



UNIVERSITY *of*  
ROCHESTER

# Student Alumni Ambassadors

## 2021-2022



Office of Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement  
Bloch Alumni and Advancement Center  
300 East River Road  
Rochester, NY 14627



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## Student Alumni Ambassadors

### Overview:

The Student Alumni Ambassadors (SAAs) are a select group of College undergraduate students who serve as liaisons within the University alumni community, offering insights into current student culture and sharing their personal Rochester experience. The Student Alumni Ambassador program builds relationships among students and alumni and fosters pride in the University of Rochester.

### Purpose:

- ❖ Provide a bridge between current undergraduates and alumni.
- ❖ Provide student presence and perspective at alumni, parent, donor, and prospective family events, visits, and meetings, as well as in Advancement and University publications and communications.
- ❖ Understand the impact and importance of staying connected and giving back to one's alma mater, and can share this knowledge with their fellow classmates.
- ❖ Create a pipeline for future alumni leaders and donors.

### Roles and Responsibilities:

- ❖ Assist with on-campus, local, and regional alumni events, including: Meliora Weekend, presidential and George Eastman Circle events, student-alumni networking and other career-related events, alumni social gatherings (e.g. University of Rochester and professional sporting events, holiday parties, concerts, etc.), prospective and legacy family events, and current student events.
- ❖ Represent the current student body in University publications and communications.
- ❖ Conduct campus tours for alumni prospects, donors, and new Advancement staff.
- ❖ Assist with thanking alumni donors and volunteers by making phone calls, cards or letters, and videos.
- ❖ Provide the current student perspective when meeting with alumni prospects and donors, prospective and incoming families, and Advancement staff.
- ❖ Inform other undergraduates of the University's alumni community and the services offered by the Office of Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement.

### Member Benefits:

- ❖ Opportunities to acquire and sharpen leadership and communication skills while making personal and professional contacts.
- ❖ Unique access to influential alumni, parents, and friends of the University.
- ❖ Invitations to exclusive programs and events.
- ❖ Potential opportunities to travel on behalf of the University.
- ❖ Potential opportunity to attend an annual professional conference designed specifically for students in ambassador-like programs.

# **Abdullah Abuomar '22**

**Hometown:** Amman, Jordan

**Majors:** Biomedical Engineering, Biomechanics

**Cluster:** Spanish



## **Campus Involvement:**

- Engineering World Health
- Virtual Interviewer, Admissions and Financial Aid
- Student Association for the Development of Arab Cultural Awareness (SADACA)
- Team Lead Building Manager, Spurrier/Genesee as part of Wilson Commons Student Activities

## **Career Interests:**

- Product and Medical Device Development within Biomedical Engineering
- Research and Development within Biomechanics

## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I was really impressed by Rochester's campus community, the BME program and the vast range of opportunities available to international students. I decided to apply early decision and am really happy to have made this decision!

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

The fact that the University of Rochester takes really good care of its international student population. Because of this, I am able to work on campus and use the same opportunities as domestic students. Additionally, Rochester allows you to set your own schedule and choose your own classes, so students can go as hard or as soft as they want in terms of the academic load in a given semester—the autonomy feels great!

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I changed a lot! I feel much more capable of achieving tasks and working my way up the success ladder. I definitely managed to expand my leadership engagement on campus and point my interests in the right direction with Rochester's help. Therefore, the University has taught me how to be resilient and patient!

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience so far, what would you say?***

It has been very positive, and it is a constant reminder of why I'm glad to have applied early decision. I love the campus community, I love working with student organizations and departments, and I love pursuing my academics at UR. Every day is a different experience, and I look forward to seeing how the rest of my college experience will unfold.

# **Epiphany Adams '23**

**Hometown:** New York, NY

**Majors:** Economics, Psychology

**Cluster:** American Sign Language

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Minority Student Advisory Board
- National Society of Black Engineers
- Teaching Assistant
- Douglass Leadership House

## **Achievements:**

- Environmental Racism Research
- HEOP/ECO Student

## **Career Interests:**

- Psychologist/Therapist
- Professor or High School Teacher



### ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I selected Rochester as my university because of the Douglass Leadership House and its members. Upon visiting, I felt so welcomed and felt as though I was standing in the presence of leaders. I wanted to be like them!

### ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

How nice everyone is! Being from NYC, a lot of people mind their business and be on their way, but here? People genuinely care for you and want to help. It's inspiring!

### ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

How amazing the professors and advisors are! Once you get to know people here on a personal level, they are always willing to lend a hand to you and just be there. The community is an extremely caring one.

### ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I have DEFINITELY changed. What began as a shy girl looking for her place on campus, I immediately found my group of people. I was not as involved with my community, but now, I am SO involved in my communities. Now I'm a proud leader on campus.

# **Razan Alshehri '22**

**Hometown:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

**Majors:** Computer Science, Business Analytics

**Cluster:** Media, Culture, and Communications

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Refugee Student Alliance
- Research Assistant
- Student Association for the Development of Arab Cultural Awareness (SADACA)

## **Achievements:**

- Dean's list for 4 out of 5 semesters
- Inclusive Computing Program (Spring 2021)

## **Career Interests:**

- Business Analytics
- Data Science



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

The open curriculum. I think that it made it possible for me to pursue the two majors I love. It also gave me the freedom to explore other courses outside my majors/cluster that I'm interested in.

## ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

That Wilson Commons was designed by I. M. Pei, the same architect who designed the Louvre pyramid.

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

There are two main things that I really think are special at the University of Rochester. First, the exceptional community. People are very supportive and inspiring. Second, the number of resources offered to help everyone succeed.

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

Meliora Weekend for sure. I love seeing the campus full of visiting alumni and families. I also like taking pictures with the MELIORA letters and Rush Rhees Library in the background!

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

Very much! I grew substantially as a person. I made a lot of amazing friends from all over the world. I became more independent and organized. I'm much more involved on campus, and my academic performance continues to improve every semester.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience so far, what would you say?***

GROWTH. Exposure to different perspectives. Respect for others. Diversity. Enormous passion.

# **Mohammed (Mo) Bah '23**

**Hometown:** Monrovia, Liberia

**Majors:** International Relations

**Minors:** Computer Science, History

**Clusters:** French, Environmental Science

## **Campus Involvement:**

- GreenSpace
- Upperclass Ecorep Mentor
- Medallion Leadership Program
- UR Debate Union
- Research Assistant, Department of History

## **Achievements:**

- Davis Project for Peace
- Dean's list
- Xerox Foundation - David T. Kearns Fund
- Rochester National Grant

## **Career Interests:**

- Diplomacy, Foreign and Public Policy
- Law



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I chose the University of Rochester because of its unique open curriculum and diversity of student life—over 25% of its students are international. And most importantly, students get to explore the research of their choice throughout their college experience, even as first-year students.

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I am most proud of how resourceful the campus is. The University has so many programs that support students to excel academically, mentally, and have balance with schoolwork. And also, there is a huge support system within the students' network, where you get to meet people that are extremely supportive and friendly.

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

I enjoyed a lot of University of Rochester traditions but the one which stands out the most among the rest is Meliora Weekend. I really love the joyous celebration and unique sense of togetherness among students, parents, alumni, staff, and faculty members that is engraved within this tradition.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience so far, what would you say?***

First, I would proudly say that attending the University of Rochester was one of the best decisions I have made. I have committed my action towards serving our campus community in addressing various cross-cutting issues through my actions, clubs' initiatives, and the campus in general.



# **Megan Browne '23**

**Hometown:** Doylestown, PA

**Majors:** English, Psychology

**Cluster:** Music and Cognition

**Campus Involvement:**

- Campus Times
- D'Lions

**Achievements:**

- Humanities for Life
- PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) Research



**Career Interests:**

- Developmental Psychology

***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I was really anxious about going to college. However, it felt obvious that the University cares for its students and specifically focuses on making the first-year transition possible, and that made me feel comfortable and excited to come here.

***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

I've always been so excited about how involved the people here are. Every person who I've met is doing so many things and is so involved on campus, and it's so exciting to see people talk about their passions.

***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I really love how involved this University is with its community and how much it encourages students to continue that. This community serves us so well and it's so important to give back.

***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience so far, what would you say?***

Non-traditional. Not having a full year here without COVID has been an experience! But I'm hopeful for the future!

***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

I'm hoping to attend Meliora Weekend in the future and be a mentor in any capacity I can!

