

In Review

COMMENCEMENT

Ready for the Big Day

FAMILY PORTRAIT: Eight-month-old Henry Ivancic gets an early start on graduate school while his mother, Sarilyn Swayngim Ivancic '07, '15 (PhD), receives her doctorate in mechanical engineering during the doctoral degree commencement ceremony at Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre. Next up in the procession was Sarilyn's husband and Henry's father, Steven Ivancic '08, '15 (PhD), who also received his PhD in mechanical engineering. Altogether, more than 2,300 graduates were recognized during eight commencement ceremonies this spring. PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM FENSTER





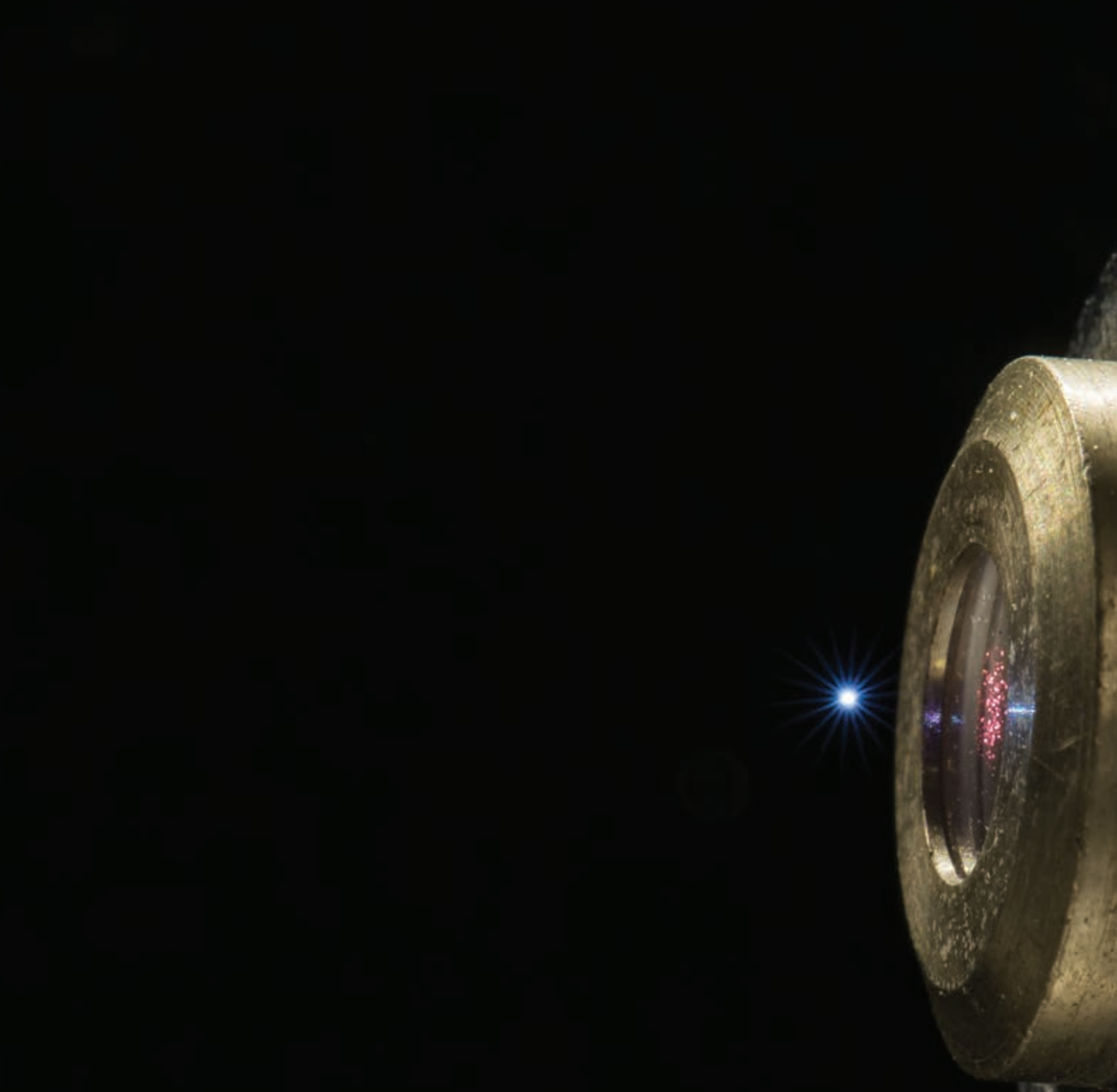


GUEST ARTISTS

House of Composers

JAZZ SCENE: Emmy Award-winning composer Jeff Beal '85E (standing), whose scores for television include the ominously dissonant music for the acclaimed Netflix series *House of Cards*, leads a small group session with Eugene Bisdikian '17E (bass), graduate student Chase Ellison (drums), Billy Petitto '17E (guitar), C. J. Ziarniak '17E (saxophone; sitting), and Matt Blom '16E (trumpet; sitting) in Howard Hanson Hall. Beal and his wife, vocalist Joan Sapiro Beal '84E, were guests in residence this spring at the Eastman School of Music, where they led talks with students and faculty and performed in concert. PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM FENSTER



