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THE MODERN WORLD.**WILMOT CANCER INSTITUTE**NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR LEADING  
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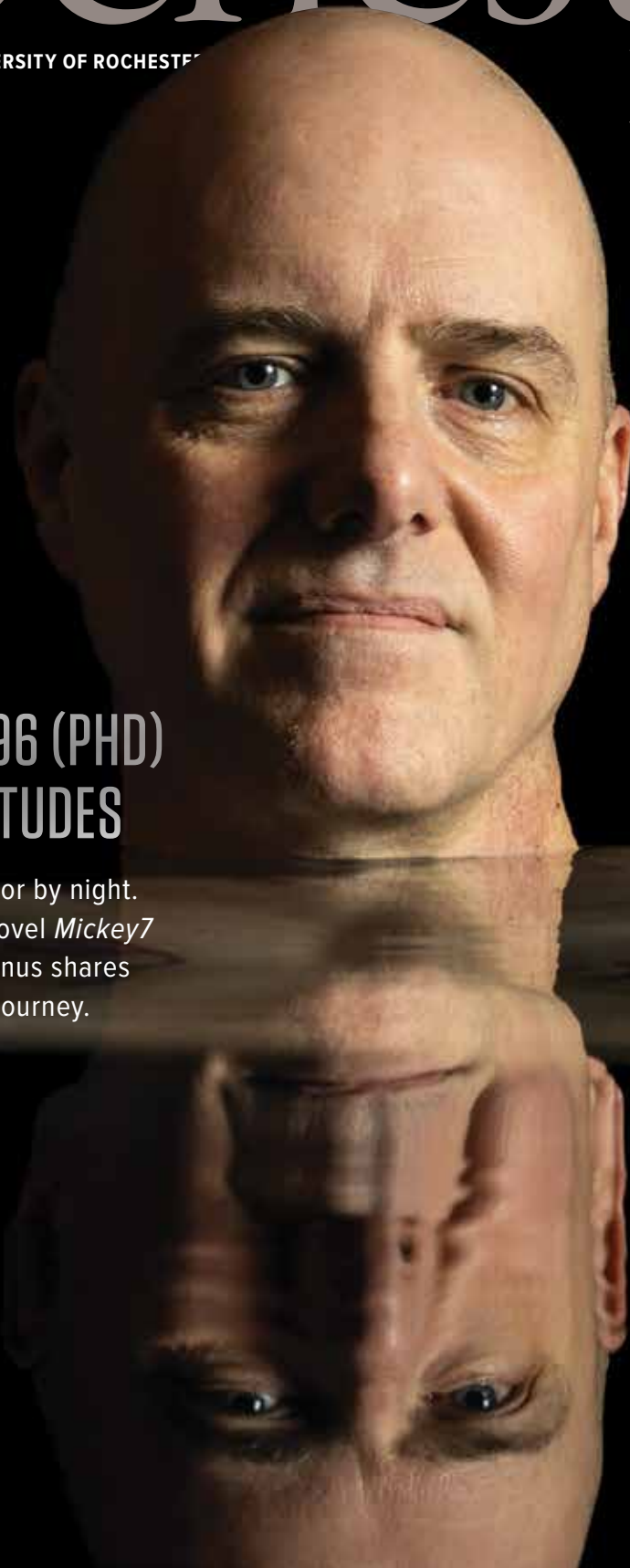
# Rochester

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

## Review

### EDWARD ASHTON '96 (PHD) CONTAINS MULTITUDES

MRI expert by day. Sci-fi author by night.  
As the film adaptation of his novel *Mickey7*  
hits the big screen, the alumnus shares  
his stranger-than-fiction journey.





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# Limitless discovery

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**“I support scholarships for first-generation students so that they can pursue the same intellectual curiosity that I did.”**

**COL. JOHN P. STORZ, DMD, '74  
WITH DEL BAKER-ROBERTSON**  
Washington, DC  
Members, Wilson Society  
Members, George Eastman Circle

John Storz (right) values the freedom he had at the University of Rochester to delve into many interests and cultivate a spirit of exploration. “My education offered me infinite possibilities,” he says. Instead of rigidity in the curriculum, he found that the focus on learning to think through problems ended up being an excellent foundation for his future work.

John went on to attend dental school and began his career in the military. He served in the Army for 30 years and had many assignments, including Washington, DC, where he eventually settled with his husband, Del.

Given their strong belief in the value of education, John and Del wanted to establish a scholarship for first-generation students. They discovered that setting up a gift annuity was the most suitable way to go about it—it provides a guaranteed income for life. Now, John hopes others will join him in making a legacy gift that will have meaningful and long-lasting impact.



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**ON THE COVER:** Author and cancer researcher Edward Ashton '96 (PhD). Photograph by J. Adam Fenster

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# Now Is the Time to Share Our Rochester Story

Leading research universities have helped transform the United States into a powerhouse of innovation and social mobility. Let's proudly share our story.

By Sarah C. Mangelsdorf

As a third-generation professor and researcher, I have always been proud to make my professional home in academic communities like the University of Rochester.

Over the course of my life and career, I have seen firsthand the extraordinary roles that research universities and academic medical centers play in the economic, social, and physical health of our country. As a scholar myself, I'm proud of my contributions and those of my colleagues to the research, scholarship, and teaching of psychology.

And as a parent and family member, I'm grateful for the life-changing clinical care and medical advancements that have been made possible by the research endeavors of Rochester and those of our peers across the country.

As a research university, Rochester embodies a significant human-centered investment in the lives of our many communities. All of us who have been touched by the University should be proud to be part of such an outstanding institution and the incredible faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends who shape it. We each carry the story of Rochester with us as we make our way in the world.

I have been thinking a lot about the story of Rochester over the past few years. Partly, that's a function of a confluence of historical milestones.

As I've written before, the year 2025 marks the 175th anniversary of our founding in 1850. We will also celebrate the centennial this year of our Medical Center, the School of Medicine and Dentistry, and the School of Nursing. Over the past few years, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Eastman School of Music and Eastman Theatre, and in 2029 we'll celebrate the centennial of the Institute of Optics.

In just that single paragraph, we are reminded of a legacy of leadership in scientific discovery, technology, clinical treatments and care, cultivation of the arts and culture, creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and so much more—



all grounded in a collegial community that changes the lives of our students, patients, and community members in ways that few institutions can.

I have also been thinking about our Rochester story as it has become evident that our social compact with those who are less familiar with our work as a research university is not as strong as it should be.

Members of my senior leadership team and I are troubled that Rochester—and many university communities—may be seen as out of touch with the concerns of the country at large.

I hope that everyone who has engaged with our University can tell a different story about Rochester. It begins with our contributions to advancing knowledge, developing treatments and cures, contributing to workforce development, leading technological innovation, buttressing artistic and cultural vibrancy, and enhancing the resilience and well-being of our communities.

Universities like Rochester exemplify the investments that the United States made in funding research that began during World War II. Our nation's unique model of partnership between federal agencies and leading research universi-

ties has positioned the United States as the worldwide leader in research and development.


Our story continues in our belief in the nation's ethos that everyone deserves an opportunity to advance as individuals, citizens, and leaders. Grounded in Rochester's historic spirit of social justice, we are committed to the idea that the best way to advance our missions of education, research, and health care is to invite talented individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences to bring their authentic selves to our institution.

We firmly believe that our differences make us stronger and enhance our excellence, while also believing that we are one team with common goals.

We are enhancing the ways in which we share our story across the landscape of higher education. Our *Boundless Possibility* strategic plan is charting our future work as leaders and innovators. The plan defines our priorities, helps put our values into action, and outlines investments in our strengths. In all, it reflects our stewardship of an incredible institution.

We also are embarking on our first long-term, comprehensive marketing initiative, designed to reach not just prospective students, but also influential leaders across many fields and regions.

I hope each of you is happy to share your story of how Rochester has shaped your personal and professional life as you interact with your friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Our reputation as a University community—in which we work to make ourselves and the world around us better—rests with each of us. We are all examples of *Meliora*.

We are also stewards of an incredible institution and legacy. Our University has thrived for 175 years. We are confident that we will overcome any challenge we face by remaining true to our values-centered commitment to our mission and to our people. 

Contact President Mangelsdorf at [thepresidentsoffice@rochester.edu](mailto:thepresidentsoffice@rochester.edu).

Follow her on Instagram: [@urochestermangelsdorf](https://www.instagram.com/urochestermangelsdorf).

## Challenge Accepted

I am delighted to read about the research and attitude for inclusiveness of neuro-diverse individuals in the societal environment. There was no discussion about application of this developing knowledge in working with neuro-diverse students in higher levels of education such as university/college, medical school, or PhD programs. Fostering this attitude appears to be lacking throughout the institutions of higher levels of learning throughout the United States. Counseling and mentoring students with a high intellectual capacity and other fine attributes but [who] have performance behavior that doesn't always meet the standards may mean success in achieving a meaningful goal. Making or creating accommodation may be challenging but if genuine, the rewards will be worthwhile.

I would be interested in comments about this observation.

*Ron Cole '62M (MD)  
Davis, California*

*A response:*

Dear Dr. Cole,

We greatly appreciate your sharing your experience and vision of the benefits of creating space in higher education that is best suited for all to thrive. We, too, believe that our society and intellectual pursuits are fundamentally enriched when people with diverse lived experiences train and work together.

We envision that the Golisano Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Institute will create future opportunities for people with IDD as the intersection of research and clinical care cultivates new understanding and resources. We recognize as a medical center that keeping people healthy necessitates that we also create opportunities for all to have a full life.

To that point, we would like to highlight efforts that are both ongoing and targets for expansion through the Golisano IDD Institute. These include the Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) at the Medical Center and the Center for Disability and Education at the Warner School of Education, which provides support for students with disabilities and advocates for inclusive higher education at a national level. We know that people with IDD who attend

college are three times as likely to be employed than people with IDD who do not attend college. Our University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) leads education and employment-related initiatives, while our Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program provides interdisciplinary leadership training for allied health professionals and disability advocates. In addition, our School of Medicine and Dentistry participates in the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry's National Inclusive Curriculum for Health Education.

We have devoted our careers to science, services, education, and training within the IDD community, and the University of Rochester is uniquely situated to progress these agendas. But as you acknowledge in your letter, we must be vigilant and innovate to support the intellectual journey of these individuals, embracing the true spirit of Meliora. There is much work yet to be done. To provide better for one is the first step toward providing better for all.

*John Foxe  
Director, Golisano IDD Institute*

*Suzannah Iadarola  
Director, UCEDD*

*Abigail Kroening  
Director of Medical Education, Division of  
Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*

*Martha Mock  
Director, Center for Disability and  
Education, Warner School of Education*

*Laura Silverman '07 (PhD)  
Director, LEND*

## Can't Stop, Won't Stop

I look forward to reading my *Rochester Review* for many reasons. While I look for news of my classmates and friends, the thing from which I derive the most satisfaction is seeing the tremendous accomplishments of the faculty and graduates of our beloved uni.

The research undertaken at U of R is astounding to me and the myriad fields of endeavor in which our graduates excel boggles my mind.

Each edition brings news of advance-

# Rochester Review

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## Acting Editor

Sofia Tokar '20W (MS)

## Contributors

David Andreatta, Luke Auburn, Mary Burke, Matt Cook, J. Adam Fenster, Emily Gillette, Scott Hauser, Kelsie Smith Hayduk, Sandra Knispel, Johanna Lester, Tama Lung, Jim Mandelaro, Phyllis Mangefrida, Melissa Mead, Sara Miller, Leslie Orr, Michael Osadciw, Melissa Pheterson, Scott Sabocheck, Lauren Sageer, Alex Sapounov '28, Kristine Kappel Thompson, Laura Torchia, Lindsey Valich, and Nora Williamson

## Business Manager

Julie Kowalchuk

## Editorial Office

22 Wallis Hall  
University of Rochester  
Box 270044  
Rochester, NY 14627-0044  
(585) 275-4118  
rochrev@rochester.edu  
Rochester.edu/news/review

## Address Changes

300 East River Road  
Box 270032  
Rochester, NY 14627-0032  
(585) 275-8602; toll-free: (866) 673-0181  
giftoffice@rochester.edu  
Rochester.edu/alumni/stay-connected/  
alumni-update-form

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**MEMORY LANE:** Opened in 1958, the Towne House Motor Inn, located on Mt. Hope Avenue at Elmwood, housed a University data processing center in the basement. The building was torn down in 2013 to make way for the development of College Town.

ments in so many areas of human endeavor that I cannot help but be proud that I attended and graduated from such a center of learning and that its traditions of groundbreaking accomplishments continue.

Please don't ever stop publicizing the work that is done at our beloved college home and by its graduates.

*Louis-Jack Pozner '68  
Albany, New York*

### Hot Spot

I'd like to add a little to comments by Joseph Adler '70 in the fall issue.

The Fortran programming class in 1969 was called "Numerical Analysis" and was in the business school—there was no computer science department. That class kept me up many long nights submitting card decks in the basement of the Towne House motel, off campus. Undergraduate students had low priority for getting our decks run, so to get turnaround, a lot of us

worked late at night. (It was a long walk in the dark back to the dorm!)

I also recall (not fondly) the word processing program by Xerox that ran on a very large, very early personal computer. The screen was able to display a full-size, 8.5-by-11-inch page, with beautiful fonts, but the font management tools were excruciatingly complex.

And back in 1965, when I arrived as a freshman chemistry major, our only computer tools available were a couple of Wang calculators that were located down in the steam tunnels under the quad. They were analog calculators and were sensitive to ambient temperature. So fans were available to blow directly into the calculator case. But it was hot in the steam tunnels so it was a constant temptation to turn the fans on ourselves, which caused the analog system to make mistakes.  $2 \times 2$  doesn't normally equal 3.94 (!).

*Kimiko Fukushima Gosney '69  
Friday Harbor, Washington*

**"The Fortran programming class in 1969 was called 'Numerical Analysis' and was in the business school—there was no computer science department. That class kept me up many long nights submitting card decks in the basement of the Towne House motel, off campus. Undergraduate students had low priority for getting our decks run, so to get turnaround, a lot of us worked late at night."**

### Go Figure

The "Ask the Archivist" article in the latest edition mentions that there were women programmers on campus and says that they weren't "hidden figures." This misunderstands the meaning of the phrase. There were many women involved in the early days of computer science but they stayed as hidden figures because the public perception sees only men as part of the history of computing.

In 1992 I won a regional Informatics Olympiad in Ukraine and went on to compete on the national level. At the end of the competition our trainer told me, "You know, you convinced me that girls can do computer science. I believed it was only a boys' skill until I met you." I was lucky that my aunt was one of those early computer programmers and therefore I had no doubt of my own ability to succeed. Thirty years later I still hear this misconception from people who think that I'm an exception to a rule. It's great to see those hidden figures visible in the photo but it's also good to remind people that they were hidden in later years and that's something that unfortunately persists today.

*Myroslava Dzikovska '04 (PhD)  
Edinburgh, Scotland*

### All the Feels

This is regarding "A Catalyst for Change" (fall 2024) and "'A Better World' for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" (summer 2024).

A new stadium would be of some value, a new optics lab might lead to another Nobel Prize, but Rochester went full-Meliora with the Golisano [Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities] Institute. I have never been more proud of a school. The fall article tries to spin this as a power move, bringing more recognition to Rochester, but it has "as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers" written all over it. "I hope that this is what a U of R alum would want." Yes, Lisa Latten, more than anything. I'm not crying, you're crying.

*George Fischer '96 (PhD)  
Long Valley, New Jersey*

*Review welcomes letters and will print them as space permits. Letters may be edited for brevity and clarity. Unsigned letters cannot be used. Send letters to Rochester Review, 22 Wallis Hall, Box 270044, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627-0044; rochrev@rochester.edu.*



*May You Live 10,000 Years*

### ROOTED YET FLOWING

## Defining Involution

Among contemporary Chinese youth, the concept of involution, or *neijuan*, refers to a rolling or curling up of the insides, a reaction to the pervasive cutthroat competition that is understood as largely pointless yet seemingly inescapable. The term has gained traction in Chinese society as the nation's economy continues to slow in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Can art capture the existential feeling of implosion experienced by a generation? With her *Involution Man* copper sculptures, visual

and cultural studies doctoral student Renee Jin makes a compelling case that it can. "One really has to apply force to the copper as opposed to a more pliable or softer material such as wire or clay," says Jin, a multimedia artist and interdisciplinary researcher. "This gets at the idea that involution, even though it appears to be self-driven and self-determined, is forced into and onto us by the environment that surrounds us."

The sculptures appeared as part of Jin's first solo show in Beijing's





*Involution Man Series: Ingrown Digits*

Santo Hall gallery, an exhibition titled *I'm rooted, but I flow*—after a line from the 1931 novel *The Waves* by English writer Virginia Woolf. The artwork delves into the tension between societal norms that bind and root people in place and the persistent tug of other cultures, forces, and desires.

Take *May You Live 10,000 Years*. “In this piece, a girl presents a longevity peach to an elder person. But this ritual of gift giving involves a forced reciprocity: You’re being consumed by your own



*The Great Look Upward*

gesture,” according to Jin. Or consider the artificial tree titled *The Great Look Upward*. The idea for the piece originated during a winter run Jin took in Rochester. “From afar, I thought the tree was full of dead leaves, but, in reality, they were sparrows that suddenly flew away,” she says. “That moment reminded me that human consciousness can be altered by experience.” Learn more at [Rochester.edu/news/involution](http://Rochester.edu/news/involution). PHOTOGRAPHY BY XIE TIAN

—Melissa Pheterson



# Rochester's Cancer Center Earns National Designation

A special classification from the National Cancer Institute places Wilmot Cancer Institute in the top 4 percent of cancer centers in the United States.

By Leslie Orr

Of the estimated 1,500 cancer centers in the United States, the University's Wilmot Cancer Institute is now one of only 73 to have a special designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The NCI recognition places Wilmot in the top 4 percent of cancer centers nationwide.

Admission to this exclusive club certifies that Wilmot is at the forefront of research, community engagement, education, training, and life-saving clinical care. The honor comes with a \$10 million research grant (renewable after five years) and access to additional funding only available to NCI-designated centers.

The achievement was no surprise to President Sarah Mangelsdorf. "I happen to think our cancer center is stronger than some of the others who have had their NCI designation for quite a while," she says. "Every metric shows we're first-class: the number of clinical trials, the number of patients we serve, faculty we've hired, research grants—there is no doubt about the great work happening here."

Everything that resulted in this coveted designation is the product of an effort that began in March 2016.

To meet the rigors of the NCI designation process, which are unmatched in medicine, Wilmot restructured its entire organization, developed a bold strategic plan, doubled its research funding, and adopted a workplace culture that emphasizes collaboration over individual performance. It also initiated new programs in education, training, and community outreach and went on a multiyear recruiting frenzy that brought in 30 oncology stars—many of whom were at NCI-designated centers—to lead basic and clinical research teams. These moves culminated in a demanding, monthslong evaluation process—including an on-site NCI visit—which scrutinized a 1,300-page application describing every aspect of the cancer center's operations, leadership, strategy, and research programs.

"It's an extraordinary moment in the history of the cancer center," says Wilmot director Jonathan Friedberg, who led the efforts to achieve NCI designation. "We view this as major validation and a new beginning that unlocks progress in many areas. But we're not sitting on our laurels."



Wilmot will enjoy the clinical cachet that comes with an NCI designation, but the backbone of this distinction is the institute's research. The reason is simple: Treatments depend on it.

Cancer care has become more complex, and it can take years for the most modern and sought-after treatments, such as immunotherapies, to reach cancer clinics across the country. But NCI centers are hardwired to be at the forefront—a fact that carries significant weight for western and central New York, where cancer rates are inordinately high.

If the 27-county region Wilmot serves were a state, it would have the second highest incidence of cancer in the United States, behind Kentucky. That doesn't mean that living in this area puts a person at greater risk of cancer. Instead, the rates are indicative of an aging population, tobacco use, sedentary lifestyles (compared to state and national averages), and challenges to accessing health care in rural and urban areas, including poverty.

The University's cancer center is the only one in the region equipped to study and reverse this disturbing trend. And, as an NCI-designated center, Wilmot is also better positioned to address complex patient needs. The reason? Research.

Wilmot is investing in an important initiative called Developmental Therapeutics (DT) to help turn scientific discoveries into treatments faster and more efficiently. Even among NCI-designated centers, DT is rare. Friedberg's vision is for Wilmot to become a DT leader, making it an elite program among the most elite cancer centers. Efforts are underway to recruit someone to lead the program and fund specialized laboratories. Moving this function in-house will allow Wilmot scientists and fellow researchers across the University to more rapidly evaluate new cancer therapies. It would also involve recruiting experts



**CERTIFIED ELITE:** NCI designation certifies that Wilmot Cancer Institute is at the forefront of research, community engagement, education, training, and life-saving clinical care.

with the training, experience, and distinct skills to design first-in-human clinical trials.

“When you invest in the scientific mission, there’s a massive halo effect that spills over to patient care,” Friedberg says. “It’s a thrilling place to be right now—for research and for patients.” <sup>R</sup>



**PRIORITIZING PATIENT CARE:** Jonathan Friedberg, the director of the Wilmot Cancer Institute, spearheaded the efforts to achieve NCI recognition.

## COURSEWORK

# Learning Russian in the Heart of Rochester

Students learn language, culture, politics, and customs from Russian-speaking Jewish émigrés.

By Sandra Knispel

Acquiring the fluency, vocabulary, and cultural context necessary to navigate a second (or third) language takes time and practice. It also takes exposure to native speakers and their natural environment, ideally via a semester or year spent abroad. But since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, Rochester students haven't been able to study in Russia—which had been a key component of the University's Russian program for the last three decades.

Yet as one door closed, another unexpectedly opened.

In fall 2023, the aging outreach coordinator from the Greater Rochester area's Jewish Family Services (JFS) contacted the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures with an intriguing and timely offer: Would students be interested in practicing their language skills with Russian-speaking immigrants from countries of the former Soviet Union? Bonus: The native speakers live locally at the JFS apartment complex known as NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community), which allows residents to age in place.

