

Rochester

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER/WINTER 2022

Review

HAS HARP, WILL TRAVEL
A new identity for an often
stereotyped instrument.

DOCTOR OF HISTORY
A physician-historian
meets the moment.

HELPING PEOPLE FLOURISH
A project offers education to
break the hold of incarceration.

Celebrating a Centennial

An A to Z guide to the Eastman
School of Music's first century of
artistry and innovation.







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An Investment in Human Flourishing

Faculty members Joshua Dubler (above, left) and Kristin Doughty (right) and former Medical Center staff member Precious Bedell (second from right)—shown here with writer and poet Reginald Dwayne Betts—and other faculty and staff have built an initiative into a leader in offering educational opportunities to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people in western New York. *By Karen McCally '02 (PhD)*

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As the Eastman School of Music celebrates its centennial, we take you from A to Z in sharing the many ways the school has enriched the world of music—in artistry, scholarship, innovation, and community engagement. *By Scott Hauser*

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Mical Raz is a history professor, a physician, and an accomplished cellist. And through her prolific research (which she excels in distilling into compelling op-eds), she's shedding light on some of the most pressing issues in American health policy. *By Sandra Knispel*

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Ever Better Is the Best Way Forward

We can find reasons for optimism in the work of the University community.

By Sarah C. Mangelsdorf

As I expect is the case with the entire University of Rochester community, I was hopeful that 2022 would get off to an optimistic start. As the new year was upon us, the COVID omicron variant clouded the horizon. While the evolving pandemic continues to give us reasons to be careful, the news this winter also provides a moment to be grateful for the extraordinary work of the nation's scientific and medical experts—including those at the University of Rochester—who have committed themselves to developing vaccines, providing treatments and care, and adjusting policies to keep us safe.

One of the reasons that I have dedicated my professional life to research-driven institutions like Rochester is precisely because of the enormous impact our University and others like it can have on the local and global communities we serve. You can't help but see reasons for optimism as you see the results of our research endeavors and our commitment to educational excellence as well as our leadership in community service and cultural enrichment.

The past two years have not been easy, and I am extremely proud of the way our community has risen to the occasion. I



from Cameroon, who was named a 2021 Global Rhodes Scholar. Having two of our students awarded one of the most elite academic honors in the world is a testament to Kudzai and Beauclaire's scholarship and campus engagement and offers further validation of Rochester as an elite institution on the global stage.

We also learned that the University's partnership with East High School in

In November, we celebrated the selection of our second Rhodes Scholar in two years, a remarkable example of the academic standing of our student body.

could highlight a magazine's worth of reasons to be optimistic about the work of the University community but allow me to single out just a few particularly noteworthy examples to share.

In November, we celebrated the selection of our second Rhodes Scholar in two years, a remarkable example of the academic standing of our student body.

Kudzai Mbinda, a chemical engineering major from Harare, Zimbabwe, was among the 100 students worldwide chosen for graduate studies at the University of Oxford next fall. He joins Beauclaire Mbanya Jr., a member of the Class of 2020

the Rochester City School District has been renewed by the state's Department of Education. Begun in 2015, the Educational Partnership Organization is administered by the Warner School of Education, through its Center for Urban Education Success. In its most recent report to the state, the EPO announced a remarkable turnaround in graduation rates—from 39 percent six years ago to over 85 percent today, as well as improvements in other markers of educational success.

Our work with East is an all-hands-on-deck partnership, involving all aspects of the University. Under Warner's guidance,

we've adopted a multidisciplinary approach that draws expertise from across the University. Among some of the University programs involved in East's success are the Departments of Pediatrics, Neuroscience, Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, the School of Nursing, the Eastman Institute of Oral Health, the Flaum Eye Institute, the Department of Athletics and Recreation, and the Memorial Art Gallery.

Everyone collaborating at East has the goal of creating a template of their work that can be replicated in urban schools across the city, state, and nation. Looking to the future, that will include institutional commitments to equity, advocating for a community-based approach to school transformation, and forging a relationship between neighborhood schools, area universities, and community resources on campus.

And in March, the *Up Against the Wall* exhibition at the Memorial Art Gallery will showcase some of the most visually arresting and socially meaningful examples from the University's one-of-a-kind collection of AIDS posters. Donated by physician Edward Atwater '50, the collection of more than 8,000 posters (many of them available online) captures the spectrum of social, religious, civic, and public health agency responses to AIDS and HIV. A remarkable resource, the collection provides a historical look at the social dimensions of another pandemic, one in which Rochester and other institutions played key roles in combating.

These examples barely scratch the surface of the work being done at Rochester, but I hope they remind us that despite the conditions of the world around us—and maybe because of those conditions—the University of Rochester continues to demonstrate that the best way forward is by never flagging in our goal of making the world ever better.

I'm excited by the prospect of what we are doing and what we can achieve together.

Meliora! 

Contact President Mangelsdorf at sarah.mangelsdorf@rochester.edu. Follow her on Instagram: [@urochestermangelsdorf](https://www.instagram.com/urochestermangelsdorf).

Casting a Wider 'Webb'

I was so excited to see the Fall 2021 edition of *Rochester Review*. I skipped right to the cover story ("Looking Back in Time") to see who was mentioned.

Many of my Phi Sigma Sigma sorority sisters were optical engineers at U of R in the late '80s and early '90s. A quick skim and a deeper read failed to mention my dear friend, optical engineering graduate Renee Saunders Gracey '90, who was recruited by Ball Aerospace right from campus to work on the Hubble Telescope fix.

She and other Ball Aerospace employees worked on the Webb telescope with David Aronstein '02 (PhD) while he was at NASA. Renee worked both on the Hubble fix and the James Webb Space Telescope. Glad to see Laryssa Sharvan Densmore '83 included, but please know there are other Rochester women as well.

Meliora to all of the U of R connections who work toward answering the questions of the universe.

*Jodi Rubtchinsky Smith '90
Marblehead, Massachusetts*

Adds Renee: Another alum, Kim Mehalick '85, was working on the Webb telescope while I was. She works for NASA and was in Houston with us during the test campaign (and the hurricane).

I really enjoyed the article. The Webb

telescope was a great program to work on (I spent 10 years on it, but some Ball folks worked on it in the '90s). We are all very excited for the launch. Thanks for covering this important effort with a great article.

*Renee Saunders Gracey '90
Boulder, Colorado*

The article on the Webb telescope was a good discussion of the optical engineering of the telescope but missing nearly entirely was the science side of the project. In that regard Rochester's astronomers have a distinguished history in the telescope's pioneering precursors, such as the Spitzer Space Telescope. Noteworthy Rochester faculty include professors Judith Piper and William Forrest, who have made important contributions to the development of infrared detector arrays in space telescopes.

And there are alums on the science side as well: for example, I have served on the Science Working Group as an interdisciplinary scientist since the beginning of the project. All of us await the launch of this extraordinary telescope with eager and nervous anticipation.

*Jonathan Lunine '80
Ithaca, New York*

*The writer is the David C. Duncan
Professor in the Physical Sciences and chair
of the astronomy department at Cornell.*



PLACES IN SPACE: Laryssa Sharvan Densmore '83 is one of several women who have worked on the pioneering James Webb Space Telescope, which reached its orbit in space this winter.

Rochester Review

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Editor

Scott Hauser

Associate Editor

Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

Contributors

Jeanette Colby, Matt Cook, Theresa Danylak, Adam Fenster, Emily Gillette, Peter Iglinski '17 (MA), Sandra Knispel, Jim Mandelaro, Phyllis Mangefrida, Bob Marcotte, Melissa Mead, Sara Miller, Dennis O'Donnell, Susanne Pallo '15M (PhD), Scott Sabocheck, Kristine Kappel Thompson, Laura Torchia, and Lindsey Valich

Business Manager

Maureen Baisch

Editorial Office

147 Wallis Hall
University of Rochester
Box 270033, Rochester, NY 14627-0044
(585) 275-4118
Fax: (585) 275-0359
rochrev@rochester.edu
Rochester.edu/pr/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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Making Room for Mental Health

I very much appreciated the article “More Than Ever Our Students Need Support” (Fall 2021).

As the author pointed out, the pandemic has taken a huge toll on our collective mental health, and students are particularly vulnerable. The U of R seems to be offering a very comprehensive approach to providing support for students. I am especially heartened to learn of Paws for Stress Relief. Many of us with pets know just how life-affirming and therapeutic they can be.

Most importantly, I appreciate the students who had the courage to share their stories for the article. When I went to school, there was a huge stigma around mental health. By talking openly about their experiences, the students are playing an important role in normalizing and destigmatizing mental health challenges.

Scott Wimer '76
Santa Monica, California

Applause for New Horizons

Thank you for the article about playing in a band in retirement (“Strike Up the Band,” Master Class, Fall 2021). The New Horizons program sounds fabulous.

For those of us who do not have that program nearby, I'd like to suggest looking around for community bands. I played the clarinet in high school and in the UR Marching Band but put it away until my daughter was old enough to be interested.

We played together both having fun in church and in the Hollis, New Hampshire, Town Band. It was a wonderful experience that kept us connected even during those hard teenage years. I have kept playing in the Hollis Town Band and the Amherst Town Band ever since.

Both bands have players all the way from high school or lower up to the 80s or higher and have no auditions. We still sound pretty good, and what a joy it is continuing to be involved in making music. I now have two grandchildren playing the clarinet. We'll see where that goes.

I also have fun with my high school classmates who played football (and maybe used to make a bit of fun of the band playing at halftime) by asking whether they still play football.

Burns Fisher '72, '79 (MS)
Hollis, New Hampshire

Credit to the Campus Times

I was glad to read the article on student publications (“Got a Story to Share?” Fall 2021) because participating in two of them—the daily *Campus Times* newspaper



CASTING CALL: Students recognized their classmates and even themselves in a photo of the 1967 Co-Kast production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. That's Charlotte DeCroes Jacobs '68 (hands clasped) singing “Happy to Keep His Dinner Warm.”

and *Logos*, the student magazine, gave me the training I needed to pursue my current career: I have been a full-time freelance writer for more than four decades and am the author of over 100 published books.

The foreword to one of my recent titles, a biography of Charles Proteus Steinmetz, was written by Richard Heist, my thermodynamics professor.

Bob Bly '79
Montville, New Jersey

How to Succeed in Rochester Review

I was reading my *Rochester Review* for Fall 2021 and to my surprise, on page 48, there was a picture of me in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Class Notes).

I am the young woman, Rosemary, under the marriage canopy, singing “Happy to Keep His Dinner Warm.” My name is Charlotte Jacobs. I was in the Class of 1968; Charlotte DeCroes at the time. The real star of the show was David Mettee '69 as J. Pierrepont Finch.

That show was one of the highlights for me at U of R. Thanks for taking me down memory lane.

Charlotte DeCroes Jacobs '68
Stanford, California

The writer is a professor of medicine at Stanford University.

The opening photo for Class Notes in the Fall issue elicited memories from other alumni as well—Scott Hauser

Gerry Katz '70 writes:

Thanks for the photo of Co-Kast 1967.

I was the rehearsal pianist for the production, although for the actual performances, we hired a professional orchestra conducted by the recently deceased Taavo Virkhaus '57E (MM), '67E (DMA) and including legendary Eastman professor of percussion John Beck '55E, '62E (MM).

The production's director, David Runzo '68, stayed on at the University for many years after graduation directing student theatrical productions.

There's also a four-page spread in the 1969 *Interpres* about the production

And Annie Rech '70 writes that she spotted Susan Rosen Sincoff '69 in the plaid dress (at right) and Suzanne Merklinger Smart '69 in the flowered dress (at left).

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.

LEADING OFF

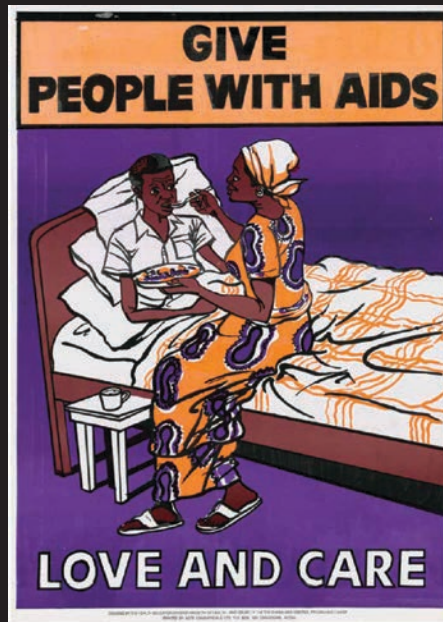
League of Her Own

BASEBALL HERSTORY: Beth Greenwood '22 is hoping to help future women athletes find their places on the baseball diamond. As a member of the Yellowjacket squad, the mechanical engineering major is training with the team in the hopes of earning a roster spot this spring. In addition to becoming the first American woman to play catcher in NCAA history, Greenwood has been training with the US national women's team, with her eyes set toward playing in the sport's World Cup. The Amherst, New Hampshire, native also has a role in an upcoming TV production based on the 1992 movie *A League of Their Own*. In an interview with *Sports Illustrated*, Greenwood offered advice to other young women interested in playing baseball at the college level: "It's not going to be easy. You have to learn, put in the time, and the work. But if we can do it, they can, too." PHOTOGRAPH BY J. ADAM FENSTER

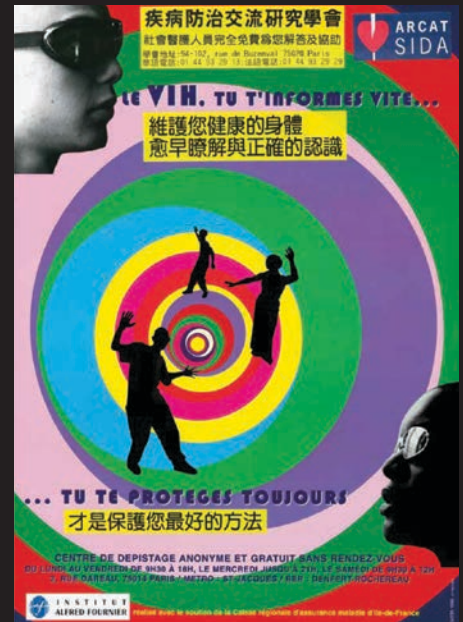




1987: Tiburon, California; Creator: Center for Attitudinal Healing; Designer: Jack Keeler.



