

‘Higher Education
Should and Does Change
People’s Lives’

Meet the Next President

*Sarah Mangelsdorf, the University’s
next president, has long been a champion
of the “transformative experience”
of higher education.*

As she introduced herself to the University community as Rochester’s next president, Sarah Mangelsdorf, currently the provost at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, offered an overview of how she thinks about higher education and the special role it plays in the lives of those who study, teach, and work at universities.

An award-winning teacher herself, she told a story of being a third-generation academic. Her father was a professor of physics at Swarthmore College in Philadelphia, where she grew up. Her grandfather had been a plant geneticist at Harvard. From an early age, she was steeped not just in the traditions, expectations, and jargon of academia, but she also saw the commitment with which members of university communities engage with their institutions and with each other.

“Some of my earliest memories are the pomp and circumstance of academic ceremonies, with my father in his academic robes on his way to graduation—on his bike no less,” Mangelsdorf told a group of faculty, staff, and students gathered this winter in Rush Rhees Library for an introductory ceremony that was also streamed live to the University community. “But in addition to growing up knowing about all the customs, costumes, and the ceremonies of the academy, I learned early on the fundamental importance, the essential importance, of the academic enterprise.”

Over the course of a three-decade career at some of the nation’s leading public and private



HISTORIC ANNOUNCEMENT:
“I look forward to working collaboratively with all of you to help us reach our goals,” Sarah Mangelsdorf said as she was introduced last December as Rochester’s next president. Succeeding Richard Feldman, Mangelsdorf will become the first woman to lead the University when she becomes the University’s chief executive this summer.

BRIEF BIO

Sarah Mangelsdorf

President Designate

Education

PhD in Child Psychology,
University of Minnesota
BA in Psychology, Oberlin College

Leadership & Faculty Positions

University of Wisconsin

2014–19
Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs
Professor, Department of Psychology

Northwestern University

2008–14
Dean, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences;
Professor, Department of Psychology
2012–14
Faculty Associate, Institute of Policy Research;
Affiliated Professor, Department of Medical
Social Sciences

University of Illinois

2006–08
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2004–06
Acting Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2003–04
Department Head, Department of Psychology
2001–03
Associate Provost, University of Illinois
2001–07
Professor, Department of Psychology
2000–01
Associate Head, Department of Psychology
1996–2001
Associate professor, Department of Psychology
1992–95
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

University of Michigan

1987–91
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Leiden University, The Netherlands

1999–2000
Visiting Professor

Family

Mangelsdorf and her husband, Karl Rosengren, a developmental psychologist who is also a professor of psychology, have two children, Julia Rosengren and Emily Rosengren, and a son-in-law, Richard Lee.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mangelsdorf is a third-generation academic. Her father, Paul C. Mangelsdorf Jr., was a professor of physics at Swarthmore College and her grandfather, Paul C. Mangelsdorf, was a professor of botany at Harvard University.



INTRODUCTIONS: President Richard Feldman introduced Mangelsdorf at a campus reception, noting that he's confident she's the right person to lead the University into its next chapter.

universities, Mangelsdorf has been widely recognized for helping her home institutions achieve their goals. After a bachelor's degree from Oberlin, she earned a PhD at the University of Minnesota before embarking on a career as a professor of psychology and noted academic administrator. From her first faculty appointment at the University of Michigan to teaching, research, and leadership positions at the University of Illinois, Northwestern University, and Wisconsin, Mangelsdorf has earned praise for her work to advance academic quality, educational access, and diversity and inclusion.

Throughout her career, she has distinguished herself as a leader who's attentive to the contributions of every constituency that makes up an academic community. As part of her Rochester presentation, she celebrated the wide cast—faculty, students, alumni, staff, donors, members of local and regional communities, elected officials, and other friends—who contribute to the success of universities like Rochester.

The first woman to lead the University, Mangelsdorf officially takes on the role of Rochester's president this summer. In the meantime, she shared some of her aspirations and ideas about the life of research universities as a way of introducing herself to the University community. Here are a few highlights:

Creating Value—for Individuals and for Communities

Institutions like the University of Rochester create value, from the scientific research discoveries that uncover new basic knowledge and new cures and medical treatments, to scholarship in the arts, humanities, and social sciences that help us to better understand the human condition and human motivation, to the reflective and revelatory experiences music, dance, theater, and the visual arts provide, and finally to the necessary contribution that the higher education experience makes in the formation of young—and sometimes not-so-young—minds.

Helping Better Thinkers Be Better Leaders

Exposure to difference, experience with civil discourse, embracing new ideas, new approaches, new points of view, risk and reward, argument and perspective, challenge and compassion. These are the things that higher education should provide in abundance. These are the things that are essential to the development of our students. These are the things that I believe create better thinkers, better leaders, and better citizens of this world. Higher education should and does change people's lives.

Widening the Window of Opportunity

I have spent much of my career working to ensure that this formative experience is available to the widest possible number of people regardless of their gender or race, religion, or economic background. I will bring that perspective to my presidency. I am passionate about equity, diversity, and inclusion, and have championed programs at all three of the institutions where I have been an administrator to increase the diversity of our faculty, staff, and students. I will bring all of that experience, passion, and commitment to Rochester.



CAMPUS MEETING: Mangelsdorf greets Kelly Scott, the wife of Michael Scott (right), a professor of computer science who cochaired a key committee during the search.

Sharing Our Significance

We talk at Rochester about making the world ever better, and we do—in so many ways. One of my responsibilities will be to make sure that we stay on this course and that we have the resources to do so. One of my other responsibilities will be to make sure that more people know about it. The University of Rochester makes significant contributions to the world, and the world should know that. It's time that the University claims and takes credit for all of its excellence.

Being a Good Neighbor

Even as we attend to our national and international reputation, which is very important, we must also attend to our home city and region. I'm committed to sustaining and enhancing our University's continued engagement with our local community. The University of Rochester is proud to call the city of Rochester our home.

Giving Thanks

I want to thank Cathy Minehan, Danny Wegman, and Rich Handler, and the rest of the University's Board of Trustees for their trust in me. I will do everything in my power to justify that trust. I would also like to thank President Rich Feldman for his dedication and stewardship of an institution I know he loves deeply.

Most importantly, I've been struck by the affection and pride that everyone seems to have for this special place on the banks of the Genesee. And I would like to thank all of you for your support and commitment to the University.

I would also like to thank my family: my husband, Karl Rosengren, a distinguished professor of psychology; our daughters, Julia and Emily, who are a constant source of delight and inspiration; and our son-in-law, Richard Lee. I would not have been able to accomplish everything I've accomplished without the support of my home team.