Students could sharpen their language skills while learning about the lived experiences of Jewish émigrés from the former Soviet Union. The émigrés, in turn, would teach students the language while enjoying each other's company. The idea for a community-engaged language class, designed around semi-monthly visits with the elderly residents, was born.

"It's a win-win for all," says Laura Givens, a professor of instruction in Russian. "The partnership offers our students a kind of study abroad experience without ever leaving Rochester."

RUSS 156: Russian Language Community-Engaged Practicum goes beyond mere language practice. "The program fosters meaningful intergenerational, cross-cultural friendships between students and members of the Rochester community, most of whom are low-income, isolated, and have limited English language skills," says Givens.


Quite a few of the elderly residents are Holocaust survivors, willing to talk to the students about their lives as Jewish children during World War II. Frequently, the residents reminisce about their families, former jobs, and lives prior to immigrating to the United States.

"I can't stress enough how meaningful the visits to JFS have been," says Aaron Do '26, a double major in Russian and music. "It's an amazing opportunity to immerse oneself in the culture that we study to learn the little things about household life," adds Do, who is part of the Guaranteed Rochester Accelerated Degree in Education (GRADE) program, a five-year combined undergraduate and graduate degree offered with the Warner School of Education.

Do has paid regular visits to NORC resident Yefim Ravin, who came to the United States 32 years ago from Belarus. Ravin, a former physics professor, sometimes reads Russian poems with Do.

"I don't just enjoy speaking," says Ravin. "I also enjoy listening, particularly in this setting [at the dining table at home] because students are open-minded."

While the emphasis of the two-credit course is on the practical side, Givens meets weekly with her students to discuss language challenges and rehearse narratives ahead of the next visit, often through role-play. Class readings focus on the Nazi occupation during World War II, the subsequent life of Jewish citizens in the Soviet Union with its rampant antisemitism and state-sponsored discrimination, and the chaos in the 1990s following the collapse of the USSR.

Says Do, "I never could have expected the depth of understanding and emotional connection that I now share with my resident pairings at JFS." 

**RUSS 156:**  
**Russian Language**  
**Community-Engaged Practicum**

**Instructor:** Laura Givens, professor of instruction in Russian and Russian language coordinator



**CROSS-CULTURAL CONVERSATION:** Aaron Do '26 (right) practices his language skills with Rochester resident Yefim Ravin, who came to the United States from Belarus 32 years ago.



# Ask the Archivist: Was the Rochester Plan Greater than the Sum of Its Parts?

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

**I was wondering if you could help me elucidate the history of the Rochester Plan? I became aware of this program my freshman year through the Career Center in Lattimore Hall. The carrot was that you didn't have to take the MCATs if you successfully got in, but the program's main point was to broaden your education by allowing you to take courses that you wouldn't have otherwise taken or were too afraid to take while preparing to apply for medical school. It was an intensive process, involving the initial application, then a second application explaining how you would plan out your next three years of coursework plus two application essays on how you viewed your career after medical school and 10 years out (really testing planning and maturity here), and then Medical Center interviews (third cut). Over the years, I've run into other R-Plan members of different generations, and we all speak fondly of the trials and tribulations of the process and who we were interviewed by along the way.**

**—Edward Fox '91, '95M (MD)**

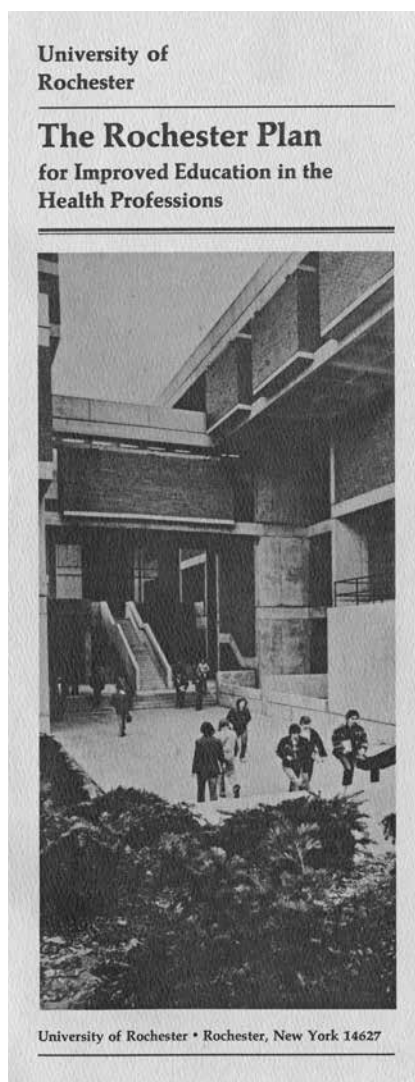
The December 1975 issue of *Currents*, the University's staff newspaper, announced that the Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation, had given \$2 million in support of a multistrand proposal to "provide for closer integration of premedical and medical education; preparation for a variety of careers in the health professions besides medicine;

and individualized programs crossing departmental and college lines and involving greatly expanded faculty advising."

In choosing Rochester, the Commonwealth Fund identified the same interdisciplinary strengths

and structures of the University that convinced John D. Rockefeller's General Education Board to fund the School of Medicine in 1920.

To integrate "premedical and medical education," the new model adopted a 2-4-2 framework. Undergraduates applied for admission to the School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD) during sophomore year (the first "2"), spent the next four years in both undergraduate and preclinical coursework, and spent the final two years in clinical training.



**BETTER BY DESIGN:** Brochure cover from 1978 for the Rochester Plan, which helped pave the way for the Rochester Early Medical Scholars (REMS) program and, later, the signature Rochester Curriculum.

As you note, acceptance into the early selection component of the Rochester Plan meant no worries about the Medical College Admission Test, or MCAT. Early selection also eliminated redundant coursework, thus providing the freedom to explore subjects more broadly in the humanities and social sciences.

More than 100 faculty from across the University planned the plan. Some formed interdepartmental "clusters" to develop new courses, majors, and departments available to all students. Taken together with the Center for Special Degree Programs (initiated in 1970 to enable students to build their own interdepartmental curriculum), this work might be viewed as laying the foundations for the Rochester Curriculum, established in 1995.


Another feature of the plan provided funding to support faculty interested in exploring disciplines beyond their own. These "Bridging Fellowships" are still funded by the provost's office.

Undergraduate research was also part of the plan: The "Summer Program provided a means to formalize [an] informal process, [and] to show recognition for undergraduate summer research work." In 1976, 62 students received stipends to undertake projects of their own design, and others participated without funding. Many wrote papers based on their projects: *The Journal of Undergraduate Research* debuted in November of that same year, containing 16 reports.

Based on your experience and that of your fellow early selection alums, the 2-4-2 program was a success. But it did not take hold on a larger scale either at Rochester or at the other institutions that later received funding to implement it.

In 1991, Rochester joined its peers in offering conditional admission to medical school as part of the undergraduate application process by launching the Rochester Early

Medical Scholars (REMS) program. The last cohort of 2-4-2 students entered the program in 1997, and the "Double Helix" curriculum at the medical school—emphasizing clinical training throughout the four years of medical training—started in 2000.

The Rochester Plan, with its many forward-looking goals, exponents, and participants, should be recognized for the trail it blazed a half-century ago. 

*For more on the multitudes contained in the Rochester Plan, visit [library.rochester.edu/rbscp/blog/ata-spring2025](http://library.rochester.edu/rbscp/blog/ata-spring2025).*

**FAMILY TIES:** In a pair of studies, researchers traced how ancient interactions with Neanderthals have shaped modern human evolution.



## Ancient Encounters Show Neanderthal DNA's Lasting Impact

Tens of thousands of years ago, as modern humans migrated out of Africa, they encountered Neanderthals—a now-extinct group of ancient humans who lived in Eurasia. These interactions left a lasting mark on our DNA; today, nearly all non-African humans carry traces of Neanderthal DNA, offering insights into human migration and survival.

New research conducted by a team of scientists, including Benjamin Peter, an assistant professor of biology, has refined

the timeline of this genetic exchange. The researchers used genome sequencing techniques to analyze more than 300 genomes from ancient and modern humans. They found that most Neanderthal DNA in modern humans stems from a migration event around 47,000 years ago.

The findings, published in *Science* and *Nature*, “provide the most detailed insights yet into how Neanderthal gene flow impacted human genomes,” Peter says, and suggest

that Neanderthals and humans interbred over a single period of 7,000 years. Some Neanderthal genes—specifically those related to skin pigmentation, metabolism, and immunity—proved beneficial in helping humans adapt to new environments and were passed on.

Future research, particularly in regions such as the Middle East and South Asia, could reveal additional insights.

—Lindsey Valich

## Mimicking Nature to Transform Imaging

Inspired by the delicate yet strong glass skeletons of sea sponges, researchers have developed tiny microlenses that could transform imaging technologies.

Sea sponges are simple marine animals that use silica—a lightweight and durable bioglass—to construct their skeletons, allowing them to thrive in harsh marine environments. A team led by biologist Anne S. Meyer has replicated this process in the lab by engineering bacteria cells to express

an enzyme from sea sponges, which the animals use to mineralize silica-based glass.

The result? Glass-coated microlenses that are strong and light. The research, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, shows that the microlenses have the potential to improve imaging technologies in both the medical and commercial sectors. Their tiny size and ability to precisely focus light allow for higher-resolution imaging of objects—such

as subcellular features—that are too small to see using conventional microscopes. Their unique characteristics might also make the microlenses suitable for use in low-gravity environments.

“The ease of producing these microlenses could make them a good way to fabricate optics in locations with less access to nanofabrication tools, including outer space,” Meyer says.

—Lindsey Valich



## Brain Features Linked to Gaming Addiction in Teens

Playing video games is a rite of passage for many adolescents. But for some, video games could lead to a gaming addiction. New research, coauthored by John Foxe, director of the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience, identifies key brain markers in teens who develop gaming addiction symptoms.

The study, published in the *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, analyzed brain scans from 6,143 video game users ages 10 to 15 and tracked their gaming habits over the course of four years. The researchers found that participants who later exhibited more gaming addiction symptoms had lower brain activity in the region involved in

decision-making and reward processing. This blunted response to reward anticipation may make some individuals more susceptible to problematic gaming.

“Gaming itself is not unhealthy, but there is a line, and our study clearly shows that some people are more susceptible to symptoms of gaming addiction than others,” says first author Daniel Lopez ’23 (PhD).

The findings, which are part of the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, a large-scale, long-term, and multi-institutional research project, could help identify adolescents at risk of unhealthy gaming behaviors.

—Kelsie Smith Hayduk



**GONE QUISHING:** Enhanced QR code technology developed by Rochester researchers could help thwart cybercriminals.

## Keeping NASA Space Rocks Free from Contamination

Long before NASA’s OSIRIS-REx spacecraft touched down on Earth in September 2023 carrying rocks it extracted from the surface of asteroid Bennu, a team of scientists set about figuring out how to keep the rocks pristine for studying.

Central to that team was Kevin Righter, an earth and environmental sciences professor, who was the curation lead for the mission. This position included designing a clean room at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, for the space rocks to be analyzed and to identify materials that could contaminate them.

These efforts led to remarkable findings:

The analysis of the Bennu rocks, recently published in *Nature* and *Nature Astronomy*, revealed that they contain minerals and organic compounds considered among the building blocks of life on Earth. The findings support theories that asteroids delivered key ingredients for life as we know it.

Philipp Heck, a member of the NASA team that analyzed the Bennu sample, says the curation effort was vital to the mission’s success: “The exciting discoveries made from the Bennu sample so far really highlight how essential it is to have such a carefully designed and executed curation process.”

—David Andreatta



**FIRST-RATE CURATOR:** Kevin Righter has made his way from NASA’s clean rooms to Rochester’s classrooms.

## New Technology Could Quash QR Code Phishing Attacks

A new type of QR code developed by Rochester researchers could protect smartphone users from cybercriminals exploiting traditional QR codes through phishing. These scams—known as “quishing”—direct users to fake websites where they are prompted to enter sensitive private information.

The researchers—including Gaurav Sharma, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, of computer science, and of biostatistics and computational biology—engineered self-authenticating dual-modulated QR (SDMQR) codes. These enhanced QR codes embed a cryptographic signature that signals to the user whether a scanned link is from a verified or potentially harmful source. The new technology is outlined in a paper in the journal *IEEE Security & Privacy*.

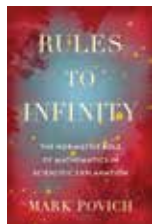
The new codes look similar to traditional QR codes, but they use elongated ellipses instead of the traditional black-and-white squares. This design allows more information to be stored in the code, offering both security and efficiency.

Sharma has filed a patent for the technology and is exploring commercial options. Companies often want to securely place “as much information in as small an area as possible,” Sharma says. “Our technology can help them achieve that.”

—Luke Auburn

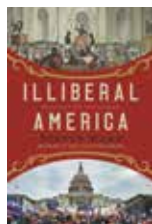
## Books

### Rules to Infinity: The Normative Role of Mathematics in Scientific Explanation



**Mark Povich**, an assistant professor of philosophy, examines debates at the forefront of philosophy of science and mathematics while offering a vision for the place of mathematics in science and the natural world. (Oxford University Press)

### Illiberal America: A History



Pulitzer Prize-winning historian **Steven Hahn** '73 shows the deep roots of illiberalism in the United States and how that history bears on the present. (W. W. Norton)

### What Every Museum Director Should Know about Working with Boards



**Edward Luby** '82 uses museum-based vignettes to empower new and aspiring museum directors with the skills and knowledge required to work with boards. (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers)

### Melville



A dying father's fevered memories blur imagination and reality. Could these tales have inspired author Herman Melville? **Will Vanderhyden** '13 (MA) translates from Spanish Rodrigo Fresán's invented biography, which blends gothic fiction, literary mystery, and filial love. (Open Letter)

### Building Bridges with Music



**Samuel Adler**, a celebrated composer and professor emeritus of composition now in his

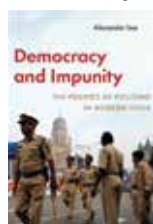
mid-90s, shares a biographical account of his career and views on music, spanning from his early life in Germany and collegiate teaching to essays on worship and music for the synagogue. (Paraclete Press)

### Cavendish



**Alison Peterman**, an associate professor of philosophy and of brain and cognitive sciences, offers a systematic reading of Margaret Cavendish's work, focusing on the naturalism, materialism, and anti-anthropocentrism of the 17th-century philosopher. (Routledge)

### Democracy and Impunity



**Alexander Lee**, an associate professor of political science, offers a comprehensive introduction to the politics of law enforcement in India and the crisis of criminal impunity. As part of his analysis, he offers reasons for poor police performance across multiple dimensions. (Oxford University Press)

### The River



**Kaija Straumanis** '12 (MA) translates from Latvian Laura Vinogradova's haunting novel about self-discovery. Rute, whose adult life is shaped by the loss of her older sister, inherits a rural property from her estranged father. She leaves the city, uncovering lives he touched and truths about her own life. (Open Letter)

### Has Medicine Lost Its Mind? Why Our Mental Health System Is Failing Us and What Should Be Done to Cure It



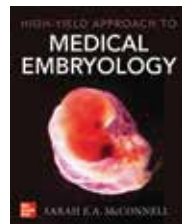
**Robert Smith** '80M (Flw) addresses the substandard state of mental health care in the United States, what changes are needed, and how to accomplish them politically. (Prometheus Books)

### Explorations in Music Theory: Harmony, Musicianship, Improvisation



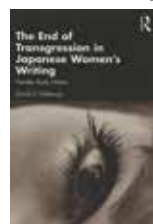
**Dariusz Terefenko**, a professor of jazz studies and contemporary media at the Eastman School of Music, and **Benjamin Wadsworth** '08E (PhD), a professor of music theory at Kennesaw State University, provide an innovative learning approach to music theory, with extensive performance-based exercises, written theory, and analysis. (Routledge)

### High-Yield Approach to Medical Embryology



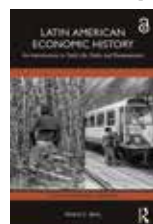
**Sarah McConnell** '13M (PhD), '22W (MS), an associate professor in the Department of Neuroscience, covers core concepts in human embryonic development and related clinical correlations using a streamlined, bulleted outline format. (McGraw Hill)

### The End of Transgression in Japanese Women's Writing: Gender, Body, Nation



The late **David Holloway**, formerly an assistant professor of Japanese, traced transgression in contemporary literature by Japanese women, arguing that "unruly, restless, and aggressive female protagonists" are deployed "not to challenge the status quo but rather to reaffirm it." (Routledge)

### Latin American Economic History: An Introduction to Daily Life, Debt, and Development

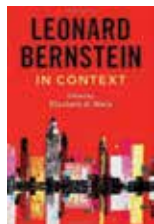


**Molly Ball**, an assistant professor of history, guides readers through Latin American economic development and the connections between culture, economics, and politics spanning independence through the early 2020s.



Ball introduces readers to the region's high volatility, rapid urbanization, continued prominence of commodities, and culture of informality. (*Routledge*)

### Leonard Bernstein in Context



**Elizabeth Wells** '04E (PhD) edits essays that shed light on the social, professional, and ideological contexts surrounding conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein, including chapters by **Rob Haskins** '04E (PhD), **Maria Cristina Fava** '12E (PhD), and Eastman Professor Emeritus **Ralph Locke**. (*Cambridge University Press*)

### External Validity and Evidence Accumulation



**Scott Tyson**, an associate professor of political science, coauthors a conceptual framework to allow for a more comprehensive understanding of empirical research

that has been collected across contexts, places, or times—and to help with the study of causal mechanisms behind social phenomena. (*Cambridge University Press*)

### The Fourth Consort



**Edward Ashton** '96 (PhD), author of *Mickey7*, which inspired the movie *Mickey 17*, offers a new standalone sci-fi novel. The book blends first contact, dark comedy, and a love triangle to

raise important questions—including how far you would go to survive, and, more importantly, how many drinks you would need. (*St. Martin's Press*)

### 90 Seconds to Midnight: A Hiroshima Survivor's Nuclear Odyssey



**Charlotte Jacobs** '68 tells the story of Setsuko Nakamura Thurlow, a 13-year-old girl living in Hiroshima in 1945 when the city was annihilated by the atomic bomb. Thurlow has since come to be regarded as the conscience of the antinuclear movement. (*Potomac Books*)

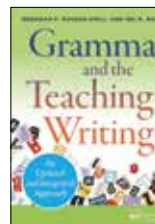
### The Dressmaker's Mirror: Sudden Death, Genetics, and a Jewish Family's Secret



**Susan Weiss Liebman** '74M (PhD) explores the effect of a hereditary genetic mutation on generations of her family. She weaves together a century-old family secret and her personal

history with discussions about genetic testing and screening. (*Rowman & Littlefield Publishers*)

### Grammar and the Teaching of Writing: An Updated and Integrated Approach



**Deborah Rossen-Knill**, founding executive director and a professor in the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program, coauthors a guide on

how to help students hone their writing skills. (*National Council of Teachers of English*)

## Recordings

### Blood on the Silver Screen



**Sasami Ashworth** '21E, originally an Eastman-trained classical French horn player, producer, and composer, is back as SASAMI, the singer-songwriter, with her third studio album—an all-out pop album about love, power, sex, and embodiment. (*Domino Music*)

### Symmetricon



**Nathan Lam**, an assistant professor of music theory at Eastman, presents 77 complex, two-voice canons on the tune

"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." (*Bandcamp*)

### Intermezzo



Clarinetist **Seunghye Lee** '90E follows her Grammy-nominated album *Aspire* with a new release featuring works by contemporary

Italian composer Michele Mangani. (*Musica Solis*)

### The Dawn of the Bicameral Clarinetist



Clarinetist **Gary Dranch** '75E offers an exploration of the pivotal era between 1968 and 1979, when portable synthesizers

first made their way onto the concert stage. (*Navona Records*)

### Panoramas: Flute Music of the Philippines



Flutist **Norman Menzales** '10E (MM), a first-generation Filipino-American, reflects on his Filipino heritage through a

series of chamber ensemble collaborations. (*Ravello Records*)

### Swirl



The debut album of RAHA Duo, which includes violist and Eastman alumnus **Amelia Hollander Ames** '01E,

features six premiere recordings of works for viola and piano. (*New Focus Recordings*)

### River Mountain Sky



**Maria Grenfell** '94E (MA) presents the world premiere recordings of six of her best-loved orchestral works,

exploring subjects as diverse as Maori legend, Tasmania's natural beauty, the struggles of immigrant workers, and 18th-century explorer Matthew Flinders's extraordinary cat, Trim. (*ABC Classic*)

*Books & Recordings* is a compilation of recent work by University alumni, faculty, and staff. For inclusion in an upcoming issue, send the work's title, publisher, author or performer, a brief description, and a high-resolution cover image to Books & Recordings, Rochester Review, 22 Wallis Hall, Box 270044, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY 14627-0044; or by email to [rochrev@rochester.edu](mailto:rochrev@rochester.edu).

## Nicole Sampson, Elaine Sia Named to Leadership Roles

Nicole Sampson was appointed the University's permanent provost and chief academic officer, effective February 1. She stepped into the role of interim provost in August 2024 and has worked closely with faculty, students, staff, and leadership to advance the University's academic mission and related initiatives within the *Boundless Possibility* strategic plan. "Nicole has demonstrated exceptional leadership and vision during her time as interim provost," says President Sarah Mangelsdorf. "I am confident that she will continue to provide outstanding leadership in the role of provost."

