park City, UT
Major: Brain and Cognitive Science

Campus Involvement:
- Member of the Varsity Swimming and Diving Team
- Volunteer in the Impatient and Child Life Department at Golisano Children’s Hospital
- Kappa Delta Sorority
- Student Alumni Ambassador

What made you select Rochester as your University?
The University of Rochester really caught me by surprise. While my dad and I were on college tours he suggested we stop by the U of R even though I didn’t know much about it. The second we stepped on campus we were completely blown away. The campus was so beautiful, the people were so nice, and the information session really impressed us. It was evident right off the bat that the University of Rochester was so passionate about everything they had to offer and that they really cared about their students and providing the best education possible.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
I was completely blown away at how collaborative the students at Rochester are with each other. I have heard terrible stories about how competitive and cutthroat some universities are, but here at the University of Rochester everyone works together regardless of the situation because at the end of the day we all want each other to succeed.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I love to brag to my friends about the open curriculum and Take 5 program here at Rochester. I always hear them complaining about various required and mundane classes they have to take where here at Rochester I have the opportunity to spend my time taking classes that really interest me and not have to worry about filling a specific requirement. In addition, I love that Rochester encourages students to explore areas of their interests and passions to the extent that they will pay for a fifth year to make sure each student gets every possible thing they can from their college education.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
Since I have stepped on campus I have become much more inspired. I think that the environment here at the University of Rochester really pushes people to be the best person they can be. Everyone is so intelligent, kind, and motivated it is hard not let those qualities rub off on you.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
Absolutely amazing. I immediately felt at home at UR. My smiles here are endless. The University of Rochester really has a place for everyone to fit in and feel welcomed and wanted. I love how the faculty and staff do whatever it takes to make sure you get to where you need to be. I know that no matter what there is always a team of support behind me and all my endeavors.
Joey Stephens ’18

Hometown: Syracuse, NY
Major: Data Science

Campus Involvement:
- Students’ Association Government
- Meridian Society
- Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
- Intramural Sports

Achievements:
- NYS Attorney General’s Triple “C” Award: Courage, Character, and Commitment
- University of Rochester Research and Innovation Grant Recipient

Career Interests:
- Government/Policy Studies
- Research

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
The University of Rochester is a really inclusive community, my friends at other universities are surprised when I say that I am a member of the Cabinet of the Students’ Association as a freshman.

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
Rush Rhees Library is beautiful but it also has a really interesting superstructure especially given its many additions. I love to go around the third floor of the library and the Gamble Room to see the photographs of Rush Rhees during its various stages of construction.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
The Hopeman Carillon has an interesting history, in that it was endowed to grow into a full Carillon over time but I love that students can learn to play the bells. I love walking around campus to the theme songs of some of my favorite TV series.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I’ve grown quite a bit in confidence since arriving on campus and I feel much more comfortable talking about my interests and passions. I believe I’ve learned what knowledge, data, and objectivity really mean since starting and I’ve come to understand how I want to impact the world after college.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
Currently I intend to pursue graduate school, and I would like to provide opportunities to students for research and career development. Whether I brought those opportunities to campus or developed a program for Rochester students off campus, I would like to help future undergraduates develop into leaders in the way that so many Rochester-affiliates have helped me.
Carrie Taschman ’18
Hometown & State: Pittsford, NY
Majors: Economics and English (Language, Media, Communication)
Clusters: Math and Statistics

Campus Involvement:
- DJ for WRUR 88.5 FM
- Meridian Society
- WRUR Executive Board
- Teaching Assistant for ECO 108

Achievements:
- Study Abroad: Copenhagen, Denmark, Fall 2016

Career Interests:
- Education Policy
- Marketing/Public Relations

Family members that attended UR:
- Robert Taschman ’82S (MBA)
- Zachary Taschman ’10, ’16S (MBA)

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I had no idea what I wanted to do with my four years of college. I wasn’t particularly devoted to one major. Rochester had every option I could think of, without being overwhelmingly large. Flexible curriculum+beautiful campus= essential college experience

What has surprised you the most about UR?
Everyone’s nerdy about something! All the students here are deeply invested in their studies, but have unique and diverse interests. Nobody’s roster of campus involvements and studies are identical to any other student’s.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
There’s a reason why car dealerships and convenience stores are all right next to each other...they actually make way more money than if they were even one street apart!