Collaborating on a Vision

Today is just my first day at the University of Rochester, so there will be plenty of time for me to work with you to develop and expand a vision for this place. I won't be able to do it alone. Indeed, I don't intend to do it alone. I look forward to working collaboratively with all of you to help us reach our goals. *Meliora!* 📍

To see the entire introductory ceremony, visit Rochester.edu/presidential-search. The site includes additional videos and photos, along with details about the search process. There's also a form that visitors can use to post welcome messages of their own for President Designate Mangelsdorf.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

High Praise

Members of the University community say they're impressed with Rochester's next president.

"We were in contact with more than 200 people in developing the pool of possible candidates to find the very best person to be the next president of the University of Rochester. I am thrilled that Sarah Mangelsdorf is that leader. Sarah is super smart, an empowering, compassionate, and kind leader, is expert at managing complexity and overcoming challenges, and will work tirelessly in tandem with our students, faculty, staff, and trustees to make the University of Rochester the best it can be. When people meet her, there will be no doubt why she was the unanimous choice of every constituency on the search committee as well as the entire Board of Trustees. I can't wait to work with her!"

—**Richard Handler '83**, chair, University Board of Trustees, and a member of the Trustees' Presidential Search Committee that selected the new president

"Sarah has a breadth and depth of experience that equips her well to be successful as Rochester's president. Throughout her career, colleagues have praised her as a collaborative trust-builder who works hard to understand how to help every part of her institutions succeed. She immediately stood out to the search committee as an exceptional candidate for our next president."

—**Cathy Minehan '68**, a University trustee who cochaired, with board chair emeritus Danny Wegman, the Trustees' Presidential Search Committee

"Sarah is a remarkable candidate and will be a fabulous president. Her research on child development is very highly regarded and is a great academic fit for Rochester. She has an incredible range of administrative experience and a reputation for working closely and transparently with faculty, staff, and students in a spirit of collaboration. I am genuinely excited about the University's prospects under her leadership."

—**Michael Scott**, the Arthur Gould Yates Professor of Engineering in the Department of Computer Science, who cochaired with Anne Nofziger, associate professor of family medicine and director of the primary care clerkship program, the University Advisory Committee, one of three committees that supported the trustees' committee

"You can tell she is a genuine person of high integrity, and she'll be all in and 100 percent invested. She'll pour her heart and soul into this University."

—**Sarah Walters '13, '15 (MS)**, a doctoral student in optics, who cochaired the Student Advisory Committee, with Hannah Dick '19E, '19RC, and was a member of the University Advisory Committee

"This is a historic moment for the University. She brings a lot of perspective, coming from the field of psychology with a career ranging from professor to administrator. She'll bring new ideas, and that's what we need."

—**Jamal Holtz '20**, a political science major from Washington, D.C., and vice president of the Students' Association of the College

A wide-angle photograph of the Chicago skyline across Lake Michigan. The Willis Tower is the most prominent building. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is clear. In the foreground, a concrete beach area is visible with a few people. One person is sitting on the steps, and another is standing on the right side, wearing a white hat and a dark jacket. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Show Us Your Town

Chicago

The Windy City, the City of Big Shoulders, the Second City—no matter what you call it, the 1,900 alumni in Chicago love to show off their town.

By Maya Dukmasova '12

As the air turns crisp in the early days of fall, Chicago's Lake Michigan beaches close for the season—but even if she's not going for a swim, Brittany Hopkins '14 frequently visits the strip of sand between one of the world's largest lakes and the rearing skyscrapers of American's third-largest city. On some days the lake stretches out in a placid sheet, the water a Caribbean turquoise; on others it roils in tattered, gun-metal gray waves.

"In Chicago, people are very in tune and engaged with the lake," she says. "It's just such a beautiful view."

Chicago's lakefront has been almost exclusively reserved for public recreation since the early 20th century. Roughly 26 miles of parkland and beaches separate development from the waters along the city's eastern edge. And whether you're someone like Hopkins, with roots in the city stretching back three generations, or you're a newcomer, the lake is a continual draw.

As Javaree Walker '12S (MS), '15S (MBA), a recent transplant from the East Coast, sees it, Chicago's "Riviera" rivals the city beaches of Miami—and definitely surpasses those of New York. He often recommends that people come in the warmer months not only to enjoy them but also to truly acquire a taste for Chicago.



HOME IS WHERE THE SKYLINE IS: Captivated by the Lake Michigan “Riviera” that he says rivals any American beachfront, Long Island native Javaree Walker '12S (MS), '15S (MBA) fell in love with Chicago after moving to the city in 2013.

Sweet Home, Chicago

Members of the Chicago Regional Network served as guides to Chicago and the surrounding area, sharing some of their favorites places in the Windy City. The guide is part of a regular series highlighting the University's regional networks and communities.

The color-coded circles match the descriptions for each spot.



“If you come in the summer, you’ll fall in love with the city. There’s just so much going on,” Walker says.

I couldn’t agree more. I came to Chicago for the first time the day I moved here, in August of 2013, and fell in love as I cruised onto Lake Shore Drive, the vastness of the lake stretching endlessly toward the horizon. Why had I never heard about how beautiful this city was? A combination of personal and professional circumstances led me here quite unexpectedly, and within days I knew I wanted Chicago to be my forever home.

I discovered festivals, and art fairs that stretched for blocks, theater performances, farmers’ markets, and community barbecues that pop up in parks that punctuate our flat city grid like colonies of moss.

“I think if it was warmer, it would be an even more popular city,” Walker says with a laugh. “Everyone would want to come here.”

But much of what makes Chicago worth a visit is always in season: a thriving performing arts and restaurant scene (more to eat here than deep dish and ketchupless hot dogs!), dozens of neighborhoods with their own architecture, museums of all stripes, and professional sports teams for every superfan.

As members of the Chicago Regional Network, Walker and Hopkins work to connect the University community in the Midwest through events and outings, often centered around city treasures.

“It’s gratifying to meet other alums, especially in a city that’s not as well known for its Rochester population,” says Hopkins, who was recently named as a national cochair of the Young Alumni Council. “I think a lot of alums, when they graduate, if they’re not moving to D.C., or New York, or Boston, they feel like they’re the only one who’s moving to Chicago—but that’s really not the case.”

Indeed, there are 1,900 of us working, playing, and parenting in this City of Big Shoulders. And we love showing Chicago off.

More Than a Museum

Sure, there’s the Art Institute of Chicago, but the city also has a vibrant contemporary art scene and a world of museums that combine social activism with the visual arts.

F Museum of Contemporary Art

220 E Chicago Ave.

Chicago’s premier modern art museum offers the opportunity to connect with the work of many living artists and is a testament to the growing diversity in the world of high art. The museum has a permanent collection, but rather than displaying pieces all the time, curators tap the collection for a rotating stream of exhibitions. The museum also hosts temporary shows with loaned works. “There are more pop artists, things I can appreciate in a different way versus some things from the 17th century—that really doesn’t excite me,” Walker says. One of the highlights of the last several years for him was a major survey of the works of Kerry James Marshall. “That particular exhibit was a big deal,” he says. Among the monumental canvases on show was a painting of a black family picnicking by Lake Michigan. Last year it set a sales record for a work by a living African-American artist.

G Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center

9603 Woods Dr., Skokie

“It’s not exactly an uplifting place but it’s an important place,” says **Philip Greenland** ’74M (MD), ’78M (Res). “It’s actually one of the biggest Holocaust museums in the United States.” The museum complex opened in 2009 and though it’s an impressive

CLASSIC ORIENTATION

Chicago, You Say?

Before going “off the beaten path” one has to know what the beaten path is, right? Our list of recommendations comes with the stipulation that if it’s your first time in the Windy City, you should by no means neglect the classic attractions:

A Art Institute of Chicago

111 S Michigan Ave.

Consistently rated as one of the best art museums in the world by experts and tourist websites alike, the museum is at once expansive and manageable, with collections spanning antiquity to contemporary art. It’s also a short walk from the larger “Museum Campus,” where you’ll find the Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, and Shedd Aquarium.

B Millennium Park

201 E. Randolph St.

Take a stroll across the street once you’re done at the Art Institute to get your obligatory photo with the Bean—the shiny, stainless steel sculpture by Anish Kapoor that’s technically called *Cloud Gate*. All summer you can catch free concerts and film screenings in the vast amphitheater designed by Frank Gehry, too.

C Magnificent Mile

Michigan Avenue, between Oak Street and the Chicago River

This is the city’s main commercial drag, with both luxury and mainstream retail, horse carriage rides, and the historic water tower.

D Navy Pier

600 E. Grand Ave.

If you’re brave enough to face the crowds, the pier offers a delightful walk. Turn around once you get to the end for a breathtaking view of the skyline. The 3,300-foot pier is also home to a Ferris wheel, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, an IMAX, and the Children’s Museum. It’s the departure point for boat tours on the lake and the blast-off site for fireworks twice a week all summer long.

E Skydeck at Willis Tower

233 S. Wacker Dr.

What visit to any city is complete without climbing up to the highest place for a look around? Located at the top of the building formerly known as the Sears Tower (now the second-tallest building in America), the deck lets you appreciate the city and the vastness of the lake from 1,353 feet.

—Maya Dukmasova ’12

Area of inset map

Rainbow Park
and Beach

41

building designed by one of Chicago's star architects, it traces its roots to a storefront. There, local Holocaust survivors organized a foundation and an education center in the late 1970s, after neo-Nazis threatened a march in the middle of the town. After World War II, thousands of survivors settled in Skokie, making it a place where not only contemporary Jewish culture but also memory could thrive. "They say that at one time one in every six residents of Skokie was a Holocaust survivor," Greenland says.

On Stage

Chicago has vibrant theater and comedy scenes, and there are venues large and small, for every taste and every budget.

H Goodman Theater

170 N. Dearborn St.

Located in the heart of the Loop, the Goodman is home to one of the oldest theater companies in Chicago. Performances range from Shakespearean classics to productions by up-and-coming playwrights. "They have an experimental side and a [second stage] with bigger pieces," says **Suzanne Sawada** '73, an avid theater-goer. Chicago has an "amazing wealth of aspiring actors and actresses and playwrights," she adds, "it has an incredible theater community, and if you look in the paper or go online, there are all kinds of interesting plays to go to."

I Victory Gardens Theater

2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

One of Sawada's favorites among the myriad storefront theaters that pepper the city is the Victory Gardens Theater. Housed in the historic Biograph movie theater—where John Dillinger was shot by FBI agents in 1934—the company has focused on developing and staging new work and fostering diversity in the theater scene since its founding in 1974. Sawada says that "there are a lot of theaters that start with a handful of people . . . they start out small," but over time Chicago's storefronts have produced some of the nation's leading dramatic actors and playwrights.

J Second City

1616 N. Wells St.

While Chicago's theater scene may always compete for the limelight with New York, the city is the undisputed cradle of improvisational comedy. Think of any famous comedian who's been part of *Saturday Night Live*—more likely than not, they got their start with Second City. Today the nation's aspiring comedians—and even ordinary people who want an unusual challenge—still flock to Chicago to learn the art of improv. Walker discovered the comedy theater through taking a six-week class. "Every year I try to do something that's a little out of my comfort zone," he says. He's loved bringing visitors to shows ever since. There are nightly performances. "It's a really cool thing that's unique to Chicago," Walker says.

K North Shore Center for Performing Arts

9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

This may seem like an out-of-the-way venue, but Greenland insists it's worth a visit. "They have theater events there, music events there, and there's a repertory theater company that

SEEING THE SIGHTS: Access to Chicago's wide-ranging network of parks, including the Lincoln Park Zoo and the beaches along Lake Michigan, is free, a notion that often astounds visitors to the city, says **Brittany Hopkins** '14.





has about eight plays a year,” says Greenland. There are also regular dance performances and a symphony orchestra. With free parking and public transit connections from Chicago “it’s almost like being in Rochester, [given] how convenient it is [to get there],” he adds.

Parks and Beaches

Between the lakefront, the riverfront, and dozens of square miles of picturesque parks, the city’s got your nature fix.

L North Avenue Beach

1600 N. Lake Shore Dr.

With nearly 30 miles of public land alongside Lake Michigan, Chicago has a beach to fit every taste—from vast, uncrowded stretches of sand, to rocky natural waterfront, to the bustling beaches at the heart of the city. Hopkins prefers those, especially the one at North Avenue, which abuts her Lincoln Park neighborhood. “It’s so nice to have that amazing resource,” she says. “When my friends are visiting, I love to have them go on a walk along the lake path.” Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the beach is open daily and has rows of volleyball nets, a restaurant, and easy access to the biking and walking trails. And even in the winter, the beach makes for a scenic destination.

M Lincoln Park

2021 N. Stockton Dr.

Though Lincoln Park is the name of one of Chicago’s 77 officially recognized “community areas,” it’s also the name of the city’s largest park, running for 1,208 acres along the lake. The section of the park that gave the neighborhood its name includes a zoo, a large conservatory, and a nature walk with native flora and fauna. “Coming here it’s so easy to forget that you’re in the city,” says Hopkins. “It’s a bit of an escape from the hustle and bustle.” She gets a kick out of visitors’ amazement that all of this is free and open to the public. “People are always astounded that you can just walk through the zoo.” The park is also home to the Chicago History Museum, a rowing canal, a garden landscaped by Alfred Caldwell Lily, a theater, and a weekly farmer’s market.

N Riverwalk

Chicago Loop

“The Riverwalk is an off-the-beaten-path type of place but has totally become a central part of the city,” says **Eric Weissmann ’10**. Neglected for decades as a polluted commercial thoroughfare, in recent years the city has directed tremendous resources to cleaning and beautifying the waterway that flows from the lake to the heart of the city, turning it into a year-round attraction. “You see people of all ages, tourists and locals. There are places to drink beer and wine and places to drink coffee.” Weissmann used to live in the neighborhood, and the walk was a regular part of his routine. “You go on a leisurely walk along the river and then you turn the corner and look out and you see what looks like a vast ocean—Lake Michigan.”