Elaine Sia, a professor in the Department of Biology, has been named the inaugural senior vice provost for academic excellence. She is responsible for advancing the University's academic mission by working closely with faculty, deans, and other senior leaders to strengthen the quality and impact of academic programs, research, and student success initiatives. Sia served as the associate dean of academic affairs for the School of Arts & Sciences and the Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences and is known for her contributions to genetics education and research on mitochondrial DNA. [R](#)



Nicole Sampson



Elaine Sia

**"Nicole has demonstrated exceptional leadership and vision during her time as interim provost. I am confident that she will continue to provide outstanding leadership in the role of provost."**

**—President Sarah Mangelsdorf**

## Peter Robinson Retires After 37 Years at Rochester



Peter Robinson

Peter Robinson, the vice president for government and community relations and a University leader for more than 35 years, retired in March.

Robinson joined the Medical Center in 1988 as the director of strategic planning and marketing and in 1997 was named vice president and chief operating officer of URM.

In 2014, he was named vice president of the first institution-wide Office of Government and Community Relations, which manages federal, state, and community relations on behalf of the University.

"I have been grateful for Peter's insight and experience as a member of my senior

leadership team," President Sarah Mangelsdorf says. "We have all benefited from his work to champion Rochester as an academic, clinical, and economic leader across our state and at the national level."

Robinson helped secure hundreds of millions of dollars in capital grants for the Medical Center and the University, including for the Saunders Research Building, the Emergency and Inpatient Tower project, the Eastman School of Music, and the Goergen Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.

In March, Joshua Farrelman, a longtime leader on Robinson's team, was named vice president for government relations. [R](#)



## Three Professors Earn Presidential Recognition

Three University faculty members have received one of the highest honors bestowed by the US government. President Biden selected Ehsan Hoque, a professor in the Department of Computer Science; William Renninger, an associate professor with the Institute of Optics and the Department of Physics and Astronomy; and Petros Tzeferacos, an associate professor of physics and astronomy and a senior scientist



**Ehsan Hoque**

at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics, as recipients of the Presidential Early Career



**William Renninger**

Award for Scientists and Engineers. The award recognizes scientists and engineers who



**Petros Tzeferacos**

show exceptional potential for leadership early in their research careers.

## Eastman Professor, Alumnus Garner Grammys

A faculty member and a graduate of the Eastman School of Music each took home the music industry's highest honor at the 67th Grammy Awards, presented by the Recording Academy of the United States.

Sara Gazarek, an associate professor of jazz voice, is part of the vocal quartet *säje*, which won Best Arrangement, Instrument and Vocals,

for the song "Alma." The group won the same award in 2024 for "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning."

Jason Treuting '99E is part of the group Caroline Shaw and Sō Percussion, which won Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance for "Rectangles and Circumstances." This is Treuting's first Grammy.



*säje*, including  
Sara Gazarek  
(second from left)



Sō Percussion,  
with Jason Treuting  
(far right)

## National Academy of Inventors Honors Friedman, Goldman

Faculty members Eby Friedman and Steve Goldman were elected fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), the highest professional distinction awarded solely to inventors.

Friedman, the Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was recognized for his pioneering work in high-performance integrated circuits. Goldman, the Dean Zutes Chair in Biology of the Aging Brain in the Department of Neurology, was honored for his innovations involving stem and progenitor cells in the central nervous system.

They were among 170 inventors selected from across 135 research universities and governmental and nonprofit research institutes worldwide. The honor is granted to academic inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development, and the welfare of society.

The recent honors for Friedman and Goldman bring the University's current number of NAI fellows to 10.

## Alumni Return for Inaugural Career Exploration Summit



**WISE WORDS:** Jamal Holtz '20 delivered the opening keynote at the Career Exploration Summit.

The Greene Center for Career Education and Connections sponsored the inaugural Career Exploration Summit in January. More than 160 Rochester students and 25 invited alumni filled Feldman Ballroom for the keynote addresses. Students then joined breakout sessions with individual alumni who

shared stories and insights about their experiences at the University and in their careers. The alumni represented a wide range of fields, including business, communications, medicine, and tech.

"The summit illustrates the inspirational power alumni storytelling has to connect with,

inspire, and motivate students to engage in the experiential opportunities offered at Rochester," says Jodyi Wren, executive director of the Greene Center. "The goal is for them to discover and nurture their skills in and out of the classroom and develop a network of personal and professional support that will guide them throughout their time at Rochester."

Jamal Holtz '20, who served as Students' Association president his senior year, delivered the morning keynote address. "Collaboration is a true superpower on campus, not just with your peers but with administrators, with staff, and faculty," he told the audience. "Think about ways that you can collaborate with people you don't traditionally collaborate with." He also urged students to embrace their

true selves. "We all have unique backgrounds and come from different places. Own that," Holtz said. "Use that as a strength to your story."

The afternoon keynote speaker was Patrick Manuel '06, president of Novem Group, a Rochester-based investment management company that works with independent advisors across the country. Manuel urged students to engage with Rochester faculty as often as possible. "They're here because they're passionate about their field of study and because they want to help people," he said. "And they have the world experience and the connections that can point you the right way."

Wren says the Greene Center intends to host the event annually.

—Jim Mandelaro

## Actor Giancarlo Esposito Speaks at MLK Event

Award-winning actor Giancarlo Esposito, best known for roles in the television shows *Breaking Bad*, *The Mandalorian*, and *Better Call Saul*, was the featured speaker at the University's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Address.

Esposito spoke to a packed house at Strong Auditorium in February. During a moderated conversation with Jordan Ealey, an assistant professor of Black studies at Rochester, he talked about his career and what King's vision meant to him as the son of a white Italian carpenter and a Black opera singer from Alabama.

"I relate very deeply to Martin Luther King because he had a universal message for us," Esposito said. "And it wasn't tied to the color of our skin; it was tied to who we are as human beings and how we connect. King said love is the greatest force in the universe. It's the heartbeat of the moral cosmos."

Esposito said his vision mirrors King's: "My dream is that we're able to stand up with one voice, nonviolently, against all that is keeping us in chains and keeping us separate."

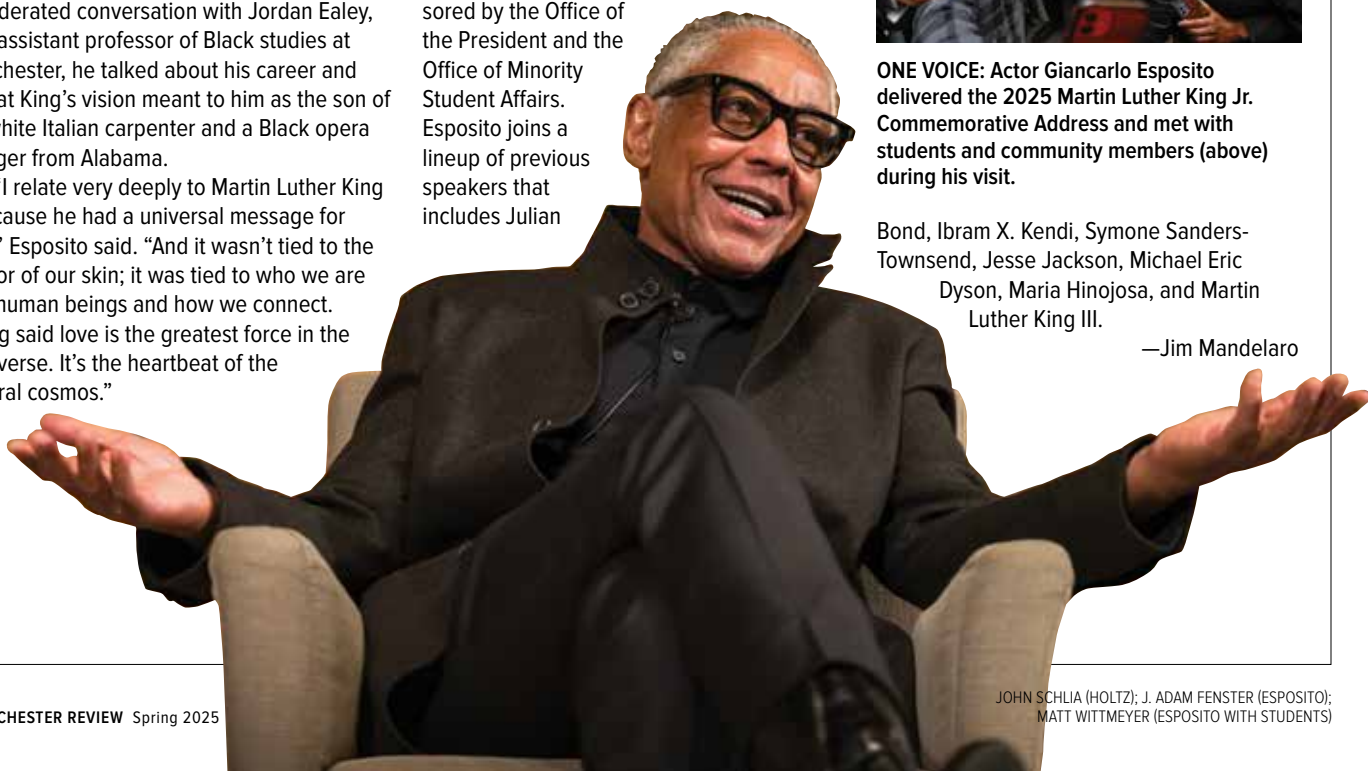
The annual address was instituted by the University in 2001 to promote issues of inclusiveness, freedom, civil rights, and social justice and is cosponsored by the Office of the President and the Office of Minority Student Affairs. Esposito joins a lineup of previous speakers that includes Julian



**ONE VOICE:** Actor Giancarlo Esposito delivered the 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Address and met with students and community members (above) during his visit.

Bond, Ibram X. Kendi, Symone Sanders-Townsend, Jesse Jackson, Michael Eric Dyson, Maria Hinojosa, and Martin Luther King III.

—Jim Mandelaro







**FAIR PLAY:** Possee in the old locker room at Fauver Stadium, where she coached from the late 1970s to the early 1990s.

## 50 Years of Helping Grow Women's Athletics

Jane Possee has seen the rise of women's sports at Rochester while having a significant hand in shaping them.

By Scott Sabocheck

Jane Possee, who is celebrating 50 years at the University this year, has been instrumental in laying the foundation for the growth of women's athletics on the River Campus.

The landscape has changed considerably since she began working in the Department of Athletics and Recreation in the fall of 1975. That was only three years after the introduction of Title IX, a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in education, including athletics programs.


"There's been a lot of professional growth over the years," says Possee. "It's great to see where we are today compared to when I started and what we are doing for everybody in athletics, not just women."

One of Possee's favorite memories from her five-decade career was establishing the University's women's lacrosse program in 1979—one of the first collegiate programs in New York State. She had

upward of 70 players interested in joining the nascent program—a testament to the hunger for opportunities in women's athletics at Rochester and throughout the country.

Since her arrival, Possee has witnessed the varsity women's sports offerings expand from five teams in 1975 to 12 teams currently, which make up more than half of the Yellowjacket varsity teams. She was the inaugural coach for the women's lacrosse program and also coached field hockey and basketball before shifting to an administrative role in 1992. Currently, she serves as an associate director of athletics, dealing with recreation programs and facility reservations while also being the point person for capital improvement projects within the department.

According to Possee, the quality of students at Rochester has consistently remained exceptional over the years. She believes that the advent of organized sports at the youth and scholastic levels has greatly improved the quality of the women athletes joining the Yellowjackets in recent years.

"There's still work to be done," Possee told the *Rochester Business Journal*. "But there's always work to be done. The exciting thing is that we have generations of girls and young women who have experienced unlimited opportunities." 

### Follow the Yellowjackets

If you can't cheer on Rochester in person, you can follow the Yellowjackets online. Live coverage is available for nearly all home events. Find live stats and livestreams at [uofrathletics.com/coverage](http://uofrathletics.com/coverage).

### NATIONAL HONORS

## Yellowjackets Earn All-America Accolades

Three individuals from fall athletics teams have been named All-Americans in their respective sports.

### Jordy Tawa '26

#### Football

The junior cornerback ranked second in Division III with seven total interceptions and tied for first in the nation with 20 total passes defended.

Tawa is **the first Yellowjacket football player in a single season to receive four All-America awards**, bestowed by the American Football Coaches Association, D3football.com, the Associated Press, and the Walter Camp Football Foundation.



### Trey Johnson '25

#### Football

Johnson, who **set the Rochester football all-time career receptions record (171) last fall**,

was honored by D3football.com as a fourth team selection return specialist. He ranked third in Division III with two kickoff return touchdowns and was seventh overall in kick return average at 30.1 yards per return.



### Natalie Kocsis '25

#### Women's soccer

The midfielder was awarded fourth team All-America honors from the United Soccer Coaches for her efforts during the fall, logging 1,231 minutes while scoring two goals and handing out three assists. Kocsis is **the 36th All-American in Rochester women's soccer history**. She was also named a United States Coaches Division III Scholar All-American (second team).





## Historical Yellowjacket Game Footage Is a Fountain of Youth

A storage room on campus contains film canisters and VHS tapes of more than 1,000 athletic contests—the oldest dating to a 1927 football game.

By David Andreatta

Vince Russo '61 was watching football on television two years ago when he recalled a fleeting moment of glory he had on the gridiron as a member of the Rochester Yellowjackets.

"I was watching these guys get knocked all over, and I said to myself, 'Darn it, I used to be able to do that,'" says Russo. "And then I remembered that play."

### Want to Help Preserve Yellowjacket Game Footage?

Contact Associate Director of Athletics for Advancement Terry Gurnett at [tgurnett@sports.rochester.edu](mailto:tgurnett@sports.rochester.edu).

That play unfolded during the third quarter of a game against Hobart College at Fauver Stadium in 1961. He was on the defensive line when the ball slipped from the grasp of a Statesmen running back and arced backward through the air into the waiting hands of Russo, who ran 40 yards for a touchdown en route to a 27–6 Rochester victory.

"I kept telling anyone, if a defensive lineman caught a fumble like that and ran 40 yards for a touchdown, it would make ESPN's 'Top Ten' nowadays," he says.

For 60 years Russo recounted his version of that play to family and friends with no visual evidence of its ever happening aside from the moving pictures in his mind's eye. But he knew, too, that there once was proof in the form of footage captured on 16-millimeter film in the early days of what is now routine in college athletics—the postgame video review.

On a lark, he emailed the Department of Athletics and Recreation inquiring whether the footage might still exist. He heard back that it did indeed.

The footage sat on a shelf in a Goergen Athletic Center storage room amid hundreds of tin canisters of 16-millimeter film and VHS tapes. To aging Yellowjackets yearning for a glimpse of their glory days, the storage room's contents amount to a treasure trove of game footage from decades past.

The keeper of the treasure is Terry Gurnett '77, the former longtime women's soccer coach who is now the associate director of athletics for advancement. Gurnett, who has been with the University for 50 years, recalls finding the films in closets, desk drawers, and storage rooms around campus. When he happened upon one, he put it on the shelf.

"I've just amassed all this," Gurnett says with a sweep of his





arm, gesturing at an assemblage of Yellowjacket paraphernalia, budget books, and fitness equipment in the storage room. “I figured if I didn’t save them, who the heck would?”

The collection is meticulously inventoried and consists of film footage of more than 1,000 athletic contests, mainly of football and men’s and women’s basketball games. The majority of the footage spans the 1950s through the early 2000s, but the earliest date to the 1920s. The oldest is a 1927 football game between Rochester and Hobart.

Of course, most of it can’t be easily viewed or shared. Reel-to-reel projectors are limited to select movie theaters nowadays and video cassette machines are yard sale fodder.

“In a perfect world, I would take each one of these, digitize it, and make it available to everyone online,” Gurnett says.

But that’s a daunting task. Digitizing the entire archive could cost as much as \$152,000, according to an estimate Gurnett received for the work.

Still, the athletics department has made inroads in digitizing the footage. To date, more than 100 games have been added to one of the department’s YouTube channels, @uofrathletics1850. Dozens more await uploading.

Some of that effort has been financed with the help of alumni, like Russo, who sent Gurnett a check that covered the cost of digitizing the game featuring his moment in the sun and several other games.

“I told them if you find that film, I’ll get in my car and drive to Rochester just to watch it,” says Russo, who makes his home in Dayton, Ohio. “Seeing that again was on my bucket list.”

Russo didn’t have to make the trip. Gurnett sent him the digitized footage, in which Russo scrambles into the end zone and tosses the football into the air in jubilation.

As artifacts important to the annals of the University go, footage from a forgettable midseason athletic contest is a far cry from, say, the University’s founding charter.

Yet there is historical value in some of the footage, says University archivist Melissa Mead. She notes how film of the 1927 football game shows a Rochester marching band, providing evidence that the band was formed years earlier than previously thought.

“They have different value to different people,” Mead says of the footage. “Mostly the value is to alumni athletes, but to the archives and to me the value is what it shows about the University and athletics and the people who attended the games.”

For former athletes in their golden years, the prospect of seeing moving pictures of themselves in their glory days is a chance to dip a toe in a fountain of youth.

Michael Cohen ’61, who captained the basketball team, recalls riding the bench in the last game of the regular season against Hamilton College in 1961 as his Yellowjackets neared the 100-point mark—an extraordinary feat in those days.

As Cohen tells it, the coach, Lyle Brown, summoned him to take the court so he could score the 100th point of the game. He missed shot after shot until his teammates set a pick for him and he let the ball fly to its mark.

“It was very important to me,” Cohen says of having footage from that game.

“There are probably still people alive who remember that game. I sure as hell do. It’s stuck on my brain.” **R**



**GAME KEEPER:** Terry Gurnett ’77, who has been with the University for 50 years, adds athletics footage he finds to his collection in the Goergen Athletic Center for safekeeping.

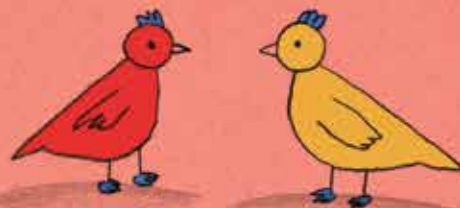
UGH



BZZZZZ



TWEET



WHOOOSH



Oui!



I GIVE THEE  
MY TROTH



BEEP  
BEEP



UBI TU GAIUS  
EGO GAIA



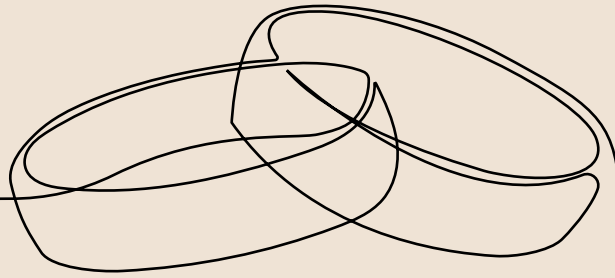
WOO HOO



I DO





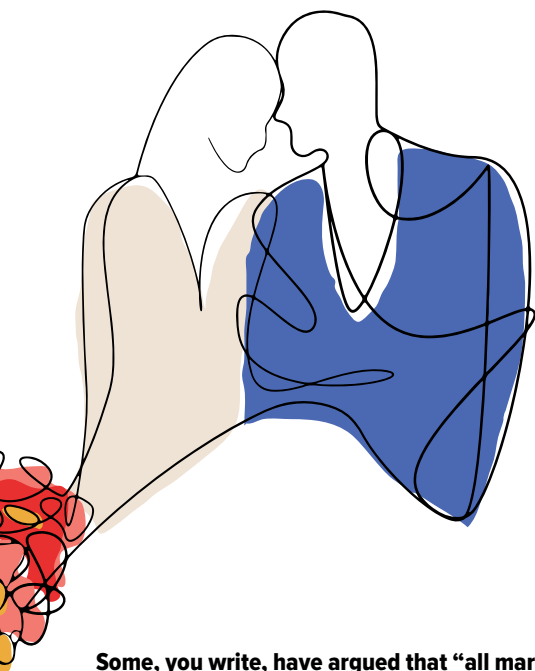


# TAKE A VOW:

## On Keeping Your Word in the Modern World

BESTSELLING AUTHOR CHERYL MENDELSON '73 (PHD) DISCUSSES  
MARITAL VOWS, INCLUDING THEIR HISTORY AND ROLE, AND  
WHY DITCHING THE CLASSIC ONES MAY BE A BAD IDEA.

*By Sandra Knissel*  
*Illustrations by Brian Rea*



**CHERYL MENDELSON '73 (PHD)** knows a thing or two about wedding vows—and not just because she took them twice.¶ “Wedding vows, if they are from the heart, made before witnesses you respect and care about, are a potent moment in the ceremony. They change things. The tradition draws power from its brevity, its universality, and its great age, wisdom, and beauty. It deserves respect and protection just as great thousand-year-old works of literature, art, and architecture do,” writes Mendelson in her latest book, *Vows: The Modern Genius of an Ancient Rite* (Simon & Schuster, 2024), which made the *Wall Street Journal*’s list of 10 best books of 2024. ¶ *Publishers Weekly* called the memoir of two marriages an “illuminating” meditation on marriage itself that traces the origins of marital vows to today’s widespread global practice, one that cuts across cultural, geographic, racial, economic, and religious divides.

**Some, you write, have argued that “all marital vows are at best futile and at worst fraudulent, a tradition that should die.” Why are they wrong?**

When someone can’t or doesn’t want to promise their partner to love, keep (protect and support), honor, and be faithful until death parts them, that’s likely a red flag. Marriage means all those things, and most people who marry want to, and do, live by them. Open relationships and friendships may be right for some people, but they’re not what weddings celebrate, and they are notoriously unstable.

**“Could I, would I, or should I make these promises to someone?”—you ask rhetorically in your book. What’s the short answer?**

There is no short answer. Lucky people have life experiences, from childhood on, that let them understand when they have the kind of feelings that are going to work. Unlucky people like me have to work hard to figure out how to get from being who they are to being someone who could choose a life’s love partner and get it right.