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I love showing them pictures of the Eastman quad! Rochester has a gorgeous campus (rare for a Research Institution), and I always talk about how it’s easier to study when the library looks like an art museum.

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
At the start of my senior year of high school, I picked the quote “Now comes the mystery”- Henry Ward Beecher for my yearbook quote. While researching my college choices, I discovered that Henry Ward Beecher also gave the U of R’s first commencement address in 1851!

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
My two favorite traditions would be Mel Weekend (I love seeing happy alumni reunite on campus!) and Rush Rhees Tower Tours during Halloween and Senior Week!

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
It’s been very whole. I’ve made friends who have shaped me, taken classes that challenged everything I’ve thought, had a thousand new experiences, and joined clubs that have taught me as much as classes have. To me, nothing is missing.
Kristi Thomas ’18

Hometown: Paget, Bermuda & Alexandria, VA

Majors: Economics and Psychology

Clusters: Calculus and Studio Art

Campus Involvement:
- Kappa Alpha Theta-Chief Recruiting Officer
- Meliora Catering-Office and Service Assistant
- Principles of Economics-Head Teacher’s Assistant

Career Interests:
- Finance
- Entrepreneurship

What has surprised you the most about UR?
The fact that everyone is passionate about something. Whether it be their major, their research, an organization, or even a club that they are involved in, every UR student is passionately dedicated to some aspect of campus life.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
As a woman from Bermuda, raised in suburban Virginia, I’m lost in that I am a “3rd Culture Kid”, born of both, belonging to neither. It is very difficult for me to feel at home anywhere. UR has is a place that I can call home. And that is phenomenal.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
My favorite would be Dandelion Day. I love warm weather, so when spring truly comes back, and you see all of the students outside and upbeat, you truly see the campus come alive again. The energy is truly contagious, and it’s become something that I look forward to every semester.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
It has unleashed a thirst for experience and fulfillment within me. Before UR, I tended to cap how much I thought that I could accomplish. UR as broken me from that way of thinking, and has truly allowed me the opportunity to grow into more than I could ever imagine.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
My experience is one of support and rigor. I not only feel appropriately challenged, but also up to that challenge. My experience is one of exposing myself to new responsibilities and situations; and feeling comfortable to do so because I know that there will be a support system to help.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
By giving back to the opportunities that UR has awarded me. As a member of Kappa Alpha Theta’s charter class, the Black Students’ Union, and Douglass Leadership House, I want to see the legacy and values of my fraternity grow and will remain invested in their continuous involvement on campus.
Adriana Tobar ’18

Hometown: Quito, Ecuador
Majors: Political Science & Economics
Clusters: Math & Philosophy

Campus Involvement:
- University of Rochester Student Advocates
- SA Campus Services Legislative Advisor
- City Cycles Coordinator
- Student Fundraiser

Career Interests:
- Lawyer
- Business

Family members that attended UR:
- Juan Bernardo Tobar ’14

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I selected Rochester because of the flexibility of being able to create my own academic path, while being surrounded by open-minded, intellectual, passionate people that would inspire me to go further.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I am proud of the people that the UR attracts. Proud of a community that is respectful, that makes everyone feel welcome, and will never turn away from helping someone despite having to complete duties of their own.