# **Madelyn (Maddy) Candela '22**

**Hometown:** Maynard, MA

**Major:** Political Science

**Minor:** Legal Studies

**Cluster:** Math



## **Campus Involvement:**

- Delta Gamma Fraternity
- Women's Club Soccer
- Wilson Commons Student Activities Common Connection Desk
- Dr. Chatbot Complete and Compete Campaign
- Teaching Assistant, Criminal Procedure and Constitutional Principles

## **Achievements:**

- Women's Club Soccer: Student Life Award for Excellence in Programming
- To be published alongside Attorney Edward Fiandach in Albany Law Review

## **Career Interests:**

- Criminal Defense/Constitutional Law Attorney
- National Security and Defense

## **Family members that attended the University of Rochester:**

- Michael Candela '89

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

The thing that has surprised me most is the amount of leadership opportunities that are available to us. It doesn't matter what age you are, if you are able and your peers see it you will be lifted up and put into leadership opportunities in which you can grow. I held two presidencies of large clubs as a sophomore!

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

Meliora and Yellowjacket Weekends are some of my favorites! I love being able to meet so many new people that found their home at Rochester just as I did, and my dad comes up every year to reunite with his fellow alumni as well. Also, working in student activities makes it that much better because all of the hard work you put into these events always pays off!

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I believe that I have matured professionally and in my leadership. The university has given me so many mentors and ways to pursue my career goals that I have grown more comfortable in my abilities to lead and go after what I want!



# **Olivia (Liv) Carrara '22**

**Hometown:** West Caldwell, NJ

**Majors:** Political Science, Psychology

**Cluster:** Sustainability and Legal Studies

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Gamma Phi Beta
- Teaching Assistant

## **Career Interests:**

- Policy Analyst
- Non-Profit work



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I chose Rochester because of the feeling of community and collaboration that I noticed when I first toured. I wanted to attend a college that was academically challenging but didn't have a competitive student body. For me, Rochester has been just that!

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

I think I have been most surprised by the diversity of interests on this campus. I am always excited to hear about people's passions and future plans because of how unique they usually are. I think that is something I really appreciate about our campus community because it introduces everyone to different things they might also be interested in!

## ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

The coolest thing I have done at the University of Rochester was going to the top of Rush Rhees and seeing the view of campus. I was able to go the first week of my freshman year and it remains one of my favorite memories.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

Since my first day on campus, I have grown so much as a person. I have learned how to take risks without fearing failure. The student body is so supportive and encouraging, which has really helped to ease my anxiety about trying new things, and has led me to gain countless great experiences.

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

I will definitely be returning for Meliora Weekend after I graduate to catch up with friends and visit campus! I am also confident that the connections I have made with people on this campus will keep me connected with Rochester for life.

# **Evan Coleman '23**

**Hometown:** Hamilton, NJ

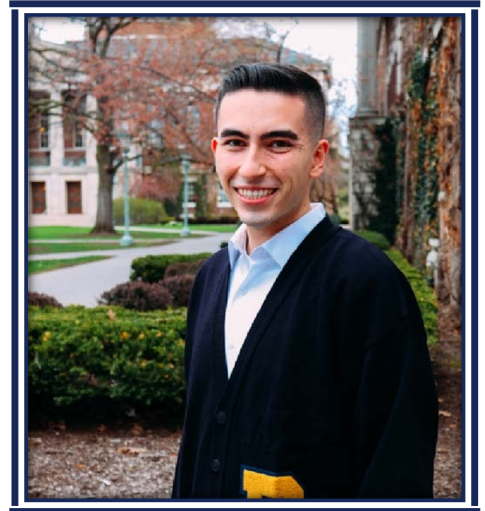
**Majors:** Business, English: Language, Media & Communication

**Minor:** Legal Studies

**Cluster:** Brain & Cognitive Sciences

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Resident Advisor
- Writing Fellow
- ROC Players
- The Opposite of People (TOOP)
- Mock Trial
- Medallion Program



## **Achievements:**

- Dean's List

## **Career Interests:**

- Attorney
- Business Administration

### ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

When deciding on a university, I wanted to go somewhere with a community I felt like I would fit into. After touring our campus and talking to current students, everyone was genuine and driven, and I saw myself reflected in the people I spoke to. The University of Rochester has continued to live up to my expectations and the community still has been the best fit for me.

### ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

I have been surprised at how tight-knit our campus community is. It feels like wherever I go there is always a familiar face, and it's a good feeling to be able to consistently socialize when going about my day on campus.

### ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I regularly tell my non-Rochester friends about all the amazing things my Rochester friends are up to! Every student is self-driven and has something they are striving for, and I am always in awe of everything my friends here are up to.

### ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience so far, what would you say?***

In one word, I would describe my experience so far as rewarding. I have built relationships and met people that make me the best version of myself. Additionally, I have grown as a leader and as a person, and I have pursued more opportunities than I could have imagined.

# **José Corredor '23**

**Hometown:** Caracas, Venezuela

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**Cluster:** Introduction to German Language and Culture

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Varsity Swimming and Diving

## **Achievements:**

- Swimming and Diving: Three-time School Record Holder (500, 1000 and 1650 Free)
- Swimming and Diving 2019-2020 Rookie of the Year and CSCAA Scholar All-American 2020 (Honorable Mention)



## **Career Interests:**

- Mechanical Engineering
- Biomechanical Engineering

## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

Among others, the three main reasons I chose the University of Rochester were the fact that it is a top tier academic and research institution, the chance it enabled me to follow my other extracurricular interests, and its beautiful campus.

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

How incredibly welcoming the campus community was when I came as a first year, and how you get that sense of community despite having a student body of 6,000+ undergrads, which was something impressive for someone whose graduation class in his small high school had around 40 students.

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

How human the University is and how it genuinely tries to do what is best not only for the institution itself but for the whole campus community and for society in general. A great example is the unwavering support they have provided us international students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

I loved having the chance to (literally) leave my mark on campus by painting the walls of the tunnels during orientation as a first year, and I also really enjoyed Meliora Weekend my first year!

# **Marguerite (Meg) Curtis '22**

**Hometown:** Syracuse, NY

**Majors:** Health, Behavior & Society, Spanish

**Cluster:** Language and Cognition

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Meridian Society
- Chamber Orchestra
- Gamma Phi Beta

## **Achievements:**

- Dean's List
- Certificate of Achievement in Community-Engaged Learning



## **Career Interest:**

- Maternal and Child Health
- Health Policy

## **Family members that attended the University of Rochester:**

- Kathleen Curtis '82, P'17
- Edward Curtis '92 (MA), P'17
- Julia Curtis '17

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I'm proud of all the opportunities we have as students to engage with the greater Rochester community. Community engagement has been an invaluable aspect of my Rochester education, and I feel extremely grateful for that.

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

I love the tradition of the orchestras playing Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture on the last day of classes. While I've only experienced it once, giving a spontaneous performance to celebrate the end of the school year was such a special memory, and I think the tradition is illustrative of Rochester student life.

## **Blaine Doyle '23**

**Hometown:** Cornwall on Hudson, NY

**Majors:** Economics, Political Science

**Minor:** Spanish

**Cluster:** Math and Statistics

### **Campus Involvement:**

- Meridian Society
- Committee for Political Engagement
- Research Assistant in Political Science Department

### **Achievements:**

- Suzanne O'Brien Book Award
- Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award

### **Career Interests:**

- I am not quite sure yet!



### ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

I really enjoy the rich tradition of a cappella groups we have at Rochester. While I myself do not have much in terms of musical talent, I love going to their concerts and appreciate how talented each group is. When there are concerts, they are some of my favorite events of the year.

### ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience so far, what would you say?***

I would say that it has been very full. Full of learning amazing new things, growing amazing relationships with new friends, new experiences like research or a college radio station, work that I actually enjoy and feel passionate about, and already full of great memories that I know I'll cherish for years to come.

### ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

I will be sure to attend alumni events like Meliora Weekend and make myself as available as possible to current students. I know that in my own experience being able to reach out to alumni for advice or connections has been a hugely valuable resource, so I hope to be able to provide the same for students to come.