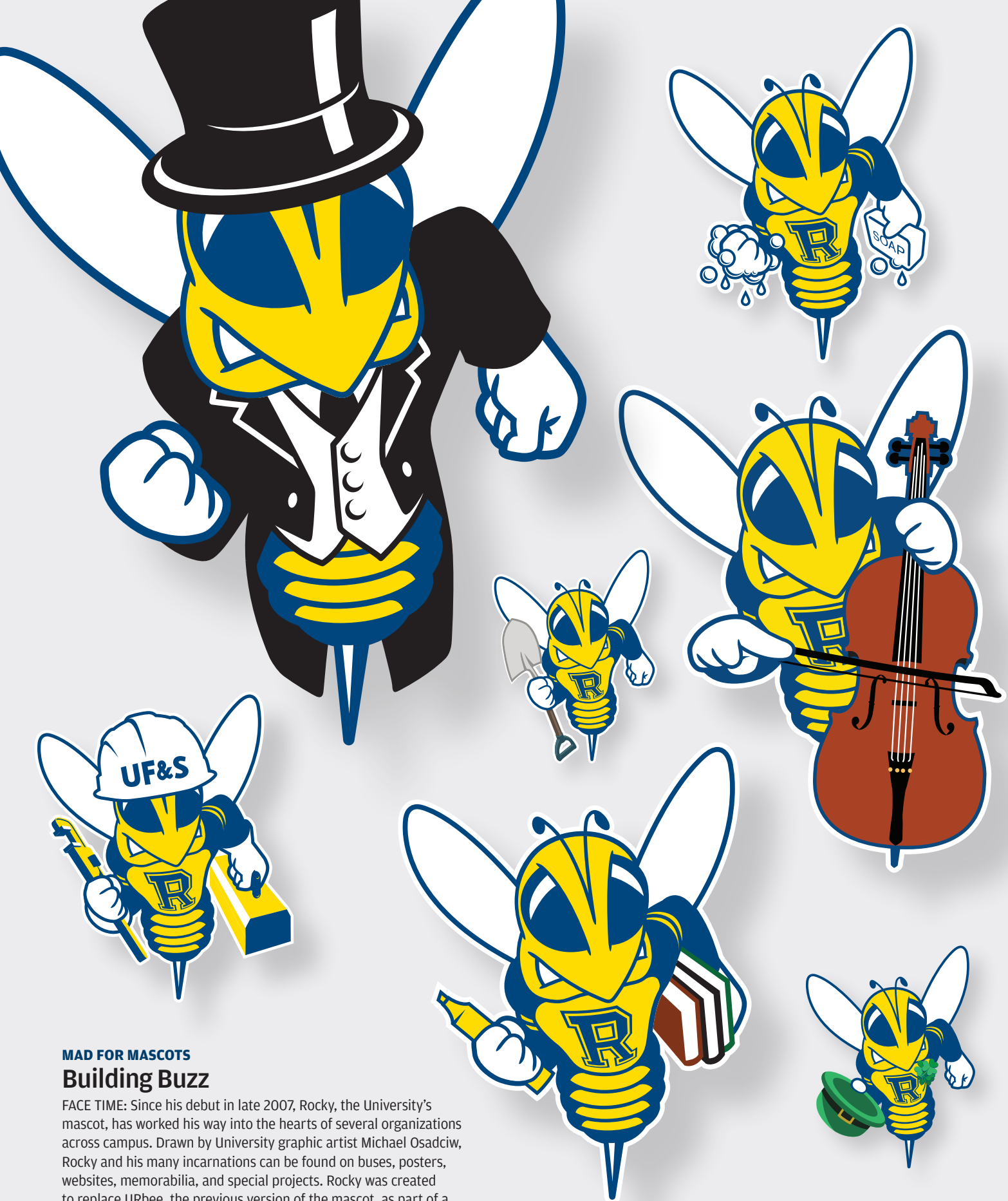


OPTICS

Mighty Microplasma

TERAHERTZ TECHNIQUES: A microplasma generated by focusing intense laser pulses is captured in mid-air during a demonstration in the lab of optics PhD student Fabrizio Buccheri and Institute of Optics Director Xi-Cheng Zhang. In work published this spring, the Rochester team showed that such microplasma—which emit terahertz radiation, a form of electromagnetic radiation named for its frequency—could be created with much lower-powered lasers than previously thought possible. The terahertz radiation emitted by the microplasma could be used to analyze materials, such as identifying poisons in food or finding drugs and explosives in baggage. **PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM FENSTER**

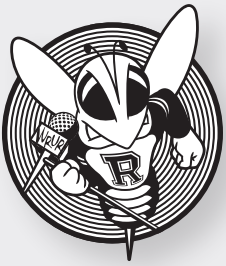
HAUSCH & LOMB
ROCHESTER, N.Y. U.S.A.



MAD FOR MASCOTS
Building Buzz

FACE TIME: Since his debut in late 2007, Rocky, the University's mascot, has worked his way into the hearts of several organizations across campus. Drawn by University graphic artist Michael Osadciw, Rocky and his many incarnations can be found on buses, posters, websites, memorabilia, and special projects. Rocky was created to replace URbee, the previous version of the mascot, as part of a year-long, campuswide graphic identity effort led by Bill Murphy, vice president for communications, who is retiring at the end of July.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL OSADCIW



TRUSTEES

Danny Wegman Named Next Board Chair, Four New Trustees Appointed

Danny Wegman, CEO of the iconic Rochester-based grocery store company founded by his grandfather and great-uncle, has been named chair-elect of the University's Board of Trustees. A trustee for more than 15 years, Wegman will succeed current chair Ed Hajim '58 in a five-year appointment at the May 2016 board meeting.

"Danny is one of the country's most admired business leaders, a champion of our region, and a highly respected and dedicated board member," says President and CEO Joel Seligman, who has worked closely with Wegman for the past four years in

their roles as cochairs of the Finger Lakes Economic Development Council, part of New York State's community-based economic development program.

The announcement was made at this spring's board meeting, where four new trustees were also elected.

Wegman joined Wegmans Food Markets after high school and was named a store manager in 1969, the same year he graduated with honors from Harvard University with a degree in economics. He became president in 1976, and was named CEO in 2005. Today, the company operates 85

stores in six states and is consistently recognized in *Fortune Magazine's* "100 Best Companies to Work for in America," earning the No. 7 spot in 2015.

In April 2014, Wegman, president and chairman of the board of the Wegman Family Foundation, announced a \$10 million lead gift to the Goergen Institute for Data Science and a \$7 million gift to support Golisano Children's Hospital. Altogether, the foundation has provided \$20 million to *The Meliora Challenge: The Campaign for the University of Rochester*. Wegman and his wife, Konstanze (Stency), are members of



GOLISANO GOAL: Sue Bezek, director of pediatric nursing (standing, left to right), Nina Schor, pediatrician-in-chief, Medical Center CEO Mark Taubman, Board of Trustees Chair Ed Hajim '58, University President and CEO Joel Seligman, and hospital namesake Tom Golisano cut a ribbon as part of ceremonies to dedicate the new Golisano Children's Hospital, the largest capital project in University history.