Eating & Experience

Chicago’s restaurant scene has become world famous, but there are also plenty of lesser-known and beloved neighborhood spots.

O Big Star

1531 N. Damen Ave.

A legendary taco joint in Weissmann’s home neighborhood of Wicker Park that’s open into the wee hours and pitches itself as

Meet Your Guides

The Chicago Regional Network, cochaired by Eric Weissmann ’10 and Suzanne Sawada ’73, plans reunions and networking activities for alumni in Chicago and throughout the Midwest.

Philip Greenland ’74M (MD), ’78M (Res)

Skokie, Illinois

Having lived in Chicago for nearly 30 years, Greenland—a cardiologist and faculty member at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine—has come to appreciate the quieter charm of the suburbs. There’s as much cultural and culinary diversity just outside the city limits, he says, as in the trendiest parts of town.

Brittany Hopkins ’14

Chicago

Hopkins, a third-generation Chicagoan, returned to her hometown right after graduating from Rochester to begin a PhD program in neuroscience at Northwestern University. In addition to working with the Leadership Cabinet, she is the national cochair of Rochester’s Young Alumni Council.

Suzanne Sawada ’73

Evanston, Illinois

Born in Chicago, Sawada and her family moved around the Midwest and East Coast throughout her childhood. Eventually she made it back to her roots to forge a corporate legal career. She’s now retired as an assistant general counsel at BP, cochairs the Chicago Network Leadership Cabinet, and chairs the Chicago branch of the George Eastman Circle.

Javaree Walker ’12S (MS), ’15S (MBA)

Chicago

Originally from Long Island, Walker moved to Chicago to join his fiancée (now his wife) after completing his MBA at Simon. He lives in the city’s burgeoning South Loop neighborhood and develops brand partnerships at Pinterest.

Eric Weissmann ’10

Chicago

Arriving in Chicago for business school in 2015, the D.C.-area native found his home. Though his job for an industrial printer manufacturer takes him out to a suburb near O’Hare airport, Weissmann’s home base is the Wicker Park neighborhood, where he lives with his wife, Colleen, and newborn son, Jonah.

—Maya Dukmasova ’12

a purveyor of “whiskey and honky-tonk,” too. In the summer, its large patio is a particular draw for locals. “Seven nights a week and all day Saturday and Sunday, that patio is packed,” he says. “I would say it’s the greatest spot ever to burn through a weekend day with tacos and margaritas and friends.”

P Tel-Aviv Kosher Bakery

2944 W. Devon Ave.

Located on the far northern edge of the city, the family business is both beloved by locals who’ve been here for generations and celebrated by out-of-town foodies for its delectable babkas, rugelach, and doughnuts. Greenland says the bakery has embraced the changing nature of the old Jewish neighborhood around it, adding central and South Asian pastries and breads to its repertoire. “You have a combination of traditional Jews who shop there and Indian and Pakistani Muslims,” he says. “It’s not only a kosher bakery, but it [also] really has this broad ethnic appeal.” Closed on Saturdays for Shabbat.

Q Elizabeth

4835 N. Western Ave.

A farm-to-table restaurant run by a self-taught chef nestled in the Lincoln Square neighborhood. The place is known for its themed dinners and has a very vegetarian-friendly menu. “They did several months of a Wes Anderson-themed dinner, and that was fascinating,” says Sawada, referring to the film director. “Every course was based on a different movie.”

🏠 Vantage Points

Chicago’s a flat city, and we have our fair share of skyscraper observation decks to marvel at vast expanses of the lake and the city’s grid. But the view isn’t always best from the top.

R Cindy’s

12 S. Michigan Ave.

The drinking and dining establishments of the Chicago Athletic Association—a once-exclusive men’s club that has been remodeled into a hotel—range from a Shake Shack to a six-seat cocktail bar with \$50 drinks. Cindy’s falls somewhere in between, and it offers a glass ceiling and a panoramic view of the skyline and the lake across Millennium Park. “You have great food, cocktails, beer, and then you step outside onto the all-season patio and you look out and see the most iconic views of the city,” says Weissmann. The restaurant is also a favorite destination to take visitors to because “the association itself is so iconic.” The original men’s club was built in 1893 to coincide with the World’s Fair. The façade takes the form of a Venetian palazzo turned into a modern high-rise, and many of the carved wood and marble interior design elements have been meticulously preserved. “There are so many secret tucked-in bars and restaurants around the building,” Weissmann says.