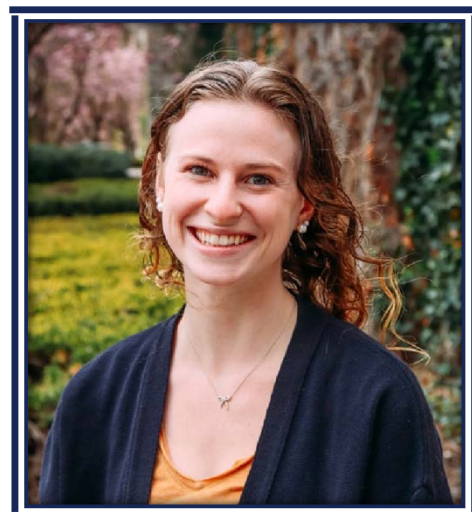
## **Payton Elliott '22**

**Hometown:** Victor, NY

**Majors:** Biological Science

**Minor:** Health Psychology

**Cluster:** American Sign Language



### **Campus Involvement:**

- Partners in Reading Project HORIZONS
- Medallion Leadership Society
- Teaching Assistant, Organic Chemistry
- Resident Advisor, Susan B. Anthony Hall
- Emergency Department Research Associate (EDRA), Strong Memorial Hospital
- Internship Coordinator, EDRA Program
- Provider Assistant in Strong ED

### **Achievements:**

- Medallion Program Level 1 completion (Tract: Rising Leader Class)
- Eastman Young Leader's Award

### **Career Interests:**

- Pediatrician (Family Office)
- Nurse Practitioner

### ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I selected Rochester because it was close to my heart and close to my home. I was diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder when I was 10 and spent 2 weeks in Golisano Children's Hospital. Rochester seemed to be the perfect fit academically and emotionally.

### ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

I hope to land a pediatric career in Rochester. My family and my entire life is rooted in Rochester, and the University of Rochester is a part of my story that has been helping me achieve success. I owe it to this school to be where I am at today, so I will stay connected by staying proximal to my homes!

# **Cesar (Cez) Garcia '22**

**Hometown:** Washington, D.C.

**Majors:** Business Analytics, Economics

**Clusters:** Media Studies, Mathematics

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Residential Advisor
- Students' Association
- Sigma Phi Epsilon

## **Achievements:**

- Student Life Award for Campus Contributions

## **Career Interests:**

- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Consulting
- Sports Management



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

Coming from Washington D.C., I wanted a university that fit the racial diversity I saw all throughout my life. The University of Rochester's commitment to international accessibility led to an easy choice.

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

A fun little tradition that I find hilarious is the myth about the clock tower in Dandelion Square. Rumor has it that if you walk under it, you won't graduate in four years. You can bet that I will not be testing my luck!

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

Over the past three years, I have gained a genuine interest in learning. The open curriculum has allowed myself and my peers to study what we want to study, creating an environment of authentic curiosity.

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

After I graduate, I believe the networks I have joined over my four years will provide great starting points to remaining part of the community. From continuing to read the Campus Times to joining the alumni board of Sigma Phi Epsilon, there are plenty of opportunities to stay connected.

# **Elizabeth Garijo-Garde '23**

**Hometown:** Darien, CT

**Majors:** Music, Public Health

**Cluster:** Music Cognition

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Meridian Society
- Resident Advisor, First-Year Housing
- Chamber Orchestra
- Writing Fellow
- Gamma Phi Beta Sorority

## **Achievements:**

- Suzanne J. O'Brien Book Award
- Dean's List
- Humanities Research and Innovation Grant

## **Career Interests:**

- Nonprofit work surrounding health and/or educational equity
- Music education



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I chose the University of Rochester because of the open curriculum and emphasis on music. During my college search, I knew that I didn't want to solely focus on music, so the Eastman connection was a big draw. I then fell in love with the campus and all the other opportunities!

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I'm really proud of the University's commitment to helping the city of Rochester. I've always valued community engagement so the fact that the University is invested in meaningful change in the city is something I love.

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

My favorite tradition is Meliora Weekend. I love how everyone who attends is so passionate about Rochester!

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

Rochester has definitely transformed me into a more assertive, confident young woman. I have found such a supportive community at the University who have pushed and challenged me to become better.

# **Fariha Haque '22**

**Hometown:** Wilmington, MA

**Majors:** Mathematics, Economics

**Minor:** Spanish

## **Campus Involvement:**

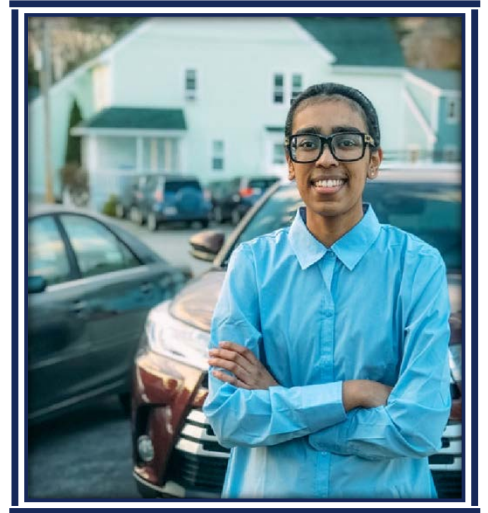
- Research Assistant, Dr. Hill's Health and Environmental Economics Lab
- Committee for Political Engagement
- The Pact: A Personal Mentoring Program

## **Achievements:**

- Dean's List
- Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award
- Modern Languages and Cultures Book Award

## **Career Interests:**

- Economic Research
- Data Analyst
- Health Policy



## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

There are so many aspects that I am proud of that it's difficult to narrow it down! If I were to choose a few, they would include the friendly and supportive community, the opportunity to participate in research, and of course, the tunnel system which is convenient during the long winters we have here in Rochester!

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

Yellowjacket Weekend is one of my favorite University of Rochester traditions. It's always very exciting and lively as well as a great way to catch up with friends after the summer break!

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I am more open-minded and willing to try new things that are outside of my comfort zone. I think a large part of this change stems from being in a diverse community of people who strive to make this campus inclusive and welcoming.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

I would say that it has been so worthwhile. The University of Rochester has given me many opportunities including the chance to pursue my passions inside and outside of the classroom, develop the skills I need to become a leader, and learn from some truly amazing professors.

# **Rusama Haque '23**

**Hometown:** New York, NY; raised in Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Majors:** Financial Economics, Political Science

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Students' Association Government
- Residential Advisor
- Title IX Student Employee
- Association for the Development of Interest in the Indian Subcontinent (ADITI)

## **Achievements:**

- 2023 Class Council
- Computer Science TA

## **Career Interests:**

- Investment Banking
- Public Service and Politics



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

The open curriculum, which would allow me to pursue my diverse academic interests, as well as the University's great focus on diversity and inclusion were extremely important factors. But what finalized the decision to choose Rochester for me was the warmth I felt from the students and campus community when I visited the University after I got accepted.

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

My favorite University of Rochester tradition is the Candlelight Ceremony as it was the most memorable part of orientation week that helped me feel a lot more connected to my peers and class year.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

Between having to balance classes and extracurriculars, trying to network with alumni to develop myself professionally, navigating friendships as well as academic relationships—I would say I've grown a great deal as an individual since I stepped foot in Rochester, and I'm so thankful for the positive change being here has brought about in me.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

Personally, I feel so grateful to be able to call the University of Rochester experience an extremely transformative journey that is constantly challenging me in the best ways possible to help me become a well- rounded individual. I keep learning something new about myself every day, and I cannot wait to see where this journey takes me.



# **Lillian (Lilly) Hutton '22, '23 (T5)**

**Hometown:** Albany, NY

**Majors:** History, International Relations

**Cluster:** Science & Sustainability

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Students' Association Government
- Committee for Political Engagement
- Meridian Society
- Club and Intramural Soccer

## **Achievements:**

- Alice DeSimone Award
- Dean's List

## **Career Interests:**

- Diplomat/State Department
- Historian



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I chose Rochester because of the people and the curriculum. I wanted a collaborative and inviting atmosphere with the ability to tailor courses to my interests and style of learning. Rochester is just what I wanted and so much more!

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I love how diverse our University is and that I have friends from across the world. I also love our curriculum. Since we do not have any required courses, I've been able to choose classes each semester that I want to take and that make me excited to learn!

## ***What is your favorite piece of history about the University of Rochester?***

I think it's fascinating that I'm able to study people who've impacted our nation and lived in Rochester. In particular, I've studied Frederick Douglass in more than one of my classes. The ability to physically go to historic places and review primary sources has been uniquely beneficial.

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

I know I'll come back and visit, especially on Meliora Weekend. I'm also excited to connect with current students once I'm an alumna, whether that be through a mentorship program or social media. I can't wait to see how Rochester transforms in the future.

# **Jennifer (Jenny) Jordahl '23**

**Hometown:** Arlington, MA

**Majors:** Psychology, Religion

**Minor:** Political Science

**Cluster:** Brain and Cognitive Science

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Student Programming Board
- Meridian Society
- Gamma Phi Beta Sorority
- Hillel
- Orientation Leader



## **Achievements:**

- Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award in Humanities and Social Sciences
- Suzanne J. O'Brien Book Award
- Dean's List

## **Career Interests:**

- Psychology Research
- Non-Governmental Organization

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I love telling my friends about our traditions. It's unique for a school to have so many events for their students and I think that really speaks to our campus community. I also loved having a full week of orientation; it definitely made my transition into college easier.