HOSPITAL HISTORY

Golisano Children's Hospital Opens for Patients

The doors on the largest building project in the University's history open this summer to patients, families, and friends throughout western and upstate New York.

The new eight-story, 245,000-square-foot Golisano Children's Hospital was formally dedicated in late May during a ceremony that featured patients and their families, University leaders, and significant building donors, including hospital namesake B. Thomas Golisano.

The largest capital project undertaken by the University, the new

hospital is a key component of the Medical Center's campaign in support of *The Meliora Challenge*, the University's comprehensive fundraising campaign that continues through June 2016.

The hospital will feature all-private rooms and specialized technology, including the first integrated PET/MRI in a children's hospital in the nation, dedicated to healing sick and injured children. Each year, about 84,000 children across the Finger Lakes region are admitted to Golisano Children's Hospital for care.



Danny Wegman

the George Eastman Circle, the University's leadership annual giving society.

Newly Elected Trustees

Barbara Burger '83 is the president of Chevron Technology Ventures, a Houston-based division within Chevron Corporation. A chemistry major at Rochester, Burger went on to receive a doctorate in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology and an MBA in finance from the University of California, Berkeley.

A member of the San Francisco Bay Regional Cabinet, the Texas Regional Cabinet, and the River Campus Libraries National Council, Burger is a charter member of the George Eastman Circle. She established the Barbara J. Burger Endowed Scholarship in the Sciences and has generously supported two professorships in chemistry as well as special projects at the River Campus Libraries and in the Department of Athletics and Recreation.

Edward Miller '68M (MD) is CEO emeritus of Johns Hopkins Medicine and dean and vice president emeritus of the School of Medicine at Johns Hopkins, where he joined the faculty in 1994. He became the first CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine, dean of the medical school, and vice president for medicine in January 1997, serving until his retirement in 2012.

He and his wife, Lynne Reilly Miller '64, are members of the George Eastman Circle and supporters of the medical school. Lynne has supported student scholarships, including establishing a fund to support study abroad.

Brian Prince '86, '89S (MBA) is the founder and senior partner of the private-equity



Barbara Burger



Brian Prince

firm Hegemon Capital LLC. He recently served as president and chief executive officer of ORIX USA Corporation, a diversified financial services company.

A board member of the Friends of Rochester Athletics, he established the Prince Family Endowment for Men's Soccer in appreciation of his experiences and leadership opportunities as a student-athlete and made the lead gift to support a multimillion dollar renovation of the University's outdoor athletic facilities, named the Brian F. Prince Athletic Complex. In addition, he has generously supported initiatives at the Eastman School of Music, the School of Medicine and Dentistry, and the Simon Business School.

E. Philip Saunders is an entrepreneur known for his business acumen and philanthropic spirit. He was instrumental in reshaping the travel center industry and has had business interests in fields as diverse as auto rental,




Edward Miller



E. Philip Saunders

recreation and tourism, packaged foods, property management, and banking. Saunders has founded several companies, including Genesee Regional Bank, Griffith Energy, Truck Stops of America, Travel Centers of America, and Sugar Creek Corporation.

In 2011, Saunders contributed \$10 million to the Medical Center to support neuromuscular disease, cancer, and translational research. The Saunders Research Building, home to the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, clinical research programs, and academic departments, was named in his honor. His gift also supports the Saunders Family Distinguished Professorship in Neuromuscular Research and the E. Philip and Carole Saunders Professorship in Neuromuscular Research. He serves as a cochair of the Medical Center's campaign in support of *The Meliora Challenge* and honorary chair of the George Eastman Circle Rochester Leadership Council.  —SARA MILLER

NAMES AND FACES

New Leaders in Communications, Neuromedicine, and Economics Named

Vice President for Communications

Elizabeth Stauderman, the chief communications officer at Yale University, has been named vice president for communications, effective August 1.

An experienced leader in external relations, institutional positioning, and issues management, Stauderman has more than 20 years' experience in higher education, including roles in communications, alumni relations, annual fundraising, and student affairs. A graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, Stauderman joined Yale's Office of Public Affairs & Communications in July 2010 as deputy chief communications officer, and was promoted to chief communications officer and special assistant to the president in January 2012.

In that position, she advises Yale's president and cabinet on strategic communications, counsels and represents the university on crisis issues, and leads a staff of 32 focused on national and international media relations, internal communications, video production and photography, institutional website development, and social media.

She succeeds Bill Murphy, who is retiring from the role that he has held since 2006.

Research Director of the Del Monte Neuromedicine Institute

John Foxe, who currently serves as the director of research for the Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, has been named the research director of the Del Monte Neuromedicine Institute. A nationally regarded scientist in the field of neurobiology, Foxe was also named the Kilian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Professor in Neurobiology and Anatomy. Both appointments are effective October 1, pending the approval of the University's Board of Trustees.

As research director of the Del Monte Institute, Foxe will be responsible for bringing together the leaders of departments and centers across the University that focus on the nervous system. He will oversee the creation of a strategic plan that coordinates and expands research and education programs and helps accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into new treatments.



COMMUNICATIONS VP: Elizabeth Stauderman, the chief communications officer at Yale, will oversee Rochester's communications efforts beginning in August.




NEW LEADERS: Neurobiologist John Foxe (left) has been named research director of the Del Monte Neuromedicine Institute, and Narayana Kocherlakota, president of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, will join the economics faculty in January.



Lionel W. McKenzie Professor of Economics

Narayana Kocherlakota, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and a leading scholar of monetary and financial economics, was appointed as the inaugural Lionel W. McKenzie Professor of Economics, effective January 1.

Kocherlakota has served as the president of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank for the past six years. Previously, he held professorships at Northwestern University,

the University of Iowa, Stanford University, and at the University of Minnesota, where he also served as the chair of the economics department. Kocherlakota has published more than 30 theoretical and empirical articles in academic journals on work that focuses on monetary economics and financial economics. In 2010, Princeton University Press published his book, *The New Dynamic Public Finance*, and in 2012 he was named one of the top 100 Global Thinkers by *Foreign Policy* magazine. 