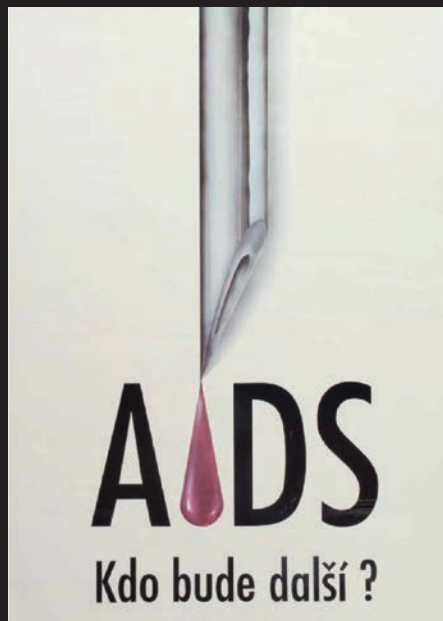
Undated: Accra, Ghana; Creator: National AIDS/STD Control Programme.



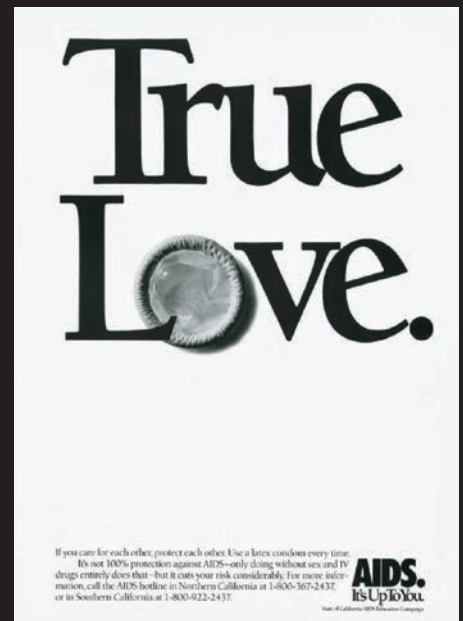
1998: Paris; Creator: ARCAT.



Undated: Accra, Ghana; Creator: Health Education Division Ministry of Health.



1994: Czech Republic; Creator: Vydalo NCPZ (National Centre for Health Promotion).



1994: Santa Cruz, California; Creator: State of California AIDS Education Campaign.

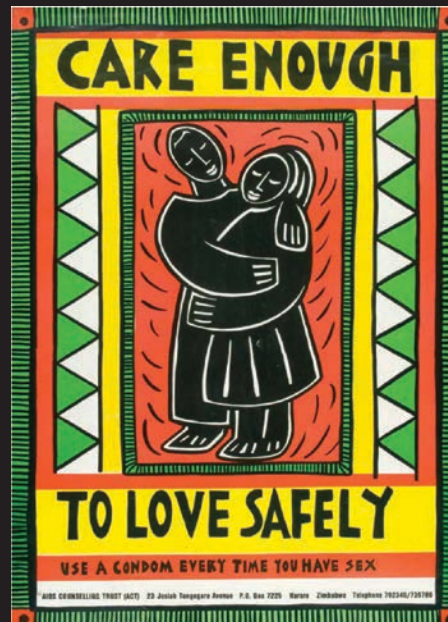
AIDS AWARENESS

Historic Posters Go on Exhibition

AGAINST THE WALL: A selection from the University's collection of posters about AIDS and HIV are being presented in a new public forum this spring. Beginning in March, the Memorial Art Gallery featured 165 posters in a new exhibition, *Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster*. Also available is a new book of the same name published last summer by RIT Press. Housed in the Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation, the collection of more than 8,000 posters was donated to the University by the late physician Edward Atwater '50 who began collecting them early on in the AIDS pandemic. The collection, much of which is available online, represents one of the largest single collections of visual resources related to the disease. PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE AIDS EDUCATION POSTER COLLECTION/DEPARTMENT OF RARE BOOKS, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, AND PRESERVATION



Undated: China; Creator: Chinese Association of STD and AIDS Control and Prevention.



1993: Harare, Zimbabwe; Creator: AIDS Counseling Trust.



Undated: South Africa; Creator: Gauteng AIDS Programme; Designer: Fanela Mashinini.



1995: Victoria, Australia; Creator: Victorian AIDS Council; Designer: Barbara Graham.



Circa 2000: South Korea; Designer: Sang-Rak Kim.



2001: Indonesia; Creator: Indonesia-Philippines Partnership against AIDS.

WINTERFEST WEEKEND

Curling Cues

ON THE BUTTON: Linnea Wegge '23, Maya Hewitt '23, and Ian Gillis '23 practice their curling skills during a demonstration of the nearly 500-year-old winter sport put on by Caitlin '97 and Jeff Pulli of the Rochester Curling Club. The opportunity to learn about the sport of stones, shot rocks, hammers, and hog lines was one of several activities organized for students as part of the University's Winterfest Weekend in early February. PHOTOGRAPH BY J. ADAM FENSTER





ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Northwestern University Dean Named Provost

With research expertise and academic leadership that cuts across economics, education, and social policy, David Figlio becomes Rochester's chief academic officer this summer.

By Sara Miller

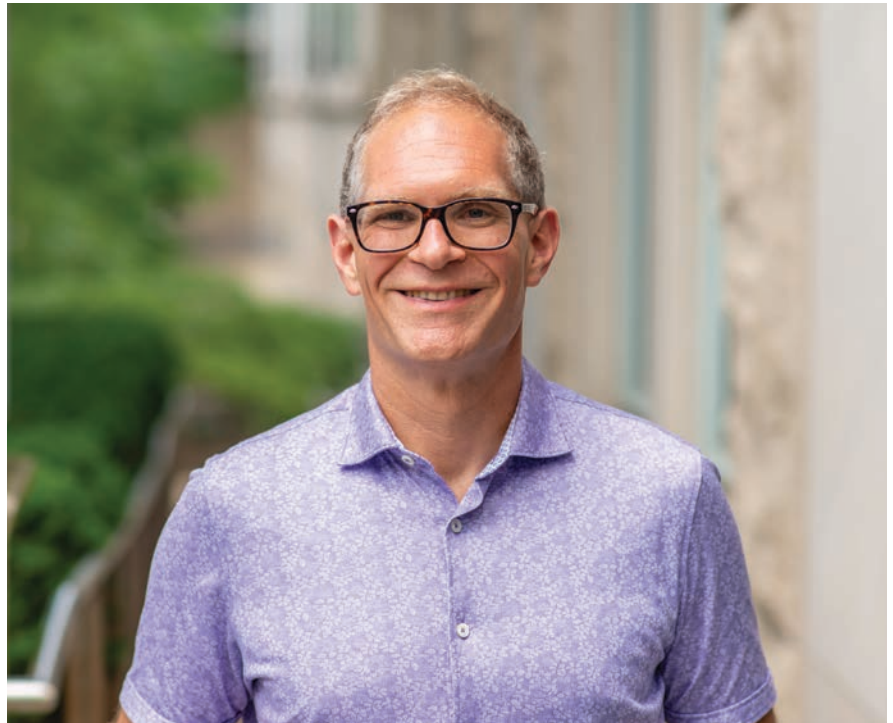
An internationally recognized economist and educational leader whose interdisciplinary research spans educational, health, public, and social policy has been named Rochester's new provost.

David Figlio, currently the Orrington Lunt Professor of Education and Social Policy and dean of Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy and a fellow of the National Academy of Education, will begin his Rochester role on July 1.

As provost, Figlio will serve as Rochester's chief academic officer, overseeing the academic units of Arts, Sciences & Engineering; Eastman School of Music; Simon Business School; and Warner School of Education.

He will also lead several University-wide operations, including academic affairs, graduate education and postdoctoral affairs, the library system, and information technology.

He succeeds Sarah Peyre, who has served as interim provost since July 2021 and will return to her role as dean of the Warner School.



ACADEMIC OFFICER: As Rochester's provost, Figlio will oversee four major academic units as well as several University-wide operations.

A Few Figlio Facts

A very brief introduction of Rochester's new provost:


1. One of Figlio's papers was recognized by the George Lucas Educational Foundation's website *Edutopia* as among the 10 most significant education studies of 2021.
2. "An affirming, caring, responsive, authentic, and deeply humane leader" who has been particularly effective during the COVID-19 pandemic. That's how faculty and staff described him in a recent review.
3. He developed and taught undergraduate courses as dean and hopes to teach at Rochester.
4. After a bachelor's degree from George Washington University, he received a master's degree and PhD in economics from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.
5. Figlio and his wife, podcast producer Anne Ford, and their cats, Alice and Nigel, will live in the historic Patrick Barry House, the University's official provost's residence.

In making the announcement, President Sarah Mangelsdorf said, "David is widely recognized as a leader of a nationally ranked school, one that has earned accolades throughout higher education for teaching and research excellence, focus on community engagement, and innovative approaches to addressing societal issues.

"He is also a remarkable scholar whose innovative work on the economics of K–12 and higher education has yielded new areas of research. As a dean at Northwestern, he has demonstrated how universities and university communities can positively impact the world around them."

Figlio, who directed Northwestern's Institute for Policy Research from 2012 to 2017, was named dean at Northwestern in 2017. That same year, he was elected to the National Academy of Education.

Prior to joining the Northwestern faculty, he held faculty appointments at the University of Oregon and the University of Florida, where he was the Knight-Ridder Professor of Economics. He is also a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research; a research fellow of the IZA Institute of Labor Economics in Bonn, Germany; a member of the CESifo Network on the Economics of Education in Munich, Germany; and an affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

At Rochester, Figlio will hold a primary appointment in the Department of Economics and a joint professorship at the Warner School, subject to the recommendation of the faculty after a tenure review process. 

SUPER SCHOLARS

Senior Is Second Rhodes Scholar in Two Years

Kudzai Mbinda '22, a chemical engineering major from Harare, Zimbabwe, has been selected as a Rhodes Scholar for 2022, becoming the second recipient from Rochester in the past two years.

Mbinda is among 100 students worldwide who will begin a two-year graduate program this fall at the University of Oxford in Great Britain. He plans to pursue a master's degree in energy systems at Oxford, followed by an MBA.

He'll join Beauclaire Mbanya Jr. '20 of Cameroon, who was selected as a recent graduate in November 2020. Also enrolled at Oxford, Mbanya is studying for a master's degree relating to sustainable energy.

First awarded in 1902, the Rhodes is the oldest international scholarship program for postbaccalaureate study and one of the most highly sought after.

Scholars are selected on criteria including outstanding intellect and character, as well as motivation to engage with global challenges, commitment to serving others, and promise to become




Kudzai Mbinda '22

principled leaders in the future. Applicants compete in constituencies based on their citizenship, and each competition region selects scholarship winners from its own pool of finalists. Mbinda was selected from the Zimbabwe competition.

He is the first Rochester student to earn a Rhodes while still an undergraduate since J. Timothy Londergan '65, now a professor emeritus of physics at Indiana University-Bloomington. Rochester's only other Rhodes Scholar was the late Robert Babcock '37, who went on to become lieutenant governor of Vermont.

Mbinda is a member of the University's Chem-E Car team, the Pan-African Students Association, and the varsity track and field team, where he holds the school record in the indoor 60-meter dash (7.08 seconds).

He also was a summer teaching assistant in 2019 and 2020 for Early Connection Africa, a four-week bridge program hosted by the Uni-

versity for African students who are starting college in the United States and abroad. 

Two Selected as Schwarzman Scholars



Lea Thome '22



Haosong Zheng '21

Lea Thome '22, an international relations and political science double major in the College, and Haosong Zheng '21, a master's degree candidate in business analytics at the Simon Business School, are among 151 students and young leaders worldwide chosen in December as 2022–23 Schwarzman Scholars.

Established by investor and philanthropist Steven Schwarzman in 2015, the program aims to prepare future leaders for a global landscape in which China plays a pivotal role. Nearly 3,000 applicants competed for admission to the program this year.

Scholars spend a year in China within an international community of thinkers and leaders in business, politics, and society. They pursue master's degrees in global affairs (in English), study


Chinese language, and have access to internships, personalized mentorship, high-profile speakers, field-based seminars, and travel to different regions of China.

Thome is from Duisburg, Germany, and will be the first person in her family to earn a college degree. As a high school student at a leadership academy in Bratislava, Slovakia, Thome interned at the Slovak Parliament, participated in Model European Parliament Slovakia, and went on a three-month cultural exchange program in Wuhan, China.

During the first year of the pandemic, Thome launched an advocacy campaign, International Student Action, to help overturn a Department of Homeland Security rule that threatened the ability of international students to remain in the United States if their courses were taught remotely.

Zheng is from Beijing, China. While he was an undergraduate with a dual major in business and data science, he established himself as a leader in cultural exchange, the arts, and finance.

As president of the University's chapter of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association, Zheng carved a new role for the group by conducting conferences in Beijing, Shanghai, and Chongqing to help strengthen the University's Chinese alumni network.

He brought that same leadership to the Chinese Drama Club, where, as director of the 40-person organization, he grew audiences while simultaneously directing and performing in multiple club productions. 

URBAN EDUCATION SUCCESS

'A Model for Establishing Opportunities for Students'

With the extension of a pioneering educational partnership with the University, the superintendent of a Rochester high school looks forward to even stronger ties with the University and the community.

Interview by Scott Hauser

As he's overseen a project to transform a challenged urban Rochester school, Shaun Nelms '13W (EdD) is well aware that observers are paying close attention to metrics like graduation rates.

But for Nelms, who is the superintendent of the University's East High Educational Partnership Organization (EPO) as well as a Warner School of Education faculty member, numbers represent only part of what makes the EPO a success.

Since the partnership began in 2015, graduation rates at East have climbed from about 33 percent to above 85 percent.

"As we surpassed the 50 percent mark and then the 60 percent mark, individuals started to recognize that we can apply our school model to address generational poverty, to give students an opportunity to earn income, create generational wealth, and address some of the equity issues that we see locally and nationally," Nelms says. "What began as a school project to address failing graduation rates, abysmal reading levels, and low math scores has become a model for establishing opportunities for students well beyond high school."

"This project has always been about creating a system of care for students that went well beyond the classroom, but it really is a bidirectional relationship. . . [which] is going to pay dividends on both ends for years to come."

—Shaun Nelms '13W (EdD)

A foundational effort of Warner's Center for Urban Education Success (CUES), which Nelms leads as the William and Sheila Konar Director, the project has earned national attention for its efforts to use research, relationship building, and best practices to improve educational outcomes in K-12 urban schools.

Last November, the State Education Department renewed the EPO through 2025, an educational vote of confidence in the work of Nelms and the staff at East, the Warner School, and the University to help the school and its students succeed.