## ***What is your favorite piece of history about the University of Rochester?***

I love the story about not walking under the clock tower if you want to graduate in four years. Watching people cautiously avoid it every morning is so entertaining, and I love seeing people applying for one of our fifth-year programs ceremoniously walk under it!

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

My favorite tradition is the four Community Weekends we have on campus. They are such an amazing way to bring everyone together and celebrate our phenomenal student body. Meliora Weekend is an especially fun weekend because there are so many different groups of people on campus.

# **Haris Kalač '22**

**Hometown:** Rožaje, Montenegro

**Majors:** Political Science, International Relations



## **Campus Involvement:**

- Rush Rhees Library Office Assistant (CEILAM)
- European Horizons
- Undergraduate Political Science and IR Student Council
- Pan African Student Association
- Student Association for the Development of Arab Cultural Awareness (SADACA)
- Student Government

## **Achievements:**

- Dean's List
- UR Delegate at the Universal Leadership Symposium in Kuala Lumpur 2019
- UR Delegate at the European Student Conference at Yale University 2019

## **Career Interests:**

- Diplomacy/Politics/Human Rights/Nonprofit Work
- Computational Psycholinguistics

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

The sense of community; wherever you go, you will have someone to say hi to. Another thing that surprised me is definitely our beautiful campus, especially Rush Rhees Library where I literally spend more time than in my room. But the most shocking was the fact that there is always something going on; do not be surprised to see a Luna Park in front of Wilson Commons on Fridays honoring different University celebrations and seeing a famous singer or speaker in Strong Auditorium on Saturdays; so many things to see, learn and experience!!

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I regularly “brag” about our open curriculum and opportunities to try different things so I tell them that I can take an Astronomy class in the morning and an Arabic class in the afternoon even though I’m majoring in totally different fields... I mean, how incredible that is!

## ***What is your favorite piece of history about the University of Rochester?***

Definitely the myth of not walking beneath the clock tower because you will not graduate. (I did it twice without knowing this so pray for me that I get that diploma.)

# **Alexandra (Alex) Kaplan '22**

**Hometown:** Hollidaysburg, PA

**Majors:** Molecular Genetics; Health, Behavior, and Society

**Cluster:** Music Performance

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Gamma Phi Beta Sorority
- She's the First
- Friends of Strong Volunteer Program, University of Rochester Medical Center
- Peer Tutor, Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning
- Teaching Assistant, Public Health and Organic Chemistry



## **Achievements:**

- Research Assistant at the Center for Health + Technology (CHeT) at University of Rochester Medical Center
- Urban Fellow, Summer 2021
- University of Rochester Research and Innovation Grant recipient
- Dean's List

## **Career Interests:**

- Medicine
- Public Health

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

All of my friends back home know about our students' love of groundhogs, or "groundbois," if you will. This unofficial mascot, along with fellow residents Quad Fox and Albino squirrel, fuels our campus spirit. Other universities love their squirrels; we at the University of Rochester pride ourselves on *all* of our campus wildlife.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I am more confident in myself and my abilities, and I step out of my comfort zone regularly. The supportive network here has inspired me to apply for incredible opportunities. I never thought I would take flute lessons at Eastman or do ground-breaking research on Parkinson's disease. The spirit of Meliora is real, and it's been transformative for me.

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

After graduation, I want to remain heavily involved with the University of Rochester to ensure its continued success. I would love to organize volunteering and networking events for Rochester alumni around the world. As someone with a passion for music, I'll be sure to attend the Wind Symphony and Chamber and Symphony Orchestra concerts on Meliora Weekend!

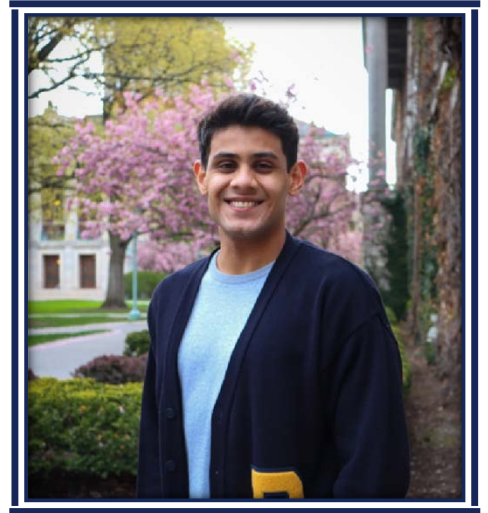
# **Sabeet Kazmi '23**

**Hometown:** Multan, Punjab, Pakistan

**Majors:** Philosophy, Economics, Brain & Cognitive Science (BCS)

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Students' Association Government
- Debate Union
- Varsity Squash
- Club Rugby
- Residential Advisor
- Meridian Society



## **Achievements:**

- 2023 Class Council
- Founder of The Religion Humanity Initiative

## **Career Interests:**

- Public Service and Politics
- Graduate studies in Law, Psychology and BCS

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

I loved the Candlelight Ceremony at the end of orientation. It was an emotionally evocative, breathtaking experience that made me feel very in-touch with all of my peers.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I have become more cognizant of flaws within myself, largely because of the variety of perspectives that this student body brings. It has allowed me to be more self-aware, ensuring that I can better identify mistakes and flaws in my thinking patterns before they affect me.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

Emotionally reconfiguring, intellectually stimulating and holistically enjoyable.

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

A lot of Instagramming, loads of direct engagement with students as a graduate, Meliora Weekend trips and hopefully some work with the squash team.



## **Darman Khan '21, '22 (T5)**

**Hometown:** Karachi, Pakistan

**Majors:** Physics

**Minor:** Computer Science and Mathematics

**Clusters:** Spanish, Psychology

**Take Five:** Faith v. Feminism: The Impact of Religion on Gender Inequality



### **Campus Involvement:**

- Resident Advisor, Jackson Court
- Tutor Mentor, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)
- Teaching Assistant, Departments of Physics & Astronomy, Computer Science and Psychology
- Research Assistant, Institute of Optics

### **Achievements:**

- Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society
- Dean's List

### **Career Interests:**

- Quantum Physics
- Astrophysics

### ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

As an international student aspiring to be a physicist, Rochester's focus on research and its diverse community were strong factors. Moreover, in my acceptance letter from the University, there were specific references to my application which added a personal touch to the letter and made Rochester stand out from other schools.

### ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

That we have our very own observatory! During an astronomy class in my first-year I went to visit the Mees Observatory with some of my classmates to take pictures of the planets of Neptune and Uranus along with their moons for a project. As we waited around for the planets to become visible, we pointed the telescope at random stars and collected some really cool pictures!

### ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

Rochester's flexible academic curriculum is one of its defining qualities that sets it apart from a lot of colleges. It truly awards students the freedom to study anything they're passionate about. The Take Five program in particular is a testament to Rochester's commitment towards promoting the pursuit of intellectual interests.

## **Ko Ko '22**

**Hometown:** Utica, NY; Originally from Myanmar and Thailand

**Majors:** Business, Marketing

**Cluster:** Writing

**Campus Involvement:**

- 2022 Class Council
- Hall Council

**Career Interests:**

- Director of marketing
- Entrepreneurship



***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

I believe creative, visual and performing arts are an integral part of a well-rounded education. I am surprised by the rich culture, art and music that the city of Rochester and the University could provide. Rochester has a thriving arts and culture scene. From music and museums to readings and productions, there's so much to experience.

***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

The abundant clubs and organizations that every student can take advantage of at the University. Even if the organization does not exist, you have the opportunity to create your own club with your friends. Students are bound to find the club, interest group, team, ensemble, kindred spirits or common purpose that makes their time outside of classes meaningful.

***What is your favorite piece of history about the University of Rochester?***

Meliora is our work ethic and it is the school motto. The idea for the motto is credited to Asahel Kendrick, professor of Greek at the University in the 19th century. Legend has it that it likely originated in Ovid's Metamorphoses, book 7, lines 20-21: "video meliora, proboque..." which means, "I see better things..."

***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

After graduating, I will be coming to Meliora Weekend to reunite with my friends and former classmates. Reconnecting with the University of Rochester community will be a good chance for me to revive my Meliora spirit. This is one way I will be staying connected with the University of Rochester.