Weighty Matters

Mechanical engineer Jonathan Ellis is part of a quest to redefine the kilogram.

The kilogram is the last remaining measurement to be defined by a physical object: a cylinder of platinum and iridium held in a vault under three glass bell jars at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in the suburbs of Paris. The international prototype, created in the 1880s and known familiarly as “Le Grand K,” is the standard by which all other kilograms are measured.

But for all the vault-like protections, Le Grand K is vulnerable.

“The big joke is, if someone were to sneeze on the kilogram, there are about 10 fundamental constants that would change, because they’re all tied to its value,” says Jonathan Ellis, an assistant professor of optics and mechanical engineering and a specialist in metrology, or the study of measurements.

And it’s not just a joke. Compared to official replicas held by other laboratories around the globe, Le Grand K is shrinking, albeit by just .05 milligrams in mass.

Established during the French Revolution by the French Academy of Sciences to standardize measurement, the seven basic units of measurement—the kilogram, the meter, the second, the ampere, the mole, the candela, and the kelvin—are now, with the exception of the kilogram, determined by what are called “realized standards,” or procedure-based methods. “Instead of being tied to an artifact, you’re tied to how you perform the measurement,” Ellis says.

He and the members of his Rochester lab are involved in an effort to create such a procedure for the kilogram. They’re contributors to a larger project being carried out by a group of national laboratories, including the BIPM and others from countries such



SAFE KEEPING: “Le Grand K,” the original platinum and iridium cylinder that is still the international prototype for the kilogram weight, sits under three bell jars in the suburbs of Paris.

as Denmark, Japan, Germany, and Australia. The lab representing the United States is the National Institute for Standards and Technology.

One effort to define the kilogram in terms of natural properties, begun in 1999, uses the watt balance, a device that defines mass by equating electrical and mechanical power. Ellis focuses his lab on how to make velocity measurements more accurate.

“When you use light to measure things, one of the limiting factors is the air,” he says. “Light has to pass through the air, and air has turbulence.” There are fluctuations in air pressure and in

temperature. “For example, the human body will output about 100 watts of power, and so there will be a temperature gradient because you’re standing near the instrument, and that will affect the light that passes through. We’re talking about very, very, very small features and small distances”—on the atomic scale—“and so very small perturbations can cause a significant problem.” Even someone talking in the lab creates disturbance, with sound pressure and the exhalation of carbon dioxide.

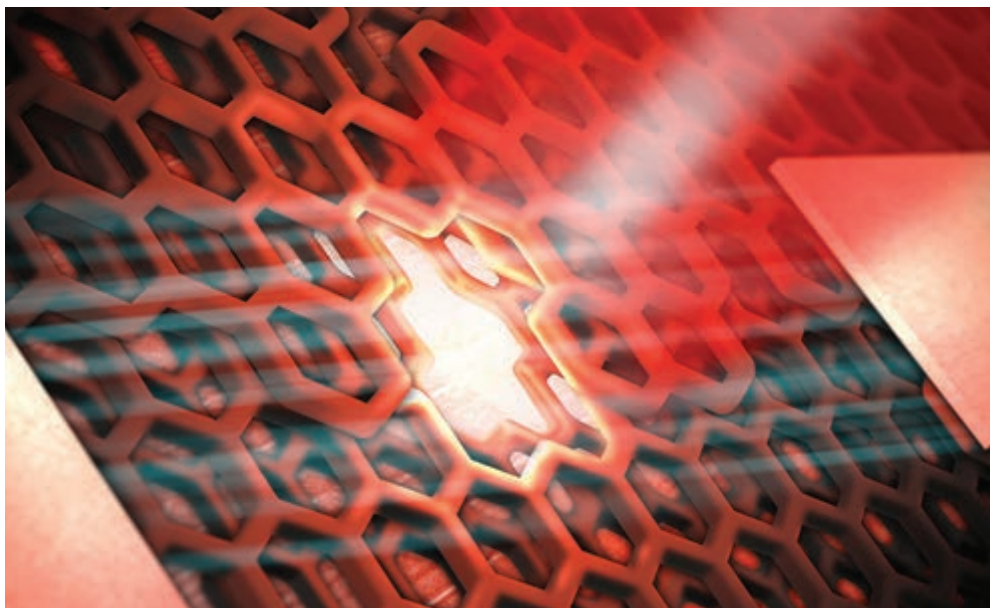
So Ellis is taking part in an effort to find a way to measure that—and to do so more quickly

than a temperature sensor or a pressure sensor can manage.

The watt balance method isn’t the only one under investigation. There is a competing method, called Avogadro’s Sphere, in which scientists are trying to make a pure silicon sphere that has the number of atoms that would equal the mass of one kilogram.

“Both measurements in and of themselves are accurate, but they don’t conform to each other,” Ellis says. “There’s some discrepancy there, and the international community is trying to figure out where, why, and how.”

—Kathleen McGarvey



DOT MATRIX: A rendering of a quantum dot at the overlap of atomically thin layers of tungsten diselenide.

Thinking Alike Changes How We Speak

As social creatures, people tend to mimic each other's posture, laughter, and other behaviors, including speech patterns. A new study shows that people with similar views tend to mirror each other's speech patterns even more closely—as do people who are better at compromising.

“Our social judgments about others and our general attitude toward conflict are affecting even the most automatic and subconscious aspects of how we express ourselves with language,” says lead author Kodi Weatherholtz, a postdoctoral researcher in the lab of Florian Jaeger, associate professor of brain and cognitive sciences and coauthor of the study.

One reason people tend to align certain speech patterns is that it facilitates communication. But the study found evidence that speech alignment serves a social function. People tend to like those with whom they share characteristics, Jaeger says, and so speaking in a way more or less similar to others can be a subtle means of influencing liking, trust, and other interpersonal emotions.

The study was published in the journal *Language Variation and Change*.

—Monique Patenaude

Researchers Develop New Process for Creating ‘Quantum Dots’

Rochester researchers have demonstrated that defects on an atomically thin semiconductor can produce light-emitting quantum dots. The research, an effort to integrate quantum photonics with solid-state electronics, is part of a field known as integrated photonics.