What does the renewal of the EPO represent for you and for the East community?

We hope that it not only justifies and validates the performance improvements that we've documented since the start of the partnership, but that it also positions us to create the next phase in our model. This renewal was approved based on our performance, but



SUPER SCHOOL: The superintendent of the University's partnership with East High School since 2015, Nelms says the initiative has grown into a model for how area organizations can work together in meaningful and authentic ways to the benefit of both the Greater Rochester community and the University community.

it also was based on the connections and alignment that we've developed with the University and other community partners. The state saw that our model not only affects students within grades six to 12 but also helps reinforce the pipelines we're building to local colleges and universities. Not to mention helping prepare our student to enter the workforce.

Is everyone still on board and excited about what's happening there?

Before we could get the extension, we had to meet with each of the bargaining units that represents labor unions as well as with

the parents and students to get their endorsement. I didn't want to advocate for an extension if the school community didn't find value in the partnership. Each of those groups overwhelmingly supported the extension, including the teacher ranks, who approved it with a 100 percent approval rate.

What makes East unique and attractive to the state is that we have very healthy relationships with all our other stakeholder groups—with our kids at the center of our decision making.

How does East, and the commitment to the school, connect to Warner and the Center for Urban Education Success?

The center began several years ago when we were unable to partner as meaningfully as we would have liked with the city school districts and the leadership at the time. We knew that the work that was being done was special and had the potential to improve graduation rates to levels comparable to high performing schools throughout the region. We created a research center to document our work and have it shared and curated. The idea is that the center would be able to share information and provide consultant services for districts looking to address issues of curriculum, leadership, design equity, and other educational challenges. I'm interested in solidifying CUES to be the research, professional development, and consultancy arm of school transformation.

Is CUES working with other schools?

I've had several meetings with all types of schools who are looking at their strategic plans and frameworks for leadership. We've interacted with a number of schools, including those who are interested in whole school reform and others who want to look at pieces of it, like sharing curriculum or evaluating their leadership models or talking through a strategic planning process. Those schools are from different states and from urban, rural, and suburban settings.

Were you expecting University-wide engagement with the project?

I was hoping for that type of engagement, but it wasn't a University-wide project until the University made it so. After year one, we could feel the Board of Trustees and the University administration begin to understand what the EPO was, and they wanted to lean in and to participate. At that point we started getting support that ranged from volunteers to direct alignment within the school. That was special, but I have to credit members of the board and the president's leadership for making it a priority.

This project has always been about creating a system of care for students that went well beyond the classroom, but it really is a bidirectional relationship. As much as the University supported the school, the school also helped the University better understand the Rochester community, and the realities that the Rochester community is facing. Working with East gives University faculty and staff a better understanding of life in Rochester and how to better engage the community in meaningful and authentic ways. The bidirectional nature of this relationship is going to play dividends on both ends for years to come.

What are the key lessons that you've learned from being involved with East and the EPO from the very beginning?

One is that any successful transformation process must represent the authentic voice of the people that we seek to serve. For East, it was making sure that students felt visible and valued, so making sure that the adults in the system have a cohesive plan to work from so that we all can move in the same direction. Being able

to focus on the process of giving kids the best and most valuable learning experience was critically important. I also think leadership matters and not leadership by formal titles, but by those who step up to do the work. For example, we were blessed to have the same principal in the building for seven years. Her name is Marlene Blocker and she doesn't get the credit she deserves. She has been able to establish positive relationships with the school community, so much so that she sent her own son to the school his senior year of high school. That matters; leadership matters.

“Working with East gives University faculty and staff a better understanding of life in Rochester and how to better engage the community in meaningful and authentic ways.”

Having the University be, I don't want to say “backer,” but having the University be such an important presence in the community and across the country allows people like myself and others to take a risk. It helps to know that we have the support—politically, socially, academically—to do this heavy lift. And so having the University as a partner creates enormous credibility within the community, in other spaces within education, and particularly in the research community.

That allowed us to think differently about school transformation and how to address the needs of this community. **R**

Six Years of Connection

Through the Educational Partnership Organization (EPO) for East High School, the University assumed full management responsibilities for East in July 2015.

Since then, East's four-year graduation rate has risen from 33 percent in 2014-15 to 85 percent in 2020-21.

Annual suspensions dropped 90 percent, from 2,468 recorded suspensions in 2014.

The dropout rate decreased from 41 percent in 2014-15 to 15 percent.

Attendance increased from 77 percent in 2014-15 to 90 percent.

With the Warner School and its Center for Urban Education Success as the principal connection to East and its programs, other University units, such as the School of Nursing, the Eastman Institute for Oral Health, Flaum Eye Institute, the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience, the Department of Athletics and Recreation, and many others have offered expertise in working with students and families at the school.

Sarah Peyre, interim provost of the University and dean of the Warner School, says the project is helping set a new standard for how focused attention to K-12 education can be a cornerstone of community partnerships.

“The work happening at East represents what the mission of a school of education should be about,” Peyre says.

For more about the school, visit <http://www.rcsdk12.org/east>.

Ask the Archivist: When Did We Start Connecting with Community Organizations?

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

Every November, for longer than anyone can remember, the River Campus Libraries has celebrated its very best tradition: providing donations for a Thanksgiving basket for families selected by the Baden Street

Settlement. Just before Thanksgiving, a caravan of library volunteers heads to Baden Street and gets to hand the donations directly to each family. It's a time of much hugging (pre-COVID) and smiling. It's sad that this is needed in Rochester, but RCL is honored to help, and it is an important part of who we are in Rochester's community. What can you tell us about the origins of this tradition?—Lois Metcalf, Eileen Daly-Boas, Ashlee Huff, Jeffery Jones, Katie Papas, Diana Golemb, and Jenny Arbelo



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS: Mary Gannett, professor Kendrick Shedd, and physician Kenneth Woodward played pivotal roles in the establishment and success of the settlement house movement in Rochester, and the longevity of the University's connections.

Need History?

Do you have a question about University history? Email it to rochrev@rochester.edu. Please put "Ask the Archivist" in the subject line.

Founded in 1901 by Therese Katz and Fannie Adler Garson of Temple B'rith Kodesh, the Social Settlement of Rochester taught the young women of the area "kitchen gardening, sewing, and primary education." Renamed the Baden Street Settlement in 1922, it has grown to support a wide variety of needs from emergency services to day care to counseling and educational resources.

The libraries' annual gift was well established by 1988 when it received a plaque for "distinguished volunteer service" from Baden Street. The earliest call-to-action may be this request in the December 1968 *University Librarian* newsletter:

Christmas is a time of giving—or so we are told. . . Would you like that good feeling that comes when you give—even to a stranger? Then, between Thanksgiving and December 20th, bring . . . clothing for Baden Street Settlement children to the Library office. Let's make this a significant and meaningful project for the entire Staff Association.

A 1965 issue of the newsletter notes that Interlibrary Loan Office staffer Juanita Paige was president of the Achievement Club, a community group whose mission was to encourage Black teenagers to continue their education after high school. The club met at the settlement house and arranged lectures, including one by then Kodak executive Walter Cooper '57 (PhD).

But the connections between the University and Rochester's community service institutions stretch back much further, and include faculty and students as well as staff from all divisions.


In 1889, Unitarian minister William Channing Gannett and his wife, Mary Thorn Lewis Gannett, arrived in Rochester, and established the Boys' Evening Home. Its focus was on the physical well-being and education of immigrant children, many of them newsboys and bootblacks. Professor Kendrick Shedd, Class of 1889, an ardent supporter of the progressive movement, served as the home's superintendent beginning in 1900. Articles in the *Campus* newspaper encouraged students to volunteer as tutors and record their efforts.

More settlement houses followed—the Lewis Street Center (initially named the Association for Practical Housekeeping) in 1907 and the Genesee Settlement House in 1918. And the University's connections, particularly among students, grew as well. In 1928, the College for Women's YWCA group requested donations of food or money to provide Thanksgiving baskets for families recommended by the settlement houses. By 1931, 30 women students were volunteering as tutors. Fraternities and sororities also became involved, including Theta Eta, Gamma Phi, Alpha Delta Phi, and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

One of the most vital services of the settlement houses is health care. Among the many Medical Center staff involved were Paul Beaven, Class of 1913, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics emeritus, and Kenneth Woodward '53M (MD), '72S (MBA), who was integral to the introduction of health clinics to the houses and, in particular, in efforts to expand Baden Street's health clinic into the current Jordan Health Center.

The words incised on the pediment of the Eastman Theatre—"for the enrichment of community life"—reflect the close association of the faculty and students of the Eastman School with Rochester's residents. While a member of George Eastman's Kilbourn Quartet, future Eastman School Professor Samuel Belov tutored students of the David Hochstein Music School Settlement, founded in 1920.

The University's involvement with community service organizations continues to this day and occurs year-round with examples too numerous to mention in this space. In a 1958 *Campus Times* article, Kay Hartman '59 gives a detailed description of her experience as a volunteer. Although she questions her abilities and effectiveness, she concludes:

"Life is beautiful when the group decides to spend the day doing things for others." 

For more links to the University's community service history, visit <https://www.library.rochester.edu/rbcbp/blog/ata-winter-2022>.

CLASS OF 2022

In-person Commencement Set for Graduates

A new University-wide ceremony for all graduates and their families will kick off a weekend of events.

Rochester will celebrate all graduating students this spring with the return of a University-wide, in-person ceremony on Friday, May 13, in Fauver Stadium at the Brian F. Prince Athletic Complex on the River Campus.

The University Commencement ceremony—which will mark the conferral of academic degrees for both undergraduates and graduate students—will kick off a weekend of celebratory events for graduates, their families and friends, faculty, and staff.

The University-wide event, last held in the mid-1990s, is a return to Rochester's traditional, all-University commencement exercise which President Sarah Mangelsdorf has been interested in reviving since she became Rochester's president in 2019.

For the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the possibility of holding such a large in-person gathering. While pandemic health and safety protocols will continue to play a factor in planning for commencement, University health and safety experts anticipate that the situation will have changed enough to allow for a large outdoor event.

"We're excited by the prospect of celebrating the end of the academic year in person again," says Mangelsdorf. "Commencement is a milestone for students and their families, and it deserves to be recognized with all the pomp and circumstance—and, frankly, the joy—that we love about the completion of an academic journey."

"We're also delighted to celebrate as one University, bringing together students and representatives of the faculty and staff from all of Rochester's academic units, along with special guests to share our connections and our strength as a University community."

"After two long years of working diligently despite the pandemic, we look forward to the opportunity to gather again as the University of Rochester and to celebrate our extraordinary community."

The University Commencement is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Friday, May 13, in Fauver, which will be set up with additional bleachers and other seating to accommodate about 14,000 people. Each graduate will be provided with a limited number of tickets to the ceremony to share with family and friends.

The program will include processions of students—identified by pennants to designate each group by school—faculty representatives and a platform party of guests and dignitaries.

Speakers will include Mangelsdorf, representatives of the University's Board of Trustees and the alumni community, and representatives from both undergraduate and graduate students. The event will also be streamed live for those who cannot attend.



STADIUM CELEBRATION: For the first time since the mid-1990s, the University will celebrate all graduating students in an all-unit commencement ceremony this spring.

While Mangelsdorf will confer degrees during the ceremony, graduates will be personally recognized at individual diploma ceremonies conducted by their respective schools and departments.

Ceremonies for academic units will begin on Saturday, May 14, and run through Sunday, May 15.

Over the course of the spring semester, the commencement planning team organized by the Office of the Secretary is working closely with the Coronavirus University Restart Team to follow campus, county, and state health protocols to ensure a safe and successful ceremony.

"The health and safety of the members of our community is at the top of our planning priorities," says Jack Bailey, secretary to the Board of Trustees. "But we are hoping to reestablish a University tradition with the kind of ceremony that Rochester has not held in many years—one that builds on our sense of community and institutional spirit." ®

Keep Up with Commencement

You can find information and updates about this spring's ceremonies on the Commencement 2022 website at Rochester.edu/commencement.

Visit the site throughout the spring semester for updates, FAQs, contact details, and other information.

Homing in on a Shared Network of Cancer Genes

Discrete genetic mutations have been implicated in a small fraction of cancer types. But those mutations rely on a downstream network of non-mutated genes to actually cause cancer.

In a new study, Medical Center researchers report progress in targeting non-mutated genes—and their intricate interactions—that are essential to making cells cancerous.

Hartmut (Hucky) Land, deputy director of the Wilmot Cancer Institute and the Robert and Dorothy Markin Professor of Biomedical Genetics; Helene McMurray, an assistant professor in the Department of

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; and Matthew McCall, a Wilmot Cancer Institute investigator and an associate professor of biostatistics and computational biology, have previously identified a diverse set of non-mutated genes that are crucial to cancer. To see how those genes interact, McCall developed a new network modeling method called TopNet.

The number of possible gene network models considered by TopNet was many times greater than the estimated number of atoms in the universe.

After weeding out models that didn't

closely fit the observed data and further focusing on gene interactions that appeared in at least 80 percent of the models, the team was left with a manageable set of 24 high-confidence gene interactions. Subsequent experiments demonstrated that the interactions often play an important role in malignancy.

“Dr. McCall’s elegant and mind-boggling methodology is essentially helping us disentangle a hairball of genetic networks,” says Land. The team’s ultimate goal is to find broadly effective cancer therapies.

—Susanne Pallo ’15M (PhD)

Leadership Turnover and Struggling Schools

When it comes to K-12 education, there’s a lot of evidence-based research designed to improve student outcomes. But for a variety of reasons, much of that research may not make it into the hands of the teachers and school leaders who might put it into practice.

Kara Finnigan, a professor at the Warner School of Education, and her coauthor at the University of California, San Diego, set out to identify conditions that facilitate or hinder the diffusion of research among individuals across schools and school systems.

Using longitudinal social network, survey, and interview data, they identified “brokers”—in practice, often area superintendents—who acted as the most important source for connecting people in the network around research ideas, and as bridges between principals and central office instructional leaders.

In a chapter in *Networks, Knowledge Brokers, and the Public Policymaking Process* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2021), Finnigan and her coauthor, Alan Daly, demonstrate that turnover among area superintendents hinders the use of research evidence across a district and has the greatest negative impact on principals from lower-performing schools who become disconnected from research ideas due to the instability of the leadership structure.

“This, in turn, has the potential to have a ripple effect, impacting outcomes for youth, particularly in low-performing schools and school systems that are already in turmoil,” says Finnigan.