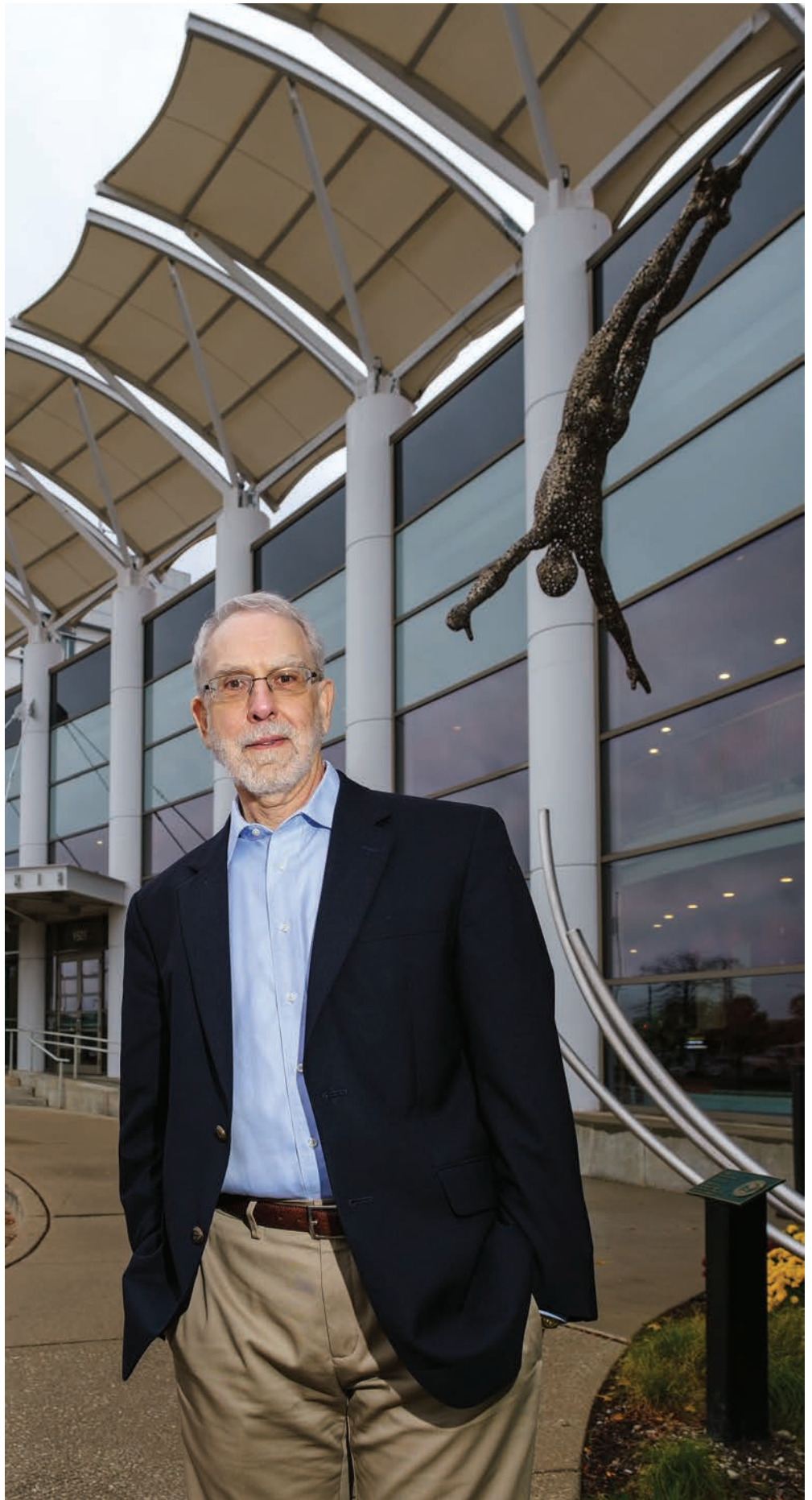
S Architectural Boat Tour

Southeast corner of the Michigan Avenue Bridge at Wacker Drive

One of the best ways to see the architectural jewels of the city is a boat tour along the Chicago River. Be sure to go with the one offered by the Chicago Architecture Foundation, whose passionate volunteers give the best on-board lectures in town. “I’ve been here four years and I’ve probably been on it eight or nine times,” says Walker. “I think that’s one of the most beautiful things to see.” Though pricey (\$47), the tour is well worth the views and educational immersion in the city’s most cherished landmarks. **R**



POPULAR PLACES: Chicago is filled with restaurants and bars that offer perspectives on the city’s history, says Eric Weissmann ’10 (top), while Suzanne Sawada ’73 (above) says Chicago’s thriving theater scene has a long history of influencing the nation’s dramatic and comedic culture. The two cochair the Chicago Network Leadership Cabinet.



HISTORIC CENTER: The Illinois Holocaust Museum in suburban Skokie is one of the largest such centers in the country, says Philip Greenland '74M (MD), '78M (Res) (right).

Meet Maya

Maya Dukmasova '12

I'm a staff writer at the *Reader*, Chicago's alternative weekly newspaper. My work has taken me to every one of the city's 77 community areas. I live in Andersonville—once a Swedish village on the city's far north side—and work in Bronzeville, Chicago's historic Black Metropolis.

For all its beauty and attractions, Chicago is also known as one of the most racially segregated cities in America—white people are concentrated on the north side, while the south and west side are predominantly African American. Latinx communities are clustered on the northwest and southwest sides of town, and there's a historic Chinatown and Asian neighborhoods on the near south side and far north sides of the city.

The divisions are at the root of a lot of social and economic problems, and they're also a barrier to getting to know the place, even for locals. People tend to stick to their neck of the woods. I wanted to suggest places to visit that might be farther from the main tourist hubs but will definitely show you a side of Chicago you won't hear about on the news.

📍 **Garfield Park Conservatory**

300 N. Central Park Ave.

One of the largest indoor botanical gardens in the world, the conservatory was designed by famed landscape architect Jens Jensen. It's especially lovely in the colder months, when you can soak in the warm humidity of the tropical plants under the vaulted dome of the Palm House and the arid heat among the cacti and succulents in the Desert House. The crown jewel is the Fern Room, with a waterfall and lagoon designed to replicate the marshy landscape of Chicago before human settlement. There are also seasonal floral collections, and acres of gardens outside the conservatory. And best of all, like all Chicago Park District attractions—it's free!

📍 **National Museum of Mexican Art**

1852 W 19th St.

The museum was born in the 1980s with a social mission: to create an institution to honor artistic and cultural production from both sides of the southern border, thereby educating the public about Mexican art and uplifting the neighborhood around it. Located in the Pilsen community on the west side (once home to Czech immigrants), the museum is free and boasts a permanent collection spanning 3,000 years. It also hosts special exhibits, lectures, music, theater, and dance performances on a regular basis. You'll find a plethora of fascinating books and colorful handicrafts in the museum store, and a world

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHTS: A reporter for Chicago's alternative newspaper, Maya Dukmasova '12 says the city's many neighborhoods are often overlooked when visitors—and even some locals—put together itineraries.



of fabulous Mexican food and countless breweries in the neighborhood just outside.

V Plein Air Café

5751 S. Woodlawn Ave.

Really, this is a plug for a little cluster of attractions on the University of Chicago campus in the heart of Hyde Park. Plein Air is a light-filled, all-day type of eatery, where you can get sandwiches, salads, and grain bowls made with farm-fresh ingredients. It's attached to one of the best book stores in the city—the cavernous Seminary Co-Op. You can get lost in the cleverly designed stacks for hours. The building was designed by Tigerman McCurry (who also created the Skokie Holocaust Museum) and is right next door to another jewel of modern architecture: Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House.

W Stony Island Arts Bank

6760 S Stony Island Ave.

In 2015, Theaster Gates, one of the most influential sculptors and installation artists of his generation and a tireless advocate for the economic revival of Chicago's African-American neighborhoods, reopened this former savings and loan building as a museum and community center. On any given day there are temporary exhibitions, concerts, lectures, and film screenings. The center—whose past as a bank is woven into its interior design—also houses a library and media archive. Gates and his Rebuild Foundation have other outposts throughout the south side, so perhaps make a day of appreciating his impact by grabbing lunch at the Currency Exchange Café and seeing a performance at the Dorchester Art + Housing Collaborative, too.

X Chinatown

Cermak Road and Wentworth Ave.

Chicago's Chinatown may not be as famous or large as New York's or San Francisco's, but it packs blocks of delightful restaurants at every price point, the best karaoke bars in the city, and lots of small shops. To get there you can actually take a water taxi to the park on the northwest edge of the neighborhood, as well as the El or numerous buses from downtown. Chinatown was established in the early 1900s along several blocks of Wentworth Avenue; there's also a newer, two-story plaza on Cermak Road. My favorite spots are there: Chi Café (very affordable, don't miss the salt-and-pepper squid); Lao Sze Chuan, a Chicago institution; and an outpost of Kung Fu Tea, which serves up any kind of bubble tea you can imagine.