Also known as “artificial atoms,” quantum dots occur naturally in some nanomaterials and can be artificially engineered. The Rochester dots act as a source of single photons and

offer a way to explore the physics of how photons interact with other nanoscale materials, an important vein of research into nanophotonic applications.

Led by Nick Vamivakas, assistant professor of optics, the group used tungsten diselenide to fashion a nanoscale semiconductor that served as a platform for solid-state quantum dots in a way that did not inhibit the electrical or optical performance of the semiconductor and that could be controlled by applying

electric and magnetic fields. The work was published in *Nature Nanotechnology*.

Vamivakas says an advantage of the new approach is that it's easier to create quantum dots in tungsten diselenide than it is with more traditional materials.

The next step, he says, is to use voltage to “tune the color” of the photons, which can make it possible to integrate the quantum dots with nanophotonic devices.

—Leonor Sierra

‘Summer Slide’ Reduced When Kids Pick Own Books

At the end of the school year, districts often send students home with stacks of books in an effort to combat “summer slide,” the literacy loss experienced during the long break that hits low-income students particularly hard.

But a new study led by Erin Kelly, a fourth-year resident in the medicine-pediatrics program,

showed that the programs can become significantly more effective with just a small tweak: let kids choose the books.

The findings were presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in the spring. Carol Anne St. George, assistant professor at the Warner School of Education, helped to

implement the study, which was conducted in kindergarten, first-, and second-grade classes in the Rochester City School District.



More than 75 percent of students who were allowed to select at least some of their books maintained or improved their reading levels, compared to a one-month literacy loss seen in previous studies. No significant difference was seen between students who picked all of their own books and those who picked only some.

—Sean Dobbins

Pollution Linked to Lower Birth Weight

Women in Beijing who were pregnant during the 2008 Olympics, when pollution levels were reduced by the Chinese government, gave birth to children with higher birth weights compared to those who were pregnant before or after the games.

That's according to a study led by David Rich, associate professor in the Departments of Public Health Sciences and Environmental Medicine, which suggests that pollution may be interfering with fetal development.

In the months leading up to and during the Olympics and Paralympics, the government launched a series of aggressive measures to improve Beijing's notoriously poor air quality, including restricting automobile and truck use, closing factories, halting construction projects, and seeding clouds to induce rainfall.

The controls—which were relaxed after the games—produced a significant decrease in air pollution for a six- to seven-week period during the games, including a 60 percent reduction in sulfur dioxide and a 48 percent reduction in carbon monoxide.



CLEARING THE AIR: Researchers report that children born during China's efforts to reduce pollution for the 2008 Olympics had higher birth weights than those born before or after the controls were in place.

The researchers compared birth weights of infants born to women whose eighth month of pregnancy occurred during the games with those whose eighth month occurred at the same time of year in 2007 and 2009.

They found that babies born in 2008 were on average 23 grams larger than those born the year before and the year after. The research was published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*. Late pregnancy

is a particularly important time for fetal growth, when the most physical growth occurs and development of the cardiovascular, central nervous, and musculoskeletal systems accelerates.

—Mark Michaud

Study Sheds New Light on Brain's Power Source

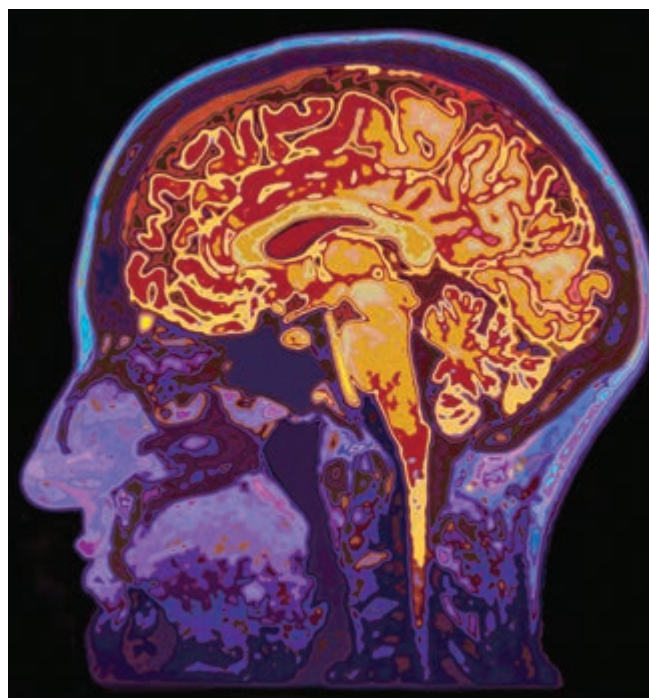
The brain requires enormous energy to do its job. While it represents only 2 percent of the average adult's body mass, the brain consumes about 20 percent of the body's energy supply. As a result, figuring out just how brain cells—specifically, neurons—generate energy has significant implications for understanding basic biology as well as neurological diseases that may be linked to too little or too much metabolism in the brain.

Now a new study, led by Maiken Nedergaard, the Frank P. Smith Professor of Neurosurgery and codirector of the Center for Translational Neuromedicine, shows that neurons in the brain

are more independent than previously thought.

In research published in *Nature Communications*, the scientists found that neurons—and not astrocytes, as previously believed—take up more glucose in the brain, with consumption rising with brain activity and falling when the brain isn't stimulated. With astrocytes, the uptake stayed relatively constant.

Understanding the “precise and complex biological mechanisms of the brain” is critical to dealing with neurological diseases, says Nedergaard. “If we are looking in the wrong place, we won't be able to find the right answers.” —Mark Michaud





BLOOMING ART: CALYX, a work by artist Sabri Gokmen and designed for a site in Jackson Court on the River Campus, was installed this spring as part of an initiative to bring more art to campus.

New Sculpture Graces Jackson Court

What's that blooming beside Jackson Court and Sage Art Center?

It's CALYX, a new 12-foot tall sculpture installed this spring as part of an initiative to bring more public art to campus.