Christina Leal, a PhD candidate at the Warner School, also contributed to the research.

—Theresa Danylak



BROKEN: Important “brokers” can disrupt the flow of information, Warner research shows.

Democracy’s Logic of Deterrence

If political observers accept the premise that politicians and political parties generally want to stay in power, then why would they ever forgo dirty tricks to win elections?

According to a team of political scientists, the answer boils down to a fear of revenge. But, they warn, the conditions that have secured that fear may be eroding.

In a paper in the *American Journal of Political Science*, Rochester political scientists Gretchen Helmke and Jack Paine, along with their former colleague Mary Kroeger, now at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, report that informal norms of mutual restraint and formal constitutional rules are intertwined into a “logic of deterrence.”

But if legal bounds become sufficiently asymmetric, they argue, the foundations for restraint crumble. Asymmetries emerge when some groups are more vulnerable than others to legally permissible electoral distortions and when groups that are more vulnerable vote overwhelmingly for one party over the other.

“Gerrymandering and vote suppression are two key areas of contemporary American electoral politics that really threaten our fundamental principles of democratic representation,” says Paine, an associate professor of political science whose research focuses on authoritarian politics. “Another troubling development,” he adds, “is that these asymmetries are now affecting another sacred democratic principle—conceding electoral loss.”

—Sandra Knispel

MOON SHOT: The size relationship between Earth and the moon may hold clues when searching for signs of life elsewhere in the universe, Rochester researchers say.



Searching for Life in All the Wrong Places?

Scientists have detected thousands of exoplanets and possible exomoons but have yet to definitively spot a moon orbiting a planet outside the solar system.

Why does it matter? Earth's moon, by stabilizing the planet's spin axis and controlling the length of the day and ocean tides, plays a critical role in the biological cycles of Earth's life-forms.

Perhaps an orbiting moon is a beneficial precondition for life elsewhere in the universe?

While most planets in the solar system

have moons, Earth's moon is distinct in that it is larger than a quarter of Earth's radius.

Miki Nakajima, an assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences, and colleagues from the Tokyo Institute of Technology and the University of Arizona ran computer simulations of moon formations using hypothetical Earth-like, rocky planets and icy planets of varying masses.

The results, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, suggest some important parameters for researchers seeking life beyond the solar system.

"The exoplanet search has typically been focused on planets larger than six Earth masses," Nakajima says. But simulations showed rocky planets larger than six times the mass of Earth and icy planets with a mass greater than Earth's fail to produce the conditions for the formation of a sizable moon.

Thus, in the search for life outside the solar system, Nakajima suggests researchers turn their gaze to smaller planets. Those are "better candidates to host fractionally large moons," she says.

—Lindsey Valich

Books & Recordings

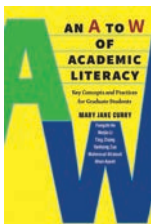
Books

Singing Sappho: Improvisation and Authority in Nineteenth-Century Italian Opera



Melina Esse, an associate professor of musicology at the Eastman School of Music, explores the connections between operatic and poetic improvisation in 19th-century Italian opera, demonstrating that performance played a much larger role in the concept of musical authorship than previously recognized. (*University of Chicago Press*)

An A to W of Academic Literacy: Key Concepts and Practices for Graduate Students



Mary Jane Curry, an associate professor in teaching and curriculum at the Warner School of Education, and her doctoral student coauthors **Weijia Li, Ting Zhang,** and **Yanhong Zuo**, explore 65 common academic literacy terms, their definitions, and their relationships to genres, writing conventions, and language use. (*University of Michigan Press*)

Memories from the Microphone: A Century of Baseball Broadcasting



Curt Smith, a senior lecturer in English at Rochester and the author of multiple books on politics and baseball, commemorates 100 years of baseball broadcasting on radio and television, “recalling the great announcers from Mel Allen to Vin Scully who have carried baseball to every corner of the nation—unfolding era by era, the history of the game and wider culture.” (*Mango Publishing*)

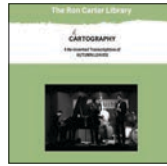
Aging and Social Policy in the United States



Nancy Kusmaul '99, an associate professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, examines the issues facing older adults

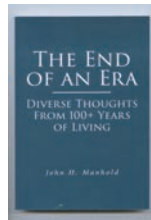
and their families through local, state, federal, and international policy lenses. (*Cognella*)

Chartography—Reinvented Transcriptions



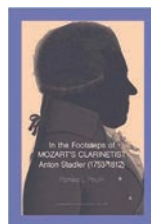
Legendary bassist **Ron Carter** '59E, '10 (Honorary) explores the making of great bass lines, through a look at the evolution of the bass line in five performances of “Autumn Leaves” by Miles Davis’s Second Great Quintet from 1963 to 1967. (*Retrac Productions*)

End of an Era: Diverse Thoughts from 100+ Years of Living



John Manhold '41, who turned 100 in August 2019, shares perspectives gleaned from his youth in Rochester, service in World War II and the Korean War, as witness to the early days of modern dentistry, as participant in its development as a dental researcher and pathologist, and from time as a sculptor and shooter. (*Newman Springs Publishing*)

In the Footsteps of Mozart's Clarinetist: Anton Stadler (1753-1812)



Pamela Poulin '72E, '83E (PhD), a professor emerita at Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Conservatory of Music, offers an in-depth study of Viennese clarinetist Stadler as well as his friendship with Mozart, which led to Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, K. 622 and Quintet, K. 581, written for Stadler's unique basset clarinet. (*Pendragon Press*)

Movers & Mentors: Leaders in Movement Science Share Tips, Tactics, and Stories



Bryan Guzski '19S (MS), '21S (MBA), an outpatient orthopaedic physical therapist at the Medical Center's Sports and Spine Rehabilitation Center, coedits a compilation of stories

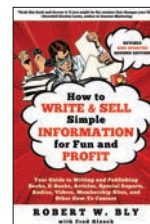
and advice from leaders in the fields of physical therapy and movement science. The book is intended to “provide personal and professional guidance for the next generation of rehabilitation professionals.” (*Independently published*)

Trade Secrets: A Life in and Around Museums



In a memoir of her 50 years as a museum educator and director and as an exhibit planning consultant, **Alice Parman** '64 tells stories from “behind the scenes at Field Museum, of sparring with Muhammad Ali, and more.” (*Blurb*)

How to Write and Sell Simple Information for Fun and Profit (Second Edition)



Robert Bly '79 offers an updated edition of the book subtitled *Your Guide to Writing and Publishing Books, E-Books, Articles, Special Reports, Audios, Videos, Membership Sites, and Other How-To Content*. (*Quill Driver Books*). Bly also recently published *The Axioms of Marketing* (*Kallisti*).

The Worm Family Has Its Picture Taken



Jennifer Frank '93 presents a picture book, in which “the Worm family finds its own way to shine” in its family portrait. The book is illustrated by Caldecott honoree David Ezra Stein and is a Junior Library Guild selection. (*Anne Schwartz Books/Random House*)

Ripped Off! Overtested, Overtreated, and Overcharged



Gilbert Simon '62M (MD) draws on his half-century experience as a primary care doctor to critique the ways in which “the corporate takeover of medicine created a costly, bloated, complex, profit-driven bureaucracy.” (*Value-Based Healthcare LLC*)

Alliterative Animals: A to Z



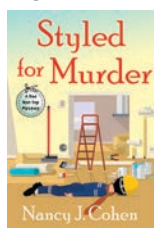
Educator and Head Start mental health consultant Virginia S. V. Gonsalves-Domond and **Isabel Murphy** '22 (illustrator) offer a colorful picture book to enchant children with the spoken word and the world of animals. (*Dorrance Publishing*)

Hunting the Northwest: Stories with Family and Friends in the Outdoors



Patrick Simning '81, '82 presents a collection of “unembellished accounts of fun, quirky, and challenging events that frequently arise while hunting.” The stories convey love and respect for the outdoors, land, animals, camaraderie, and the challenge of reaching beyond self-imposed limits. (*Patrick Simning*)

Styled for Murder



In book 17 of the Bad Hair Day mystery series by **Nancy Cohen** '70, '70N, hairstylist and sleuth Marla Vail is on the case when a murder disrupts her mother's home renovation.

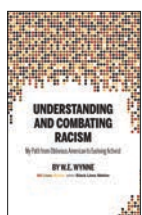
(*Orange Grove Press*)

Revolutionary Girl



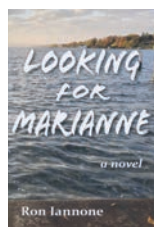
Charles Courtsal '89M (MD), '92M (Res) tells the story of his ancestor Elizabeth Wilson, who served as a spy for Gen. George Washington at the start of the American Revolution. Suitable for fifth-graders and up, the book adheres closely to the story told in the Wilson family's diary, written in 1886, and includes a family tree and links to the diary. (*NFB Publishing*)

Understanding and Combating Racism: My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist



W. E. (Bill) Wynne '89S (MBA) traces his journey from white “obliviousness” to antiracist activism, showing how he developed his commitment to racial and social justice and how others can evolve as anti-racists. (*PathBinder Publishing*)

Looking for Marianne



A woman disappears, leaving a husband and two children behind, in a mystery by **Ron Iannone** '64W (MA) set in Skaneateles, New York. (*Destination Press*)

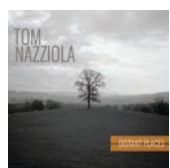
The Top Octave Book: Playing with Artistry for Flute or Piccolo



Patricia George '64E, '65E (MM) presents “a methodical approach to playing with control and artistry in the third register.” George is editor of *Flute Talk* magazine and cofounder of Fabulous Flute Music Company. (*Theodore Presser*)

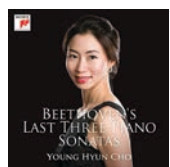
Recordings

Distant Places



Composer and percussionist **Tom Nazziola** '88E offers a musical depiction of “outward curiosity and internal exploration” as well as his own memories and experiences, including during his “formative college years” at Eastman. The recording includes “Cat and Mouse,” nominated for a 2022 Grammy Award in the category Best Instrumental Composition. Performing on the recording are **John Hollenbeck** '90E, '91E (MM), **Gregg August** '87E, **Dan Willis** '90E, **Terry Goss** '88E, and **Greg Chudzik** '06E. (*Goju Records*)

Beethoven's Last Three Piano Sonatas



Young Hyun Cho '08E (DMA), an associate professor of piano at Michigan State University, performs Beethoven's last three piano sonatas in her debut recording. (*Sony Classical*)

Time Travelers



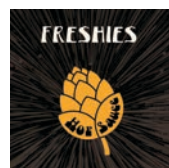
Saxophonist and composer **Rick DiMuzio** '89E (MM) performs nine original compositions. DiMuzio is a professor at Berklee College of Music. (*Rick DiMuzio*)

Life (and Love)



Mezzo-soprano **Alta Boover** '02E (MM) and pianist **Tian Tian** '12E (DMA) perform Robert Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben* and Sara Carina Graef's *A Woman's Life (and Love)*. (*Centaur Records*)

Freshies



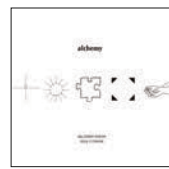
Guitarist and composer **Jono Kornfeld** '92 presents an EP with his funk/jazz group Hop Sauce. Kornfeld is chair of the guitar department at the San Francisco Community Music Center and teaches music theory at San Francisco State University. (*Self-published*)

New to You



Multi-instrumentalist and composer **Beth Meyers** '00E, '00, '02E (MM) presents her second recording as part of the indie-neo-folk duo Damsel, with Monica Mugan. Meyers performs on viola, vocals, banjo, and ukulele. (*Damsel*)

Alchemy



Composer and percussionist **Baljinder Sekhon** '13E (PhD) presents works for saxophone performed by **Doug O'Connor** '12E (DMA). The recording grows out of a decade-long collaboration. (*Innova Recordings*)

Electric Campfire



Guitarists **Garrett Mader** '19E and **Blake Pattengale** '18E perform their debut EP as part of the Rochester-based electro-folk group Two Truths. (*Self-published*)

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.

HONORS & AWARDS

Faculty Earn National Recognition for Research and Scholarship

Duncan Moore, the Rudolf and Hilda Kingslake Professor of Optical Engineering, and David Williams, the William G. Allyn Professor of Medical Optics, have been inducted into the National Academy of Inventors.

A holder of 18 patents, Moore, who serves as vice provost for entrepreneurship and oversees the Ain Center for Entrepreneurship, most recently has worked to develop solar energy technology that allows light to pass through translucent material while also collecting energy in photovoltaic cells.

Williams, who directed the University's Center for Visual Science for 30 years, holds 10 patents.

His research has led to significant advances in technology to improve human vision.

Laura Ackerman Smoller, chair of the Department of History, has been named a fellow of the Medieval Academy of America, the highest honor the academy bestows on North American medievalists. Smoller also received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship.

Joseph Eberly, the Andrew Carnegie Professor of Physics and a professor of optics, and Andrew Berger, a professor of optics, have been recognized by Optica, the international society for optics and photonics previously

known as OSA, the Optical Society of America.

Eberly was selected as the 2021 Honorary Member of the organization, a recognition reserved for the most distinguished members of the organization, while Berger was named a fellow.

Douglas Ravenel, the Fayerweather Professor of Mathematics, has been awarded the 2022 Oswald Veblen Prize in Geometry from the American Mathematical Society. The award recognizes Ravenel's work to answer a long-standing problem in algebraic topology. He shared the prize with coauthors Michael Hill at the University of California,

Los Angeles, and Michael Hopkins at Harvard University.

Nicholas Bigelow, the Lee A. DuBridge Professor of Physics and a professor of optics, and Michael Scott, the Arthur Gould Yates Professor of Engineering and professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science, have been elected as fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Bigelow has helped advance the understanding of quantum physics and quantum optics.

Scott is widely cited for his research on systems software for parallel and distributed computing.

Center to Study Astrophysics Finds a New Home

Rochester is the new home of a research center devoted to computer simulations that advance the understanding of astrophysics, plasma science, high-energy-density physics, and fusion energy.