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
My favorite piece of UR history is 1900, when Susan B. Anthony persuaded the university to admit women. I think it speaks to an on-going effort of closing the gender gap. Coming here has inspired me to address the serious gender gap issue that currently exists in Ecuador.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I have definitely changed. I am now more aware of different issues that affect those around me, I have developed more narrow interests that have allowed me to learn and be inspired on what my next step should be, and I have learnt to really be grateful of every opportunity and to take advantage of it.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
I think I would like to stay connected both with the student body, as well as to the more administrative aspect. I would like to know what is going on with the programs, the infrastructure, as well as being able to connect with students and help them in any way possible.
Nick Vohra ’17
Hometown: Johns Creek, GA
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Minor: History

Campus Involvement:
- Engineers Without Borders
- Men’s Club Squash Team
- Meridian Society
- Club Tennis
- Delta Upsilon Fraternity

Achievements:
- Teaching Assistant for Physics 114 Labs
- Research Assistant for Dr. Wayne Knox

Career Interests:
- Vision Correction and Medical Instrumentation
- Entrepreneurship

What made you select Rochester as your University?
The reason I chose to come to Rochester is the open curriculum and the freedom students have here to learn what they wish. Nowhere else could I take Biomedical Microscopy and private drum lessons in the same semester, but at Rochester that is exactly what I am doing because of the freedom I have to learn here.

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
To think that our thriving University stemmed from rented out rooms in the United States Hotel in 1850 always fascinated me. How this school evolved, over the years through the contribution of George Eastman and countless others, all while erecting River Campus, Strong Hospital and The Eastman School of Music, continues to baffle me.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
Orientation Week was by far one of my favorite times in my college careers. I love how the University gives incoming freshman an entire week to properly assimilate them to college life as well as provided them ample time to meet as many new people as possible without classes interfering.

What do you wish was different about UR?
As a freshman I had no idea it was possible for me to receive a research position until it was too late and I had to wait until sophomore year. What I would have preferred is a method of clearly communicating to incoming freshman the proximity to opportunity they have when they enroll at the University.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
Ever since I arrived on campus I have found myself to be more ambitious in my academic and extracurricular goals. I have become more disciplined, better at time management, and passionate about my academics by being surrounded by students with similar characteristics.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
I would express the freedom I have to learn specific topics as well as the ample opportunity available to pursue interests outside the classroom. Specific examples would include my independent research where I get hands on experience working in a lab and Engineer Without Borders, where I can apply my engineering analysis in a philanthropic setting.
Nicholas Wachter ’17

Hometown: Bath, PA
Major: Business Marketing
Minor: Social Psychology
Clusters: Math and Statistics, Musical Styles and Ideas

Campus Involvement:
- Delta Upsilon
- Off Broadway On Campus (OBOC)
- Student’s Association Appropriations Committee (SAAC)
- Wilson Commons Building Manager
- Orientation Volunteer

Achievements:
- Study Abroad (Copenhagen Fall 2015)

Career Interests:
- Market Research/Consumer Insights
- Marketing

What made you select Rochester as your University?
Going to a school that allows its students to explore and combine their interests is something I looked for when visiting colleges. I really love the fact that at Rochester, I am able to take classes in areas that interest me while also exploring new fields that I have no knowledge in, and that was a big factor in my decision to select the U of R.

What aspects of UR are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-UR friends about?
I always love talking to my non-UR friends about the five-year programs we have here. They are always so surprised that the school would allow for some students to stay for a tuition free year, but I think it speaks to the university’s dedication to education and making their students “ever better.”

What is your favorite piece of UR history?
My favorite piece of history about the U of R is the fact that the River Campus land used to be a golf course! As a golfer, this was very intriguing to me and I believe that this little tidbit of history is very unique to the university.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
One tradition I’ve always enjoyed was the Candlelight ceremony during orientation. It is such a unifying experience for the freshman class and is one of the first times they are all together on campus. I was fortunate enough to see the ceremony as an orientation volunteer as well and it is a great experience, both as a participant and a bystander.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
I’d describe my UR experience as challenging, but also opportunistic. The university recognizes the importance of having a rigorous academic program, but also allows its students to grow both in and out of the classroom. Being able to study abroad has definitely been one of the largest opportunities I have taken advantage of while studying at Rochester and that had definitely positively affected my college experience.
Suneet Waghmarae ’17