## **Celia Konowe '21, '22 (T5)**

**Hometown:** Reston, VA

**Majors:** Environmental Studies

**Minors:** French, Theatre

**Clusters:** History, Audio-Music Engineering

**Take Five:** Jewish Studies and History

### **Campus Involvement:**

- WRUR
- International Theatre Program
- Senior Interviewer, Office of Admissions
- Meridian Society
- Club Field Hockey
- Drama House



### **Achievements:**

- Study abroad: one-month study in Rennes, France (summer 2019) and semester-long program in Ecuador (Quito & the Galapagos; spring 2020)
- Dean's List
- Russell A. Peck and Todd Theatre prizes

### **Career Interests:**

- Environmental Science & Sustainability
- Digital Media & Performing Arts
- Foreign Languages

### **Family members that attended the University of Rochester:**

- Adam Konowe '90

### ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

As a legacy student, I grew up surrounded by the University of Rochester culture and passion, constantly a witness to the positive effect that this powerful community can have on an alum and their family. From an early age, I was easily able to call this university “home.”

### ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

Meliora Weekend is by far my favorite tradition. Having attended every year since age five, this event is a staple for the University. I love celebrating the school and its accomplishments with the University of Rochester community—students, staff/faculty, and alumni, included.

# **Mansi Kothari '24**

**Hometown:** Long Island, NY

**Majors:** Biomedical Engineering, Pre-Med

**Cluster:** Public Health

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Rochester Bhangra
- Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES)

## **Achievements:**

- Research and Innovation Grant
- Dean's List

## **Career Interests:**

- Medicine
- Dentistry



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I selected Rochester as my university because of its open curriculum. As an engineering and pre-med student, this school allows me to have flexibility in the classes I take and allows me to focus on just my interest, passions, and career.

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

Everybody on campus is super friendly and supportive. When I was coming to college, I thought everyone would be on their own, but it was the complete opposite. People are always there to help in all aspects of our college life which is amazing.

## ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

The coolest thing I have learned in Bhangra. I was never a dancer, but when I came onto campus, I decided to join the Bhangra team. Since joining the team, I have actually learned how to dance and was able to perform for Rochester events which is really cool.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

My experience has been remarkable. I have been able to meet so many new people, make great memories, explore, try new things outside my comfort zone, and find my real interests. In this year, I was able to grow academically and personally which was absolutely rewarding.

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

After I graduate from the University of Rochester, I hope to provide mentorship to BME and pre-med students. I know how hard it can get because there are so many requirements, opportunities, and experiences in these fields. I believe that talking to an alumni would be a helpful resource.

# **Phuong Le '23**

**Hometown:** Hanoi, Vietnam

**Major:** Biomedical Engineering

**Minor:** Chemistry

**Cluster:** Public Health

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Rochester Bhangra
- First-Year Resident Advisor
- Vietnamese Student Association (VSA)

## **Achievements:**

- Research & Innovation Grant
- Undergraduate researcher at Baran Lab (Optics & BME)

## **Career Interests:**

- Physician-scientist
- Medical device regulations



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I was interested in research opportunities at Strong and the music scene at Eastman. Also, I was very interested in the YellowJackets (acapella group), to the point that I even had favorite performances from them!

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

I think Celebrate Diversity would be my most favorite tradition! It was such a spectacular event that showcases the amazing artistic activities of our student body. Meliora Weekend is also a very enjoyable and fun event.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

My experience has helped me learn many new things. I have participated in clubs and taken classes that I never thought I would have done in college and I am very grateful for the opportunity to do so.

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

I would love to visit the campus and my dance team during Meliora weekend to see how they are doing and how campus has changed since I left. Other than that, I would stay updated through social media!



# **Henry Litsky '23**

**Hometown:** East Fishkill, NY

**Majors:** Political Science; Language Media & Communication

**Minor:** Legal Studies

**Cluster:** Earth and the Environment

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Campus Times
- Meridian Society
- Photography Club

## **Achievements:**

- Third Place in Photography in the 2020 Better News Paper College Contest hosted by the New York Press Association



## **Career Interests:**

- Journalism
- Law and Public Policy work specifically focused on transportation, housing, crime and/or city development.

## **Family members that attended the University of Rochester:**

- Charles Fleischman '59

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

The diversity of people from all over the world. My first friends on my first-year hall were from California, Louisiana, Boston, Chicago, South Korea, Pakistan, Singapore, Greece, and many other places from across the U.S. and the world.

## ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

Learning about the history of America's prison system in one course while going into the courthouse weekly and witnessing the system firsthand in another taught by the administrative judge was an incredible experience.

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I love to tell my friends from home about the open curriculum and the community engaged learning courses I have at my disposal. Without laundry list core requirements, I have been able to pursue my passions and take courses which brought me into the Rochester court system, city government, and urban farms firsthand.

# **Victoria Liverpool '22**

**Hometown:** Montclair, NJ

**Major:** International Relations

**Minor:** Spanish

**Clusters:** Media, Culture, & Communications, Global Climate Change

## **Campus Involvement:**

- 2022 Class Council
- Medallion Leadership Society
- Committee for Political Engagement
- Q&i Library
- Douglass Leadership House



## **Achievements:**

- Study Abroad: Madrid, Spain

## **Career Interests:**

- International Policy
- Human Rights Law
- Social Media Specialist

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

Something that has really surprised me is that there really is something for everyone to be involved in. From clubs to political organizations, to special interest housing, students can find somewhere they belong.

## ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

In my Psychology 101 class, we were studying developmental psychology and we learned about attachment styles. Once I understood the root of a person's attachment, I could not only understand myself better, but the people around me including my family. For weeks, I went around telling everyone what I thought their attachment style was.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

When my friends ask me about my University of Rochester experience so far, I tell them that I found my home. I came onto this campus and found amazing friends that I'll have for a lifetime. I walk around campus and there are so many familiar faces everywhere that I go. The professors that I've had want their students to learn and be able to apply the material in the real world and I appreciate that more than anything.

# **John Gerald Maqui '22**

**Hometown:** Anchorage, AK

**Major:** Anthropology

**Minor:** Biology

**Cluster:** Studio Arts

## **Campus Involvement:**

- 2022 Class Council
- Filipino-American Student Association
- Fashion Club
- Orientation

## **Career Interests:**

- Cultural Anthropologist
- Wildlife Photography
- Culinary Arts



## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

It has always surprised me how every University of Rochester student has so many different and diverse interests, from being interested in martial arts, to photography, to makers club. Students are so well-rounded and engaged on campus no matter how busy they get. Also, the weather's unpredictability is a constant surprise.

## ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

Learning the proper stance and techniques in fencing was definitely one of the coolest things I've learned on campus. Putting on the fencing uniform and lunging at a fencing partner was such an empowering and freeing experience to have. It's something I definitely recommend people try out at least once.

## ***What is your favorite piece of history about the University of Rochester?***

My favorite piece of history is of how the land for the campus was acquired and how the dandelion became the symbol for the school. I think that it's interesting how this land used to be a cow pasture that was filled with dandelions thus making dandelions the flower of the school.

# **Esha Mardikar '23**

**Hometown:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Majors:** Economics, Philosophy

**Cluster:** Statistics

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Hindu Students' Association
- Rochester Rangoli
- Forté Campus
- Research Assistant, Health and Environmental Economics Lab
- Orientation leader



## **Achievements:**

- Dean's List (all applicable semesters)

## **Career Interests:**

- Business and Entrepreneurship

***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

Over the last year in particular, I've been so proud of how the University navigated the complications of the pandemic and the effects it had on students. Even while I was studying remotely, I still felt connected to the school community and I was so thankful for how accommodating everyone was!

***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

I love all the first-year traditions, from the Candlelight Ceremony to signing the class roll and even taking the class picture (despite the craziness of being organized to form the shape of our class year)!

***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I think I've become more confident, calm, and self-assured. I'm not as worried about what people might think of me, and I've definitely found my place in our student community!

***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

It's definitely been unorthodox, since I spent my entire sophomore year at home! But I'd say it's been one long learning experience—both in and out of the classroom.

***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

I hope to be able to return for Meliora Weekend, and I definitely plan on staying close to the friends I've made here! I'll always be a Yellowjacket at heart!

# **Nalani Miller '23**

**Hometown:** Waikale, HI

**Majors:** Molecular Genetics, Pre-Med

**Minor:** Business

**Cluster:** Bioethics

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Panhellenic Association
- Student Health Advisory Committee
- Undergraduate Research, Gorbunova Lab
- She's The First
- Gamma Phi Beta



## **Achievements:**

- Researching the effects of SIRT6 on cell repair at Gorbunova Lab

## **Career Interests:**

- Orthopedic Surgeon
- Medical Oncologist

## ***What is your favorite piece of history about the University of Rochester?***

My favorite piece of history is that Susan B. Anthony pushed for women to be admitted to the University of Rochester, along with her many other accomplishments.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I have changed immensely since coming to campus. I was so scared and intimidated initially, though now I am much more confident. I have found people that I feel that I can be myself around, and I am a part of clubs and organizations that I am passionate about.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

I would say that my experience has been life changing. Going to college has made me expand what I already know and to also get way outside of my comfort zone.