Open House Chicago

Citywide

If you happen to be in Chicago in October, you might happen upon this weekend of events hosted by the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Completely free of charge, you can enter some of the most iconic skyscrapers, houses of worship, and private residences in the city and receive a guided tour. The city is known for its buildings, and this event lets you discover their interiors, taking you far off the beaten path into every nook and cranny of Chicago. **R**



NETWORK CONNECTIONS

Chicago: This Network's for You

Eric Weissmann '10, who became a father last August, is already dreaming of connecting his family to his alma mater. "I want to see the University community grow and flourish so that when Jonah, my son, enrolls in the Class of 2040, I want the University to be a better place than when I was there."

As a cochair of the Chicago Network Leadership Cabinet, Weissmann is bringing a similar sensibility to his work to celebrate a strong Rochester community in the Greater Chicago area. He and cochair Suzanne Sawada '73 lead the cabinet, part of a strategic initiative to highlight Rochester connections in cities such as Baltimore, Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Rochester, and New York City.

"I've been actively engaged as a University of Rochester advocate and volunteer since my freshman year, and I never stopped," says Weissmann. "The reason I give back with my time is one part selfish and one part responsibility. The part that's selfish is I love spending time with Rochester alumni; I like learning from the Rochester community. The responsibility part is I believe I will be forever indebted to the University based on my experience and time there."

Philip Greenland '74M (MD), '78M (Res) says that the network helps dispel the myth that most Rochester alumni are on the East Coast. "I've had an opportunity to meet with undergraduates from Chicago who are going to U of R, to meet their parents, and it's really been very heartwarming because the students that are going from Chicago are really happy and doing really well."

For more about the regional networks, visit Rochester.edu/alumni/regional-network.

—Maya Dukmasova '12

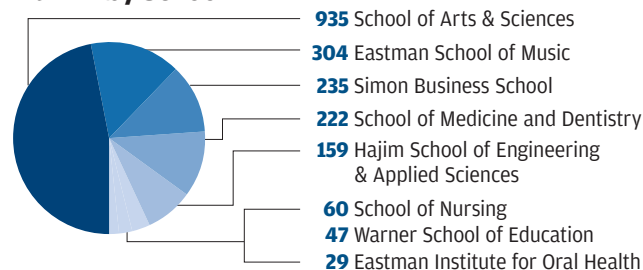
Metro Chicago Network

The Chicago Regional Network includes alumni, parents, volunteers, and others on the shores of Lake Michigan.

1,911 alumni
212 students

248 current parents
87 volunteers

Alumni by School





First *in the* Family

Making up about 20 percent of the undergraduate population, students who are the first in their families to attend college find success at Rochester.

By Jim Mandelaro | Photos by J. Adam Fenster

Maisha Idris '19 dreamed of attending college as a child, despite long odds. Her parents were immigrants from Bangladesh who settled in New York City. Neither graduated from high school. Both worked low-paying jobs.

"I was fortunate to have teachers who emphasized the importance of a college degree, and my parents were very supportive," Idris says. "I grew up feeling I would go to college, no matter what."

Valedictorian of her high school class in Queens, Idris was accepted at Rochester. Through scholarships and financial aid, she was able to enroll. But her first year was difficult.

"I was confused about how to utilize all of the resources available to me and embarrassed about my background," says the computer science major. "I regretted coming to college every day."

The David T. Kearns Center, the University's academic home for first-generation students, was a game changer for Idris. She met regularly with an advisor who made sure her studies were on track. She was introduced to the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and learned better study skills.

"I went from feeling isolated to knowing there were people on campus dedicated to the success of students like me," Idris says. "I finally felt I belonged."

Last August, she received an Edmund A. Hajim Endowed Scholarship. Established by board chair emeritus Ed Hajim '58, the scholarship is awarded to two engineering students per class who exhibit "academic strength, intellectual promise and innovative thinking." She's set to graduate in May and has a job offer in hand as a software engineer for Raytheon.

Idris's story is striking, but not unusual at Rochester, where about 20 percent of undergraduates are first-generation, or "first-gen" students—those whose parents

COLLEGE HOME:

"I grew up feeling I would go to college no matter what," says Hajim Scholar Maisha Idris '19, who found a sense of belonging at Rochester as a first-generation student.

Meet the First-Gens

A few of Rochester's first-generation undergraduates share their stories.

By Jim Mandelaro | Photos by J. Adam Fenster



Michael Lin '21

HOMETOWN: Queens, New York

MAJOR: Creative writing, business

SCHOLARSHIP: Alan and Jane Handler Endowed Scholarship

Two months before Michael Lin '21 was born, his family moved from China to Queens. When Lin was in the sixth grade, his father died, leaving his mother to support the family with a factory job. Lin was determined to enroll in college, but worried about the cost.

The Alan and Jane Handler Endowed Scholarship, established by University Board Chair Richard Handler '83 and his wife, Martha, erased those fears. The University's leading award, its benefits include financial support, individual mentorship, and access to previous Handler Scholars. "It was a blessing," Lin says. He struggled his first year but befriended fellow students in Tiernan Hall and resident advisors who became mentors. He joined Sigma Chi fraternity and UR Photography.

He also is helping future first-generation students apply to college—a process he found "confusing and stressful." He proposed a mentoring program involving Handler Scholars at East High School—part of the Rochester City School District, but managed in partnership with the University. Superintendent Shaun Nelms '13W (EdD), who also teaches at the Warner School, accepted the idea, and the Handler Scholars are now part of East's Step to College program, offering advice and hosting students on the River Campus.

Marines Espinal '21

HOMETOWN: Santiago, Dominican Republic

MAJORS: Environmental science, American Sign Language

SCHOLARSHIP: Prudence K. Bradley Endowed Scholarship

When Marines Espinal '21 moved from the Dominican Republic to New York City at age 10, she realized she had "the opportunity of a lifetime" awaiting her.

"I became really passionate about education," she says. "I wanted to make my mom proud and be able to provide for her in the future."

Espinal enrolled in Rochester's Early Connection Opportunity, a summer program that prepares first-year students for the academic and social challenges of college. "Entering college as a first-generation student was really intimidating," she says. "ECO helped me get to know the campus and the resources I could use."

She joined the dance group Ma'Frisah and found her "home on campus" at the Office of Minority Student Affairs.

"Whenever I'm down, I know I can go there and see faces that will brighten my day and give me hope and motivation," she says.

Espinal plans to pursue a master's degree leading to work that will better the environment.



didn't attend college. Several departments provide resources to help such students transition into college life, and a student organization offering peer-to-peer support to first-generation students was created last spring. Many students are aided by scholarships that lift the financial barriers that would otherwise prevent them from attending college.

"We are committed to the success of our first-generation student population," says Jeffrey Runner, dean of the College.

According to Maureen Hoyler, president of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C., Rochester has a distinguished record among elite private universities in supporting low-income and first-generation students. In 1965, passage of the landmark Higher Education Act led to the creation of the federal TRIO programs—outreach and student services programs funded by the US Department of Education to provide help for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Rochester has played "a critical leadership role" in TRIO, says Hoyler.