**You write that your first, short-lived marriage at age 22 was a mistake, one that you realized as you were exchanging your vows. Apart from your then-husband’s cynicism about marriage and unwillingness to heed his vow of fidelity, you also blame the social context in which you lived.**

The divorce epidemic that lasted from the 1960s through around 2010, when the divorce rate began a mostly steady decline, gave the institution of marriage a black eye. It fed suspicion and contempt for marriage that continues today. It justified abandonment of marital norms and rationales for preferring informal cohabitations and open relationships. These dissenting attitudes and their depiction of marriage as an ugly or outmoded way of living continue today in a large minority of the population. They continue to be a powerful undercurrent in modern culture, which still isn’t entirely sure that there is much to admire in marital relations. *Vows* addresses these currents and makes the argument—a contentious one in today’s

world—that being married is a wonderful way of life and the source not just of security and contentment but also of delight and exuberant happiness—for most of us, not all. It’s a reality that is one of the world’s best kept secrets.

**For your second marriage, you and your future husband tried to write your own vows. What happened?**

We, a pair of writers, spent many miserable hours trying to write vows and failed. We hated every version we came up with—too sentimental, too private, too cool, too incomplete, and so on. Then my husband, an English professor, opened up the Anglican Book of Common Prayer, which is universally regarded as an English literary masterpiece quite apart from its religious wisdom. Sure enough, it had a wedding ceremony, and, to my surprise, it was the exact one that the judge had read out to my first husband and me years ago. We secularized the Book of Common Prayer version and substituted “you” for “thou,” omitted the woman’s vow to obey, and thought that otherwise it said exactly what we—and most other people—intended and wanted in marriage: to love, honor, keep, and be faithful, no matter what, until death parted us. And, once again, it was a judge who read them at the wedding.

**You have called on couples to stop omitting the traditional vows. Why?**

People often write their own vows because they aren’t familiar with the tradition and don’t know that as often as not they’re used in a secular style and include no religious references (which may conflict with their own religion or convictions) or calls for women to obey men. Or they believe that they’re outdated, or they are intentionally avoiding the commitment of promises on the typical rationale—“No one can be sure that they will love and be faithful and so on for all their lives.” But that’s just not so. You can’t have absolute certainty, of course, but you can be very sure. And the ancient vows aren’t outdated; they’re timeless and reflect current attitudes comfortably. An informal survey of online self-written



vows used in real weddings shows that a majority omitted the vow to be faithful. This reflects no general social tolerance of marital infidelity. A 2022 Gallup poll found that 89 percent of people think infidelity is wrong.

**The Roman Catholic Church formally adopted monogamy in 1274 by making marriage a sacrament, even though the idea of monogamy had been part of the Christian Bible for more than 1,200 years. In the book, you argue that the church's support for monogamy became "the great equalizer." How so?**

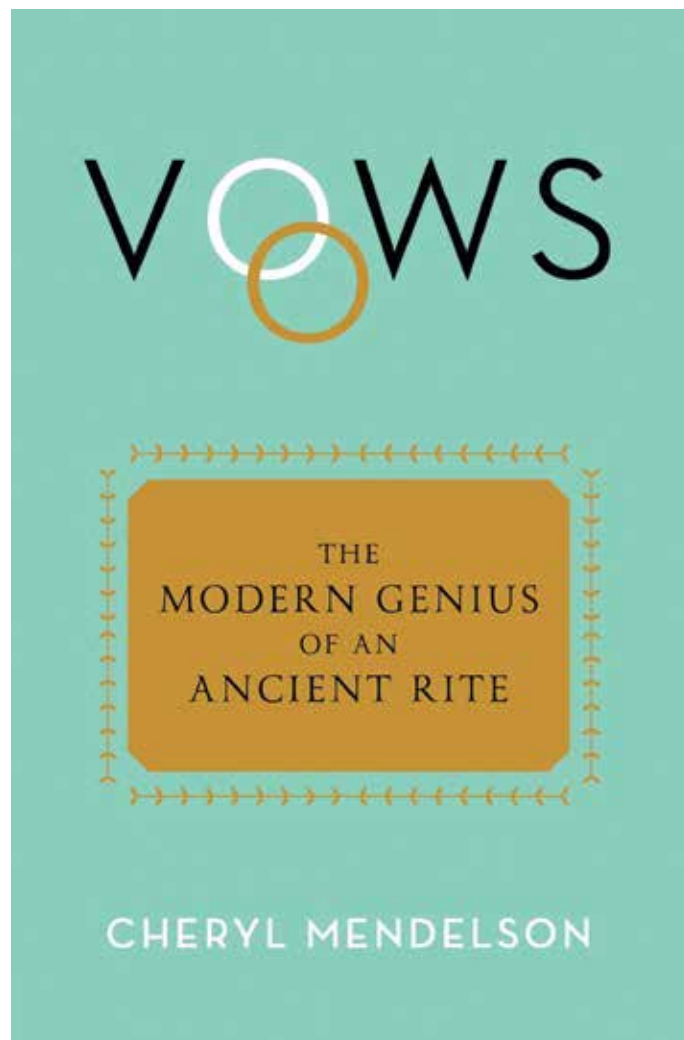
Polygyny generally leads to a decrease in women's freedom, education, and mental and physical health. It also leads to more crime and social instability. Monogamy—real monogamy, not the formal monogamy of the ancient world, in which men had only one wife but sexual access to slaves and concubines as well—is itself a powerful form of equality. It gives everyone a chance to have someone, whereas polygyny lets some powerful men take so many wives that many others have no wife at all, and plural wives have to share one man. Monogamy is itself a kind of leveling that creates a common ground of shared experience, one that crosses social, sexual, and racial lines in the most important parts of life, while polygamy does the opposite.

**Rush Rhees Library makes a cameo appearance in your book. What do you remember about your time at Rochester in the early 1970s?**

I remember a staggeringly bright and engaged set of undergraduates in classes where I was a teaching assistant for the philosophy department. I went on to teach at other major universities, but, speaking honestly, no later experience ever matched this first one.

**Do you ever return to Rochester for Meliora Weekend?**

Years ago, I returned to visit several times, but life got busy and I eventually fell out of the habit. But my husband and I have gone to a couple of the University's New York City events.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**CHERYL MENDELSON** holds a PhD in philosophy from Rochester and a JD from Harvard Law School. She has practiced law in New York City and taught philosophy at Barnard College, Columbia University, and Purdue University. She is also the author of the bestselling *Home Comforts: The Art and Science of Keeping House*, a trilogy of novels about Morningside Heights, and *The Good Life: The Moral Individual in an Antimoral World*. She is married to Edward Mendelson '66, a professor at Columbia University and poet W. H. Auden's literary executor.



EXCERPT

# PROMISES

By Cheryl Mendelson



**I LEARNED ABOUT THE INTERSECTION** of personal and social realities in promises from a psychoanalyst, who points out that a society cannot function unless its people are able to make and keep promises and regard it as morally wrong to break a promise. Every promise, he explains, involves at least three parties—not only a promisor and a promisee, but also a witness. The witness, who may or may not be a human person and may be physically or symbolically present, represents the social authority that backs the promise. The ability to make a promise rests on the fact that the words “I promise” or “I swear” or “I vow” carry weight, and they carry weight only if the society in which they are uttered grants them weight.

When society doesn’t back promises, promisors can’t get promisees to trust them and promisees can’t rely on the world to see that they have been wronged if their promisor breaches. The third-party witness represents the *social force* of the promise—the fact that not only this promisee but other people generally will hold a person to their word whether by light or informal sanctions (distrust, frowns, dislike), or serious ones (complete ostracism), or heavy, extreme ones (damages in a lawsuit or prison for major fraudsters). A serious or solemn promise is a little piece of social capital that can be squandered or saved. . . . Apply these thoughts to the realm of love and marriage and you see how, in some important ways, today’s lovers have a harder row to hoe than ever before in history.

In everyday life, in dealings with families, friends, and casual business contacts, the social demand to keep promises is witnessed mostly *internally*—by the promisor’s own conscience, the internalized voice of the social moral demands. Someone may act on that internal social voice by promising “on my honor” or on my heart or soul or life—or they might say, as children used to, “cross my heart and hope to die.” Shaking hands or placing the hand on the heart have the same force. The call on the witness shows that the words are more than a mere statement of present intent. This is important because there is a large gray area between announcing intentions and making true promises. A witness creates more confidence in the promise and more motivation to keep it. The witness, [says the psychoanalyst mentioned above], becomes “a helper to keep the promise, or . . . an enforcer of it.” In the Middle Ages, when vassals swore fealty with their hands on a relic of the saints, the relic served to call on holy and divine witnesses to back this especially solemn promise.

Many states require witnesses to be present at a couple’s marriage. Custom expects a couple’s friends, relatives, mentors, and often their coworkers and colleagues to attend their weddings, though few people now realize that they, too, are there to witness. . . . Today, two people who take marriage vows may well have no



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serious witness—no “helper to keep the promise”—and, socially speaking, the vows likely are featherweight.

I am reminded of an early quarrel in my first marriage, conducted in whispers on the stairs of a high floor of the [Rush Rhees Library] stacks. (We were immature but not inconsiderate; we respected libraries’ quiet.) The quarrel ended with my dramatically pulling off my wedding ring and flinging it down the open, winding stairway, which was at least eight stories high. Then we made up and urgently searched the staircase for the ring. A student going up as we came down paused and, helpfully, bent over to look with us. “What are we looking for?” he asked. When we told him, “A wedding ring,” he pulled up and said, “Sure you want to find it?” and climbed on. The message couldn’t have been clearer. When the entire larger society gives all couples that message, they are all on their own, their word backed up only by their own consciences, and their consciences, too, meeting with a good deal of social indifference. Moral and emotional confusion are often the result.

Confusion also results from entirely personal causes. Promises are psychologically complicated. A promise is what philosophers call a “speech act” or a “performative utterance.” How do you bind yourself to keep a secret? Simply by saying, “I promise I won’t tell.” Saying the word “promise” *makes* it a promise—like magic—like saying “abracadabra” and making a rabbit hop out of an empty hat. A promise exists close to the line between reality and fantasy, or between reality-oriented thinking and the kind of thinking that dominates in dreams and psychosis. This makes some people vulnerable, in promise-making, to confusions of word and deed, of thought and reality, and to infection by neuroticism. Their roman-



tic and marital relations fall prey in familiar ways to their general problem with promising.

The most obvious cases of slightly crazy promises are the childish ones that some adults repeatedly make, then break. The spend-thrift buyer, who has broken many promises to control their spending, sincerely promises anew, then sets out for the mall with their credit card smoldering in their wallet. . . . Some types of serial adulterers and alcoholics seem to fit this mold.

On the other side of the coin, there are people who insist on keeping promises even when doing so is a kind of madness—as though they had no power to undo the “magic” connection between word and deed. . . . The most common kind of neurotic reaction to the promises of marriage, however, is the one that scores of books and agony aunts have made familiar. . . . Some people react to their own marriage vows as yokes, traps, prisons, or threats to their independence or autonomy, and experience them as imposed by forces other than their own will. . . . They may attempt to test the “bonds” of their promises by measuring and comparing the marriage to see whether it is still good enough to stick with. In effect, they feel compelled to bring the marriage license up for renewal several times a year; it is never a done deal. . . . [Some people] move in with a lover and cohabit for years, seemingly contented—until they get married. Then everything goes haywire. . . . Naturally, their partner then begs for assurances—promises—and that demand, of course, only intensifies the other’s ambivalence.

Love skeptics often argue that marriage vows are impossible for mature adults in much the same way that a promise to become a cardiologist is impossible for a five-year-old. They say that no one can really know whether love will last for twenty, thirty, or more years; nor can anyone predict whether they would resist extramarital love if love for a spouse waned (or even if it didn’t). Who can ever be sure that the powerful sexual drive will not suddenly break loose from the marriage bonds? . . . You can’t seriously promise that your future unknown self will love that future stranger, so no one can really promise lifelong love and fidelity. All marital vows—so the argument goes—are at best futile and at worst fraudulent, a tradition that should die.

But there are good answers to these arguments. As for that future “stranger” we are supposed to find ourselves married to, most peo-

ple who marry in their midtwenties or later will tell you, decades on, that with all the changes of age and experience, the spouse is still the same person, not a stranger at all, just as they themselves are, though changed and matured. In crucial ways, adults control who they become as they age. Control over what we will do and who we will be in the far future is a type of freedom that comes with the growth of adult capacities. . . .

We have excellent empirical evidence that young adults are actually very good at predicting their future marital affection so long as they are not *too* youthful when they marry. Most people who marry between their midtwenties and early thirties don’t divorce, especially if they were raised in intact families, finished college, or have a good job. But couples don’t marry on the basis of a statistical safe bet; they marry on the basis of justified trust in their feelings and themselves. . . . When people love in the way that ordinary, loving husbands and wives love each other, they know more or less intuitively that love like theirs is permanent simply because it’s that kind of love. They recognize that it’s like *other* permanent loves in their lives. And what if they have no such loves? Then—in one of life’s bitterest injustices—their choice of a life’s mate is more likely to go wrong. Having loved and been loved is how we learn to love and to recognize when we love and when we are loved, and what that means. Those of us who were shorted in love have to work hard to learn how to do it.

Furthermore, these arguments against the vows don’t take into account one central fact: that the very act of taking marriage vows in a ceremony has a powerful psychological effect. For people who can take vows seriously, the near prospect of actually taking vows, witnessed by all the people who matter most to them, creates a dramatic, emotion-charged public moment. It sets in motion a process of psychological reorganization, subterranean, unconscious changes that people resort to poetry to describe—becoming one flesh or half one’s soul and the like. . . .

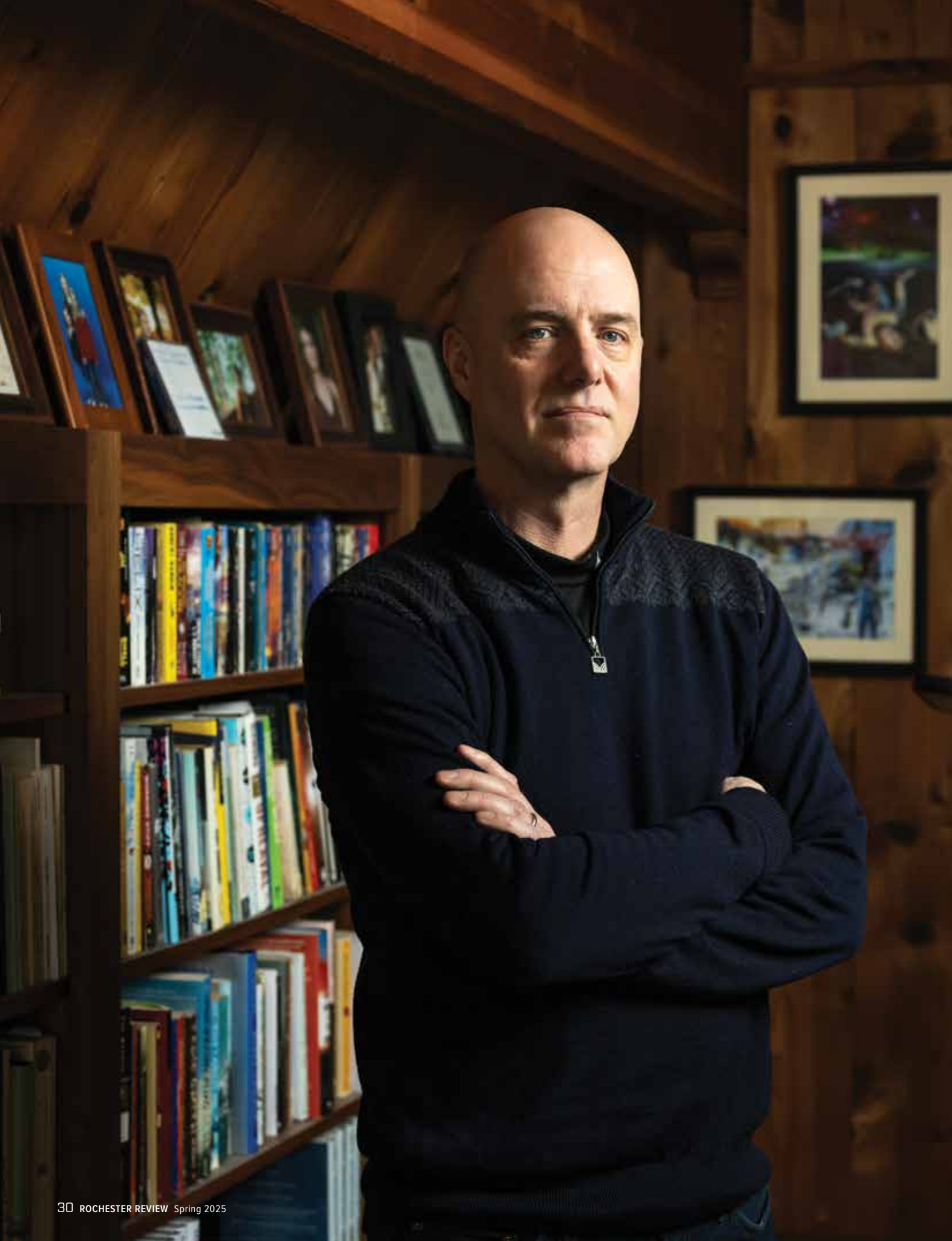
In a traditional ceremony, unless one or both of the couple are ducking the meaning of their words, the presence of witnesses, representing social conscience and social backing—the third party—makes them feel the vows as a serious undertaking, which, in turn, helps to set in motion these powerful internal processes—and the wedding actually helps to marry them emotionally as well

as legally. And, for what it’s worth, our social scientists have often been curious about whether promises really do make any difference—especially promises *in public*. Their studies show that making public promises actually does result in a higher level of doing what’s promised—much higher in some cases. . . . Two people whose sense of self and self-control reaches into the future will find warmth and comfort in the prospect of loving each other until death parts them. For wedding vows to fulfill their purpose, the ability to take pleasure in an imagined shared future life is indispensable. Vows are an ancient and still powerful means to take control of time. ❸

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*Excerpt from Vows: The Modern Genius of an Ancient Rite (Simon & Schuster, 2024) by Cheryl Mendelson. Reprinted with permission.*







THE MAGNIFICENT

# Mickey

BY LUKE AUBURN

MRI EXPERT BY DAY. NOVELIST BY NIGHT. THERE ARE NEARLY AS MANY VERSIONS OF EDWARD ASHTON '96 (PHD) AS THERE ARE OF HIS BOOK-TURNED-MOVIE PROTAGONIST, MICKEY.

PORTRAIT BY J. ADAM FENSTER



**THE MAN BEHIND MICKEY:** Edward Ashton '96 (PhD) on his property in Webster, New York, where he indulges hobbies like harvesting maple syrup and building decks.

How does a man who grew up in southern West Virginia and carved out a noteworthy career as a cancer researcher suddenly find himself surrounded by movie stars on the red carpet of the world premiere of a feature film based on his science fiction novel?

“The whole thing is so incredibly implausible that I cannot rule out the possibility that I’m actually in an intensive care unit right now, hooked up to a morphine drip, and they’re about to pull the plug,” says Edward Ashton '96 (PhD).

Ashton, an MRI expert by day and novelist by night, just published his sixth book, *The Fourth Consort* (Macmillan), and a previous novel of his has been adapted into the motion picture *Mickey 17*, directed by Bong Joon-ho and starring Robert Pattinson. The film hit theaters on March 7.

Ashton’s stranger-than-fiction path has been forged through a workmanlike approach, a willingness to embrace happy coincidences, and a tenacious commitment to pursue his passions even when they don’t neatly align.

### **An author’s origin story**

Ashton says he began writing fiction at the age of six and wrote his first novel on 200

pages of lined notebook paper at age 12. “The only person that’s actually read it was my father, who told me it was hackneyed and derivative, and that I should really learn how to write if I wanted to be an author and not bother with this kind of stuff.”

Undeterred, he continued to hone his writing skills and, by the age of 20, sold his first professional piece. He has been publishing more or less ever since.

But while he loved writing, he didn’t consider it a viable career path. Instead, engineering seemed the practical way to build a happy, stable life.

Ashton went on to study electrical and electronics engineering at Loyola University Maryland, where he excelled academically and kept physically active on the swim team. He was mulling graduate school options when he happened upon a flyer posted in a hallway promoting the University of Rochester.

“It had a picture of the Eastman Quad covered in snow,” says Ashton. “I thought, ‘Huh, it’s really pretty. I’ve lived in the South my whole life where we don’t get a lot of snow, so that would be a nice change.’ I tore off the little strip at the bottom and sent in my application.”



Ashton brought with him a National Science Foundation fellowship and received a Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fellowship, the most prestigious fellowship awarded by the University.

He knew nothing about medical imaging at the time but took a class taught by Kevin Parker, the William F. May Professor of Engineering at the Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences. Parker soon invited him to join his lab.

“He was the same as he is today—dynamic, engaging, and quick on his feet,” says Parker. “He told me very early on that one of his favorite hobbies was writing, and I thought that was rare for a person pursuing a tech PhD, but I didn’t know the depth of it at that point.”

During his graduate studies at Rochester, Ashton also took classes in creative writing on the side. Faculty from the department saw his potential and tried to pry him away from engineering to become a writer.

“On the Eastman Quad one day, a professor very dramatically tried to convince me to drop out of the PhD program and go to the Iowa Writers’ Workshop because he felt that would be a much better use of my time,” says Ashton.

While Ashton was flattered, he stuck to his plan. In 1995, he wrapped up his PhD in electrical and computer engineering, married the love of his life, Jennifer ’10W (PhD), and began a career as a research engineer with the US Naval Research Laboratory, producing software for remote targeting and overhead surveillance.

## From start-up scientist to senior executive

After a few years, Ashton’s former advisor reached out for help.

“We recruited him back to Rochester because we were starting this company out of the University, which was doing a lot of very advanced medical imaging,” says Parker. “Ed and the work he did for his thesis were a spot-on fit, so we hired him as employee number one.”

The start-up, named VirtualScopics, was founded in 2000 and specialized in making medical imaging analysis tools to help clinical researchers speed up the drug development process. Ashton served as the chief scientific officer, and the company quickly became a success. He says that when they went public in 2005, the company had grown to about 40 employees and was earning about \$3 million annually.