The work by artist Sabri Gokmen, a PhD student in design computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology, was selected from a pool of more than 120 submissions received from an

international call for proposals to create a permanent outdoor art installation on the River Campus. Artists were asked to produce a work that reflected Rochester's mission to "Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—and Make the World Ever Better."

"Our goal with this project was to identify an experienced artist, like Gokmen, who makes site-specific art that reflects the surrounding environment

and its history," says Allen Topolski, professor of art and a member of the University's selection committee. "I believe the sculpture lends a signature to our campus and represents an intersection between art and technology that our students are really excited about."

The work is the latest addition to Jackson Court, a community gathering area near O'Brien Hall and Anderson and Wilder Towers.

Joel Seligman Looks Ahead at 10-Year Mark

President and CEO Joel Seligman marked his 10th year as the University's executive leader this summer with a note extolling the achievements of faculty, students, and staff as well as notable progress on significant initiatives.

"Ten years ago on July 3 at 8 a.m., I sent my first email to the University of Rochester community with the following words: 'The Campaign for the University

of Rochester begins today.'

"Today I want to renew my vows. We are going to the Next Level, with significant initiatives during the next five years in data science, neuromedicine and neuroscience, the humanities and the performing arts, and the University's role in the community.

"No one should ever have any delusions that progress for any institution in our country today is

easy or assured. But I am proud to report an almost palpable sense of momentum at the University."

Seligman was named the University's 10th president and CEO in 2005 and was formally reappointed by the University's Board of Trustees in 2014.

To read the full message, go to the website for the Office of the President at Rochester.edu/president.

Highland Hospital Breaks Ground on New Building

Highland Hospital held a ceremonial groundbreaking in June for a two-story building addition on the south side of the hospital campus. The \$28 million project will enhance patient care through the modernization of facilities and the renovation of existing space.

Construction will run for 12 to 18 months, with an additional six months spent on internal renovation of adjacent building space. The addition will contain approximately 30,000 square feet of space for six new operating rooms and a 26-bed observation unit.

The new building was designed by HOLT Architects, which specializes in health care facilities. LeChase Construction will oversee the project.

Tech Company and University Announce Partnership

Massachusetts company MC10 Inc., a pioneer in biometric-sensor-enabled analytics, has announced a collaboration with Rochester.

The initiative aims to combine MC10's technological capabilities in physiological sensing and pattern-recognition algorithms with the University's clinical expertise and commitment to big data analytics.

The Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences will lead the effort.

MC10 sought a collaboration with the University based on its facilities and its vision to be a 21st-century leader in data science, including the recent creation of the Goergen Institute for Data Science.

New Effort Explores Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Researchers at the School of Medicine and Dentistry hope to improve understanding of the brain networks that play a central role in obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) through a new multi-institutional initiative at the Medical Center.

Led by Suzanne Haber, professor of pharmacology and physiology, the team received a \$10 million, five-year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to establish a new Silvio O. Conte Center for Basic and Translational Mental Health Research at Rochester. Conte Centers are designed to bring scientists with diverse but complementary backgrounds together to improve the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders.

The Rochester center aims to pinpoint specific abnormalities within brain circuits that are associated with OCD and use the information to guide new treatment options for the three million-plus Americans who live with the disorder.

In addition to Haber, other team leaders include Ben Greenberg, professor of psychiatry and project leader at Butler Hospital and Brown Medical School, Randy Buckner, professor of psychology at Harvard University, Mary Phillips, professor of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh, Greg Quirk, professor of psychiatry at the University of Puerto Rico, and Steve Rasmussen, chair and professor of psychiatry at Brown University.

The Conte Center grant is the second that Haber has received from NIMH. The first funded research from 2009 to 2014 that focused on the circuitry underlying the effects of a surgical treatment, known as deep brain stimulation, on OCD. The findings highlighted the mechanisms of brain stimulation for the disease and helped modify the target used with deep brain stimulation.



TEACHERS' MOMENT: Winners of the Singer Family Prize (seated) were recognized by the students who nominated them this spring: (left to right) Callie Andler with Tanya May '15; Greg Beckman with Lilly Camp '15; Heather Buskirk with Sandra Westover '15; and Michelle Hill with Bonnie Ball '15.

Students Recognize Influential Teachers with Singer Awards

Each year, high school teachers or staff members who have had a profound impact on the education and growth of a graduate of the College are recognized during commencement weekend with a Singer Family Prize for Excellence in Secondary Teaching.

The 2015 award recipients are Callie Andler, a school counselor at Charlotte High School in Rochester, who was nominated by Tanya May '15; Greg Beckman, an Advanced Placement

literature teacher at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, California, who was nominated by Lilly Camp '15; Heather Buskirk, a physics and science teacher at Johnstown High School in Johnstown, New York, who was nominated by Sandra Westover '15; and Michelle Hill, a math teacher at Hamburg High School in Hamburg, New York, nominated by Bonnie Ball '15.

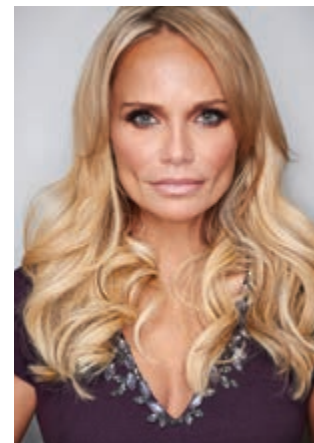
The teachers receive a plaque and \$3,000, as well as \$2,500 for

their schools. They also receive travel expenses to attend the Arts, Sciences & Engineering commencement ceremony.

"The Paul Singer Family Foundation feels strongly that while devoted secondary school teachers play a vital role in the intellectual development of American society, they often receive little recognition or acclaim for their endeavors," says Gordon Singer, the son of Paul Singer '66, who endowed the prize.

Isaacson and Chenoweth Lead Meliora Weekend Lineup

Walter Isaacson—president and CEO of the Aspen Institute—will deliver the keynote address at Meliora Weekend, October 8-11. The annual celebration also features Emmy and Tony Award winner Kristin Chenoweth in a performance sponsored by Eva Pressman, chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Henry A. Thiede Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Seth Zeidman, a neurosurgeon who is a member of Highland Hospital's medical staff. More information is available on the website at Rochester.edu/melioraweekend.