"The University has long recognized the need to provide comprehensive services to low-income and first-generation students. Its graduation rates are exceptional, and its record in preparing students in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) may be unmatched."

Jonathan Burdick, vice provost for enrollment initiatives and dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, has a message for first-generation students.

"You're not here based on some quota," he says. "We turned thousands of applicants down. You're here because you deserve to be here."

Last fall, 22 percent of the members of the incoming class were first-generation students, the highest percentage in years. Burdick sees attracting and graduating first-generation students as a central part of the College's mission.

"We're not here to be a final line on a student's glowing resume," he says. "We're here to be an engine of transformation for society. First-generation students need that more than anybody else."

Few first-generation students can enroll at Rochester without financial support. According to a 2017 report from *Insider Higher Ed*, 27 percent of first-generation college students come from households making \$20,000 or less. The University provides around \$65 million annually in grants and scholarship to low-income undergraduates in Arts, Sciences & Engineering, opening doors that otherwise would remain closed.

At the same time, financial support alone is often not enough for first-generation students to make the most of their potential. In an age when affluent parents are increasingly tapping into their means and experience to help their children prepare for and navigate higher education, colleges and universities must have resources to offer similar support for students without those benefits.

In 2018, a \$5 million gift from Kenneth French '78S (MBA), '83S (PhD) and his wife, Vickie, came out of a recognition of the importance of academic, as well as financial, support. The couple established the KRFrench Family Scholars Program to provide financial aid and a robust network of academic support for College

Pech Chhun '19

HOMETOWN: Rochester

MAJORS: Clinical psychology, biology

SCHOLARSHIP: W.H. Brady Student Support Fund

Pech Chhun '19 didn't speak English when he left Cambodia for Rochester with his mother and sister at age eight—but college was part of the plan, if the financial resources were there.

He enrolled in an International Baccalaureate program in high school and was named a Brady Scholar in recognition of his engagement in the Early Connection Opportunity program.

"I struggled my first year at Rochester," he says. "The traits I had learned, being independent and self-sufficient, had to be unlearned so that I could use campus resources that could help me. It took about two years."

Chhun became a resident advisor, a D'Lion, and a member of Debate Union. He also founded the student organization First Gen Society and serves as president. "I'm so proud of it," he says. "I hope it serves students well for many years after I'm gone from the University."

Chhun will graduate in May. His sister, Pechrasmey, received her degree from the School of Nursing in December.

Dulce Martinez Alarcon '22

HOMETOWN Mesa, Arizona

MAJOR Undecided

SCHOLARSHIP Robert and Ellen Kirschenbaum Term Scholarship

In some respects, Dulce Martinez Alarcon '22 had a typical first day of college.

"I didn't know anyone," says the Mexico native, who moved to Arizona with her family at age three. "I realized how far from home I was. It was a tough day." But as the first person in her family to go to college, Martinez, whose academic interests include business, psychology, and philosophy, felt she had to carry an extra burden. "I had to figure everything out for myself," she says. It got better as she "started finding people I could relate to and made friends. And I saw all of the help available on campus."

She became a Kearns Scholar, joined SALSITA (Spanish and Latino Students in Training for Awareness), and signed up for the First Gen Society club.

"Those clubs gave me an opportunity to meet people like me," she says.

The Kirschenbaum Scholarship, established by Robert '70 and Ellen Kirschenbaum, supports undergraduates in the School of Arts & Sciences, with a preference for need-based students from Arizona. "It's the reason I'm here," she says.

Martinez aspires to a career in law.



Alejandro Vera '22

HOMETOWN: *Fairfield, California*

MAJOR: *Biology*

SCHOLARSHIP: *Roger Birnbaum Family Scholarship for the Kearns Center Scholars Program*

When Alejandro Vera '22 moved across the country last August to begin college, he felt “a combination of excitement and pure fear and anxiety.”

“Lost doesn’t begin to describe how I felt,” he says. “Everybody seemed to know where to go and how to get there.”

His worries dissipated when he joined the First Gen Society, a student organization offering peer support to first-generation students. He was introduced to the Office of Minority Student Affairs and the David T. Kearns Center and went from feeling like an outsider to a member of the community.

“UR has quickly felt more and more like my home,” he says. “I’ve found the right people to surround myself with and have become more comfortable with the campus and the city.”

After graduating, Vera plans to take a gap year to gain experience and work toward getting into medical school. His career goal is to become an OB/GYN. “I’m fascinated by the idea of helping to bring life into this world,” he says.



undergraduates with high academic potential and financial need.

Although French wasn’t a first-generation student himself, he calls his time at Rochester “transformative.” “I was an engineer at Eastman Kodak after receiving my bachelor’s degree. I went to Rochester to get my MBA, and because of the excellent teaching I received, I discovered the excitement and vibrancy of economics and finance and decided to get my PhD. It’s been my life ever since.”

The Roth Family Distinguished Professor of Finance at Dartmouth College’s Tuck School of Business since 2011, he’s also a consultant to Dimensional Fund Advisors, a global investment firm, and a member of its board of directors. “First-generation students are special to Vickie and me,” French says. “These are students with great strengths and qualifications. With a little assist, we can put that human capital to work.”

The Frenches will add significantly to a network of resources the College already has in place to serve first-generation students. Those resources lend confidence to other scholarship benefactors that their investment at Rochester will be a good one.

Roger Birnbaum '58 attended Rochester with his twin, Robert Birnbaum '58, and graduated with a degree in business. Since 1991, he has been president of the Princeton Healthcare Group. Concerns about the rising costs of higher education, combined with income and wealth inequality, prompted him in 2014 to establish the Roger Birnbaum Family Scholarship for the Kearns Center Scholars Program, awarded to students who are low-income, first-generation, or underrepresented minorities.

“We’re losing a whole generation of kids who have all this potential but are being priced out of the higher education market,” he says. “Some of these kids are fortunate enough to get scholarships and financial aid but aren’t prepared socially. They can drown in school. The Kearns Center embraces these kids and provides the support that can make the difference between success and failure.”

Prudence Bradley '88 (PhD) was a first-generation student who had a successful career in pharmaceutical research and development. She established the Prudence K. Bradley Endowed Scholarship for first-generation Rochester students with financial need with a preference for students pursuing degrees in STEM fields. Bradley recipient Marínes Espinal '21, an environmental science and American Sign Language double major who moved from the Dominican Republic to New York City when she was 10, was able to get a head start at Rochester through the Early Connection Opportunity program overseen by the College’s Office of Minority Student Affairs.

“Without the Bradley Scholarship, I wouldn’t have been able to attend Rochester,” she says. “I’m grateful and blessed.”

Adjusting to college can be challenging for any student, and to some extent, the growth of services targeted at first-generation students is part of a larger expansion of academic and other types of supports for all students that’s now almost universal in higher education. But at elite private universities such as Rochester, first-generation students are especially vulnerable to feelings of isolation. Sometimes, they feel misunderstood by classmates from more affluent backgrounds.