In 2016, VirtualScopics was sold to the 16,000-employee company BioTelemetry, where Ashton became vice president for oncology imaging. The company was



**MOVIE MAGIC:** Academy Award-winning director Bong Joon-ho (center) helmed *Mickey 17* starring Robert Pattinson (right), the motion picture version of Ashton’s sci-fi novel *Mickey7*.

acquired twice more before becoming part of ICON PLC, which currently employs 44,000 people.

Today, Ashton is ICON’s senior director for oncology imaging, where he remains as active as ever, albeit as a “smaller fish in a much bigger pond,” he says.

## Writing redux

Ashton continued to publish short fiction on the web during the early stages of his medical imaging career. But when he and Jennifer had the first of three daughters, he took a break from writing that lasted about 12 years.

As his daughters became older and more independent, Jennifer encouraged him to start writing again.

“I hated that he was spending all his free time playing computer games,” she says. “I told him he can tinker as much as he wants with writing, and I won’t complain. Go put this great talent you have to use.”

He started fitting in writing whenever he could. If he had a free 15 minutes, he would try to knock out 300 or 400 words. If he put a roast in the oven, he would work to pen another 800 words during the 45 minutes it cooked.

“

**On the Eastman Quad one day, a professor very dramatically tried to convince me to drop out of the PhD program and go to the Iowa Writers’ Workshop because he felt that would be a much better use of my time.**



**ALL IN A DAY'S WORK?** In *Mickey 17*, unlikely hero Mickey Barnes (played by Pattinson) finds himself working for an employer who demands the ultimate commitment to the job—to die, for a living.

“

**I think what distinguishes a book like *Mickey7* from a lot of science fiction is that at the end of the day—and this is true of all my books—it's about people.**

“Everybody's got their little superpowers, and mine is that I'm able to switch gears really quickly,” says Ashton. “I wrote my first book mostly with a sandwich in one hand while I was at lunch at work. I sit and write with the TV on in the living room while my wife's watching a movie. I'm able to tune things out, pick up and drop things really quickly, and those skills have served me really well in this space.”

His persistence paid off. In 2015, HarperCollins published his debut novel, *Three Days in April*, a thriller set in a dystopian near-future Baltimore. The novel received favorable reviews, and when Ashton sent a copy to his former advisor, Parker was stunned, finally grasping the depth of Ashton's writing abilities.

“I was like, ‘Holy mackerel, this is first-rate modern science fiction,’” says Parker.

HarperCollins released Ashton's follow-up novel, *The End of Ordinary*, in 2017, and then Ashton began writing the book that would propel him to previously unthinkable heights—*Mickey7*.

### **Mickey reborn**

*Mickey7* tells the story of a space colonist named Mickey Barnes on an icy alien world in the distant future. Mickey and his fellow colonists are struggling to make life sustainable on the planet, threatened by the ominous specter of the native life-forms known as “creepers.” Barnes has the ignoble duty of serving as the colony's “expendable,” performing the riskiest jobs. Each time he dies, a new clone is “printed” with the previous Mickey's memories largely intact.

“It looks at philosophical questions about what we are as humans and what consciousness means,” says Ashton. “One of the central questions of the book is about the teletransport paradox, a philosophical problem that people have been chewing over since at least 1750: If you are able to completely copy your mind into an exact duplicate of your body, would that be you or a completely separate person?”

Ashton's novel probes these heady questions using nods to Norse mythology, a wry sense of humor, and deep scientific expertise (his medical imaging background is on full display from page one, with a reference to photon counting). But he believes his fully fleshed characters and faculty with words are what set his work apart.

“I think what distinguishes a book like *Mickey7* from a lot of science fiction is that at the end of the day—and this is true of all my books—it's about people,” says Ashton.

His character-driven story got the attention of some very influential figures in Hollywood. Before he even had a publishing contract, Ashton's agent—whom he calls a “dark wizard”—sent a PDF of the book to Plan B Entertainment, the production company run by Brad Pitt, Dede Gardner, and Jeremy Kleiner. Plan B optioned the rights to the book and set out to identify the right people to bring the story from page to screen.

Ashton recalls, “Jeremy told me later that when he saw the book, he said, ‘Bong [Joon-ho] has to be the man to write this. He's the only one who could really do this justice.’”



Bong was hot off the success of the 2019 black comedy thriller *Parasite*, which won Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Original Screenplay. Intrigued, Bong brought in star Robert Pattinson—known for his roles in the *Twilight* and *Batman* franchises—and the project snowballed from there.

Ashton was stunned and remains well aware of how unlikely his journey has been.

“An extremely obscure writer at the time with an unpublished book got an option, got it picked up, and had the most famous director in the world attached to it—and then it actually got turned into a film,” says Ashton.

## Author meets auteur

When Bong officially became attached to the movie, he set up an intense two-hour Zoom meeting to pick Ashton’s brain about all the details of the book. Ashton jokes that Bong put more thought into the novel than the author himself.

“He got to the point of asking, ‘How do the creepers reproduce?’” says Ashton. “That had never crossed my mind. So, I stared at him blankly for a minute, joked, ‘Well, when a mommy creeper and a daddy creeper love each other very much . . .’ and then we hashed it out.”

Despite relinquishing all creative control of the movie’s plot, Ashton is honored by the care Bong displayed in adapting the novel. Ashton was particularly struck by one of Bong’s questions.

“He said, ‘I want you to tell me what the heart and soul of this book is, the one thing that we must add in the movie, and I promise you that I will put it in there,’” says Ashton. “He absolutely did not have to do that. I thought about it for two seconds, and I said chapter 19, which highlights the relationship between Mickey and Nasha. He said, ‘I’m so glad you said that. I cried when I read that chapter.’”

Bong then set out to bring the rich characters and world of the novel to the big screen. With his distinct directorial voice, he has added his own twists to the story—most obviously the title, which references the number of times Mickey has been resurrected in the novel and the movie.

Bong invited Ashton and Jennifer to the set in London during filming. According to Ashton, it was surreal meeting Bong in person and hanging out with actors like Pattinson as they brought his story to life.

Ashton followed mostly from a distance as promotional posters, teasers, and trailers rolled out during the movie’s marketing push. Then on February 13, the Ashtons got their moment on the red carpet alongside

the director and cast for the world premiere of *Mickey 17* at Leicester Square in central London.

On the social media platform X, Ashton summarized the incredible night with equal parts earnest appreciation and dry humor: “This was an experience I will never forget, no matter how many times they clone me.”

## The multifaceted future

Ashton says his newfound Hollywood level of success won’t change much about his day-to-day lifestyle. He and Jennifer relocated to a quiet cabin in Webster, a suburb of Rochester, during the pandemic. They now have ample room to hike, and he can fiddle with hobbies like harvesting maple syrup and building decks.

He also continues to write at a frenetic pace. Macmillan published *Mickey7* in 2022, and since then Ashton has authored a book annually: *Antimatter Blues*, the sequel to *Mickey7*, was released in 2023, followed up with two more standalone sci-fi novels—*Mal Goes to War* in 2024 and *The Fourth Consort*, which hit shelves on February 25 of this year.

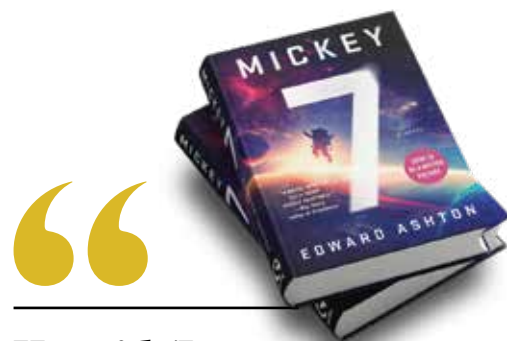
As Ashton and his agent negotiate a new book deal, he plans to casually crank out a few novellas while he’s not under contract.

All the while, Ashton is as busy as ever at advancing cancer imaging technology at ICON. And he even manages to stay connected with his alma mater, annually serving as a guest lecturer for Parker’s medical imaging systems course for the past 20 years. Professor Sarah Higley from the Department of English has also invited Ashton to speak to her speculative fiction class in the fall.

“He’s busy running a section of a company and writing his books, but he still enjoys lecturing to students and is very generous with his time,” says Parker. “It’s very advanced and challenging material for the students, but he has an engaging lecture style and it’s an enormous benefit to them.”

When asked how he was able to master such different skills and achieve success at such a high level, Ashton is humble.

“We all contain multitudes,” he says, riffing on the Walt Whitman poem “Song of Myself.” “We’re not just left brain or right brain; we all have the same brains and a creative side. We all have these abilities, and the more of those abilities you develop, the more productive your life is going to be and the happier life is going to be. So, don’t let yourself get forced down one particular pathway to the exclusion of the other stuff you enjoy.”



**He said, ‘I want you to tell me what the heart and soul of this book is, the one thing that we must add in the movie, and I promise you that I will put it in there.’**



**ALUMNI ACROSS THE POND:** Ashton and his wife, Jennifer, attend the *Mickey 17* world premiere on February 13, 2025, in London.

# Turning



**RICH COLORS:** The rich blue hues, used primarily in high-end manuscripts, may have come from lapis lazuli, a rare and valuable metamorphic rock.

**GOLD DETAILING:** Gold leaf is used as an embellishment throughout the book.



**ARTISTIC FREEDOM:** The decorative borders provided artists a unique creative outlet. The design details weren't necessarily related to the story.



**SIZE:** The compact trim size is somewhere between the size of a pack of playing cards and a mass-market paperback.





# Time's Pages

A collaborative acquisition of the medieval Ghent-Bruges Book of Hours offers unique opportunities for research, teaching, and community outreach.

By Erin Peterson

Photos by J. Adam Fenster



**SCRIPT:** Ornate Latin calligraphy is used for the prayers, readings, and perpetual calendar contained within the volume.



**MATERIAL:** The book's 456 pages are made of vellum, a high-quality parchment created from specially prepared animal skin.



## On January 30, the hottest book at the University wasn't a national bestseller or a novel adapted into a blockbuster film—it was a 500-year-old Catholic prayer book.

On that evening, a sold-out crowd of nearly 300 people packed into the Memorial Art Gallery's auditorium to hear Nancy Norwood, the museum's curator of European Art, and Anna Siebach-Larsen, director of the Rossell Hope Robbins Library and Koller-Collins Center for English Studies, discuss the recent acquisition of the pocket-sized Ghent-Bruges Book of Hours.

Filled with richly colored illustrations and Latin calligraphic script, the volume, produced around 1500, serves as a window into another time. "It was used by everyday people of the time who wanted to bring practices of worship into their daily lives," says Siebach-Larsen. The 456-page book contains prayers, readings, and even a perpetual calendar (meaning that it could be used year after year).

The name is descriptive: A book of hours was designed to help its readers structure time for prayer, while "Ghent-Bruges" refers to the distinctive, detailed style of manuscript illumination found in the two named Belgian cities.

The manuscript was a hit with the evening's audiences and continues to be on display at the Memorial Art Gallery to the public. It will also serve as a cornerstone of the University's renowned medieval studies program and collection.

Norwood sees an even more expansive role for the document in the years ahead. "This is an acquisition that will benefit multiple departments—visual studies, religious studies, art history," she says. "It's one tiny book, but it consolidates so many different things and extends into all sorts of fields." Because many of the prayers included in the book were chanted, even faculty from the Eastman School of Music have expressed interest in integrating it into their teaching and research.

And while complete imaging by Lisa Wright, a digitization specialist for the River Campus Libraries, will allow for wide access to the book, the value of having the real object is significant. For example, the binding offers clues to how the book was made, the wear on specific images and

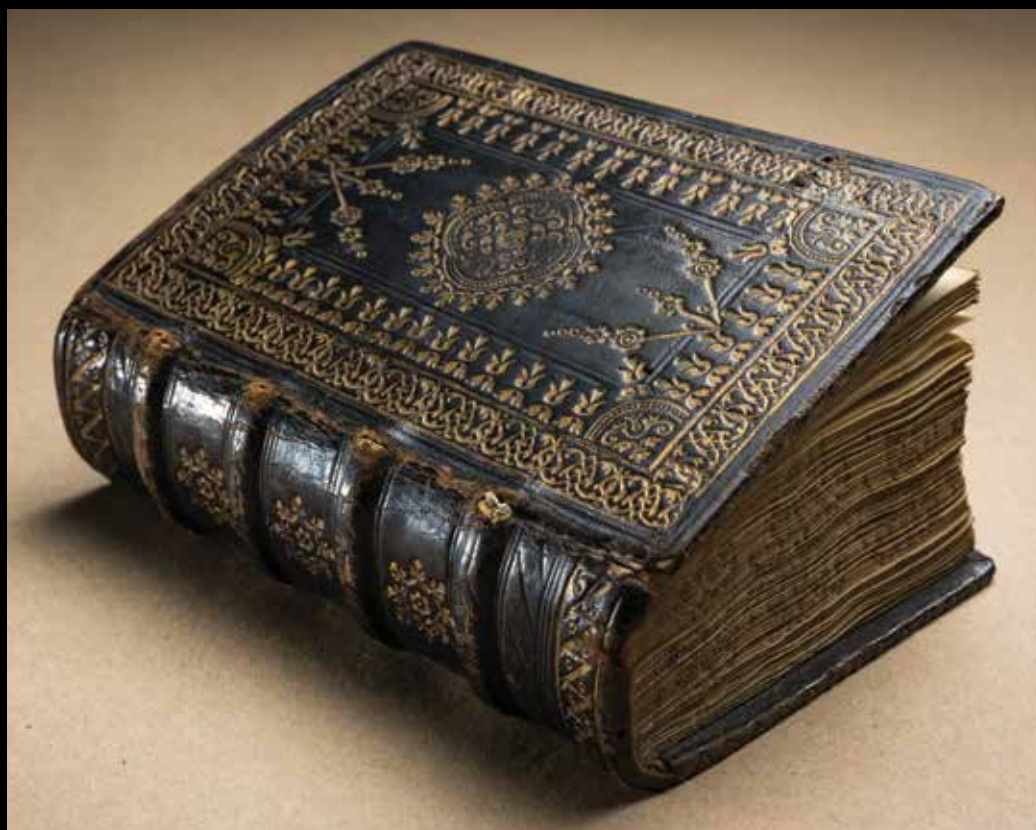
pages suggests the ways it might have been used, and decorative gilt shines in a way that digital imaging can't fully capture.

Siebach-Larsen says that there's something emotional—almost visceral—about having a physical object that many people find meaningful. "There's something about seeing an object in front of you that allows you to connect with the past in a unique way," she says. "This book is beautiful, and, at the same time, many of the images are strange to us. But it's not 'distant.' It's right there in front of you."

The acquisition marks a significant partnership between the museum and the River Campus Libraries. By pooling their resources and working together, the two University units were not only able to acquire a manuscript that would have been out of reach for either individually but also to ensure that it would be available for their respective events, programs, research, and teaching. "This collaborative aspect has been an area of emphasis for us, and it aligns with the 'One University' model that we're pursuing," says Siebach-Larsen, adding that the Book of Hours acquisition process could serve as a roadmap for future collaborative efforts at Rochester.

In the meantime, the book functions as both a scholarly reference and a source of fascination, bridging the gaps between teaching, scholarship, and public engagement. It is something that will be studied, admired, puzzled over, and, perhaps most importantly of all, experienced for years to come. [R](#)





#### Opposite Page

**CUSTOMIZATION:** While most of the components in the book follow standard formats, the patrons could choose which saints were included—and the more they paid, the more saints they could feature.



#### Above

**PERSONALIZATION:** The lower corner of a page containing a prayer to the Virgin Mary features what is likely an image of the patron.



#### At Left

**BINDING:** The current binding, added in the late 16th century, is luxurious Spanish leather with gilt detailing.





**GOING THE DISTANCE:** Professor Benjamín Castañeda '09 (PhD) (top) joined the Rochester faculty in fall 2024, establishing the Global Health and Medical Devices Lab.

## Breathing Life-Saving Services into Rural Communities

Professor Benjamín Castañeda '09 (PhD) leads a global effort to meet critical needs for medical technology.

By Luke Auburn

The situation in Peru was grim during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The South American country produces very few of its own medical supplies and without adequate equipment to treat patients, it soon had the world's highest COVID-19 death rate per capita.

"One of the most critical needs was mechanical ventilators," says Fabiola León-Velarde, then-president of Consejo Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (CONCYTEC), Peru's equivalent of the National Science Foundation. "The virus severely damaged the lungs, and many patients required mechanical ventilation to survive while their lungs recovered."

But the nation of 33 million people had fewer than 250 mechanical ventilators available to treat patients. When CONCYTEC launched a call for proposals for help creating ventilators and other essential medical services to fight the pandemic, Professor Benjamín Castañeda '09 (PhD) from Rochester's Department of Biomedical Engineering answered. Then a professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP),

one of Peru's most prestigious universities, Castañeda devised a plan to rapidly design and manufacture hundreds of ventilators to support critically ill patients.

"We built them from scratch, not knowing anything about mechanical ventilators," says Castañeda. "We turned PUCP's gym into a factory and produced 350 for use in 23 hospitals across the country. Peru didn't have a medical device industry, so this was the first mechanical medical device designed, tested, approved for use, and fabricated in Peru."

The project is emblematic of Castañeda's career: bringing medical technology to people who would otherwise not have access. León-Velarde credits Castañeda's leadership in navigating the complex regulatory landscape and bringing together a multidisciplinary team of engineers, medical professionals, and policymakers to make the project happen.

"These ventilators were deployed to public hospitals at a critical time when every additional device meant a chance to save more lives," she says. "Their impact went beyond the immediate crisis—they also demonstrated the potential of local scientific and technological innovation in responding to national emergencies."



Castañeda attended PUCP as an undergraduate, staying active as chair of the university's student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). By organizing the chapter's events, he made important contacts with faculty across the globe, including at Rochester Institute of Technology, where he would pursue a master's in computer engineering.

While at RIT, Castañeda found an idol and mentor downriver in Kevin Parker, the William F. May Professor of Engineering at Rochester's Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences. Soon Castañeda enrolled at Rochester to pursue a PhD in electrical and computer engineering.

Castañeda developed deep expertise in biomedical ultrasound during his time studying under Parker's guidance. While completing his dissertation on extracting information from sonoelastography, a novel hybrid imaging technique developed by Parker's lab, Castañeda weighed opportunities in the United States and back home.

"I've always wanted to make an impact on society," he says. "Even though I would have many opportunities in the US as a PhD, I felt that going back to Peru would allow me to make a bigger impact, even if I had access to fewer resources."

He discussed establishing a medical-imaging laboratory with PUCP and began teaching summer courses there in 2008. A grant from a Peruvian network of universities allowed Castañeda to travel the country, learning about its health care needs and identifying ways to apply his expertise.

That is when he first saw rural areas as a potential niche for his research. In Peru's mountains and jungles, there is limited access to the internet and medical professionals. Indeed, it can take hours of difficult travel to reach the nearest hospitals.

"Designing technology for rural areas is much different than designing for state-of-the-art university medical centers," says Castañeda. "You have to take into account the resources that are available and what is not."

When he joined the PUCP faculty in 2009, he focused his lab on creating point-of-care medical devices that work in rural settings. By augmenting biomedical ultrasound technology with photogrammetry and artificial intelligence techniques, they were able to help diagnose and treat chronic ailments prevalent in such places in Peru, including diabetic feet, tuberculosis, and wounds caused by parasitic diseases.

Castañeda climbed the ranks to full professor at PUCP, served as director of academic affairs for the School of Science and Engineering, and launched an undergraduate program in biomedical engineering. All the while, he maintained research collaborations with Parker and partners at the University of Rochester Medical Center, including Thomas Marini, an assistant professor in the Department of Imaging Sciences.

The COVID-19 pandemic grew interest in tele-ultrasound research, so Castañeda expanded an ambitious project with hopes of bringing prenatal and breast-cancer imaging to millions of women in rural Peru. The lack of ultrasound access leads to high maternal and fetal morbidity and mortality as well as delayed diagnosis of breast cancer.

Castañeda formed a team that included collaborators from the Medical Center and Johns Hopkins Medicine. Kathryn Drennan, an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the School of Medicine and Dentistry, joined three years ago, intrigued by the parallel challenges in her home state of Alaska, where many rural towns are only accessible by bush plane or boat.

Rather than having patients travel long distances to receive care or deploying specialists to sparsely populated areas where

needs are infrequent, the project leverages generally trained community health workers.

"They can do a broad variety of tasks, so the idea is that through augmented reality-assisted training plus an AI boost, they can get the images that allow qualified physicians to remotely triage while the patients stay local," says Drennan.


Already the project has impacted thousands of lives, deploying the technology in 24 Peruvian clinics through partnerships with the Peruvian government, perinatal and cancer institutes, and local universities. The team is pursuing further funding to refine the technology and expand its implementation throughout the country via public policy.

"Ben is so smart in the way he can imagine an idea, bring a team together, and make everybody feel good about accomplishing that goal," says Drennan. "It's inspiring."

Castañeda joined the Rochester faculty in fall 2024, establishing the Global Health and Medical Devices Lab. "In Peru, I was at a stage in which I had reached a ceiling," he says. "Coming back to Rochester gives me the opportunity to still focus on low-resource settings and global health but with more means at my disposal."

Already, he has established a new three-year collaborative research agreement between Rochester and PUCP to advance the ultrasound project and promote exchanges of faculty as well as undergraduate and graduate students. Stefano Romero, one of Castañeda's first students at PUCP and now a professor and head of the Digital Signal Processing Lab there, was the first to come to Rochester through the agreement in February.

For three months at Rochester, Romero will conduct ultrasound and elastography experiments to refine the AI techniques that identify potential lesions. He believes Castañeda's leadership is a boon to both universities.

"We want to preserve these connections between the universities for generations of students," Romero says. "We're building exciting opportunities for students from both Rochester and Peru to see different perspectives on health outcomes that we believe will be transformative." 



**HEALTH CARE HEROICS:** Castañeda and his team used the gym at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú to manufacture 350 ventilators for use in 23 Peruvian hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## IN THE NEWS

# The Prize Was Right: Alumnus, Simon Student Make Game Show Appearances



A Rochester alumnus and a current graduate student at Simon Business School were each in the national spotlight in December as contestants on iconic TV game shows.