## **Vincent (Vince) Millette '23**

**Hometown:** Brooklyn, NY; Trinidad & Tobago

**Majors:** Business Finance

**Minor:** Spanish

**Clusters:** Calculus & Statistics

### **Campus Involvement:**

- First Gen Society
- Society of Caribbean Awareness (SOCA)
- Medallion Program

### **Career Interests:**

- Management Consulting
- Investment Banking

### **Family members that attended the University of Rochester:**

- Victoria Millette '24

### ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I honestly chose the University of Rochester because of the open curriculum and the diverse environment. After taking classes I wasn't interested in for years throughout high school, I made a pact with myself to control my style of learning.

### ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

The collaborative environment here at Rochester surprised me the most because I was expecting students to be very competitive with each other like I've heard at other institutions.

### ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I've learned that everyone's journey is different, and I stopped comparing myself to other people and instead figured out what worked best for me. The acronym FAIL means "the first attempt in learning" and I redefined my struggles here.



# Juan (JP) Monroy-Amezquita '23

**Hometown:** Los Angeles, CA

**Major:** Microbiology

**Minor:** Latin American Studies

**Cluster:** Japanese Language and Culture

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Resident Advisor, First-Year Hill
- Tutor, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)
- Emergency Department Research Associate Internship

## **Career Interests:**

- Nursing
- Pre-Health



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I selected Rochester because of the heavy emphasis on fostering an international student population. Coming from an international high school, I wanted to ensure that values such as internationality, open-mindedness, and collaboration were frontline at whatever school I would attend.

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

The most delightful surprise to me has been seeing how invested people are in their education as well as that of their friends. It feels so amazing to have your friends share your accomplishments with you, foster a mindset of learning for the sake of learning, and overall feel supported by your peers.

## ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

One of the coolest things I have learned is how engaging and community-oriented the neighborhoods around the University are as well as the city of Rochester itself. Getting off-campus and learning about local life in Rochester has enriched my general learning and experience at the University of Rochester.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

My University of Rochester experience has been, as many would say, “unprecedented” and has taught me how to be flexible and self-aware. I have learned how to adapt many different aspects of my life to a new normal and to prioritize what really matters to me.

# **Sybilla Moore '24**

**Hometown:** Wallingford, PA

**Majors:** Neuroscience, Health Policy

## **Campus Involvement:**

- 2024 Class Council
- Resident Advisor, Hill Court
- EcoReps PLAN

## **Career Interests:**

- Psychopharmacology Research
- Public Health Policymaker
- Working abroad with communities on public health initiatives



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I chose Rochester because it is competitive yet still founded in passion, genuine curiosity, and wanting to see everyone succeed. The University is an environment where people will wholeheartedly talk and listen in earnest about each other's passions and work without feeling the need to compete for importance. That's beautiful.

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

People are kinder and more inclusive than I could ever expect! It doesn't matter what year you are or how well you know someone, everyone you meet is eager to provide assistance, advice, or get you in touch with a connection.

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

The acapella community, or in the grander scheme, just the prevalence of musical talent on campus! I tell my friends that sometimes campus feels like being in a real-life Pitch Perfect movie.

## ***What is your favorite piece of history about the University of Rochester?***

I love the story behind the founding of the Douglass Leadership House. I recently watched a video of someone explaining all the work that went into getting the house and it was really a testament to student determination, resilience, and an amazing reclaiming of a space.

# **Abdelrahman (Abdul) Nahar '22**

**Hometown:** Khartoum, Sudan

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**Minor:** International Relations

**Cluster:** Photography



## **Campus Involvement:**

- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Intramural Soccer
- Pan African Students Association (PASA)
- UR UNICEF
- Teaching Assistant, Department of Computer Science

## **Achievements:**

- Dean's List
- Honorable Mention: International Student Photo Contest

## **Career Interests:**

- Sustainable Automotive Industry
- Entrepreneurship and Development

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I am always quick to boast and brag about the University of Rochester to my friends and family. One of the things I like to highlight is the notable faculty and alumni who have won Nobel Prizes in their fields. I always never fail to mention how amazing and highly ranked Eastman School of Music and Simon School of Business are!

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

The Candlelight Ceremony is definitely one of my favorite traditions here. It is an amazing and memorable celebration of the lifelong connection that you will have with the University and also a personal highlight of my Orientation Week.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

Being at the University of Rochester has really challenged me in many ways. The academic rigor is unlike anything I have experienced before, but it comes with the quality education and is almost a requirement for any engineering student. Moreover, I have learned to interact and network in a professional setting, which is pivotal for any college student.

# **Katrina Nicholas '23**

**Hometown:** Pittsford, NY

**Majors:** Psychology, Brain and Cognitive Sciences

**Minor:** American Sign Language

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Rochester Bhangra
- The PACT Mentor
- ASL Club

## **Achievements:**

- Undergraduate Research Assistant under Dr. Rosengren

## **Career Interests:**

- Child psychologist
- Developmental Psychology researcher

## **Family members that attended the University of Rochester:**

- Tiffany Nicholas '19, '20 (T5)



## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

One aspect of Rochester that I am most proud of is the diversity of the school. There is not only a lot of diversity regarding ethnicity and culture, but there is also diversity of ideas and mindsets that sets Rochester apart from other colleges.

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

One of my favorite traditions is Celebrate Diversity. As a first-year student, it was amazing to see a part of the school's diversity showcased in one spectacular event. Seeing just how many groups there were emphasized that there is always a place for everyone at Rochester.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I have become considerably more confident in expressing who I am and my opinions. Being in such a supportive environment really gave me the chance to grow into a more self-assured person who's able to pursue my passions.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

My experience so far has been absolutely mind blowing. I never imagined that I would have countless opportunities to leave my mark on the school. From academics, to undergraduate research, to student organizations, there are so many things that I love being a part of that make every day amazing.



# **Katie O'Leary '24**

**Hometown:** West Hartford, CT; Guangzhou Province, China

**Majors:** Biology, Linguistics

**Minor:** Chinese

## **Campus Involvement:**

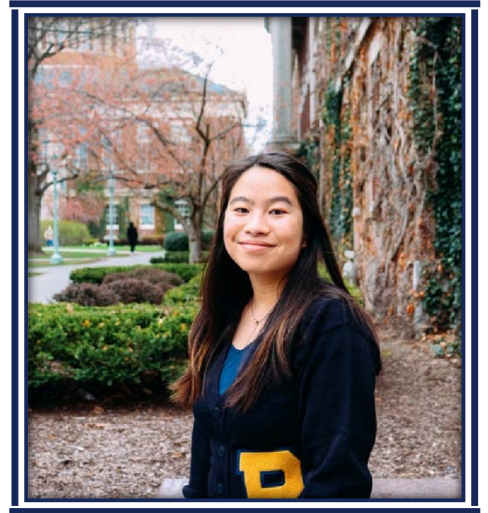
- Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers
- Chamber Orchestra
- Chamber Ensemble
- Secretary of Alumni and Advancement
- DandyHacks

## **Achievements:**

- Rising Leader Class

## **Career Interests:**

- Medicine
- Intelligence Analyst



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I loved the prospect of an open curriculum, which I am definitely taking advantage of since I came in undecided freshman year. I also loved all the additional opportunities offered such as the Take Five program and lessons at Eastman.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I feel that I have absolutely become more open-minded after meeting so many different people from different backgrounds, as well as a better listener when talking to people. I have also become more confident in myself and who I want to become.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

Stressful, but rewarding and fun. I have met so many lovely people who have supported me since I stepped on campus. Although classes can be challenging, it is so rewarding to learn something new and be able to apply it to many situations.

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

Definitely! I love the community here and would love to help out future students who were once in my shoes develop professionally and personally.

# **Maria Plessia '22**

**Hometown:** Tripoli, Arcadia, Greece

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**Minor:** Computer Science

**Cluster:** Spanish

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Students' Association Government
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- Meridian Society
- Engineering World Health

## **Achievements:**

- Discover Grant 2020 recipient
- DAAD RISE Fellowship for Research in Engineering

## **Career Interests:**

- Machine Learning
- Computational Engineering

## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I chose the University of Rochester because of its large international student population. For me it was important to have a strong support system as a first-generation student so far away from home, and the community here felt like the perfect fit.