“There’s sometimes an assumption that first-generation

Student Support

Campus programs and organizations reach out to first-generation students.

The Office of Minority Student Affairs has supported the needs of underrepresented and first-generation students for 50 years. Through the Higher Education Opportunity Program and the Early Connection Opportunity program, OMSA introduces first-generation students to college through social events, seminars, and introductory courses, and partners with University departments to provide help with writing, study skills, and leadership training.

“It’s critically important that we provide the type of support that helps first-generation students realize their academic and personal goals,” OMSA Director Norman Burnett says.

The David T. Kearns Center has worked with first-generation students since 1992, when the University received its first federal funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The center is also home to other federal initiatives, including Upward Bound programs and the Talent Search, that often serve first-generation students. Melissa Raucci, first-generation coordinator, says 80 percent of the 119 Kearns Scholars enrolled in the fall 2018 semester were first-generation students. In addition to having access to study groups, workshops, and career mentoring, Kearns Scholars enroll in a one-credit course called Navigating the Academy. Three-fourths of Kearns Scholars go on to graduate school.

The Office of Parent and Family Relations and the **First-Generation Students and Families Committee** host an orientation event each summer and created a website for families. In 2018, Parent and Family Relations initiated a program called Family Talk, where students chat in small groups with staff members from Parent and Family Relations and the University Counseling Center about concerns they might not be able to discuss at home.

“We create a space for students to identify with each other and give them strategies for how they can have those difficult conversations,” says Parent and Family Relations Director Dawn Bruner, who was once a first-generation student herself.

The First-Generation Students and Families Committee also sponsors a senior celebration for first-generation students, initiated the addition of the Gwen M. Greene First-Generation Senior Award as part of the Dean of Student’s Student Life Awards, and developed 1ST ONE, a campus community campaign to show support for first-generation students at Rochester.

The First Gen Society, established in 2018, offers peer-to-peer support through weekly meetings alternating between educational seminars on topics such as how to write a resume, as well as social events, such as painting pumpkins and a “Friendsgiving” feast.

—Jim Mandelaro

Anna Gasanova '20E

HOMETOWN: Greensboro, North Carolina

MAJOR: Viola performance

SCHOLARSHIP: Karen Noble Hanson Scholarship Fund in Memory of Kathryn Cromwell Noble and Joseph L. Noble, Anne M. Braxton Scholarship Endowment

Anna Gasanova '20E began playing the viola at age nine and spent her final two years of high school at the University of North Carolina’s School of the Arts.

“It gave me a pretty good grasp on dorm life, so I wasn’t that nervous about coming to Eastman,” she says.

Her parents emigrated from the former Soviet Union, and her father died when she was four. She relied on close family friends, books, and movies to give her a sense of what to expect from college life.

“Eastman was my dream school, and I was really excited about coming here,” she says. “It’s incredibly intense as far as academics go. It really teaches you to be a well-rounded musician.”

The Noble Hanson Scholarship Fund for Eastman students was established in 1993 by Karen Noble

Hanson '70, a life trustee who died last November. The Anne M. Braxton Scholarship

Endowment was established in 2010 by her estate.

“It takes away the worry and struggle and makes your dreams come true,” says Gasanova.



Mouhamed Diakhate '22

HOMETOWN: *Born in Manhattan, raised in Dakar, Senegal*

MAJOR: *Brain and cognitive sciences*

SCHOLARSHIP: *KRFrench Family Scholars Program*

Mouhamed Diakhate '22 calls the KRFrench Family Scholars Program a "blessing." Established last year by Kenneth French '78S (MBA), '83S (PhD) and his wife, Vickie, it benefits students with high academic potential and demonstrated financial need.

"My parents aren't US citizens, and I was under 18, so taking out a loan wasn't an option," he says. "The scholarship made everything possible."

Diakhate moved back to Manhattan three years ago and attended Boys Hope Girls Hope, a college-preparatory program that operates internationally. That helped in his transition to college, but it was still stressful.

"I was entering a new chapter in my life," he says. "My RA, D'Lion, and resident fellow made sure I was where I needed to be the first few weeks and made me feel welcome here. And I discovered student clubs which made me feel I belonged."

Diakhate hopes to join the Black Students' Union, Pan-African Students Association, and the Minority Male Leadership Association.



students are only [members of underrepresented minority groups], or that they're not bright," says Dawn Bruner, director of the Office of Parent and Family Relations. "That's not true. They're diverse, intelligent, and engaged students who have worked hard to be here."

Once a first-generation student herself, Bruner says first-generation students often believe they're the only ones having difficulty at school. "In reality," she says, "every student struggles at some point."

In spring 2018, Pech Chhun '19 created a new student organization, the First Gen Society, offering first-generation students peer-to-peer support. "We thought it was important to have a group where first-generation students could relate to and support each other," says Chhun, a clinical psychology and biology double major who moved from Cambodia to Rochester when he was eight. Chhun is a Brady Scholar, a scholarship program established by University Trustee Elizabeth Pungello Bruno '89.

Weekly meetings alternate between educational seminars on topics such as how to write a résumé to social events, such as painting pumpkins and a "Friendsgiving" feast.

Society member Scott Saucier '19, an economics and political science double major from Wolcott, Connecticut, says his struggles were more social than academic his first year. "I had trouble making friends," he says.

Saucier, a beneficiary of the Schiff Family Scholarship Fund, established with an estate gift from Hans '43 and Merle Schiff, stresses the importance of getting involved. He found a friend group with the Baja SAE team and added roles as an RA, as a first-year fellow, and with orientation. "Gradually, I started to find my way here."

Another member, Allison Morningstar '19, was valedictorian at her high school in York, Pennsylvania, but recalls how defeated she felt after her first midterm exams. The neuroscience major found a spot behind the Interfaith Chapel and called her mother in tears, telling her, "I shouldn't be here. If I can't do well at these things, how will I succeed at anything else?"

The tide turned when she was awarded the Carolyn E. and Jeffrey A. Stone MD Current Use Undergraduate Scholarship, established by Jeffrey Stone '87, '91M (MD) and Carolyn Stone '87. "It showed me there are people who believe in me," Morningstar says. She became a Kearns Scholar, then a research assistant at the Medical Center. Last spring, she was one of 13 Rochester students elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society as a junior.

Last year, Chhun was speaking to students from the Rochester City School District about the importance of higher education when one of the students expressed his disdain for college. Chhun was taken aback but chatted with the student about the importance of a degree.

"Many students who don't have a college background in their family see it as a big bill, something completely irrelevant in their life," he says. "I think it's a misconception. If a student wants to go to college, there are people who will move mountains for you to go and thrive in college. I've seen it here at the University. I'm proof of it." **R**

For more student profiles, visit Uofr.us/firstgen-review/.