**Dave Bond** '84, '92 (MS) was a two-time winner on *Jeopardy!* before losing in his third game. **Kemi Akindude** '25S (MBA) appeared on the December 13 episode of *Wheel of Fortune* and finished in third place.

Bond majored in English as an undergraduate and earned a master's in public policy. The Rochester resident is retired after a long career in research administration and grant writing.

"The *Jeopardy!* experience was something at the intersection of reality and imagination," Bond says. "I've watched the show for decades and seen it become a cultural icon. It isn't 'real' in the living room, then suddenly it is when you're standing behind the podium. It felt like an out-of-body experience until it aired. Now, I'm almost used to it."

Akindude's family hails from Nigeria, but she was born and raised on Staten Island, New York. She says appearing on *Wheel of Fortune* was surreal—and a dream come true. "I feel blessed to have been part of a show that played a huge part in my childhood and helped forge a bond between every generation in my household," she says. [R](#)

—JIM MANDELARO

## Alumni Land on Forbes 30 Under 30 Lists



A trio of Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences alumni caught the attention of *Forbes*, which named them to the business magazine's 2025 "30 Under 30: Education" list for North America.

**Sidhant Bendre** '23, **Michael Giardino** '23, and **Achraf Golli** '23

cofounded Quizard AI while studying computer science at Rochester. The app is billed as a "premier AI-powered homework tutor and answering app" and promises instant, accurate solutions to academic questions across a wide range of subjects. *Forbes* reports that approximately

"four million students have used the Quizard app or its sister website, Unstuck, which can auto-generate study guides and flashcards from uploaded notes, slideshows, videos, and other files."

The Middle East edition of *Forbes* named **Anis Kallel** '17 to its "30 Under 30: Commerce and Finance" list in 2024. Kallel, who majored in computer science and business, cofounded Flouci in 2020. According to the magazine, the financial services app "had around 60,000 active users, opened 57,902 bank accounts, and issued 11,000 cards" as of October 2024. Flouci operates in Tunisia and is expected to go live in Algeria and Morocco in 2025.



**THE FAB FORBES:** (left to right) Golli, Giardino, and Bendre; Kallel.



# Pride and JoyMart


By Johanna Lester

For **Yaofang (Vicki) Liang** '23W (PhD), opening JoyMart, an Asian grocery store and café, at Rochester's College Town was a bit of a love letter to her time at the University.

"I'm not a traditional businesswoman. I know we're pursuing a commercial profit here—which is important to me," says Liang. "But the University provided significant support during my academic career. Opening JoyMart was a different way to express my gratitude."

Liang, who is from China, graduated with a PhD in education from the Warner School of Education and Human Development. The size of the city drew her to Rochester—as did the unconditional support offered by her graduate advisor, Samantha Daley. "She helped me figure out my path of study," says Liang.

Liang's cultural background gives her a unique perspective on the vibrant and eclectic world of Asian snack foods and beverages. In addition to offering more than 3,000 unique items in the market, JoyMart provides an extensive menu of fresh foods and beverages from its on-site kitchen. Plus, the majority of the store's employees are students. "I enjoy giving them real-world work experience. This isn't a typical campus job."

Rochester boasts more than 3,500 international students, with strong representation from several Asian countries. While Liang's decision to open JoyMart stemmed from wanting more diverse shopping options for these students, she finds it fills a greater void. "I want JoyMart to be a cultural exchange in the heart of Rochester," she says. "We're building community." Read more about her story at [Rochester.edu/news/liang](https://Rochester.edu/news/liang). 



**SPARKING JOY:** Yaofang (Vicki) Liang '23W (PhD) opened JoyMart in January 2024. "I chose College Town because it's more convenient for the students interested in Asian food or Asian items," she says.



# Class Notes



Richard (left) and Barbara Zuegel in 1957.

## Three Generations, One Enduring Gift

Inspired by her family's three-generation connection to the University, **Barbara Blake Zuegel '57** has established the Zuegel Family Professorship in Optics to honor her late husband, **Richard (Rick) Zuegel '57**. The professorship will support early-career faculty at the Institute of Optics and is the first fully funded position of its kind through the Wyant Challenge.

Barbara and Rick met as undergraduates. Rick, a general science graduate, dedicated 32 years to Kodak, while Barbara, a history major, served as a school librarian for more than two decades. They had three children: **Stephen '83**, a mechanical engineering graduate, and twins **Jim and Jon '96 (PhD)**. Jon earned a doctorate from the Institute of Optics and is now the laser and materials technology division director at the University's Laboratory for Laser Energetics and a professor of optics at Rochester. His daughter, **Hannah '17**, continued the family tradition, graduating with a degree in studio arts and minors in chemistry and business.

Launched in 2022 by the late **James Wyant '69 (PhD)**, trustee emeritus, and his wife, Tammy, the Wyant Challenge aims to create 10 endowed professorships in a decade at the Institute of Optics. Read more at [Rochester.edu/news/zuegel](https://rochester.edu/news/zuegel).

—Kristine Kappel Thompson

## River Campus

### UNDERGRADUATE

#### MEDALLION REUNION

Meliora Weekend

September 18 to 21

[Rochester.edu/reunion](https://rochester.edu/reunion)

**1952** Victoria Rummier writes that her father, **Ed Rummier**, died last November. Ed was born in Rochester in 1931 and attended Monroe High School. He graduated from Rochester with a degree in psychology. As a young man, he earned the nickname "Crusher" on school football and wrestling teams. Ed was a technical sales representative at Kodak for 40 years. Victoria adds that Ed was a member of Alpha Delta Phi at the University, and he would want his fraternity brothers to be made aware of his death.

**1959** **Nancy Bates Carlman** sends a picture from her visit with **Edward Creswick** at his home in Ufford, Suffolk, England, last October (photographed by Ed's wife, Sheila). Nancy writes, "Ed has fitted out his house with all sorts of technical features: solar panels, motion detector lights, CCTV, electric power monitoring, an incredibly fancy Swiss coffee machine, and a computer-controlled robot lawn mower that has its own garage/charging station. The two of us saluted the U of R Class of '59 on our 65th Reunion with some malt scotch." . . . **David Sutliff** shares that he has written *A Voyage Aboard the Space Ship Infinity: The Greatest Adventure of All Time* (self-published). David published the book after retiring from a long career on Wall Street. As someone who has been interested in science since

grade school, he hopes the book will inspire young readers in particular to explore the wonders of the subject.

**1962** **Brian Turner** writes that in October 2024 he was consecrated as an Anglican bishop in the Archdiocese of North America of the Continuing Evangelical Episcopal Communion as the Diocesan Bishop for New York State and New England as well as for the Missionary District of Nova Scotia. Brian notes that his lineage of apostolic succession includes St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Bartholomew, and St. Andrew, due to participation of Messianic, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox bishops with Anglicans. Brian says that after Rochester, where he played football, he subsequently received a PhD and a JD at other schools. His primary residence is in Woodstock, Virginia, when not traveling, and he would enjoy hearing from classmates.

**1965** **George Ward** writes, "Five graduates of the class of 1965 were commissioned as Marine officers. Three of us ended up shortly afterwards in the same platoon at the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. We joined recently in a platoon reunion cruise in the Mediter-

### Abbreviations

<b>E</b>	Eastman School of Music
<b>M</b>	School of Medicine and Dentistry
<b>N</b>	School of Nursing
<b>S</b>	Simon Business School
<b>W</b>	Warner School of Education
<b>Mas</b>	Master's degree
<b>RC</b>	River Campus
<b>Res</b>	Medical Center residency
<b>Flw</b>	Postdoctoral fellowship
<b>Pdc</b>	Postdoctoral certificate



1959 Carlman



1962 Turner



reanean (left to right: **Jim Schloss**, me, and **Gary (Gazelle) Van Gysel** '65S).” George adds, “It was a wonderful time.”

**1968 Charlotte Decroes Jacobs**, a professor emerita of medicine at Stanford University and the author of two previous biographies, *Jonas Salk: A Life* and *Henry Kaplan and the Story of Hodgkin's Disease*, has written *90 Seconds to Midnight: A Hiroshima Survivor's Nuclear Odyssey* (Potomac Books). The book tells the story of Setsuko Nakamura Thurlow, who, as a young teen, survived the bombing. Thurlow accepted the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

**1969 Carol (C.J.) Farnsworth Sturtevant** and her husband, George, are the subject of a short film by Brady Mickelson: “Are extreme sports the secret to a safe marriage? Seventy-seven-year-old C. J. Sturtevant has found the fountain of youth flying hang gliders and paragliders around the world with her husband, George.

She's 4'11", has a teddy bear collection, and proves that age is just a number. A true story of sticking to what you love and getting busy livin'.” Watch the story at [adventure.kavu.com/cj-forever-busy-livin](http://adventure.kavu.com/cj-forever-busy-livin). [Submitted with permission from editor and director Brady Mickelson.] C.J. includes a still photo of herself and George relaxing after a day of paragliding in Mexico last December.

**1971 David Skonieczki** sends a photo and writes, “My UR classmate, DKE brother, and football teammate **Bob Mielcarz** (on right in photo) also was a star on coach Don Smith's golf team. In July [2024], Bob competed in his 43rd and final New Hampshire Amateur Golf Championship, which he's won nine times. Bob didn't win his 10th, but he got to meet and play a practice round with another star UR golfer, All-American **Stephen Goodridge** '08, '09 (MS). The practice round must have been a good luck charm—Stephen finished second in the same championship game.”



1965 Ward



1969 Sturtevant



1971 Skonieczki

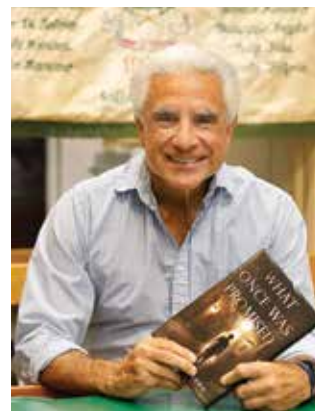
**1973 Lou Trubiano** writes that his debut novel, *What Once Was Promised* (MindStir Media), a multigenerational family saga set in early 20th-century Boston, has been named an International Impact Book Award winner, a Literary Global 5-Star Gold Award winner, and an American Writing Awards Silver Finalist, all in the historical fiction category.

**1974 Ross Petty** '74S (MBA), a professor emeritus of marketing law at Babson College in Massachusetts, where he taught for 31 years, has published a book about two of his ancestors: *Titus Simons: Father and Son Loyalists Who Fought in the American Revolution and the War of 1812* (Rock's Mills Press). Ross writes, “This fascinating book provides readers with insight into both the challenges of daily life and conflicting allegiances faced by North American men and women in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.” ... **Julian Steptoe**, founder of the nonprofit organization Tragedy's End, died in October 2024 in Los Angeles, writes his sister, Jennifer Barbour Butler. He attended the University from 1970 to 1972, when, while home on break, he was struck by a car and suffered a serious injury. Jennifer adds, “Julian always missed the University of Rochester.”

**1975 SOUTH REUNION**  
*Meliora Weekend*  
September 18 to 21  
[Rochester.edu/reunion](http://Rochester.edu/reunion)

**Celia** and **Donald Reaves** send a photo from their on-campus wedding 50 years ago. “We were married on May 17, 1975, (six days after graduation) in the Interfaith Chapel,” writes Celia.

**1977 Daniel Kimmel** (see '88).



1973 Trubiano



1975 Reaves

**1978 Dave Crowley** '79S (MBA) (see '19).

**1979 Steven Goldberg** has joined the environmental practice group at the law firm Stoel Rives as a partner. He has been practicing environmental law in California for more than 35 years, most recently with Downey Brand. Steven was selected by Best Lawyers as Environmental Litigation Lawyer of the Year, Sacramento, 2024. ... **Doug Sprei** writes, “In 2018, I founded the College Debates and Discourse Alliance, a joint initiative between Braver Angels, BridgeUSA, and the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. We are the largest political depolarization enterprise in the higher ed space and have launched nearly 400 debates and dialogues engaging 16,000-plus students at colleges and universities across the nation. In these rancorous times, there is a hunger on campuses for programs that help students learn skills of respectful dialogue around divisive political and social issues.” Doug adds, “I'm based in Washington, DC, and lead a team of gifted young leaders who are trying their best to keep up with growing demand for the program.”



1979 Sprei



1981 Cantor

**1980****45TH REUNION**

Meliora Weekend  
September 18 to 21  
[Rochester.edu/reunion](https://rochester.edu/reunion)

**Albert Kramer** (see '81).

**1981 Dan Cantor** sends a photograph from a mini reunion in Rye, New York, in December. Pictured, from left to right, are **Steve Rosen**, **Bob Carmola '88** (PhD), **Bonnie Gare Rosen**, **Andy Kramer**, Dan, and **Albert Kramer '80**.

**1982 Mariann Edgar Budde**, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, led the prayer service and delivered the sermon at the Washington National Cathedral following Donald Trump's second presidential inauguration in January. Mariann is the first woman to serve as the spiritual leader of the diocese, a role she has held since 2011. . . . **Edward Luby**, professor emeritus of museum studies at San Francisco State University, where he was director of the museum

studies program, has written *What Every Museum Director Should Know about Working with Boards* (Rowman & Littlefield), an essential resource for new and aspiring museum directors.

**1983 Mark D'Esposito**, a professor of neuroscience and psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in the biological sciences area with a specialty in neurosciences. Mark is also a practicing neurologist at the Northern California VA HealthCare System and an adjunct professor of neurology at the University of California, San Francisco.

**1984 Andrew Gordon** writes, "In September, my pickleball doubles partner, Hari, and I took third place in the Massachusetts Senior Open. We qualified for the national tournament to be held in Des Moines, Iowa, this August." He adds, "I am semiretired, and I research and trade biotechnology companies." . . . **Jonathan Sherman** has joined the international law firm Sterlington as a partner and vice chair



1982 Budde



1983 D'Esposito

of strategic litigation. He previously practiced for more than 25 years at Boies Schiller Flexner. Jonathan is a noted commercial litigator and advocate in First Amendment-related disputes. Early in his career, he played a key role in representing Court TV in the historic proceedings that allowed cameras into the O.J. Simpson trial, setting the stage for his lifelong advocacy for open courts and transparency in the judicial system. Jonathan is a life fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a former trustee of the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC.

**1985****40TH REUNION**

Meliora Weekend  
September 18 to 21  
[Rochester.edu/reunion](https://rochester.edu/reunion)

**Stephen Sylwester** writes, "All good on Long Island. Recent standard life events include youngest kiddo now at college, and I got early retired from work. I completed my first ultra marathon in May 2024: 33 trail miles in six-plus hours, which I thought was



1985 Sylwester

dreadfully slow, but I got second of 10 in my age group. I completed my first full Ironman (previously had done eight half Ironmans); it took 15-plus hours of a gorgeous September day in Maryland."





1986 Costello



1986 Ollendorf

**1986 Paul Costello** '94M (Res) sends an update: "I'm a family, community health center, and hospice physician in Seattle. I married fellow UR graduate **Chinda Roach** '88, '95M (Res), and together we raised three kids, now 28, 26, and 22." . . . **Timothy Dunne** '87S (MBA) (see '20). . . **Dan Ollendorf** writes, "Our senior suite (Slater 310) remains very close after all these years. Five of the six of us were able to take a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Zermatt, Switzerland, in September 2024. Pictured from left to right are me, **Adam Greene**, **Steve Shamah**, and **Tom Mitchell**, as well as **Phil Pyrc** (seated) and (not present but

on FaceTime) **Ron Pearsall** '87W (MS). Not pictured but equally important attendees were our spouses, including **Carolyn Conte**, **Kim Shamah**, **Christine Joor Mitchell**, Jane Greene, and Sharon Pyrc." The suitmates are pictured with the Matterhorn as backdrop.

**1987 Hilary Morrison Roman** (see '90).

**1988** California State Assemblymember **Laura Friedman**, a Democratic candidate for California's 30th congressional district, was profiled in the *Los Angeles Times* last May, writes **Daniel Kimmel** '77, who does research for the nonpartisan OntheIssues.org website. The article states that Laura fell in love with the game of pool at Rochester and later played semiprofessionally. "She spent her 20s with a \$600 custom pool cue stick in the trunk of her car. It was her constant companion as she careened between an ascendant day job in the film industry and the chalk dust and late-night bravado of Los Angeles's best pool halls," wrote the newspaper's Julia Wick. Laura describes herself on her LinkedIn page: "California Assemblymember representing the 44th District. Pool shark. Pro: bikes, trains, housing, single-payer health care, and induction stoves!" . . .

**Douglas McGetchin**, a history professor at Florida Atlantic University, has coauthored *Modern Germany: A Global History* (Oxford University Press), the first text of its kind to place the history of German-speaking Central Europe from 1500 to the present in a global perspective. Doug writes, "This book really began with the memorable and inspiring German history classes I took at the U of R almost 40 years ago with Professor Knox," referring to Bernard MacGregor Knox, a former Rochester

professor and chair of the history department. . . . **Chinda Roach** '95M (Res) (see '86).

**1989 Diane Reid Lyon**, a licensed clinical mental health counselor in private practice and owner of Lyon Counseling and Consulting, where she specializes in working with neurodivergent children, teens, and adults with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, has published *Caring For Yourself—Caring For Your Neurodivergent Child* (United Writers Press). In the book, Diane explains neurodiversity and how to advocate for children with neurodivergence in school. She discusses the grief process parents go through and provides self-care tips for preventing and recovering from burnout. . . . **Michael Morrison** (see '90). . . **Tim Murphy** sends a photo. "Over the summer," he writes, "I biked the Empire State Trail from Buffalo to Albany with two friends. During our trip, I made a point to stop and give my regards to the River Campus—and we enjoyed lunch at The Distillery."

#### 1990 35TH REUNION

*Meliara Weekend*  
September 18 to 21  
[Rochester.edu/reunion](https://rochester.edu/reunion)

**Maria Habbe Cosgrove** sends a photo from a 2024 mini reunion; she writes, "Thank you, Rochester, for randomly bringing us together in Susan B. Anthony during our freshman year in 1986. We have all enjoyed diverse careers in law, finance, education, health care, and engineering, yet, for all our differences, we are united by our enduring friendship and the goal to be 'ever better.' We had an amazing reunion weekend last summer and now can't wait to do it again in Rochester

this year for our 35th." Pictured with Maria (far left) are **Marianne LeBaron Manzella** '91W (MS), **Lucy Shawcross** (in tree), **Carol Dwyer**, **Barbara Dunlap**, and **Heidi Hoffman**. . . . **Jodi Rubtchinsky Smith** sends a photo taken last October after seeing a Dave Matthews Tribute Band concert with fellow alumni. She writes, "Friends gathered in southeast Florida to see Boston-based alumnus **Abe Dewing** '93 perform. Abe totally rocked it!" Pictured are **Michael Morrison** '89, **Hilary Morrison Roman** '87, Abe, and Jodi and **Douglas Smith**.

**1991 Rodney Morrison** '92W (MS), vice president for enrollment management at the University of Delaware, writes, "I was selected as one of the top 50 new voices in international education in North America" by the PIE, a UK-based media and jobs platform for professionals in international education. Rodney has been active in numerous professional organizations, including the National Association for College Admissions Counseling, Cambridge Regional Higher Educational Advisory Committee, American Talent Initiative, College Board's Admissions Research Consortium and its Counseling and Admissions Assembly Council, the National Association of Student



1990 Cosgrove



1989 Murphy



1990 Smith

Financial Aid Administrators, and the Association of Black Admissions and Financial Aid Officers of the Ivy League and Sister Schools. Rodney's career in enrollment management has included positions at Mount Saint Mary College, Rutgers University, and Stony Brook University.

**1993 Abe Dewing** (see '90). . . . **Ken Fernandez** '95W (MS), an international school leader in India, Nepal, and Guatemala, has been appointed superintendent at XCL American Academy in Singapore. He continues to keep roots in Rochester as a mentor with The Meliora Collective.

**1994 Abby Levine Shalom** writes she is saddened to discover that **Kristen Siudzinski Coughlin** died in 2021. "We became friends because we were both volunteers on campus for the Rochester International Friendship Council," writes Abby. "It was part of the National Council for International Visitors network, and the experience helped us launch our careers in Washington, DC, where we ran into each other at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Arlington, Virginia." She adds, "Thank you to the U of R for the opportunities it provided us!" . . . **Dennis Tucker** retired in March 2024 after 19 years as publisher at Whitman Publishing. His career focused on non-fiction genres, including numismatics, banking and financial history, the American presidency, popular culture, and US military history. In October 2024 he was presented a Distinguished Public Service Award by the United States Mint for eight years of service on the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee. In that role he advised treasury secretaries Jack Lew, Steven Mnuchin, and Janet Yellen on US coin and medal designs and themes. Dennis (right), his husband, Alexander Santos, and their



1994 Tucker

daughter, Ava, are pictured at the US Mint headquarters in Washington, DC, last October.

**1996 Kevin Sweeney**, a retired federal intelligence advisor, writes that he has written his third book, *One State, Two State, Red State, Blue State: The 2024 Presidential Election in the United States* (self-published). Also, Kevin points out that the man pictured holding his book *Trapped: Living with Non-Fluent Aphasia* in the fall 2024 issue of *Rochester Review* was former major league baseball player Jerry Reuss.

**1995**  
**30TH REUNION**  
*Meliora Weekend*  
September 18 to 21  
[Rochester.edu/reunion](https://Rochester.edu/reunion)

**1998 Khadija Lewis Khan** '99W (MS) has been the executive director of Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center in Providence, Rhode Island, since it opened in 1999. The center has received a five-star BrightStars rating—one of only 12 of the city's nearly 300 providers to achieve that rating. BrightStars serves as a benchmark for assessing and enhancing the quality of childcare and early learning programs across the state. A five-star rating provides a clear, research-based indicator of program quality, signifying that a childcare center implements best practices proven to promote child development and academic success.