HEADLINERS: Walter Isaacson (left) and Tony Award winner Kristin Chenoweth are among the guests for Meliora Weekend.

CALENDAR

FIRST

Sept. 15	Mon.	INSTRUCTION BEGINS
Sept. 22	Mon.	INSTRUCTION BEGINS
Sept. 27	Sat.	Latest date for filli
Oct. 2	Thurs.	Stated faculty meeti
Oct. 11	Sat.	Latest date for paym
Oct. 18	Sat.	Latest date for paym
Oct. 27	Mon.	Carnegie Graduate
Oct. 28	Tues.	Carnegie Graduate
Nov. 6	Thurs.	Stated faculty meeti
Nov. 11	Tues.	Mid-term examinati
Nov. 13	Thurs.	Meeting of the Uni
Nov. 18	Tues.	Latest date for repc
Nov. 21	Fri.	Meeting of the Com
Nov. 25	Tues.	Meeting of the Com
Nov. 26	Wed.	THANKSGIVING RECES
		Dec. 1).
Dec. 2	Tues.	Meeting of the Com
Dec. 4	Thurs.	Stated faculty meeti
Dec. 20	Sat.	CHRISTMAS RECESS be
		Jan. 5)

Ask the Archivist: Shall We Count the Days?

A question for Melissa Mead, the John M. and Barbara Keil University Archivist and Rochester Collections Librarian.

My husband, Neil Chapman '57, was a student from fall 1947 through spring 1951. He returned from fall 1955 through spring 1957. He insists he went to school much longer per semester than do current students. Thank you for the time you take to search.

—Emily Chapman

A variety of factors affect the perception of the length of the academic calendar, and how precisely it can be calculated, but your husband is correct.

September 15, 1947, was your husband's first day of instruction as a freshman (upperclassmen began a week later); the 1948 commencement was held

year in 1850 was November 5—an anomaly, of course—and commencement occurred on July 9, 1851. Successive years saw the first day of classes shift to mid-September and the date of commencement gradually move earlier and earlier, to provide a 12-week summer vacation.

In his 1860 annual report to the Board of Trustees, President Anderson noted: "Some years since it was found that the students understood that the actual beginning of the term was not the day mentioned in the Catalogue, but from three to ten days afterwards. The consequence was that the actual term of study was shortened from two to four weeks in the course of the year for a large proportion of the students . . ."

Many New England colleges in the 19th century offered a long winter break, during which students could earn money by teaching in elementary schools. Anderson felt those student-teachers then came back tired and were thus less productive in their own studies: "By giving our long vacation in the hot season we exclude the temptation to keep school and save the cold season for work." World War II brought year-round "work," with a three-semester calendar in the College for Men, and multiple commencements.

Records for 1955 show another anomaly: moving and construction interruptions associated with the merging of the Colleges for Men and Women delayed the start of classes until October 3; the academic calendar shows Thanksgiving reduced to a single day's observance.

Other innovations have added value to the academic calendar offerings, notably, the Jan Plan (started in January 1968 by four undergraduates) and the 4-4-X calendar (announced in November 1972). Both were intended to provide opportunities for special academic projects or coursework. Some of the first Jan Plan students would spend a month (January, of course) in Washington, D.C., as part of Professor Richard Fenno's first Washington Semester cohort. X-Period projects started after commencement and were offered tuition-free, and typically without earning credit; they could be as short as a week, or last the entire summer. Coincidentally, the X-Period option ended in 1986, just as the more substantial and enduring Take Five Program began.

Many alumni will remember history professor and University historian Arthur May's annual end-of-semester invocation, "The first of June is the last of May." Under today's academic calendar, his joke would be told to an empty classroom.



CALENDAR SYSTEM: In the 1947–48 year (top), classes for freshmen began on September 15, while for 1972–73 (above), students registered in Rush Rhees Library for classes that would start on September 19.

on June 21; classes during his senior year started on September 17, and he received his degree on June 9, 1957. The 1947–48 academic year had 146 class days (151 for freshmen), 3 study days and 28 exam days, and these numbers do not factor in those courses which held Saturday morning sessions.

By comparison, for 2015–16, the first day of classes will be August 31; the main commencement ceremony will be held on May 15, after 140 class days, 7 reading period days, and 14 days of exams over two semesters.

Course loads have varied as well—your husband would likely have taken five courses per semester; today's student typically takes four, although the number of credit-hours required for graduation in 2015 was four credit-hours higher, at 128. The semester system your husband would have known had a fall term extending into early January; beginning in 1976, semesters were divided by the New Year, and that same year brought the first fall break.

The very first day of class of our first academic

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ROCHESTER AND NIGERIA

People

- 19** alumni living in Nigeria
18 students from Nigeria in fall 2014

Noted Nigerians

Joseph Inikori, professor of history and professor of African and African-American studies, is an economic historian, specializing in international trade and economic development. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, where he also was a faculty member. His book, *Africans and the Industrial Revolution*, received the American Historical Association's Leo Gershow Award and the African Studies Association's Herskovits Prize. He teaches courses in economic history.

Volleyball head coach **Ladi Iya** was a member of the Nigerian national volleyball team that competed for a spot in the 2004 Olympics. Iya, who joined the Yellowjacket staff in 2008, grew up in both Nigeria and England and was recruited to play volleyball for the University of Evansville.

Global Rochester: Nigeria

Is There an App for Ebola?

Solomon Abiola will be watching his phone closely this summer as he conducts a pilot research project in Lagos, Nigeria. The research associate at the Medical Center is developing a mobile phone app that he hopes will help doctors, health workers, and international aid organizations better understand the spread of the deadly infectious disease Ebola.

With a grant from the National Science Foundation, Abiola and other researchers hope the app will complement traditional forms of monitoring such diseases.

Called Node, the Android operating system-based app is designed to monitor location patterns, sleeping and movement habits, and the resource needs of those who use the app to help them find care, improve the monitoring of disease, and increase awareness of disease prevention.