## ***What has surprised you most about the University of Rochester?***

The large amount of research opportunities and grants offered for students!

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

My favorite traditions are Yellowjacket Weekend and Winterfest Weekend. I love the vibe of Yellowjacket Weekend because the weather is great, we get to link up with so many people that are back from the summer holidays, and we always have great artists performing. I also love Winterfest Weekend because of all the fun games, the giveaways, and the food!



# **Fariha Raisa '22**

**Hometown:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Majors:** Economics, Applied Mathematics

**Minor:** French

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Undergraduate Finance and Economics Council
- Tutor, Kearns Center
- Workshop Leader, Math
- Alpha Phi Omega

## **Achievements:**

- Study Abroad in France

## **Career Interests:**

- Research in Development Economics and Public Policy



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I got to know about the University of Rochester when I came to the U.S. as a high school junior on a state sponsored exchange program. The American high school I attended had graduating seniors who had committed to Rochester. When I looked up the university, I found out that it was one of the few colleges that offered need-based aid to international students. So, after completing the exchange year, I went back to Bangladesh and applied early decision. It was either Rochester or nothing! The University of Rochester really made my dream to study abroad possible with the generous aid.

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I am really proud and appreciative of how supportive everyone is on campus. The friendly, inclusive and open environment made possible by the university community makes Rochester feel like home. I am always grateful for the sense of belonging I get here and I love to talk about how safe and comfortable I feel to be my genuine self while I am on campus.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

Being at Rochester has allowed me the space to explore and better understand myself and my identities. I would like to believe that I have developed more self-awareness since my first day on campus. Moreover, being surrounded by thoughtful friends at Rochester, I have been pushed and challenged to broaden my perspective. I appreciate how my way of thinking has changed and expanded since stepping onto the campus for the first time.

# **Katherine Rodriguez '23**

**Hometown:** Orlando, FL

**Major:** Cell and Developmental Biology

**Minor:** Medical Anthropology

**Cluster:** Bioethics

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Undergraduate Research, Harris Lab, University of Rochester Medical Center
- Spanish and Latino Students Expressing Rhythm on Stage (SALSEROS)
- Highland Hospital Elder Life Program, University of Rochester Medical Center
- STEM Initiative
- Bilingual Research Coordinator, University of Rochester Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry
- Wilson Commons Student Activities Food Pantry
- Minority Association for Pre-Medical Students (MAPS)
- Medallion Program



## **Achievements:**

- University of Rochester Research and Innovation Grant
- University of Rochester Discover Grant
- Publication in Neuro-Oncology Advances “Melatonin Reduces Malignancy of Breast Cancer Brain Metastatic Cells”

## **Career Interests:**

- Physician (MD)
- Ph.D. in Cancer Biology (researcher)

## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I selected Rochester due to the fantastic research opportunities available for students. Rochester is a top-tier research institution. I knew that I was interested in pursuing a career in research, and Rochester has allowed me to seek mentorship from highly distinguished faculty at the University of Rochester Medical Center. I am a Research and Innovation Grant recipient, and the University has been super supportive in my undergraduate research journey.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I have become a more well-rounded student. Through the cluster system, I have started to pursue other interests like Medical Anthropology and Bioethics. The flexibility in my schedule allowed me to take classes in other disciplines that interested me.

# **Anne (Annie) Rosenow '22**

**Hometown:** Williamsport, PA

**Major:** Political Science

**Minors:** Economics, Spanish

**Cluster:** Earth and the Environment



## **Campus Involvement:**

- Food Recovery Network
- Dining Team Green
- Research Assistant, Department of Political Science
- Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics
- Voter Outreach Committee, Committee for Political Engagement

## **Achievements:**

- Recipient of the Suzanne J. O'Brien Book Award on behalf of the Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society
- Conduct research for the Political Science Department pertaining to U.S. food policy
- Conduct research pertaining to residential segregation and zoning codes throughout Monroe County
- Named Student Employee of the Year (2020-2021)
- Dean's List all eligible semesters

## **Career Interests:**

- Local/State Government Official
- Public Policy

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I constantly brag to my friends that I have yet to have a bad professor at Rochester. All of my professors are distinguished in their fields and have taught me invaluable information and life lessons.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

I would describe my experience as the most fulfilling years of my life. So far, at Rochester I have found my passions, hobbies, and most importantly, my people.

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

After graduation, I hope to continue to work towards strengthening the connection between the Rochester community and our campus. I want to give back to the community as a way of saying thank you. By strengthening the connections between campus and the community, students will be able to connect and learn from the members in the community which will help them grow.



# **Helena Schreder '22**

**Hometown:** Lancaster, PA

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**Minor:** Studio Arts

**Cluster:** Studio Arts

## **Campus Involvement:**

- American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- Orientation leader
- Meridian Society
- Tau Beta Pi

## **Achievements:**

- Susan J. O'Brien Book Award
- Dean's List

## **Career Interests:**

- Mechanical Engineering Industry



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I came to the University of Rochester because I wanted to go to school at a place where students valued collaboration over competition. I definitely found that in Rochester; some of my best friends are the people in my classes and we are always working together to make sure everyone succeeds.

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

I didn't realize how diverse the University was until I was actually on campus. I have been exposed to so many new perspectives and worldviews since arriving here. I love getting to connect with and learn from people from so many different backgrounds.

## ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

I think it is so cool that Wilson Commons was designed by I.M. Pei (architect behind the Louvre pyramid)! That's one of my favorite spots on campus and I love to admire the design behind the structure (very on-brand for being a mechanical engineering major).

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

I feel like I have found who I am here, and I have been able to make this place my home. I have a great and supportive group of friends, I absolutely love what I am studying, and I have been able to work with some truly amazing people in orientation.

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

I hope to stay connected with Rochester through keeping the friendships that I have formed when I have been here. I am also very excited to come back and visit campus so I can see what my favorite spots look like in the future or what student are up to then.

# **Prajita Shrestha '22**

**Hometown:** Kathmandu, Nepal

**Majors:** Accounting and Public Health

**Clusters:** American Sign Language and Math

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Student Interviewer, Office of International Admissions
- Student Consultant, iZone
- Meliora Finance and Investment Group

## **Achievements:**

- Research and Innovation Grant
- Dean's List

## **Career Interests:**

- Banker
- Corporate Support
- Product Manager



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

Ever since I realized that I was interested in public health, Rochester became my top priority. The University of Rochester has five different public health programs for undergraduates, which is very rare for any university. The ability to explore all these different forms of public health was my main attraction to Rochester.

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

I definitely had a good idea about how the University of Rochester is one of the top research universities in the country, but I didn't know we were *this* big on research. I had never imagined having two research internships before first-year spring. It's overwhelming!

## ***What is your favorite piece of history about the University of Rochester?***

For one of my classes, we learned about Susan B. Anthony Hall. We went through the old floor plan of the hall and learned about the integration of female dorms into the building. I enjoyed learning about how the residence hall evolved with the changing priorities of the university's values.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I think I have become more independent and mindful as compared to my first few days on campus. I am transitioning towards intrinsic learning and skill building. I have also grown to be more grateful, respectful and accepting of the experiences that I have lived through.

# Lejla Šoše, '22

**Hometown:** Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Majors:** Neuroscience, Psychology

**Cluster:** German Language and Culture

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Research Assistant, University of Rochester Medical Center
- Workshop Leader
- Tutor, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- UR Connected Coach

## **Achievements:**

- Dean's List
- Undergraduate Research Expo Symposium speaker

## **Career Interests:**

- PhD in Neuroscience
- Research professor



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

The academic program for Neuroscience and Psychology, research opportunities and a large community of international students.

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

University alumni and faculty have received thirteen Nobel Prizes!

## ***What is your favorite piece of history about the University of Rochester?***

My favorite piece of Rochester history is the fact that Susan B. Anthony pushed for women to be admitted to the University and even pledged her life insurance savings to the University for this cause. Her fight for inclusivity is part of the reason why I'm able to be here today!

## ***How do you think you'll stay connected with the University after you graduate?***

I plan to stay connected with Rochester through The Meliora Collective, coming back for reunions and Meliora Weekends! I would also like to mentor other students, because I would like to give back to the community that already gave me so much.