Hometown: Buffalo, NY
Majors: Biology and Economics

Campus Involvement:
- Economics 108 Head Teaching Assistant
- Meridian Society
- Delta Upsilon Fraternity
- Strong Memorial Hospital volunteer

Career Interests:
- Medicine
- Hospital Administration
- Finance

What made you select Rochester as your University?
I selected Rochester because I felt like it was the perfect University for me. The beautiful campus, curriculum, and size were all contributing factors. However, the sense of comfort, and my ability to envision myself as a UR student throughout my visits were unique to Rochester.

What has surprised you the most about UR?
I was not expecting the student body to be so unified. U of R is a special University because the student body is constantly working together in classes and through student organizations. All this collaboration really contributes to the unique UR experience.

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
In Economics 207 I learned why it is more beneficial for a nation to have a volunteer based military opposed to a draft military. I was amazed by how this idea could be explained through economics. What was even more fascinating was how the late Walter Oi, a former Economics professor at the University of Rochester, created this concept.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
One of my favorite UR traditions is the candle lighting ceremony that each incoming freshman class experiences during orientation. Standing with my entire class on the Eastman Quadrangle, surrounded by the University’s most iconic buildings during my first night on campus was a very memorable experience.

How have you changed since your first day on campus?
I have become a better student, friend, and supporter and overall I’m a more confident and mature individual. Most importantly I’ve learned to step out of my comfort zone in an effort to get the most out of my college experience.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
So far UR has been a rollercoaster of an experience. I’ve learned so much in and out of the classroom, met incredible individuals, made lifelong friends, and experienced success and failure. What amazes me is how much this school has motivated and pushed me to be my best.
Stephen Wegman ’17
Hometown: Rochester, NY
Majors: Economics and Psychology
Minor: Computer Science

Campus Involvement:
- 2017 Class Council
- Students’ Association Government
- Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
- Meridian Society
- Orientation volunteer

Achievements:
- Award for Freshman Leadership
- Sigma Phi Epsilon Balanced Man Scholarship recipient

Career Interests:
- Finance
- Banking
- Management Consulting

Family members that attended UR:
- Martin Wegman ’10
- Katherine Wegman ’15

What made you select Rochester as your University?
Because my brother and sister attended Rochester, I strongly considered it as an option when I was applying for schools. Ultimately, I made the decision to come to UR because of the open curriculum. I could not be happier with my decision; Rochester has given me the chance to get involved in nearly everything I’m interested in!

What has surprised you the most about UR?
Diversity. Prior to attending Rochester, I knew that the student body had a substantial portion of international students but I didn’t realize how much of a positive impact diversity would have on me. My friends’ different cultural backgrounds have helped me more fully understand life outside of the ‘Rochester Bubble.’

What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?
In my involvement on Students’ Association Government, I learned that I have the power to improve student life at Rochester in such a large number of ways. This realization has motivated me to make the most out of my experience at UR.

What UR traditions do you enjoy?
“The Genesee” is definitely my favorite Rochester Tradition. Some of my most unforgettable “Rochester” memories have involved belting out the Alma Mater with my friends. Whenever I hear “The Genesee,” I feel very proud to be a Yellowjacket.

If you were asked to describe your UR experience (so far)—what would you say?
While I was extremely excited to begin exploring all of the opportunities that Rochester offers, my UR experience has far exceeded my expectations. I have found my roles on Class Council and Students’ Association Government to be excellent complements to the University’s academic rigor.

How do you think you’ll stay connected with UR after you graduate?
After graduation I hope to stay integrated with UR community by establishing opportunities for undergraduates who are interested in my field of work. For me, giving back is extremely important in carrying on the Rochester tradition of “Meliora.”