. . . **Rebecca Grant Lederman** writes that she and her business partner started Pickleball Palace in October 2018 to bring pickleball to people of all ages and athletic abilities. In April 2024 they opened a 20,000-square-foot indoor facility dedicated to the sport in Whippany, New Jersey. Pickleball Palace offers instruction, leagues,



2007 Buitrago

events, and more. Rebecca adds, "I was thrilled that my classmate and sorority sister **Ria Dimalanta Nova** recently hosted a team-building event at Pickleball Palace. If any alumni live near or are traveling through the northern New Jersey area and want to play pickleball, please reach out!"

**2000**  
**25TH REUNION**  
*Meliora Weekend*  
September 18 to 21  
[Rochester.edu/reunion](https://Rochester.edu/reunion)

**2001 Melissa Kucinski** writes that she "testified before Congress in September 2024 in a Foreign Affairs Subcommittee hearing on the impact of the International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 and paths forward for cross-border families in situations of international parental child abduction." Melissa founded her own boutique family law firm, MKFL, in 2013. She has taught international family law at George Washington University's law school since 2010 and is a fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers and of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She has served as a consultant for the Hague Conference on Private International Law, a member of the Uniform Law Commission's Joint Editorial Board on Uniform Family Laws, and a member of the US Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law.

**2005**  
**20TH REUNION**  
*Meliora Weekend*  
September 18 to 21  
[Rochester.edu/reunion](https://Rochester.edu/reunion)

**Sean Hopkins** (see '18 Nursing). . . . **Christian Pulcini**, an attending pediatric emergency medicine physician



2012 Cirillo

at the University of Vermont Medical Center and Children's Hospital and an assistant professor of emergency medicine and pediatrics at the university's medical college, has written a children's book, *The Family Squeeze* (Onion River Press), illustrated by Matthew Gauvin. The book shows that bringing the family together through physical touch builds resilience. The "family squeeze" represents both a strategy and a message to help young people and families endure different emotions and experiences.

**2007 Jason Buitrago** '14W (MS), the executive director of enrollment management and strategic initiatives at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and a PhD candidate in higher education administration, was named one of Crain's Cleveland Business 40 Under 40 2024 honorees. Jason joined the university in 2019 after a 16-year career at Rochester. He has since launched Case Western Reserve's chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science. Jason also has been named to the 100+ Latinos Cleveland Must Know 2024 cohort.

**2008 Stephen Goodridge** (see '71).

**2010**  
**15TH REUNION**  
*Meliora Weekend*  
September 18 to 21  
[Rochester.edu/reunion](https://Rochester.edu/reunion)

**Anna Imperatrice** (see '20).

**2012 Andrew Cirillo**, the associate director of the Center for Campus Life and university chaplain at Rochester Institute of Technology, writes, "My wife, Kait, and I are excited to welcome our newest Yellowjacket into the world: Rosalie Josephine Cirillo. This past month has been amazing, and we can't wait to continue to watch her grow and achieve feats the Meliora way."

**2014 Jim Haley** sends a photograph from his May 2024 marriage to **Jenny Smacher** '15 in Auburn, New York. Pictured from left to right are (front row) **Johnson Truong** '15, **Grace Wagner** '15, **DJ Campbell** '15, **Maria Salas-Campbell** '15, **Sarah Bond Newton** '15, Jenny, Jim, **Rachel Taylor** '15, **Jeffrey Frank** '15, **Jessica Newman** '17, **Robin Holberg** '15, and **Kelly Rousmaniere Goldfarb**; (middle row) **Joe Wagner** '15, **Jon Strumpf** '15, **Matt Liuzzo** '15, **Brandon Newton**





2014 Haley and Smacher



2019 Crowley and Loomis

'15, **Shane Saxton** '15, **Allison Eberhardt Williams** '15, **Tom Krasner** '13, **Will Galanis** '15, **Alyssa Marcus** '15, **Pat Callanan**, **Brandon Moynihan**, and **Katie Luly** '15; (back row) **Peter Krasniak** '18M (MD), **Mike Clark** '15, **Matt Pavlos** '15, and **Kyle Bokert** '17.

#### 2015 10TH REUNION

*Meliara Weekend*  
September 18 to 21  
[Rochester.edu/reunion](http://Rochester.edu/reunion)

**Jenny Haley** (see '14).

2016 **Sarah Levine**, a high school literature and creative writing teacher in New York City, writes, "I will be publishing my first novel in May 2025." *Emma by the Sea* (Bold Strokes Books) is a modern-day romance inspired by one of Jane Austen's most



2018 Capita and Gentile

beloved novels. Sarah's protagonist, 25-year-old Emma Wilson, has an enviable life on Highbury Lane, but her father's dementia makes it difficult to leave him. Emma turns to her more mature neighbor and confidante, Georgia Kostigiris, for advice and comfort. Will Emma accept the life and love she truly desires? Sarah's nonfiction writing has appeared in *Northshore Magazine*, *Inter*, and *Cattish Creek: An Undergraduate Literary Journal*.

2018 Attorney **Jesse Bernstein** has joined Willig, Williams & Davidson, a labor, employment, workers' compensation, and family law firm as an associate in the firm's Philadelphia office. Jesse is a former law clerk and summer associate at the firm as well as a former journalist. . . . **Jackie Capita** (T5) writes that she and **Matthew Gentile** '19 were married in Scotland last July. The couple first met outside Gilbert Hall on the River Campus. After nearly nine years together,

SAVE THE DATE  
SEPTEMBER 18–21, 2025

MELIORA  
WEEKEND

Experience an unforgettable weekend filled with world-class entertainment, nostalgic reunion celebrations, talks from faculty leaders, and special events commemorating our rich history. **Registration opens later this year.**

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UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

she writes, they “decided to elope and enjoy Edinburgh’s dramatic and moody landscape.”

**2019** **Alex Crowley** and **Sandy Loomis** ’18 send a picture from their wedding. Thirty alumni were present, including Sandy and Alex as well as Alex’s father, **Dave Crowley** ’78, ’79S (MBA). Alex’s mother, Diane, photographed the group. . . . **Nicholas Foti** writes, “**Nicole Gorski** and I are pleased to share a very Rochester photo from our October 2024

wedding in South Wales, New York. Yellowjackets pictured include **Max Pagnucco** ’20, **Joshua Hill** ’18, **Scott Bradley**, **Gapilan Sivasithamparam**, **Tessa Vande Creek**, **Conley Ernst**, **Jacob Wheeler** ’20, **Rachel Levy** ’18, **Mackenzie Bluman** ’21, **Mitchell Schoellkopf** ’18, **Tommy Geiger** ’21, **Andrew Dominic**, and **Sam Roth**. We are also grateful for the presence of **Lucas Avelar** and Professor Michael Rizzo, who were unable to join us for the group photo.” . . . **Matthew Gentile** (see ’18).

## 2020

### 5TH REUNION

*Meliora Weekend*  
September 18 to 21  
[Rochester.edu/reunion](https://rochester.edu/reunion)

**Hana Mamnoon** sends a photograph. “I was at an event and met up with two other U of R alumni,” she writes. “The three of us were involved in the planning and execution of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Quantum Intersections Convening.” Shown, from left, Hana, **Timothy**

**Dunne** ’86, ’87S (MBA), and **Anna Imperatrice** ’10.

**2022** **Grace Stensland**, a post-production sound designer and sound editor at Sound Rebels in Burbank, California, has helped earn 2025 Emmy and Motion Picture Sound Editors Golden Reel nominations for two projects. As a sound effects editor for *Orion and the Dark*, a DreamWorks feature streaming on Netflix, Grace contributed to a project that received an Emmy Nomination for Sound Mixing

## WE LOVE TO SEE IT

# Alumni Say ‘I Do’ During Rochester-themed Nuptials

**Farrell Cooke** ’14, ’19N, ’24S (MBA) and **Tyler Viterise** ’14 met each other during their undergraduate years at Rochester through mutual friends. The two reconnected when Farrell returned to Rochester for nursing school, coinciding with Tyler’s physical therapy residency at the University.

Their journey to the altar began when Tyler proposed to Farrell on the Eastman Quadrangle. From that moment on, as they planned their wedding, they wanted the day to celebrate Rochester, which holds such significance for them and their loved ones.

Although the wedding wasn’t held in upstate New York, they honored the place they call home by incorporating aspects of the city and University into their festivities. This included cookies decorated with the iconic City of Rochester flower, welcome bags with lilac stickers designed by **Tiffany Nicholas** ’19, crystal yellowjackets adorning the seating chart (and guarded by a life-size cutout of the couple’s dog, Eastman), and even a signature mocktail called “The Eastman.”

—MARY BURKE

**COME TOGETHER:** Yellowjackets across many graduation years and programs gathered to celebrate the Rochester couple.

From left to right: Madeleine Hammer, Makenzie Mathews, Skye Ernst ’15, Daniel Viterise ’14, Alyssa Benjamin, Dylan Hoffman ’16, Nicole (Watson) Bartlett ’14, Kevin Peklar ’14, Angelo Persichilli ’14, Nicholas Benedetto ’14, Deborah Korzun ’14, Karen Tuttle ’14, Judy Bernstein, Stuart Barish ’68, Kristy Hicks ’14, Scott Bruening ’14, Breanna Padasak ’14, Mason Parmelee ’14, ’18S (MBA), Tyler, Farrell, Jared Hilton ’13, Madeleine (Quercia) Severski ’13, Carol Williams ’14, Sara Heilpern ’14, Lija Barber ’14, Jean Esquier ’15, Luke Severski ’13, Caroline Szabo ’15, Jamie Tartell ’15, Isabella (Cazacu) Bohannon ’15, Nanna (Goldman) Esquier ’14, Elle Ansani Terpening ’15, Jake Williams ’15, Trevor Terpening ’15S (MBA), Natalie Tafet ’14, and Jacob Bohannon ’15.







2019 Foti and Gorski



2020 Mamnoon

and Sound Editing for an Animated Program as well as an MPSE Golden Reel Nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Editing—Non-Theatrical Animation. Grace worked as a Foley editor on *Jurassic World: Chaos Theory* (also streaming on Netflix), which earned an MPSE Golden Reel Nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Editing—Broadcast Animation.

## River Campus

### GRADUATE

#### MELIORA WEEKEND

September 18 to 21

[Rochester.edu/melioraweekend](https://Rochester.edu/melioraweekend)

**1976 Leonard Jason** (PhD), the director of the Center for Community Research and a professor of psychology at DePaul University, was honored in November at DePaul's annual College of Science and Health's alumni reception, where they marked his 50

years of teaching and research. Among his achievements celebrated were more than \$47 million in grant funding, more than 135 book chapters, and 900-plus peer-reviewed publications. Leonard also has helped about 300 interns at his Center for Community Research gain credentials to get into graduate programs over the past 25 years, and he has served on more than 100 dissertation committees. He credits his longevity to having a life blessed with opportunities to engage in adventuresome research, paradigm-challenging teaching, and meaningful community-based, participatory service. Comments from his colleagues and friends can be viewed at [kudoboard.com/boards/Q4rYPK9i](https://kudoboard.com/boards/Q4rYPK9i).

**1988 Bob Carmola** (PhD) (see '81 Undergraduate).

**1994 Evan Granite** (PhD), the program manager for Carbon Ore Processing and a senior technical advisor at the US Department of



1994 Granite

Energy (DOE), writes that he has won the American Chemical Society's Pittsburgh Award. Evan initiated and led the DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory Research and Innovation Center programs on rare earth and critical metals detection and recovery and emissions control. Over the course of his career, he has been inducted into the International Activated Carbon Hall of Fame and was nominated twice for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal for Outstanding Research. His dedication to mentorship and community service, including serving on PhD thesis committees at various institutions and doing volunteer work with the Pittsburgh Youth Chamber Orchestra, highlights his broader commitment to societal betterment.

**2009 Stephen Goodridge** (MS) (see '71 Undergraduate).

**2013 Will Vanderhyden** (MA) translated *Melville* (Open Letter), a work of fiction by author Rodrigo

Fresán, from Spanish into English. The National Book Critics Circle has longlisted the translation for the organization's 2024 Barrios Book in Translation Prize. Will and Fresán have worked together on every one of the author's English language translations since *The Bottom of the Sky* (Open Letter), published in 2018.

## Eastman School of Music

#### MELIORA WEEKEND

September 18 to 21

[Rochester.edu/melioraweekend](https://Rochester.edu/melioraweekend)

**1970 Geary Larrick** (MM), who retired from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point as an assistant professor of music, has written 10 academic books published in New York. The books, writes Geary, are in university libraries worldwide, including Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Texas, Miami, and Sibley Music Library at Eastman. He and his wife, Lydia, now live in suburban Chicago near their daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren. Geary adds that he plays his concert grand marimba every day. . . . **Daniel Morgenstern** writes that his collection titled *Bach Works Chronological: BWC* (Morningstar Publications) has been published. Daniel's lifetime love of music and the works of Johann Sebastian Bach led him to sort those works in chronological order to highlight Bach's genius and productivity in every year of his life. According to Daniel, this allows for a better view of the German composer and musician's creativity.

**1975** Clarinetist **Gary Dranch**, a senior IT manager at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he has worked for more than 24 years, has released his second solo CD, *The Dawn of the Bicameral Clarinetist* (Navona Records), an anthology of American solo clarinet works from 1968 to 1979, when composers, inspired by technological advances, crafted a unique collaboration between synthesizers and live musicians. . . . Marimbist **Leigh Stevens** will continue as CEO of Mallettech after its acquisition by the Eastman Music Company, a global musical instrument manufacturer. In 1983, Leigh founded Mallettech, which makes keyboard percussion instruments, including marimbas, xylophones, vibraphones, glockenspiels, and a wide range of mallets. Based in New Jersey, over the past 40 years,



1980E Lang

Mallettech has hosted classical music concerts in Asbury Park and Ocean Grove as part of the Leigh Howard Stevens Summer Marimba Seminar, the 1995 Leigh Howard Stevens International Marimba Competition, and the World Vibes Congress—an annual summit of educational clinics, roundtable discussions, and performances celebrating the vibraphone.

**1980** Last September string bassist **Stephan Lang** appeared with the StarDust Jazz Trio in Toronto at North America's largest Ukrainian street festival, performing Ukrainian songs reimagined in jazz arrangements. He is pictured onstage with singer Zhanna Zinchenko.

**1981** **William (Bill) Picher** (MM) has released *On Eagle's Wings* (Stemik Music), his 14th release on the Stemik label. Bill and the all-professional Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe in Orlando, Florida, perform a selection of organ and choral music on the recording. Bill, who had been the director of music at the Orlando basilica for 24 years, plays music of Bach, Bish, and Handel on the Schoenstein pipe organ

installed in 2019. The choir joins him in music by Mozart, Peter Phillips, Charles Wood, and others.

**1988** **Tom Nazziola** has published *10 Songs for Snare Drum* (Mostly Marimba). He writes: "I'm excited to present a unique approach to writing for snare drum—utilizing imagery, accompanying video, additional drums, and rhythmic concepts that treat each piece more like a song rather than an étude or exercise. Many of these songs are represented in the video performances (see [mostlymarimba.com](http://mostlymarimba.com)) with everything from classical drumming to a funky pairing of snare drum and surdo drum (with electric bass and hand claps accompaniment track). Another song features the sounds of a table or floor as one performs a tap dance composition in the spirit of Sammy Davis Jr. I hope you enjoy this exploration of snare drum in all its diverse settings."

**1994** **Howard Yermish** writes that he has been commissioned to write a piece for the Greater South Jersey Chorus. The work—scored for clarinet, marimba, soprano solo, chorus, and piano—sets poems by Nigerian archi-

tect, environmental activist, and author Nnimmo Bassey to music and is set to premiere in May.

**2011** **Max Matzen** (DMA), an associate professor of trumpet at Utah State University, has released *Nightsongs* (MSR Classics), a collection of diverse works for trumpet, piano, and harp that spans from Johann Sebastian Bach to Toru Takemitsu. "It's all there," writes Max. "This is the best statement I can make about where I currently am as an artist, and I hope listeners find it enjoyable." Also featured on the recording is Max's wife, pianist **Mayumi** (DMA).

**2021** French horn player, producer, and composer **Sasami Ashworth** released a new pop music recording this March.

## School of Medicine and Dentistry

### MELIORA WEEKEND

September 18 to 21

[Rochester.edu/melioraweekend](http://Rochester.edu/melioraweekend)

**1963** **John Harlan** (MD) (see '60 Nursing).

**1974** Geneticist **Susan Weiss Lieberman** (PhD), a University of Illinois Distinguished University Professor Emerita and pharmacology research professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, has published *The Dressmaker's Mirror: Sudden Death, Genetics, and a Jewish Family's Secret* (Rowman & Littlefield). Blending family history with cutting-edge genetics, it tells the story of her search that led to the discovery of a previously unknown heart disease gene and an Ashkenazi Jewish mutation in it. Susan obtained a PhD from the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics "under Fred Sherman's guidance," she writes, "and I remained close with Fred until his death [in 2012]. I continue to use the yeast genetics he taught me in my by now 50-year research and teaching career, highlighted by my work on yeast prions. My book features my experiences as a graduate student and postdoc at the University of Rochester, and my stories bring the beloved professor to life."

**1978** **Paul Williams** (Res), a clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington's medical school, writes

that he is currently serving as president of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. He has been a member of that organization for more than 37 years.

**1994** **Paul Costello** (Res) (see '86 RC Undergraduate).

**1995** **Chinda Roach** (Res) (see '86 RC Undergraduate).

**2022** **Mary Kate Moran** (MPH), '23 (PhD) is in her second year as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She studied HIV during her undergraduate years at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and then dermatology at Rochester, with a focus on bacterial and viral skin infections. Through her work at the CDC, Mary Kate attended the African Rotavirus Symposium in Nigeria. She has also worked with the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health in Seychelles on a project to look at the impact of a rotavirus vaccine and the economic cost associated with pediatric acute gastroenteritis hospitalization.

## School of Nursing

### MELIORA WEEKEND

September 18 to 21

[Rochester.edu/melioraweekend](http://Rochester.edu/melioraweekend)

**1960** **Carrie Andrews Harlan** writes that she is married to **John Harlan** '63M (MD). They live in Arizona, where John has practiced internal medicine and gastroenterology for many years.

**1975** **Kathleen Mulholland Parrinello** '83 (MS), '90W (PhD), president and CEO of Strong Memorial Hospital, received a Distinguished



2018N Olfano and Hopkins



Alumni Award from the Warner School of Education and Human Development for her contributions to health care and education. The award recognizes graduates who exemplify Warner's mission of making the world "Ever Better" and serves as an inspiration to current and future alumni.

**1983 Kathleen Mulholland Parrinello** (MS), '90W (PhD) (see '75).

**2018 Kim Olfano and Sean Hopkins** '05RC send a photo from their July 2024 wedding.

## Simon Business School

### MELIORA WEEKEND

September 18 to 21  
Rochester.edu/melioraweekend

**1985 Gary Van Gysel** (see '65 RC Undergraduate).

**1974 Ross Petty** (MBA) (see '74 RC Undergraduate).

**1979 Dave Crowley** (MBA) (see '19 RC Undergraduate).

**1985 Lance Drummond** (MBA), a University trustee emeritus, delivered the keynote at Simon's 2025 Diversity Conference. The executive-level business leader with multi-industry and international experience shared his personal and professional journey as well as life lessons learned with attendees, including current and prospective Simon students and alumni.

**1987 Timothy Dunne** (MBA) (see '20 RC Undergraduate).

**2000 Mandar Donde** (MBA) has been appointed Bank of America's head of global corporate and investment banking for India, according to APAC News Network. In addition to this new role, Mandar will chair the telecom, media, and technology investment banking division for the Asia Pacific region, further strengthening the bank's presence in key markets.

**2003 Alexandra (Alex) Sukhoy** (MBA), a lecturer in marketing at Cleveland State University, has completed her *Girl from Cleveland City* trilogy with *The Girl from Cleveland City: The Identity Parade* (self-published). She writes, "Part short stories, part essays, part screenplay, part photo album, *The*

*Girl from Cleveland City* throws the reader down an irreversible rabbit hole of questionable characters making bad decisions and the comeuppance they each must face."

## Warner School of Education

### MELIORA WEEKEND

September 18 to 21  
Rochester.edu/melioraweekend

**1974 Peggy Simmons Wilson** (EdM), '08 (PhD) has written *Two Tales Waggin': A Journey through Grief to Grace* (Palmetto Publishing). "The book depicts a woman transitioning between life stages and her 'fur baby,' Coco, who is along for the ride," writes Peggy. "Shaped by parallel narratives, the book aims to encourage those struggling with grief, guilt, and shame—challenging the readers to nurture a positive relationship toward peace, love, and joy."

**1987 Ron Pearsall** (MS) (see '86 RC Undergraduate).

**1990 Kathleen Mulholland Parrinello** (PhD) (see '75 N).

**1991 Marianne LeBaron Manzella** (MS) (see '90 RC Undergraduate).

**1992 Rodney Morrison** (MS) (see '91 RC Undergraduate).

**1995 Ken Fernandez** (MS) (see '93 RC Undergraduate).

**1999 Catherine Compton-Lilly** (EdD), the John C. Hungerpillar Professor at the University of South Carolina and a professor emerita at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, has been named a 2024 inductee to the Reading Hall of Fame, an independent international organization that recognizes lifetime achievement in the field of literacy. She is the author or editor of several books on literacy and has published widely in educational journals. The awards were presented at the Literacy Research Association's annual meeting in December. Before joining the faculty at Wisconsin, Catherine taught for 18 years in the Rochester area, mostly in the Rochester City School District. . . . **Khadija Lewis Khan** (MS) (see '98 RC Undergraduate).

**2008 Peggy Simmons Wilson** (PhD) (see '74).

**2014 Jason Buitrago** (MS) (see '07 RC Undergraduate).

**2019 Serina Tetenov** (PhD), the chief program officer for the Villa of Hope, was named one of the *Rochester Business Journal's* 2025 Health Care Heroes. She is among 48 honorees recognized for their professional achievements, community leadership, innovation, and mentorship.