The Flash Center for Computational Science moved from the University of Chicago to the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Located in the Bausch and Lomb building on the River Campus, the center encompasses

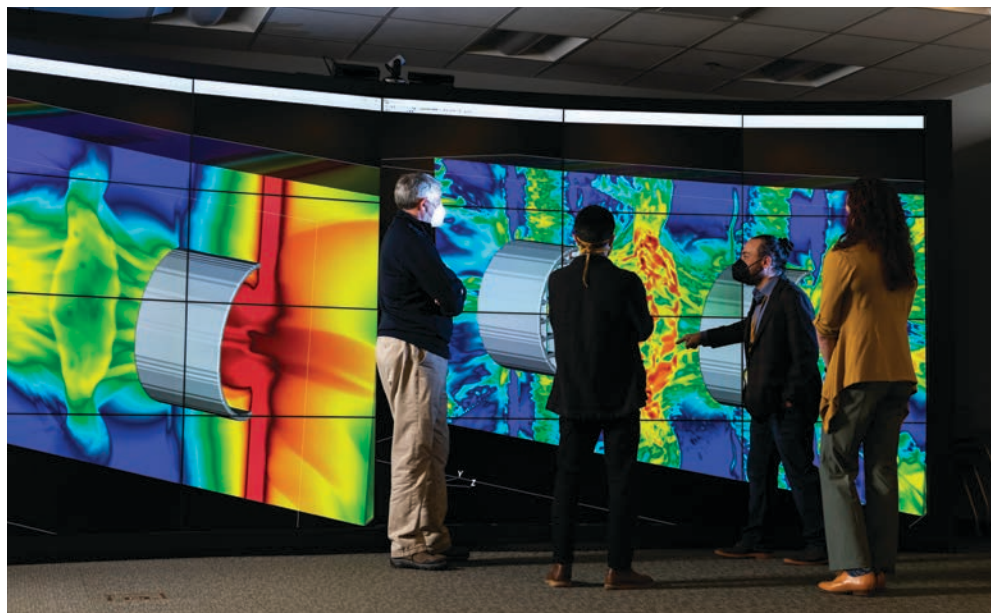
cross-disciplinary, computational physics research projects conducted using the FLASH code. Publicly available, the code allows researchers to accurately simulate and model many scientific phenomena—including

plasma physics, computational fluid dynamics, high-energy-density physics, and fusion energy research—and inform the design and execution of experiments.

The center fosters joint research projects among national laboratories, industry partners, and academic groups around the world.

Petros Tzeferacos, an associate professor of physics and astronomy and a senior scientist at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics, serves as the center's director.

FLASH FORWARD: Petros Tzeferacos, the director of the Flash Center for Computational Science (second from right), demonstrates simulations of laser-driven experiments to Chris Deeney, deputy director of the Laboratory for Laser Energetics, center research scientist Adam Reyes, and graduate research assistant Abigail Armstrong during a session at the Vista Collaboratory at Carlson Library.



First Named Professor in Italian Studies Appointed



Donatella Stocchi-Perucchio

Donatella Stocchi-Perucchio—a Dante expert and faculty member within the University's Department of Modern Languages and Cultures for the last 30 years—has been named the first Lisio Distinguished Professor in Italian Studies.

Endowed with a \$2 million gift from Arnold Lisio '56, '61M (MD) and his wife, physician Anne Moore Lisio, the professorship is intended to provide perpetual support for Italian instruction and scholarship at Rochester.

Long supporters of Italian studies at the University, the Lisios also endowed the Dorothy and Anthony Lisio Prize—in honor of Arnold's parents—an award that recognizes outstanding undergraduate scholarship, and the Lisio Program in Italian Studies, which provides support for students to study in Italy.

Initiative Aims to Ease Emergency Food Challenges for Patients

A new partnership between Rochester-area nonprofit Foodlink and the Medical Center aims to address food insecurity for some patients in the region. The partnership will enable emergency food assistance through health providers, starting with a pilot project at Strong Memorial Hospital.

Under the program, patients are screened for indications of food insecurity during a hospital visit, and those in need receive bags of nutritious, shelf-stable foods intended to support patients and their families for three days. Medical Center social workers, who follow up with the patients after their visit, can refer those who need more help to additional resources and services.

According to Foodlink, more than 152,000 residents are food insecure in the organization's 10-county service area, meaning they have limited or uncertain access to enough healthy food for everyone in their household.

Warner Professorship Established for Literacy Learning



Sheila Konar

A new professorship at the Warner School of Education will support a faculty scholar who has a strong focus on literacy learning, is engaged in community-based instruction programs, and is involved in partnerships that elevate reading and comprehension skills for marginalized students.

That's thanks to a \$1.5 million gift to establish the Sheila Konar Professorship from the William and Sheila Konar Foundation, which also made a \$275,000

gift to support the Project READ Fund, a partnership with Rochester's School 33 and East High School's upper and lower schools.

The professorship recognizes the late Sheila Konar, who attended School 36 as a child and volunteered there for years and who was passionate about literacy.

BEST BOOK

Translated Novel Nets National Book Award



A novel published in translation by the University's Open Letter Press earned top honors at the 2021 National Book Awards.

The novel, *Winter in Sokcho*, written by Elisa Shua Dusapin and translated from the French by Aneesa Abbas Higgins, is the first work published by the press to receive the coveted award from the National Book Foundation, which administers the awards program.

One of only a handful of publishing houses dedicated to making world literature accessible to English-language readers, the press has been located at Rochester since its founding in 2008.

In addition to publishing a catalog of books in translation, the press works closely with the academic literary translation program in the School of Arts & Sciences.

The novel, set in the eponymous tourist town on the border between South and North Korea, traces an uneasy relationship between a young French Korean woman working as a receptionist in a tired guesthouse and an unexpected visitor.

The book was first published in 2016 as *Hiver à Sokcho* and received the Prix Robert Walser that same year.

SELECTION CELEBRATIONS

Yellowjackets Receive National Honors



Amanda Strenk



Emma Schechter



Nicholas Petruzzello

Rochester student-athletes received national accolades this fall and winter for their success on the field and in the classroom.

Field hockey: Senior Amanda Strenk joined exclusive company in Rochester field hockey history as a first team All-American. Selected by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association, Strenk was one of only 16 players across Division III to earn the first team accolade following the 2021 season.

The award is the first of her career and the 16th—and the fifth first team honor—in Rochester field hockey history. The chemical engineering major from Baldwinsville, New York, set a Rochester single-season record of 23 goals in 19 games. As a stats leader in the Liberty League, Strenk was named the league's Player of the Year.

Keep Up with the Yellowjackets

For the latest updates on Rochester athletics, including schedules, scores, live-streaming, and other news, visit Uofrathletics.com.

Academically, she has earned honors from the College Sports Information Directors of America, the National Field Hockey Coaches Association, and the Liberty League.

Women's soccer: Senior goalkeeper Emma Schechter earned third team Scholar All-America accolades from the United Soccer Coaches organization. The data science major from Bellair, Florida, is the fourth player in program history to earn the honor and is the first since 2007.

Football: Senior defensive lineman Nicholas Petruzzello was named a second team Division III Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America. One of eight defensive line players selected across all of Division III to be honored in 2021, the economics major from Randolph, New Jersey, is Rochester's 116th CoSIDA Academic All-American. Overall, the football program has had 19 Academic All-Americans, most among Rochester's varsity teams. **R**

WINNING RECORDS

Coaches Reach Milestone Marks for Wins

Two Rochester coaches reached milestones as leaders of Yellowjacket programs during their most recent seasons.

Field hockey coach Wendy Andreatta posted her 200th win at Rochester and women's basketball coach Jim Scheible netted his 400th victory in leading the Yellowjackets with a career record of 550–263 going into late February.

In her 14 seasons at Rochester, Andreatta has led the field hockey program to 10-plus wins every year, including the team's record-setting 19 wins in 2018. Under Andreatta, the team has made six NCAA Division III national tournament appearances, including reaching the quarterfinal round four times. As of the end of the 2021 season, her coaching record stood at 202–89.

Scheible, who started his 31st Rochester season when the team took to the court for the 2021–22 year, picked up his 400th victory in November. As of early February, his Rochester record stood at 409–192. With Scheible as coach, the Yellowjackets have made 12



Wendy Andreatta



Jim Scheible

national tournament appearances, including three trips to the Final Four, two to the Elite Eight, and four to the Sweet Sixteen. **R**

PITCH PERFECT

Alumna Leads Women's Soccer

All-American Ashley Van Vechten '08 has been named head coach of one of Rochester's storied athletics programs.

By Dennis O'Donnell

One of the most decorated players in women's soccer history has been named the new coach of the program.

Ashley Van Vechten '08, a three-time All-American as well as a Renaissance and Fulbright Scholar, became the program's fourth head coach late last fall.

Most recently the head coach at Suffolk University, Van Vechten succeeds interim coach Gabriel Kleinert.

George VanderZwaag, executive director of athletics and recreation, made the announcement in early December.

Van Vechten takes over a program with a well-established tradition of excellence. Directed by the program's inaugural coach, Terry Gurnett '77, the Yellowjackets won the first two NCAA Division III national championships in 1986 and 1987. The team has

CLASS COACH: A three-time All-American defender and an Academic All-American as a student, Van Vechten will lead Rochester's women's soccer program as head coach.

made appearances in 20 NCAA tournaments through the 2021 season, including a spot as national runner-up in 1991.

Before taking over at Suffolk, Van Vechten served as an assistant coach at Rochester from 2014 to 2017. As a player from 2004 to 2007, she was part of a defense that posted 48 shutouts and held 67 of 79 opponents to a goal or less. Rochester won 16 games in back-to-back seasons with Van Vechten in the center of the defense.

In addition to being a three-time All-American, Van Vechten was twice named Defensive Player of the Year by the New York State Coaches Association.

Chosen an Academic All-American in women's soccer by members of the College Sports Information Directors of America and a Scholar All-American by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she was a Lysle (Spike) Garnish Scholar in 2007, an honor presented to the top senior student-athletes, and a member of the Keidaeans Senior Honor Society. [R](#)

O'Donnell is director of athletic communications.





FLOURISHING: REJI's Precious Bedell greets the once-incarcerated, now Yale Law School graduate Reginald Dwayne Betts before a fall 2019 event. Bedell, incarcerated in the 1980s and early 1990s, has won multiple awards for her work for the University and the community, including, in January 2022, the University's Presidential Stronger as One Diversity Award in the category of Advocacy and Action.



An Investment in Human Flourishing

To men and women incarcerated in western New York, a University-affiliated program offers higher education and a bridge to the outside world.

By Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

Within a 90-minute drive from the River Campus—across the green fields and farmland on the road toward Buffalo, or to the south and east, through the rolling hills and vineyards of the Finger Lakes—there are nine state and federal prisons.

Mostly hidden away, accessible by traveling several miles down rural roads, and usually a few miles outside the nearest town, the facilities are typical of most of the 50 or so state and federal prisons housing roughly 40,000 men and women across New York state. And of the hundreds more state and federal prisons housing roughly 2.3 million people in the United States.

But critics of mass incarceration—a phrase rooted in the nation's distinction as having the highest rates of imprisonment in the world—are finding ways “to whittle away at the distance and dehumanization on which mass incarceration depends.” That’s how Joshua Dubler, an associate professor in the Department of Religion and Classics, puts it.

Dubler is founder and faculty director of the Rochester Education Justice Initiative. Known by its acronym REJI (“Reggie”), it’s one of about 200 college- or university-based programs in the country offering higher education to incarcerated men and women. Established in 2015 with seed funding from the University, REJI has grown from a small operation offering four courses a year to incarcerated students in central and western New York, to a program in which 35 faculty members and graduate student instructors have taught more than 50 college courses to more than 200 incarcerated students in five correctional facilities.

REJI is funded primarily through philanthropic and foundation support, which has been the norm since federal support for college-in-prison programs was effectively eliminated in 1994. (See “College-in-Prison: Key Dates,” opposite page.) It began in collaboration with the Cornell Prison Education Program, a partnership between Cornell and SUNY Cayuga Community College funded principally by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Then REJI began to attract its own funding. It came first from the New York City-based Mother Cabrini Health Foundation and the Rochester-based Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation. Then, in 2020, REJI formed a partnership with SUNY Genesee Community College and won its own, \$1 million grant from the Mellon Foundation, now the major source of funding for college- and university-affiliated prison education programs in the United States.

What Cornell was for central New York, Rochester now was for western New York: a hub of college-in-prison opportunities in an area dense with prisons.

At the School of Arts & Sciences, the academic home of the majority of REJI’s faculty, Dean Gloria Culver embraced the group and its mission.

“By serving one of our society’s most marginalized communities—and helping them to be a part of our learning experience and associated opportunities as well,” she said in 2020, REJI “is vital to the University’s mission to make the world ever better.”

Students are “Zeroed in”

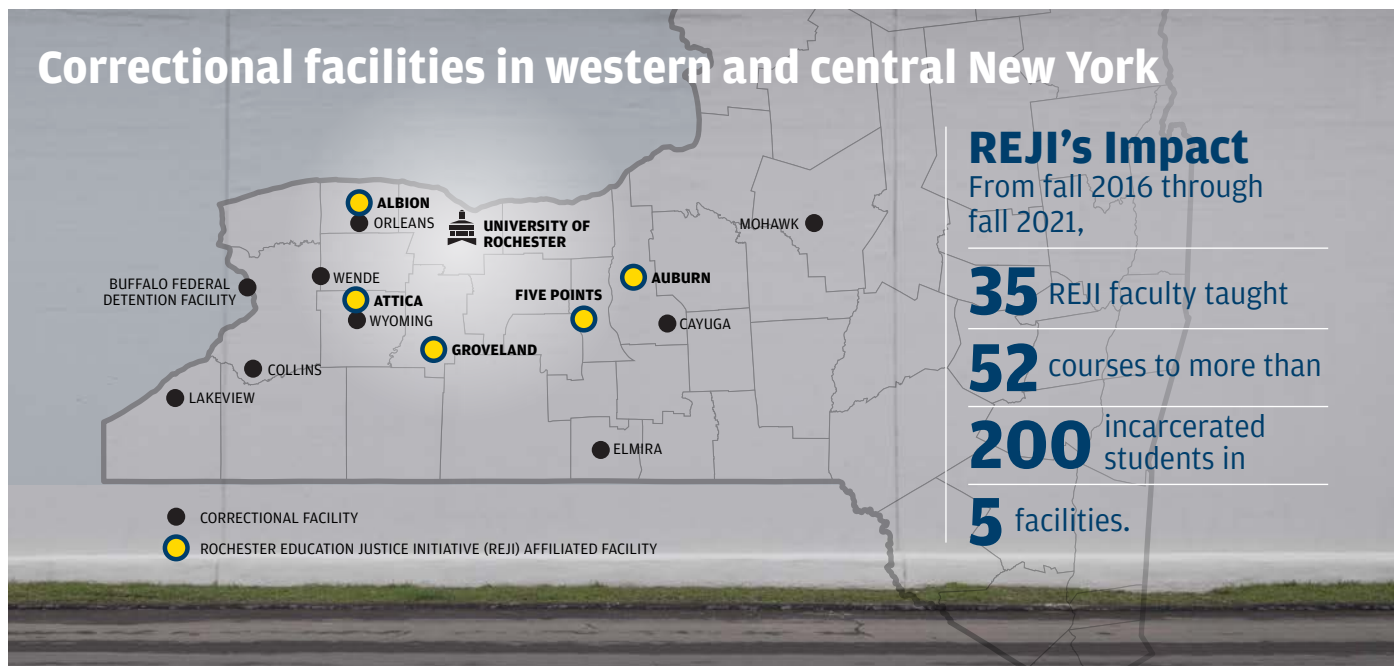
There’s a core group within REJI that’s been there from the very beginning. In addition to Dubler, it includes Kristin Doughty, an associate professor of anthropology, and Alison Peterman, an associate professor of philosophy, who both teach with the program and serve as advisors to other REJI faculty members; Eitan Freedenberg ’20 (PhD), who started teaching for REJI when he was a graduate student in visual and cultural studies and now coordinates REJI’s programming; Ed Wiltse, a 20-plus year veteran of prison teaching and a professor of English at Nazareth College in the Rochester suburb of Pittsford; and Precious Bedell, who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees while incarcerated in the 1980s and ’90s, has long worked on behalf of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, and is now in charge of REJI’s community outreach. (See “Meet the Justice Scholars,” page 32.)