# **Victoria (Vicka) Ter-Ovanesyan '22**

**Hometown:** Boston, MA; originally from Moscow, Russia

**Majors:** Economics, Political Science

**Minor:** Spanish

**Cluster:** Math for Social Science

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Student Consultant, Barbara J. Burger iZone
- Forté Rochester
- Meliora Fitness

## **Achievements:**

- Recipient of the Research Innovation Grant

## **Career Interests:**

- Tech Startups/Venture
- Finance/Consulting



## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I loved everything about it! I wanted a school with a lot of international students from all over the world, and the University's partnership with UWC schools and students made that a reality. I wanted to go to a research, STEM-focused university and Rochester was perfect for that. Finally, have you seen this gorgeous campus? It was love at first sight!

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

How international and nerdy we are. I am friends with people from 14+ different countries and I have learned so much from all of them. I also love how cool but nerdy everyone I've met here is. People are so passionate about their work/school/research and at the same time have really cool hobbies and are well-rounded individuals.

## ***What is your favorite piece of history about the University of Rochester?***

Susan B Anthony and her connection to the University and city of Rochester

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

For one, I have completely changed my mind on what I want to do with my life. I came in thinking I will do political science and go to law school. Now, I love economics, love working with startups and hope to work either on Wall Street or in San Francisco in a tech startup.

# **Niharika Thakur '22**

**Hometown:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

**Majors:** History, Political Science

**Clusters:** Calculus, Religion

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Undergraduate Research Assistant, Political Science Department
- Rochester Rangoli
- Hindu Students' Association
- UNICEF Club



## **Achievements:**

- Hugh MacKenzie Memorial Prize for History
- RIG Grant recipient
- History Honors program

## **Career Interests:**

- Management Consulting

### ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I am a strong believer in “learning by doing” and I wanted a university that shared this philosophy. I found that in the University of Rochester, given its numerous research opportunities for undergraduates, which I thought was pretty unique!

### ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

That the roots of American democracy lie in townships.

### ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I always talk about how incredible my professors are. Not only are they extremely knowledgeable in their fields, but they also really care that I make the most of my education. A big part of my experience here has been shaped by some professors who met me to discuss career prospects, helped get me research opportunities, and also passed along other learning programs and scholarships they thought I would benefit from.

### ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

A classic one but I love Meliora Weekend! It really brightens my week seeing so many alumni and their families come to campus, because it's great hearing their experiences and reminding yourself that you are a part of a much greater Rochester family.



# **Brendon Tran '22**

**Hometown:** Dunellen, NJ

**Majors:** Neuroscience, Public Health

**Cluster:** Philosophy

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Meridian Society
- 2022 Class Council
- GlobeMed
- Ballet Performance Group
- Rice Crew Performance
- Research Assistant, Department of Developmental and Behavioral Sciences



## **Achievements:**

- GlobeMed (GROW) Internship
- One Community panelist 2020
- Teach For America recipient

## **Career Interests:**

- Public Health Education/Outreach
- High School Education/Teacher
- Neuroscience Research

## ***What has surprised you the most about the University of Rochester?***

The activism never ceases to surprise me. When there are issues throughout campus or outside of the bubble we live in, I always see people fighting for their beliefs and working to educate each other, sharing perspectives.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I have grown so much, becoming more self-aware and more confident as the years have gone by. I also learned to accept parts of myself that I never would have been able to my first day, but now I'm proud of who I am and who I've become.

## ***If you were asked to describe your Rochester experience (so far)—what would you say?***

My University of Rochester experience thus far has genuinely been life changing. Not only in my personal growth, but the life-long friends I've made, the opportunities that I've been presented, and the experiences I've had the privilege of having.

## **Andre Tulloch '23**

**Hometown:** Gaithersburg, MD, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica

**Majors:** Public Health and Social Justice

**Minor:** Spanish

**Cluster:** Chemistry



### **Campus Involvement:**

- Minority Students Advisory Board
- Meridian Society
- First Generation Students Society
- Minority Association of Pre-Med Students (MAPS)
- Predoc Program at University of Rochester Medical Center
- Emergency Department Research Associate (EDRA)

### **Achievements:**

- Princeton Prize in Race Relations
- Andrew Fried Prize
- Community Catalyst Award in honor of Wade Norwood and Hester C. Jeffrey

### **Career Interests:**

- Medical Doctor
- Law/Nonprofit

### ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

The Posse Foundation provided me with the opportunity to come to the University with 10 other scholars who I have grown an amazing bond with. This allowed me to have a supportive friend group as I was transitioning into the university lifestyle.

### ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

With the immense resources for research that the University provides, I have been able to research topics that have affected the same communities that I grew up in as a child. I've looked into the research behind the opportunity gap, wealth disparities and much more.

### ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

The fact that I had the opportunity to create my own major is something that I am very proud of. Being able to create my own Social Justice major truly individualized the education I have access to here at the University and makes it easier for me to follow through on my passion for social advocacy.

# **Lauren Vanasse '22**

**Hometown:** West Chester, PA

**Majors:** Statistics, Computational Biology

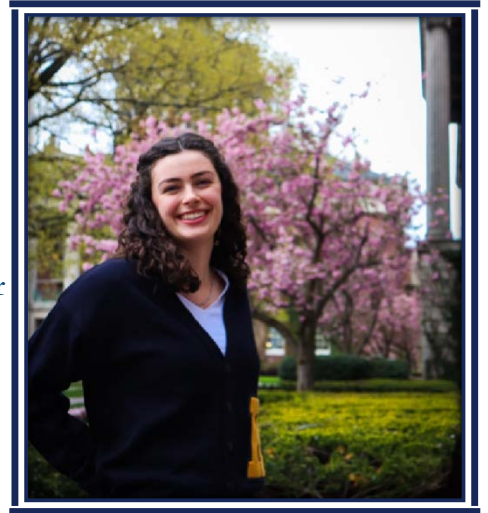
**Clusters:** Film and Media Studies, Psychology

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Research Assistant, University of Rochester Medical Center
- Teaching Assistant, Statistics Department
- Club Tennis

## **Achievements:**

- Dean's List



## **Career Interests:**

- Research in Vaccine Biology and Immunology
- Data Science

## ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

The clusters! The ability to take courses in subjects that I am passionate about, but not majoring in, made me feel as though I was not losing an aspect of myself when deciding on a major. I love that I can pursue multiple interests while also getting a degree in something that inspires me.

## ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I love the diversity of the student body on campus. The diversity not only stems from the students coming from countries all over the world, but also from among the different academic disciplines and various clubs/groups on campus. Every student at the University of Rochester contributes to the campus's diversity in their own unique way, which is something that I am proud to be a part of.

## ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

I love Meliora Weekend because it represents the importance of reconnection. This weekend is a time for friends to enjoy food and carnival games together, for families to explore the University and the city of Rochester, and for alumni to rekindle friendships and old memories on campus.

## ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I have learned how to view life through new perspectives. From my first-year writing course where I wrote about a lobster's perspective on pain to now, I am so grateful for all the friendships and relationships that I have forged with people from all over the world with diverse cultures and unique views. It is within these conversations among people who are entirely different from me where I have learned the most about myself!

# Alejandro Vera '22

**Hometown:** Fairfield, CA

**Major:** Bioethics

**Clusters:** Psychology as a Social Science, Biological Principles

## **Campus Involvement:**

- Sigma Phi Epsilon
- Student Research Assistant, University of Rochester Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry
- Meridian Society
- UR PreDoc Program



## **Achievements:**

- Rochester National Grant Recipient
- Guayaki Yerba Mate University Ambassador

## **Career Interests:**

- Physician – Pediatric or OB/GYN
- Clinical Bioethicist

### ***What made you select Rochester as your university?***

I honestly did not know much about the University of Rochester in general before deciding to choose it, but for me it was either Rochester or a university 20 minutes from my home in California. It was the biggest risk I've ever taken, but definitely the best decision I've ever made.

### ***What is the coolest thing that you have learned since you arrived?***

Learning about Rochester being home to such a large deaf population was really cool and new to me, inspiring me to start taking American Sign Language courses!

### ***What aspects of the University are you most proud of/regularly tell your non-Rochester friends about?***

I am always telling my non-Rochester friends about the number of opportunities and resources provided by the University and through connections University affiliates have, giving us students the ability to explore and learn so much during our time here.

### ***What University traditions do you enjoy?***

The Candlelight Ceremony is one of my favorite traditions! It is such a special experience for first years to have with their class, and heartwarming to watch and help with as an older undergrad.

### ***How have you changed since your first day on campus?***

I'm not sure if I'd even recognize myself from my first day on campus. The University of Rochester has allowed me to grow so much not only as a student but as a person.



# Student Alumni Ambassadors

If you are interested in connecting with a Student Alumni Ambassador,  
please contact Karen Osborn, Assistant Director of Student Engagement at  
[Karen.Osborn@rochester.edu](mailto:Karen.Osborn@rochester.edu).