## In Memoriam Trustee Emeritus

**Andrew (Andy) Hutchinson Neilly, Jr.** '47, a former president, CEO, and vice chairman of the board of the publishing company John Wiley & Sons, died in February at the age of 101. A longtime champion of the University, and, particularly, the institution's libraries, Neilly was first elected to the University's Board of Trustees in 1976 and served as a trustee emeritus (previously life trustee) since 1997.

Neilly and his wife, Janet, established the position of Andrew H. and Janet Dayton Neilly Dean of the University of Rochester Libraries and created the Neilly Author Series, which brings a diverse range of writers to the University for talks on their process, their publications, and the ideas in their work.

In 1996, Neilly helped spearhead an important reunion of 1940s and 1950s alumni that concurrently celebrated alumni veterans of World War II.

## Former Faculty

**Robert Betts**, a professor emeritus in the Infectious Disease Unit of the Department of Medicine. October 2024

**Patricia Herminghouse**, the Karl F. and Bertha A. Fuchs Professor Emerita in German Studies in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures. October 2024

**John Marcellus**, a professor emeritus of trombone in the Department of Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion and the director of the Eastman Trombone Choir at the Eastman School of Music. December 2024

**Lawrence Matterson** '79S (MBA), an executive professor at Simon Business School. November 2024

**David Pollack**, a professor of Japanese in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures. November 2024

**Werner Schenk** '76S (MBA), a clinical assistant professor of

computers and information systems at Simon Business School. December 2024

**Ross Tallents** '73D (Pdc), '79D (Pdc), a professor in the Department of Dentistry in the School of Medicine and Dentistry. December 2024

**Martha Windrem**, a faculty member in the Department of Neurology at the School of Medicine and Dentistry. September 2024

## Alumni

**Doris Glazer Light** '42, November 2024

**Jeanette Korris Schonfeld** '43E, November 2024

**Evelyn Laufer Taylor** '43, October 2024

**Marilyn Gorin Feldman** '46, November 2024

**Lucille Crosby King** '46, October 2024

**Edrie Sellick Hough** '47, September 2024

**Paul G. Stein** '47, October 2024

**Margaret Matthews Boland** '48, August 2024

**Phyllis Dutton Courter** '48E, March 2024

**Walfrid Kujala** '48E, '50E (MM), November 2024

**Edna Madden Brown** '49, July 2024

**Jerome T. Nolan** '49, '52M (MD), November 2024

**Patricia Lindeman Smith** '49N, September 2024

**Margaret Wells Button** '50, September 2024

**Diane M. Fleishman** '50, May 2024

**Sallie Turner Guy** '50, November 2024

**Avis Seymour Hart** '50E (MM), December 2024

**Dvorah Goldman Kolko** '50, December 2024

**Thelma L. Trimble** '50, '52E (MM), July 2024

**Lois Archer McKenzie** '51N, October 2024

**Agnes Abbott Eaton** '52, November 2024

**Patricia Ryan Greene** '52, October 2024

**Beatrice Zeidler Langer** '52E, December 2024

**Joseph J. Mancini** '52, '67W (MS), December 2024

**Daniel J. Riley** '52, October 2024

**Edgar Rummler** '52, November 2024

**Dolores Gray Schwartz** '52, '69W (EdM), October 2024

**Robert J. Wilson** '52, October 2024

**Russell J. Diefendorf** '53, October 2024

**June Beardmore Jennison** '53, August 2024  
**Harold A. Krieger** '53, August 2024  
**Mary Healey Donnelly** '54, September 2024  
**Francis R. Grebe** '54, September 2024  
**Laura Hasenpflug Kennedy** '54, December 2024  
**Paul W. Lyddon** '54E, May 2024  
**Richard N. Potter** '54, October 2024  
**Barbara Lawson Steagall** '54N, September 2024  
**Christine C. Wilcosz-Thompson** '54E, July 2024  
**Terri Feinglass Ross** '55, December 2024  
**Theodore E. Schlessel** '55M (MD), September 2024

**Dorothy Pozniko Beam** '56E, '57E (MM), November 2024  
**Richard C. Bensman** '56, June 2022  
**Beverly Huss Bixby** '56N, December 2024  
**Robert H. Carman** '56M (MD), '60M (Res), August 2024  
**Elizabeth Briggs Clements** '56N, September 2024  
**Constantine N. Evgenides** '56, December 2024  
**Mary Conley Hausle** '56E, October 2024  
**John R. Kenny** '56, September 2024  
**Ronald F. Proud** '56W (EdM), November 2024  
**Robert A. Scala** '56M (MS), '58M (PhD), October 2024  
**Lois Mundy Carlson** '57N, August 2024

**Mahlon T. Clements** '57, September 2024  
**Elizabeth Deischer Hodkinson** '57E, September 2024  
**Frank F. Lenhardt** '57, November 2024  
**James A. Martin** '57, September 2024  
**Patricia A. Weyl** '57, December 2024  
**Virgil E. Yoder** '57M (MS), November 2024  
**Elizabeth Moody Culp** '58, December 2024  
**Terry R. Diebold** '58, December 2024  
**George W. Grimm** '58, September 2024  
**Marcia Loeffler Hishman** '58E, October 2024  
**Marjorie Comstock Hunsberger** '58E, '60E (MM), November 2024  
**John K. Matthews** '58W, September 2024

**Philip E. McPherson** '58, September 2024  
**Frederick J. Wajda** '58W (MS), August 2024  
**Patricia A. Westwood** '58, September 2024  
**Anthony Jack Alberti** '59W (MS), November 2024  
**Thomas E. Conover** '59M (PhD), September 2022  
**Samuel Klawter** '59, September 2024  
**Andrius A. Naujokas** '59, '72 (MS), September 2024  
**Barbara Holmes Schnitzer** '59, May 2022  
**Joseph D. Bloom** '60M (MS), July 2024  
**Marlene Stroud Dohr** '60N (MS), November 2024  
**Ann Link Moore** '60, September 2024

## TRIBUTE

## Loretta Ford: Cofounder of the Nurse Practitioner Role

Loretta (Lee) Ford—an internationally renowned nurse leader who transformed the nursing profession, was named a member of the National Women's Hall of Fame, and served as the founding dean of the School of Nursing—died in January at the age of 104.

Ford changed the delivery of health care by cofounding the nurse practitioner (NP) model at the University of Colorado in 1965 with Henry Silver, a pediatrician. Today, there are more than 385,000 nurse practitioners in the United States.

At a time when doctors did not generally welcome input from nurses, Ford met considerable resistance from the medical community. Yet she persistently worked to equalize the perceived hierarchy between the practice of medicine and nursing, advocating for nurses as educators, researchers, and advanced practice providers as well as bedside caregivers.

Recruited in 1972 to be the first dean of the newly independent School of Nursing at Rochester and the director of clinical nursing at Strong Memorial Hospital, Ford bridged the two roles to create the unification model of nursing. Now common practice at academic medical centers, it combines education, research, and clinical practice to create a holistic approach to nursing education and clinical practice.

"Coming to Rochester, I quickly realized how close the Medical Center was, not only physically, but technically and psychologically," Ford said during a 2015 visit to campus. "It had the philosophy and the interdisciplinary aspects to develop a team approach and establish a system that was receptive and responsive to new ideas."



**PIONEERING PRACTITIONER:** Loretta Ford developed and implemented a holistic approach to nursing education, research, and clinical practice that transformed how millions of people receive health care.

Over the course of her career, Ford succeeded in establishing the nurse practitioner as an integral part of medical teams, bringing greater respect to the profession.

During Ford's tenure at Rochester, the School of Nursing expanded beyond bachelor's and master's degree programs to provide both doctoral and postdoctoral training. Ford retired in 1986 but continued to consult and lecture on the historical development of nursing nationally and at the school beyond the age of 100.

"Lee Ford was a remarkable leader who transformed the face of health care through her fierce advocacy and

bold vision," says Lisa Kitko, dean of the School of Nursing. "As an architect of the unification model of nursing, her impact on our school and nursing profession runs deep, and her commitment to excellence continues to guide us."

Ford authored more than 100 publications, served as a consultant and lecturer to multiple organizations and universities, and garnered many honorary doctorates and awards during her career. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2011. And in 2020, *USA Today* named her one of its "Women of the Century" in recognition of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Hours before her 100th birthday, Ford was honored with the Surgeon General's Medallion, awarded by the US Surgeon General for exceptional achievements in the cause of public health and medicine. 📖

—NORA WILLIAMSON

To read the full remembrance, visit [Rochester.edu/news/ford](https://rochester.edu/news/ford).



<b>DiEldred C. Storm</b> '60, November 2024	<b>William A. Kaplin</b> '64, October 2024	<b>Thomas D. Walters Sr.</b> '70, September 2024	<b>Suhayl J. Nasr</b> '77M (Res), August 2024
<b>Ann Weinstein</b> '60N (Diploma), August 2024	<b>Jean Bunting Mitchell</b> '64, December 2024	<b>Ronald J. Allman</b> '71S (MBA), December 2024	<b>Andrea Splittberger-Rosen</b> '77E (MM), September 2024
<b>C. William Brown</b> '61, September 2024	<b>Stanley G. Sadler</b> '64 (MS), '68 (PhD), December 2024	<b>James D. Blackburn</b> '71 (MS), September 2024	<b>Jewel Aungst Wink</b> '77W (MS), November 2024
<b>Robert E. Burke</b> '61M (MD), October 2024	<b>Richard O. Anderson</b> '65M (Res), August 2024	<b>John R. Harvey</b> '71 (MA), '78 (PhD), August 2024	<b>Emmanuel S. Akowuah</b> '78M (Res), '82M (Flw), October 2024
<b>Margaret Brown Carey</b> '61, December 2024	<b>K. Drew Hartzell</b> '65E (MA), '71E (PhD), October 2024	<b>Edo Huber</b> '71, December 2024	<b>Marc D. Graff</b> '78M (Res), June 2023
<b>Sandra Nugent Criner</b> '61E (MA), October 2024	<b>James R. Mullen</b> '65, September 2024	<b>Kevin J. Kelly</b> '71, October 2024	<b>Paul T. Carroll</b> '79, July 2024
<b>Burton H. Ginther</b> '61S, '72S (MBA), October 2024	<b>Timothy J. Rahman</b> '65, September 2024	<b>James C. McGuire</b> '71, December 2024	<b>Lawrence J. Matteson</b> '79S (MBA), November 2024
<b>Howard R. Gordon</b> '61M (MD), April 2024	<b>Walter G. Sharrow</b> '65 (PhD), October 2024	<b>Antoinette Mendlow Kuzminski</b> '71 (MA), August 2024	<b>Yateendra S. Bhatnagar</b> '80S (MBA), August 2024
<b>Stephen M. Halpern</b> '61, September 2024	<b>Walter F. Carter</b> '66 (MA), August 2024	<b>Jonathan G. Ripley</b> '71, September 2023	<b>David E. Haines</b> '80M (MD), February 2024
<b>M. Elaine Killion Helling</b> '61E, August 2024	<b>Clarissa May Kramer</b> '66E, November 2024	<b>Anne L. Witherell</b> '71E, September 2024	<b>David L. Bogdonoff</b> '81M (MD), October 2024
<b>Peter G. Kirby</b> '61, December 2024	<b>Joanne Hawrylczak Sasse</b> '66D (Pdc), March 2024	<b>Mary S. Delaura</b> '72, October 2024	<b>Richard S. Foggio</b> '81, November 2024
<b>Joseph M. Mosca</b> '61 (MS), September 2024	<b>Kenneth R. Bergman</b> '67M (MD), September 2024	<b>Michael D. Flanigan</b> '72, October 2024	<b>Charlyne Miller Hickey</b> '81N (MS), December 2024
<b>Nancy Glover Nelson</b> '61N, August 2022	<b>William H. Bleuel</b> '67 (MS), December 2024	<b>Ronald C. Hopson</b> '72 (PhD), April 2022	<b>William T. Lewek</b> '81M (Res), August 2024
<b>Rosamond M. Stone</b> '61E, November 2024	<b>Benjamin C. Bonarigo</b> '67M (Res), October 2024	<b>William J. Kane</b> '72M (Res), May 2024	<b>Kevin J. Malloy</b> '81M (MS), '81M (PhD), October 2024
<b>Vincent H. Swoyer</b> '61W (MA), October 2024	<b>Joseph D. Croft</b> '67M (Res), September 2024	<b>Thomas B. Michaels</b> '72 (MS), August 2024	<b>Margaret Neufeld-May</b> '81W (MS), November 2024
<b>Jeannette Fontaine Yeaple</b> '61, November 2024	<b>Alice Collins Fisk</b> '67, '71 (MA), April 2022	<b>Lawrence H. Rubin</b> '72 (PhD), February 2024	<b>Alan M. Fishkoff</b> '82, October 2024
<b>Rex Britton</b> '62E, August 2024	<b>Gary L. Grahn</b> '67S (MBA), November 2024	<b>Eleanore L. Ballieul</b> '73W (MA), August 2024	<b>Alan D. Lichtman</b> '83E, November 2024
<b>Robert L. Hagerman</b> '62S, '70S (MBA), '72S (PhD), June 2022	<b>Peter J. Gwise</b> '67, April 2024	<b>Maureen Henahan Butler</b> '73N, September 2024	<b>Ellen Sternberg Bevan</b> '84 (MA), '91 (PhD), September 2024
<b>Lois Beth Jennings-Eggar</b> '62E, September 2024	<b>Anthony A. Lenti</b> '67E, '69E (MM), '79E (DMA), November 2024	<b>Linda Marblestone Champion</b> '73W, September 2024	<b>Therese M. Franko-Holstein</b> '84M (Res), December 2024
<b>Jane Steinhilper Krebs</b> '62, August 2024	<b>Jamie Angus Miller</b> '67, '71W (EdM), September 2024	<b>Sally Forsyth Cumming</b> '73W (EdM), September 2024	<b>Randall K. Freeman</b> '84D (Pdc), October 2024
<b>William A. Krutenat</b> '62W (MA), September 2024	<b>Ralph M. Zimmer</b> '67, October 2024	<b>John B. Hanks</b> '73M (MD), October 2024	<b>Richard B. Nelson</b> '84E (PhD), August 2024
<b>Ann Avery Shank</b> '62, October 2024	<b>Thomas R. Corner</b> '68M (PhD), November 2024	<b>Harry J. Kimble</b> '73 (MA), '78 (PhD), September 2024	<b>Rita M. Mignacca</b> '85 (MA), May 2024
<b>Alice Whitcher Smith</b> '62E, September 2024	<b>Alexander Gecas</b> '68W (MA), October 2024	<b>Kenneth H. Montgomery</b> '73S (MS), October 2024	<b>Diane K. Alliet</b> '86N, December 2024
<b>Judith Auer Barker</b> '63, July 2022	<b>Donald J. Kenton</b> '68, November 2024	<b>Alvin Parris</b> '73E, November 2024	<b>Robert M. Poole</b> '88M (Res), November 2024
<b>Suzanne Festersen Clark</b> '63N (MS), October 2023	<b>John J. Miller</b> '68, August 2024	<b>Mary J. Tague</b> '73N, September 2024	<b>Shari Dobres Hamburg</b> '89, June 2024
<b>Ann Reid Francis</b> '63, December 2024	<b>Edward O. Reiter</b> '68M (MD), November 2024	<b>Susan Levine Grilli</b> '74, May 2024	<b>Joan A. Sampson</b> '90N (MS), September 2023
<b>Susan Thierolf Jarosz</b> '63, September 2024	<b>Mark A. Robinson</b> '68D (Pdc), May 2024	<b>Ting Ho</b> '74E (PhD), April 2023	<b>Xiaou Tang</b> '91 (MS), December 2023
<b>Mary J. Lang</b> '63E, February 2024	<b>Mary Adams Bickel</b> '69E (MM), '91W (EdD), October 2024	<b>John F. Holzwarth</b> '74W (EdD), August 2024	<b>Mark C. Brown</b> '92S (MBA), October 2024
<b>Richard W. Miller</b> '63, December 2024	<b>Richard L. Dehm</b> '69S (MBA), November 2024	<b>Mark B. Severs</b> '74 (MA), November 2024	<b>Lisa A. Ensinger</b> '92E (MM), October 2024
<b>Julia Clark Rouse</b> '63N, August 2024	<b>Barbara Linhart</b> '69N (Diploma), October 2024	<b>Jane Peterson Ganz</b> '75, October 2024	<b>Michael S. Garland</b> '92, October 2024
<b>Carole Hartwig Schroeder</b> '63N, March 2022	<b>Roger P. Bernard</b> '70M (Res), September 2024	<b>Anatole Pleten</b> '75, September 2024	<b>Sebnem Cayak Araci</b> '93S (MBA), November 2024
<b>Robert L. Weisman</b> '63, December 2024	<b>Annette Rahm Floyd</b> '70E (MA), September 2024	<b>Terry J. Sims</b> '75M (PhD), November 2024	<b>Laurie Donohue</b> '94M (Res), October 2024
<b>Leon L. Wheelless</b> '63 (MS), '65 (PhD), April 2024	<b>Phillip M. Guiliano</b> '70, November 2024	<b>Esmer Watkins</b> '75, November 2024	<b>Gail Evans</b> '94S (MBA), October 2024
<b>Jane Novelli Allen</b> '64, October 2024	<b>Donna A. Nash-Bayley</b> '70W, November 2024	<b>Kenneth J. Williams</b> '75S (MBA), November 2024	<b>John G. Knower</b> '96W (MS), October 2024
<b>Robert F. Betts</b> '64M (MD), '69M (Res), October 2024	<b>Alice Lenard Oshman</b> '70, October 2024	<b>James M. Cholakis</b> '76M (PhD), September 2024	<b>Nicholas R. Nelson</b> '03, November 2024
<b>Kathleen Jessup Damon</b> '64, August 2022	<b>Frank A. Revetta</b> '70 (PhD), September 2024	<b>Carl A. Craig</b> '76, January 2022	<b>Andrea R. Voight-Osokie</b> '04W (MS), November 2024
<b>Gloria Ann Hagopian</b> '64N, '70N (MS), '79W (EdD), October 2024	<b>Joseph J. Smith</b> '70S (MBA), September 2024	<b>Werner Schenk</b> '76S (MBA), December 2024	<b>Samantha Gordon</b> '15, July 2023
<b>Mary Ann Jordan</b> '64 (MS), '69 (PhD), September 2024		<b>David A. Mycoff</b> '77 (MA), '84 (PhD), December 2024	<b>Victoria A. Colozzi</b> '18N, '23N (MS), October 2024
		<b>Joan Gebhardt Myers</b> '77, August 2024	

## Material World

Kasia Maroney '92, an art conservator for museums and private clients, restores priceless objects to their full glory.

Interview by Melissa Pheterson

**I've always had a hard time choosing between art and science.**

I started at Rochester as premed but also grew up in a pottery studio, watching my parents work. That efficiency with materials is in my blood.

**I studied abroad as a junior with an internship at Christie's London art auction house.** During my senior year, I was student director of the Hartnett Gallery and led a truly ambitious exhibition schedule. What has stuck with me the most is how much I value the physicality and three-dimensionality of sharing space with artwork.

**During graduate school at Boston University, I made sure to intern and take classes at as many museums as I could, like Harvard's Peabody Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts, getting to know a few incredible collections really well.** I eventually chose to specialize in the treatment of objects, which rhymes a bit with medicine, because it involves a hands-on and scientifically grounded set of steps that aim to diagnose agents of deterioration and slow them down. I'm treating objects instead of patients, and materials behave predictably. Whether a piece of ceramic is 20 or 1,000 years old, the process can often be the same.


**I've treated work by famous artists, but my favorite objects are usually the ancient ones.** The oldest thing I've worked on was a carved stone fertility figure from present-day Chile that was 4,500 years old. You could tell this figure was designed for a human hand to hold. Its maker was still

very present, even though we have no idea who that person is. Treating that kind of work is such an honor.

**My private clients sometimes bring me objects that have personal, but not always financial, value. Every object has a story, and often they are all we have left of a time, place, or person.**

I once repaired a wedding cake topper that my client thought was plaster. It had been on her grandmother's cake, and she wanted to use it on hers. It turned out to be made of sugar! There's no academic reference for treating a sugar sculpture, so I had to use my judgment, which told me to treat it like a piece of unfired earthenware. I love unusual challenges like this because they test my problem-solving skills.

**I have cleaned blood, urine, and graffiti off material.** I have replaced noses, toes, and fingers. I have been handed smashed marble busts and boxes of broken glass. I've had to take apart and reconstruct artists' work because it's not holding up as they had intended. And before I even begin my assessment, there's always a part of my brain that says to the artwork and artist: "I've got you; it's going to be OK." If I do my job well, I should be able to brush away any evidence that I was ever there. It's very humbling. And to me, that's fulfilling—to hold such intimate confidence and honor the intention of a work of art—to put things right, then step fully back and away.

**There's a set of professional ethics that govern my field, which involves keeping treatments as reversible as possible, documenting every step that's taken, not adding more new material than is necessary, and keeping the original material intact, with respect for its natural aging.** The key to not over restoring is stating clearly where the end point of the treatment is before we even begin. From there, we plan every step. I tend to be very conservative about conservation, reminding clients that less is more. After treating well over a thousand objects, I continue to believe that restraint is the most mature quality I can bring to a treatment. 

## Kasia Maroney '92

**Home:** Ithaca, New York


Art conservator supporting 11 museums, including the University's Memorial Art Gallery, with three decades' experience working with sculptures, frames, ceramic, plaster, marble, ivory, metal, and wood.

**Majors at Rochester:**

Art history and psychology





A photograph of surgeons in an operating room, wearing blue scrubs, masks, and surgical caps, illuminated by bright overhead lights. The scene is focused on the surgeons' hands and the surgical instruments they are using.

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Mark Buckley teach  
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