FOUNDER: With support from the College and the School of Arts & Sciences, Dubler, an associate professor of religion, helped shape a loose network of faculty and graduate students involved in prison teaching into an initiative that has made the University a leader in prison education.

In various ways, faculty and graduate students who have taught with REJI describe students who are hungry for an opportunity most of them have never had. Doughty has taught Introduction to Cultural Anthropology at four separate facilities. Her classes include a lot of discussion, which, she says, have been “incredibly robust.” Her students have been careful and insightful readers—“willing to both adhere tightly to a close reading of the text and to make connections to the world around them in ways that are really meaningful.”

Marianne Kupin-Lisbin, a doctoral student in history at Rochester, began teaching with REJI in 2018 and now assists Freedenberg with programming. She’s engaged her incarcerated students in Western Civilization by having them think about how historical narratives are established and maintained. “I have them think about how an archive is created and how those sources translate into a narrative,” she says. “What’s the narrative in the Western Civ textbook? Are people missing? Why are they missing?” At Five Points Correctional Facility in Romulus, she gave students a range of sources about some of those



missing people. “I had them rewrite a portion of a chapter, writing them into the narrative,” she says. “They were amazed at what their work did to that narrative. To this day, I don’t think I’ve had a better pedagogical experience.”

Freedenberg says his students have been heavily invested in the program. In his introductory art history course at Five Points in 2017, the students were “zeroed in. Everyone had read the material twice.”

While REJI faculty teach in programs at five facilities, some of which are administered by Cornell’s program, REJI manages programs at two major sites in the University’s backyard: Groveland Correctional Facility, about 40 miles south of Rochester, and starting this past fall, Attica, between Rochester and Buffalo.

With Genesee Community College as its partner, REJI offers students at Groveland and Attica who have a GED or a high school diploma the chance to work toward an associate’s degree, while adding more advanced courses to the mix. While students at Attica and Groveland can’t earn a bachelor’s degree from Rochester through the program, Dubler hopes that REJI may eventually be able to offer that opportunity.

Like any students aiming for higher education, incarcerated men and women have to apply for admission to the program. Freedenberg, who oversees the process at Attica and Groveland, says applicants tend to be a self-selected group. But he emphasizes that, within certain parameters, admissions are “as open as possible.”

In various ways, faculty and graduate students who have taught with REJI describe students who are hungry for an opportunity most of them have never had.

Those parameters include some practical considerations. For example, REJI looks at applicants’ release dates to make sure that they can complete at least one semester. In addition, successful applicants can’t have any disciplinary actions on their records.

Beyond those considerations, the selection process is largely based on written communication skills. “We do a lot of qualitative assessment of college readiness based on prospective students’ application essays,” Freedenberg says.

The process seems to work. Doughty stresses that the Introduction to Cultural Anthropology course she has taught at four facilities is equivalent to the course she teaches to undergraduates on the River Campus. “My expectations are basically the same,” she says. “I don’t make it any less rigorous.”

Occasionally Doughty might have to substitute a text. That’s because course syllabi undergo a media review by each facility’s programming or education staff. According to Freedenberg, who works with correctional staff in coordinating the reviews, “the assumption that they bring to review is that everything you provide them is probably okay, but they need to look for red flags.”

The COVID-19 pandemic brought some of the distinctions between traditional and prison classrooms into sharp relief. Incarcerated students have limited access to computers, no access to an open internet, and communicate electronically with those in the outside world through a secure messaging system. From March 2020 until the end of the following fall semester, course materials at Groveland took the form of paper packets. Freedenberg and Kupin-Lisbin acted as couriers, driving materials from instructors’ homes to the facility, collecting homework, transporting it back to instructors, and beginning the cycle again.

College in Prison: Key Dates

1965 Higher Education Act makes federal scholarships and loans available to incarcerated students, leading to the growth of college-in-prison programs in the United States.

1982 350 college-in-prison programs provide postsecondary education to approximately 27,000 men and women, nearly 10 percent of the prison population at that time. (Source: The Prison Project)

1994 The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (“crime bill”) amends the Higher Education Act to bar incarcerated people in state and federal prisons from receiving Pell Grants. Many states follow the federal government’s lead. The percentage of incarcerated people enrolled in college courses plummets.

1999 Cornell University begins to offer a small number of courses for credit, free of charge, to incarcerated people at Auburn Correctional Facility after several faculty members begin teaching there on a volunteer basis.

2010 The Cornell Prison Education Program (CPEP) is established, offering 12 courses each semester taught by faculty and graduate students on a volunteer basis.

REJI Involvement Begins

2015 The Rochester Prison Education Project—since renamed the Rochester Education Justice Initiative (REJI)—is established with funding from Arts, Sciences & Engineering. REJI partners with the Cornell program as part of a single consortium serving incarcerated students in central and western New York.

2016 Through REJI, the University begins offering four courses annually in area correctional facilities.

2019 REJI partners with Genesee Community College to develop a degree-granting college program at Groveland Correctional Facility. Twenty students are admitted to the first cohort.

2020 The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awards REJI a three-year, \$1 million grant to expand its existing programs and mission. New initiatives allow REJI to provide educational opportunity to formerly incarcerated men and women as well as to incarcerated people.

2021 With support from the Mellon Foundation grant, REJI begins offering courses to students at Attica Correctional Facility, building on the efforts of Genesee Community College.



Throughout the pandemic, REJI communicated with students through the secure messaging system (and still does), and was able to set up a videoconferencing system at Groveland for spring 2021. In-person classes resumed last June.

While limited technology required painful sacrifices during much of the pandemic, in normal times, it can be advantageous, observes Freedenberg. During class there are no laptops, no opportunities to surf the internet, no cell phones to ring and buzz, and no Facebook and Snapchat alerts. “The students’ eyes are focused on you and their hands are on their pens,” says Freedenberg. They take notes on paper and write their papers in longhand. “When you are handwriting a paper, and you’re writing multiple drafts by hand longhand,” he adds, “there’s a level of commitment to the work that I just really admire.”

Meeting the Demand

Common sense suggests—and a 2018 meta-analysis by the Rand Corp. confirmed—that the whole society benefits when incarcerated men

and women pursue education and training. By the measure of recidivism alone, the advantages are clear; once an incarcerated person participates in any form of education or training, their chance of re-turning to prison drops by roughly a third.

But the programs also have less easily quantifiable benefits that begin with the incarcerated themselves and extend through their families and social networks.

Rachel Sander serves as prison education director for the SUNY system. Prison education can lead to “a lasting family impact, as an incarcerated individual’s decision to attend college can help disrupt cycles of incarceration and inspire other family members to pursue their own academic endeavors,” she wrote in January in a SUNY blog post called “Why College in Prison Matters.”

Sander has helped build a network of college-in-prison programs that’s brought together groups like REJI and its counterpart at GCC. “The future of college-in-prison depends on strong local partnerships,” she says.

Meet the Justice Scholars

In fall 2020, the Rochester Education Justice Initiative (REJI) launched the Justice Scholars program, designed to recruit men and women leaving prison to compete for admission to local colleges and universities.

The program is managed by Precious Bedell, REJI’s assistant director of community outreach. Bedell’s life trajectory is similar to what Justice Scholars are building for themselves.

Formerly incarcerated, she completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees (during her incarceration) and later established a nonprofit, Turning Points Resource Center, to provide services and support to incarcerated people and their family members.

She also built a career in community health at the Medical Center, where her colleagues honored her with the David Satcher Award for Community Health Improvement in 2015. In January, President Sarah Mangelsdorf recognized her with a Presidential Stronger as One Diversity Award in the category of Advocacy and Action, for her work with REJI.

The Justice Scholars program is not a scholarship. It does not pay for tuition, room, or board, although it does offer scholars some assistance paying for course materials.

Instead, it’s both a practical solution to a documented problem and an effort to increase diversity in higher education in the richest sense.

Formerly incarcerated men and women become students in the college classroom, working toward important credentials. At the same time, traditional students interact with classmates from one of the most stigmatized groups in American society—and are often enriched by the perspectives they bring.

Bedell is a motivated booster of the program, working to reach as many formerly incarcerated men and women as she can to let them know

that REJI can connect them with opportunities for higher education.

“Our program is not a cookie-cutter approach,” she said last summer on the radio program *Connections*, aired on Rochester’s National Public Radio affiliate, WXXI. “We let people choose where they want to go, and help them navigate the resources,” including the application process and financial aid. At the University, there are five Justice Scholars as of spring 2022.

Jesse Johnston ’22: ‘Head Over Heels’ about Philosophy

Serving a sentence at Five Points Correctional Facility, Jesse Johnston ’22 was working toward an associate’s degree when a staff member of the prison education program there made a not-so-subtle suggestion. Knowing Johnston was nearing his release date, she “forced me to apply to Rochester,” Johnston recalls, laughing.

Years earlier, when he had been struggling with drug addiction, Johnston had failed out of Finger Lakes Community College. He lost confidence in himself, figuring higher education was “for people who are smarter, who can read faster, who can talk better. And I just don’t have it,” he recalls telling himself. But at Five Points, college courses became his lifeline, and he excelled in them.

Among his favorite courses was an introduction to art history taught by Eitan Freedenberg ’20 (PhD), then a graduate student in Rochester’s graduate program in visual and cultural studies. Johnston, a casual sketcher, enjoyed art from the European Renaissance and Roman periods. “Eitan educated me on what [the art] really meant, and what that stood for,” Johnston says. Freedenberg encouraged his interest and “really opened up my eyes to what else was out there.”



Jesse Johnston

On the suggestion of that Five Points staff member, Johnston got back in touch with Freedenberg, who encouraged his application, gave him a tour of the River Campus, and introduced him to a few other faculty members, along with Precious Bedell, who helped him navigate the application and financial aid processes.

“And here I am,” Johnston says.

Now in his 30s, he’s closer in age to some of the faculty than he is to his classmates. And there have been times in his courses where he’s revealed that he served time in prison. “I’ve had to drop the bomb,” he says. “Mass incarceration, systemic racism—these things come up. I feel like I have to divulge my history to speak as an authority. And, surprisingly, students take it very well.”

Like traditional students, Johnston has

REJI will continue to work in that vein. “We’d like to expand our network,” says Dubler. “Wyoming [correctional facility], which is immediately adjacent to Attica, doesn’t have a program. Wende, which is in Alden, in Erie County, doesn’t have a program.”


Among the incarcerated population, the interest is likely to be there. A 2014 survey of the adult prison population in the US by the National Center for Education Statistics indicated that 70 percent of incarcerated adults reported interest in enrolling in an educational program—and more than a third of them in a college program. College-in-prison programs don’t come near meeting that demand, but there was good news late in 2020, when incarcerated men and women once again became eligible for Pell grants. “So there will be new revenue streams,” Dubler says.

But running a program entails far more than offering more courses to more students. “There’s running the program, and then there’s running the program in a way that enables students to succeed,” he says. Pell grants will not cover all of the work REJI does outside the

classroom to help students succeed. On the River Campus, for example, students have access to a team of professional advisors in the College Center for Academic Services; tutors from the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program; and help in the form of skills workshops, study groups, and one-on-one tutoring arranged by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. At REJI, the roles of all these offices fall mostly on the shoulders of Freedenberg and Kupin-Lisbin.

“Eitan and Marianne have three jobs,” Dubler says. They’re liaisons between REJI and correctional staff at multiple facilities; they perform the roles of academic counselors and deans of students at Attica and Groveland; and Freedenberg directs programs at both facilities.

College-in-prison programs are racing to play catch up.

“We’ve used incarceration as a way to solve our social problems,” Bedell says. Dubler believes there’s a correlation between a public disinvestment in education and social support and a public investment in prisons. What if, he asks, we “invest instead in a set of institutions that enable human flourishing?” 

branched out since starting at the University. His entrée into art history led him to explore other interests, notably political science (his major) and philosophy. He began to shape, and then to refine, his career plans.

“I was in a hurry to just run out and go to law school immediately,” he says. During his first semester at Rochester, he started working at the Center for Community Alternatives, helping the New York state-level nonprofit pursue an agenda of criminal justice reform. But he credits Alison Peterman—associate professor and cochair of philosophy and one of the first REJI faculty—for convincing him to slow down just a bit, putting law school on hold to pursue his research interest in the history and philosophy of punishment.

Now Johnston hopes to delay law school to pursue a master’s degree in philosophy at Rochester. When he learned that such a path was possible, “I was head over heels,” he says.

Sarah Cushman ’23: A Path to Public Health

Sarah Cushman ’23 completed her first semester at Rochester in fall 2021 while working full time as a community health specialist at Trillium Health.

“I work, go to school, leave right away, and go back to work,” she says, describing a typical day.

In addition to a grueling schedule, Cushman has a challenge few traditional students face: she spent her early adult years without access to the internet, and with limited access to computers. Last fall, with much trepidation, she told her statistics professor, “I’ve never used a computer to do coding.” But Katherine Grzesik, the assistant professor of statistics Cushman calls “Dr. G,” was unfazed. “Every Friday morning, she zoomed in with me from her house,”

Cushman says, with a mixture of relief and gratitude.