"I was in Nigeria when they declared their first Ebola case, and I thought that this app could have some potential for monitoring the spread of the disease," says Abiola, who first came up with the idea for a disease-focused app during his undergraduate studies at Princeton University as a way of monitoring meningitis among students.

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the NSF announced a call for proposals for modeling and understanding the spread of Ebola,

Abiola mentioned his app to his soon-to-be boss at Rochester, Ray Dorsey, the David M. Levy Professor in Neurology and director of Rochester's Center for Human Experimental Therapeutics. Together with Henry Kautz, the Robin and Tim Wentworth Director of the Goergen Institute for Data Science, they put together a proposal to establish the feasibility of using Node to track a disease like Ebola.

Abiola is keen to stress that the potential for the low-cost app goes beyond Ebola. It could help with other infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis.

He says that although the Ebola epidemic has waned considerably, it offers a chance to learn for the future.

"We now need to figure out how useful the app would be and work with people in the community to see how they would use it," he says.

He spent the spring setting up contacts with universities and medical centers in Nigeria, including the Nigerian Academy of Sciences, the Nigerian Institute

of Medical Research, and the University of Lagos, with the hope of doing a pilot study with more than 100 people. The researchers have also been making changes to the app for more active monitoring.

"The app will ask you questions like 'How do you feel this morning? Do you have a fever?' and if you have a fever, it would tell you to come in and get screened," says Abiola. "Instead of waiting, you can then get in front of a health care worker, preventing the spread of the disease to your family or anyone else you encounter."

The researchers plan to use the \$130,000 grant from the NSF to find out just how good the app would be at monitoring future outbreaks of Ebola or other diseases. Over the next six months, they are hoping to answer three questions:

How effective are smartphones at predicting the spread of a disease compared to more traditional epidemiology models? Can Node provide information on prevention of the disease, and can this change people's behaviors? And is a health program based on mobile phones sustainable in West Africa?

Abiola says he's excited that what started as an undergraduate student project could end up being a building block in public health monitoring. He will further develop the app as he continues his studies for a joint PhD in translational biomedical sciences and computer science at Rochester.

—Leonor Sierra



APP-LICABLE: Solomon Abiola has developed a mobile app for tracking the spread of Ebola.



SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

A Standout Season

Six Yellowjackets earn Academic All-America honors for their achievements on and off the field.

By Dennis O'Donnell

Rochester students had a standout year—on the field and in academia.

In the 2014–15 school year, six Rochester students earned Academic All-America honors, a recognition administered by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Lauren Bailey '15 of the women's swimming and diving team, Emily Widra '15 of the women's rowing team, and Ethan Pacheck '15, of the men's cross country and track

and field teams were honored this spring. They joined three honorees from the fall seasons: Alex Swanger '15 and Griffin Drake '15 of men's soccer, and Matthew Mender '16, a defensive tackle on the football team.

Swanger and Drake were key members of a soccer team that reached the second round of the NCAA Division III playoffs and that was known for its defense,

posting eight shutouts and holding four other teams to one goal.

Swanger, a financial economics major from Penfield, New York, repeated as an Academic

All-American, earning the same accolade in 2014. He worked as a research assistant in a campus Medical Center group, Surgical Health Outcomes & Research Enterprise. On the soccer pitch, Swanger earned all-UAA honors for the fourth straight season.

Drake, a defender from Indianapolis, graduated with degrees in political science and philosophy. A tutor for the political science class Business in Politics and a TA for Argument in Political Science, he was also a broadcaster on the campus Internet radio station, WRUR's "The Sting." When Rochester traveled to Germany in May 2015, he blogged for the team on the athletics department site.

Mender, from Glens Falls, New York, earned all-Liberty League honors in football and ranked among the league's tackle leaders. A biomedical engineering major, he has worked in an auditory neuroscience lab. He was the only football player from a New York State Division III college named to the Academic All-America team this year.

Bailey and Widra were named to CoSIDA's at-large team, a designation that encompasses sports that do not have their



PITCH PERFECT: Two soccer players were named Academic All-Americans last fall: Alex Swanger '15 (left) earned the honor for the second straight year, and Griffin Drake '15 was tapped for the first time.



STORIED SEASONS: Academic All-Americans Lauren Bailey '15, Emily Widra '15, Ethan Pacheck '15, and Matthew Mender '16 (clockwise from upper left), helped lead their Yellowjacket teammates throughout the 2014-15 athletic seasons.

own specific team, including swimming, lacrosse, field hockey, ice hockey, fencing, tennis, golf, and others.

In the pool, Bailey, a chemical engineering major from Ossining, New York, was named the Liberty League Women's Swimmer of the Year for three straight years. In her last two seasons, she earned All-America honors in six events at the NCAA championships—four as a junior, two as a senior.

Widra, from Washington, D.C., became the first women's rower to earn Academic All-America honors from CoSIDA. She graduated with a triple major—English literature, anthropology, and psychology. As a junior, she was named to the All-America team by the College Rowing Coaches Association. She was a member of the


Undergraduate English Council, serving as its secretary. She was also a teaching assistant for anthropology.

Pacheck's selection followed a family tradition. His brother, Adam '14, was named last year. Ethan, a chemical engineering major from Baldwinsville, New York, ran cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track over his career, earning a total of nine varsity letters.

This past winter, he ran on the distance medley relay team that broke the school record, posting one of Division III's top 25 times. He earned six medals in New York state competition and three more at the ECAC championships. A member of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, and a member of the American Institute

of Chemical Engineers, he was a teaching assistant for five classes—one in music, four in chemistry.

All five seniors (Swanger, Drake, Bailey, Widra, Pacheck) were elected to Phi Beta Kappa and four (Bailey, Drake, Swanger, Widra) were named Garnish Scholar-Athletes last fall. Since the first selection in 1976, a total of 92 Rochester students have earned Academic All-America honors. Thirty-seven have come in the last 10 years.

In 2014-15, Division III schools nominated 5,061 athletes to be Academic All-Americans; 466 were selected. 

Dennis O'Donnell is director of athletic communications for the Department of Athletics and Recreation.