Twenty years ago, Cushman was a student-athlete at Irondequoit High School, just outside Rochester. She went on to Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, where she had the chance to play Division I soccer. During her sophomore year, she was sexually assaulted. In the aftermath of that trauma, she turned to drugs and eventually landed downstate at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women.

“I thought all of my childhood dreams had just gone down the drain and I was going to be nothing but a felon or a drug addict—all of the labels that society had put on me,” she says.

But Cushman is tenacious. She started college courses at Bedford Hills and earned an associate’s degree. Then, she experienced a setback that tested her resolve: she was transferred to Albion Correctional Facility, where the only courses available led to the degree she had just earned.

“For the first few months [at Albion], I was lost,” she says. “But losing that mental stimulation is what drove me to find something at Albion to fulfill that need to learn and grow.”

Cushman entered a prison-based peer health training program run by the AIDS Institute, a division of the New York State Department of Health. The program whet her appetite for a career in public health.

After her release, she entered New York state’s credentialed alcohol and substance abuse certification, or CASAC, program. And she followed through on a friend’s advice: “If you’re going back to Rochester,” the friend told her, “the biggest piece of advice I can give you is to connect with Precious Bedell.”

Bedell helped Cushman through the process of applying to several schools in the area. (“I didn’t know anything about a common app,”



Sarah Cushman

Cushman says.) Between Bedell, Johnston (who had recently completed the same process), and staff in the admissions office, she learned about scholarships she could apply for in addition to need-based aid. “I was hoping to go to U of R because of the connection with REJI,” she says.

At the end of her first semester at the University, she declared her intention to major in health, behavior, and society.

“Right now, I’m kind of on the ground level, and I love it,” she says of her work at Trillium. But she has a growing interest in policy, too.

“I really want to bring a consumer’s voice. Because how are we making decisions about people without asking those people?” she asks. “What are their barriers to care? We make assumptions from a lofty office. And those may not be what’s really the barrier.”

A School Built on Musical Innovation

As the Eastman School of Music celebrates its centennial, we catalog a few of the many ways that Eastman faculty, alumni, and students have influenced the study and performance of music.

In kicking off the celebration of the Eastman School of Music's centennial, Jamal Rossi '87E (DMA), the Joan and Martin Messinger Dean of the Eastman School of Music, highlighted the hallmarks of an Eastman education: artistry, scholarship, leadership, innovation, and community engagement.

"We try to instill in our students the value that who you are as a person has everything to do with who you will be as a musician," Rossi said. "We are engaged in preparing our students for life, not merely a career."

While that ethos might seem unsurprising for an institution that has adopted *Meliora* as its motto, when the school first opened in 1921, it was a new way of thinking about musical education.

As University supporter George Eastman and then president Rush Rhees set out to establish the school, they were creating a new model, one that would resonate throughout the world of musical performance, scholarship, and engagement.

In the interest of celebrating the school's remarkable 100-year history, we offer a selection of milestone moments, innovations, and singular facts that highlight the Eastman community's influence on musical artistry, education, and service during the school's first century.

By no means comprehensive, the list only sets the stage for a second century of excellence.

—Scott Hauser





KEY ROLE: Eastman has been key in bringing attention to generations of American composers.

A American Music

Under the leadership of longtime director Howard Hanson, Eastman helped lead the nation's musical world in supporting the work of American composers. Starting with annual American Composers' Concerts in 1925, Hanson added an annual Festival of American Music in 1931. Motivated by a desire to give young composers an opportunity to hear competent professional performances of their works, Hanson also brought attention to compositions by earlier generations of American composers. His efforts also included long-term projects with RCA Victor, Columbia, and Mercury to record the works for posterity.

B Bachelor of Music

In contrast to the conservatory model that prevailed in most schools in the early 20th century, Eastman was an early advocate for placing the training of professional musicians within the context of an academic degree, the bachelor of music degree. The first Eastman degrees were earned by two women—Roslyn Weisberg Cominsky and Marion Eccleston Sauer—on June 19, 1922.

C Community Engagement

Growing out of an earlier Rochester-based music school, Eastman has maintained its close connections with the Greater Rochester community and has been a leader within the nation's many musical communities. With the Eastman Community Music School, which is also celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2021-22 (see "Y"), Eastman has developed ROCmusic, a collaborative partnership to bring music to Rochester city school children (see "R"). More broadly, the country's only festival organized to celebrate classical musicians of African descent, the Gateways Music Festival, has been based at Eastman since 1994. The school became a formal partner with Gateways in 2016.

D Doctor of Musical Arts

Eastman helped pioneer the doctor of musical arts (DMA), a



CONDUCTOR: Frederick Fennell '37E, '39E (MM) developed the concept of symphonic-oriented music performed with fewer players.

terminal, doctoral-level degree with emphasis on professional studies in areas such as performance and teaching. Eastman awarded one of the country's first DMAs to Will Gay Bottje in 1955. A composer on the faculty of Southern Illinois University, he also directed the electronic music studio there.

E Ensemble Excellence

The Eastman Wind Ensemble transformed the performance of wind music after its 1953 debut. Established by Frederick Fennell '37E, '39E (MM), '88

(Honorary), the ensemble was smaller than a traditional symphony band and was designed to eliminate unnecessary doublings of instruments. The result was fewer problems of intonation and greater clarity of sound. In addition to championing the existing repertoire of wind music, Fennell approached 400 composers with a request that they compose works for the new wind ensemble. With Wynton Marsalis as guest soloist and under the ensemble's third director Donald Hunsberger '54E, '59E (MM), '63E (DMA), the group's 1987 recording *Carnaval!* reached No. 1 on *Billboard* magazine's classical chart. Today, under the direction of Mark Davis Scatterday '89E (DMA), the ensemble continues to tour widely, while also premiering new works for wind ensemble from internationally prominent composers. An example of Eastman's long tradition as home to some of the nation's most renowned string quartets and chamber music ensembles, the wind ensemble is part of a firmly established artistic legacy for the school. From the first resident faculty string quartet, known as the Kilbourn Quartet, to today's faculty resident ensemble, the Ying Quartet, Eastman-born ensembles have earned recognition for artistry, innovation, and influence. A short list includes Eastman's own Musica Nova, as well as alumni-led JACK Quartet, Alarm Will Sound, the MIVOS Quartet, Ensemble Signal, American Wild Ensemble, Kneebody, and many others.



COMMUNITY OF MUSIC: For a century, the Eastman School and the Eastman Community Music School have made it a priority to engage the Rochester community in musical education.

F / Film Fame

At the time of Eastman's founding, live music was integral to the new industry of film. While the practice of live musical accompaniment was replaced by the arrival of movies with sound, the school has continued its connection to the medium. The Beal Institute for Film and Contemporary Media, named for its benefactors, Emmy Award-winning television and film composer Jeff '85E and vocalist Joan Beal '84E, provides students with opportunities to write, produce, and perform music for film and contemporary media. The institute is directed by Emmy Award-winning composer Mark Watters.

G / Grammys

The first Eastman community member to be recognized by the organization that presents the Grammy Awards was William Warfield '42E, '46E (MM), '88 (Honorary). At the 1964 ceremony, a recording of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* featuring Warfield, his wife, Leontyne Price, and others received a Grammy for Best Vocal Performance. Since the awards were first presented in 1960, more than 60 members of the Eastman School community—alumni and faculty—have received Grammys.

H / Howard Hanson

One of the most influential figures in the history of the school, composer and Nebraska native Howard Hanson served as director for 40 years, from 1924 to 1964. Under his leadership, the school became widely known as an institution that welcomed the performer and the scholar, the composer and the educator. It was a school committed to the development of musical leadership, and above all an institution that was thoroughly American in its outlook.



40-YEAR TERM: Hanson established Eastman's national presence.



JAZZ IDIOM: Jazz became a formal part of the curriculum in the 1970s, but students and faculty had organized ad hoc jazz groups since the 1940s.

I / Institute for Music Leadership

The first center of its kind in the nation, the institute was founded in 2001 to implement innovative ideas and programs to ensure the relevance and impact of music in today's world. Among its many programs, the institute is home to the Paul R. Judy Center for Innovation and Research, an initiative designed to study alternative ensemble models.

J / Jazz

A 1946 concert of a program titled "Music in the Jazz Idiom," under the direction of faculty member Jack End '40E, marked the first public jazz performance at Eastman. In 1970, the school hired former Radio City Music Hall musical director Rayburn Wright '43E to develop a formal program in jazz—what's now known as the Department of Jazz and Contemporary Media.



GRAMMY GREAT: The first Eastman community member whose work was recognized with a Grammy Award was William Warfield '42E, '46E (MM). Since 1960, more than 60 Eastman faculty members and alumni have received Grammys.

PIPES ARE CALLING: Leading an initiative for the study and performance of historically accurate organs, an Eastman effort has restored and installed several organs in the Rochester area, including an Italian baroque instrument at the Memorial Art Gallery.



K / Kilbourn Hall
Named in recognition of George Eastman's mother, Maria Kilbourn Eastman, the hall has been a key performance space for Eastman students, faculty, and guest artists since it opened in 1922. Considered one of the architectural jewels of the school, the hall has been the site of performances by legendary musicians of the 20th century.

L / Eastman Student Living Center
Opened as a stand-alone residence hall in 1991, the Eastman Student Living Center was the culmination of more than 70 years of student housing at Eastman. The first residence halls, which opened in 1925, were for women. Men moved into their own residence hall 30 years later.

M / Mercury Recordings
A series of Eastman recordings for the Mercury label established the school's reputation for performance excellence in ways that found broad appreciation



MERCURY RISING: The Eastman School's series of recordings for the Mercury record label was well received by both music critics and the music-buying public.

among the country's music listeners. Beginning in the 1950s, Howard Hanson directed the Eastman-Rochester Orchestra on more than 40 LPs for Mercury, which at the time was known for its technological innovations in capturing high audio quality. Joining Hanson, Frederick Fennell directed the Eastman Wind Ensemble in a series of recordings that captured an eclectic mix of musical traditions and genres for a Mercury series that was equally, if not more, well received by listeners.

N / New Horizons
Roy Ernst, a professor of music education emeritus, founded New Horizons, a program offering musical instruction and the opportunity to perform in ensembles to older adults, as part of the Eastman Community Music School. Since 1991, the program has grown to more than 200 chapters across the country and internationally. Last fall, Ernst was presented with an Eastman Centennial Award in recognition of his contributions to music.



PULITZER: George Walker '56E (DMA), first Black composer honored

O / Organs
The Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative has made Rochester a center for the study and performance of historically significant organs. Since 2002, the effort has restored five organs in churches and other locations in the Rochester area. One of the first was installed in the Memorial Art Gallery, where the instrument is the centerpiece of public concerts and serves as a practice instrument for Eastman students.

P / Pulitzer Prizes
A total of nine Eastman alumni and faculty have received the Pulitzer Prize in Music, accounting for the majority of Rochester's 13 Pulitzer honorees. Longtime school director Howard Hanson was the first, receiving the prize in 1944 for his Symphony No. 4. The most recent recipient was Kevin Puts '94E, '99E (DMA) in 2012 for his opera *Silent Night*. George Walker '56E (DMA) was the first Black composer to receive a Pulitzer Prize in Music, when his *Lilacs*—a 16-minute work for voice and orchestra that draws its title and its text from a poem by Walt Whitman—received the 1996 Pulitzer Prize.

Q / Landmark Quotation

One of the most visible representations of the Eastman School's identity as an institution that values artistry, scholarship, leadership, innovation, and community engagement is carved into the façade of Eastman Theatre: "For the Enrichment of Community Life." Visible from East Main and Gibbs Streets, the sentiment (attributed to then University president Rush Rhees) has been a physical and metaphorical touchstone for the Eastman community for more than a century.

R / ROCmusic

Established in 2012, ROCmusic is a collaborative partnership involving the Eastman School of Music, Eastman Community Music School, the Hochstein School, the City of Rochester, the Rochester City School District, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Gateways Music Festival. Its goal is to provide exceptional music education and performance experiences for youth living in the City of Rochester through yearlong community-based programming and resident-informed activities within their own communities. Now housed in three city-owned community and recreation centers, ROCmusic provides more than 150 children, ages 6 to 18, with private instrument lessons and ensemble experiences.



MUSICAL PARTNERS: With the Gateways Music Festival (above) and other partners, ROCmusic provides tuition-free musical education to Rochester K-12 students.



REMARKABLE COLLECTION:

Home to one of the world's most extensive collections of musical resources, including rare and one-of-a-kind materials, the Sibley Music Library houses a history that spans from the Middle Ages to the present day.

S / Sibley Music Library

The Sibley Music Library, named after its original benefactor, Hiram Watson Sibley, is the largest collegiate music collection in the Western Hemisphere. The library's origins as a music collection at the University can be traced to 1904. When Eastman opened in 1921, the collection was moved to the school's main building. In 1937, the collection found a new home on Swan Street in a building that was the first in the country to be specifically constructed to house a music collection. In 1989, the library reopened in Eastman Place.

T / Eastman Theatre

When Eastman Theatre opened on September 4, 1922, an estimated 10,000 people filled the venue over the course of three

programs. Designed to be a multipurpose space, the theater was both a state-of-the-art movie house and a venue where the Rochester community could attend opera performances, concerts, and musical programs by both local artists and visiting luminaries. The appearance of performers of international stature such as Sergei Rachmaninoff, Jascha Heifetz, Arthur Rubinstein, Marian Anderson, Emil Gilels, Vladimir Horowitz, and Leonard Bernstein cemented the



VIEW FROM 1922: Eastman postcard

theater's reputation as an important concert venue. The theater was renovated for its 50th anniversary in 1972. In 2009, the main performance space was renamed Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, part of a renovation that included the addition of Eastman East Wing, home to Hatch Recital Hall and other facilities.

U / University

With the addition of the Eastman School in 1921, Rochester began its evolution as an institution encompassing more than one academic unit. Before Eastman became an official part of the University, the programs from 1850 until 1921 included only those in a single college of arts and sciences rather than those of an institution comprising many schools or colleges. The School of Medicine and Dentistry would follow in 1925.

V Virtuoso & Visionaries

Eastman musicians have won wide acclaim for their artistry, innovation, and leadership. To name a few in a long list: Boston Symphony flutist Doriot Anthony Dwyer '43E, one of the first women to hold a principal chair anywhere in the country; TV impresario Mitch Miller '32E; *Annie* composer Charles Strouse '47E; renowned soprano Renee Fleming '83E (MM); composer Maria Schneider '85E (MM), whose 2004 recording was the first to win a Grammy with internet-only sales; and soprano Julia Bullock '09E, who has worked to bring classical music's overlooked voices to center stage, are among the many Eastman community members who have shaped the nation's musical and cultural landscape.

W WHAM Radio

From radio station WHAM—once housed on the top floor of the school—Eastman was one of the first to broadcast live musical performances to radio listeners. By the 1930s, Eastman broadcasts reached an estimated one million Americans. The station still exists but is no longer affiliated with the University.



ROCHESTER RARITY: One of the oldest volumes on music available in the United States, the “Rochester Codex” is housed at the Sibley Music Library.

X The ‘Rochester Codex’

During a 25-year tenure at the Sibley Music Library, Barbara Duncan—with Hiram Sibley’s support—acquired many of the library’s most important pieces, including the library’s oldest work, an 11th-century volume known as the “Rochester Codex.” The volume is thought to be one of the oldest manuscripts about music available in the United States.

STAGE PRESENCE: One of many Eastman artists who have earned acclaim for their artistry, soprano Erin Morley '02E starred in the lead role of *Eurydice* in this winter’s production at the Metropolitan Opera.



Y Young & Old

The centennial is a double celebration: both the Eastman Community Music School and the Eastman School of Music are marking 100-year anniversaries. Since their founding, both have maintained strong ties with the Rochester community, particularly with young people and area schools. And both have provided far-reaching opportunities for musical education—the Eastman School at the collegiate and postbaccalaureate levels, and the community school for people at all stages of life.

Z The Prisoner of Zenda

The first Eastman Theatre program featured the film *The Prisoner of Zenda*, accompanied by the Eastman Theatre Orchestra. Also on the bill were the orchestra’s performance of Tchaikovsky’s *1812 Overture*, a dance accompanied by the music of Rachmaninoff and Dvořák, an organ recital, and other performances. The multifaceted program was part of George Eastman’s vision to enrich the lives of community members through the experience of music.



PREMIERE: The program for opening day at Eastman Theatre included the showing of a film along with musical and dance performances.

For More History


For a more complete account of Eastman’s rich history, we recommend the work of Eastman School historian Vincent Lenti '60E, '62E (MA), author of *For the Enrichment of Community Life: George Eastman and the Founding of the Eastman School of Music* (2004); *Serving a Great and Noble Art: Howard Hanson and the Eastman School of Music* (2009); and *Nurturing the Love of Music: Robert Freeman and the Eastman School of Music* (2020), all from the Meliora Press of the University of Rochester Press.

Another resource is the Sibley Music Library (esm.rochester.edu/sibley). To mark the centennial, David Peter Coppen, head of special collections at Sibley, is compiling an online feature “This Week at Eastman: The View from the Archive.”

Find the feature, along with more about the centennial, at www.esm.rochester.edu/100.


HEALTH CARE HISTORIAN: An award-winning historian as well as an internist at Strong Memorial Hospital, Raz shares her research expertise and clinical experience to explore how US public health policy shapes health care for Americans, particularly those who face economic and social disadvantages.





‘Against the Grain and Between the Lines’

The ultimate interdisciplinarian, Mical Raz brings her training as a physician and her perspective as a historian to bear on some of the nation’s most pressing health care and public policy issues.



By Sandra Knispel

The joke would go something like this—a doctor, a history professor, and a cellist walk into a bar. Who speaks first? One person: Mical Raz. Because she’s all alone.

It’s not every day that a physician teaches in a history department, or that a historian does rounds at a large research hospital. But for Raz, the Charles E. and Dale L. Phelps Professor in Public Policy and Health and a professor of history at Rochester, it’s exactly that. Historian Raz, who is also a board-certified internist at Strong Memorial Hospital, is an unusual hybrid.

Yet, neither career was what she had originally in mind. Plus, there was always music.

“I didn’t go to medical school because I was interested in medicine,” admits Raz. Instead, after high school, like many, she was somewhat at loose ends.

She wanted to study “something humanistic and engaging” but also a science, searching for the elusive “truth out there that I was going to learn.” Raz adds: “I later outgrew that notion. But I thought, ‘I’ll go be a doctor; that’ll be a good start. And then I can figure out what I really want to do in life.’”

By most accounts, Raz has a pretty good handle on what she wants to do in life. A physician as well as a noted scholar of the history of public health, she has had a front row seat to the world’s biggest public health challenges in a century. Moving seamlessly between clinic and classroom, she infuses her teaching and scholarship with a grounding in lived academic medicine that’s rare among those who hope to influence public policy. Always on the go, she’s eager to share her perspective to help people better understand the complexities of the US health care system.

“Mical’s energy is extraordinary,” says Theodore Brown, Raz’s predecessor who was the inaugural Charles E. and Dale L. Phelps Professor of Public Health and Policy until 2018. “Even though I have seen her do it time and again, it is still hard for me to believe how she can be such a wonderful scholar, teacher, and colleague and still have what seems like limitless energy for skillful and devoted medical practice, her family, and her engagement with national political issues and the local community.”

Born in Iowa City to Israeli parents, Raz moved to Israel with her family when she was 10, a move she describes as “coming home.” From early childhood, music played a central role: relatives and friends, invited for dinner, would turn up with their instruments in tow. After the meal, they’d settle in for some chamber music. For Raz that meant a natural head start. At age two, after a tearful complaint that she was unfairly left out when her older sister played the violin, she got her own instrument—a 1/32 cello—roughly the size of an adult viola.

“It sounded pretty terrible, I am sure, but at least it didn’t squeak like a 1/32 violin because the notes were lower,” recalls Raz.

For a long time, Raz’s family assumed she’d become a professional cellist after decades spent playing in select orchestras, including the Young Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and performing as a 12-year-old in an orchestra in Moscow’s Red Square.

After graduating from high school, Raz headed to Tel Aviv University where she continued studying cello at the Buchmann Mehta School of Music, along with her rigorous medical studies.

As if time were in endless supply, Raz decided in her second year to enroll in her university’s newly combined MD/PhD program. She had to argue to skeptical administrators that the program’s fine print did not specifically prohibit combining medicine with studies in the humanities—in her case, history. On paper she met all the qualifying criteria, and so the administration, albeit reluctantly, Raz says, agreed to fund her PhD program in the humanities.

“As far as I can tell, I am the first and last student who’s done an MD/PhD program in history at Tel Aviv University,” says Raz.

A dose of reality started to seep in. By the time she started her PhD, she realized that three simultaneous careers were “just insane” and decided to cut back on music rehearsals. But nearly two decades later, music remains an integral part of her life: she still plays cello and practices daily with her children.

Before moving back to the US for a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University, Raz worked at Tel Aviv Medical Center while volunteering with Physicians for Human Rights. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Yale New Haven Hospital in 2015,

followed by a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, before joining Rochester's faculty in 2019. At Yale she met one of her lifelong mentors, Naomi Rogers, a professor in the history of medicine and a leading expert in the field.

When Raz arrived in New Haven in 2011, she had just won the Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Development Award for her PhD thesis-now-turned book, *The Lobotomy Letters: The Making of American Psychosurgery* (University of Rochester Press, 2013), which is what initially piqued Rogers's interest in the would-be postdoc. "The Pressman is a really big deal," says Rogers.

Yet, Rogers admits, she was skeptical when the young woman talked immediately about starting on her second book. Much to her surprise, Raz returned to one of their next meetings with three chapters already in hand.

"I would assign her more, and she read voraciously," says Rogers. Raz was already then attuned to the political and cultural underpinnings of medicine, says Rogers. Later, during her time at Penn, Raz brought that awareness to her work on the socioeconomic and environmental circumstances of Philadelphia children and teenagers caught up in the legal system.

Raz, says Rogers, was "head and shoulders" above any postdoc she had ever mentored: "I don't use that word very often. But she really is extraordinary. She has a determination that helps her to push through while she takes on really challenging questions." Those who know her speak of her uncanny ability to balance her two jobs and her personal life. "I know it's a cliché, but it's true: I really don't know how she does it," says Rogers.

While medicine is ultimately the telling and retelling of stories and their interpretation, doctors often say that patients are poor historians, Raz says. She begs to differ. "If anyone, it's you, the physician, because you're taking a poor history."

As a historian, she says she's developed an ear for hearing patients' stories and found that many of her insights come not from high-tech imaging studies or blood tests, but from "sitting next to the patient and listening with an open ear and letting the patient talk."

Being an outsider and having firsthand experience of different medical systems are part of what makes her work strong, says her former Yale mentor.

Coming from Israel, where generally citizens and permanent residents are covered by universal health insurance, Raz hadn't given much thought to whether a medical procedure would be covered by insurance or whether the patient could afford medications. Such questions never appeared on her radar before moving back to the United States. But working in a hospital as a resident made her realize that the most important factor about health care is the underlying social system in which it functions. "You can have the most advanced medical technology, but if your patients can't afford their blood pressure medications, it's not going to work," says Raz.

The last two years of the pandemic have been harrowing, she says, not made any easier by the fact that in 2020 she was seeing patients at the hospital while pregnant with her fourth child, worrying constantly about her unborn baby, her patients who had come down with COVID, and about bringing the virus home to her children and husband, Alan.

"It's been terrifying," says Raz. "We knew it affected pregnant women severely and there was no vaccine and no treatment. It's been

stressful." By the late spring of 2020, she and Alan had begun to talk about what should happen in the event of her death, a scenario that had suddenly moved within the realm of possibility.

She told him to make sure the kids learned and kept up their Hebrew (the kids are bilingual, and Raz speaks to them in Hebrew only), maintained their Jewish identity, and continued to play music.

At times, she admits, she had to dig deep to find empathy for those who in the face of the widening pandemic still chose to remain unvaccinated and in doing so put the hospital staff, Raz, and her own young family at risk.

On the flip side, she will tell you that she loves her jobs, is happy to be able to use her skill sets to respond to the health crisis, and is engaged in work that's meaningful to her.

Last fall, Raz taught an introductory public health course that examines the US health care system, a topic that arguably has "never been more relevant to students," she says.

She started the class with a documentary about the 19th-century cook nicknamed Typhoid Mary and segued to the challenge of balancing individual liberties against public infection control measures. The class talked about why hospitals are the centers of care and what happens in a fragmented, unequal health care system. All the topics, she found, resonated deeply with her students.

The pandemic also helped her think through a framework that her Vanderbilt University colleague Jonathan Metzl came up with—dying of whiteness. The concept holds that the US medical system is not only steeped in racist preconceptions and inequity for Black Americans and marginalized populations but is ultimately detrimental for everybody, including white Americans. "These ideas of white supremacy, ideals of individualism, and these fake fears of socialism have led to the fact that in some communities, white Americans have worse health outcomes and lower vaccination rates than Black Americans," says Raz.

"They're actually dying of this toxic political ideology. We're seeing this in many areas of public health and medicine."

Plenty of academics say that they intend to influence public policy, notes Raz's Yale mentor, but few actually manage to do so.

"Mical, however, has a strong commitment to being a public intellectual," says Rogers. The petite Raz, who talks at breakneck speed, writes regular opinion pieces that appear in national outlets such as the *Washington Post's* "Made by History" section.


According to Rogers, who has read most of what Raz has published, including many early drafts, Raz's second book, *What's Wrong with the Poor? Race, Psychiatry and the War on Poverty* (University of North Carolina Press, 2013), put her on the national map. A 2015 Choice Outstanding Academic Title, the book has been widely read by US public policy makers, exactly the kind of people whose minds Raz is trying to reach and, ultimately, change.

"I want to make my historical research relevant and influence how people in general—and how policy makers specifically—think."

The idea for the book started to germinate in 2009 as Raz was finishing up her medical internship in Israel. One day, a colleague told her about the concept of "sensory deprivation" that saw its heyday in the 1960s. At first, Raz discovered, the idea extended just to animal experiments but then hopped from one field to another and was suddenly used to talk about Black children who were struggling at school, apparently "deprived" in their own homes. Raz was appalled.

Even the best-intentioned policies are built on the idea that "there's

Working in a hospital as a resident, Raz realized that the most important factor about health care is the underlying social system in which it functions.



PUBLIC PROFESSOR: Since joining the faculty of Arts, Sciences & Engineering as a named professor in 2019, Raz has taught courses on the history of the US public health system, often encouraging her students to use what they have learned to write guest essays for local media outlets.

something wrong with poor people and starts with the question of how we go about fixing it—rather than asking what are the structures that create poor people, what are their strengths, and how can we lift them up or build on their strength and resilience,” notes Raz. “Asking what’s wrong, which is what we do as physicians, is not a productive or empowering way to approach poverty intervention.”

Ultimately, the realization became her starting point for examining how theories of deprivation have shaped how policy makers think and talk about economically disadvantaged people in the United States.

In her book, Raz argues that mental health professionals, educators, and policy makers in the 1960s agreed on what poor men, women, and children lacked, rooted in psychiatric theories of deprivation. Raz says the deprivation-based concept continues to haunt social policy, profoundly shaping how both health professionals and educators view children from low-income homes.

Raz’s work on the politics of poverty is her most significant contribution to the field to date, says Brown, an expert on US and international public health and health policy, including the World Health Organization. After a 42-year career in Rochester’s history and public health sciences departments, Brown is now a professor emeritus.

“Truly understanding and serving the poor with modesty and respect is perhaps medicine’s greatest challenge,” says Brown. “Mical’s work in the area provides new and strong insights and essential shifts in perspective.”

Today, Rogers considers her erstwhile postdoctoral researcher a “leading historian of health and social justice”—not a small feat for a young academic who has so far published three books, earned tenure, holds a named professorship, and is raising four children, aged one through seven—all before 40.

What makes her so successful is not just her high level of scholarly output but also her strong ability to read original sources “against the grain and between the lines,” says Rogers, who regularly assigns Raz’s book on poverty to her own Yale graduate students.

Raz’s work on politics and poverty continues. Most recently, she turned her focus to the American child welfare system, a theme that she explores in her third book, *Abusive Policies: How the American Child Welfare System Lost Its Way* (University of North Carolina Press, 2020). Raz details how an overly broad definition of child abuse has become politicized and “weaponized” against vulnerable populations.

“Biased viewpoints regarding race, class, and gender played a powerful role shaping perceptions of child abuse,” says Raz. Coupled with overzealous policies and a belief among the public that serious child abuse is widespread and frequent, “these perceptions are often directly at odds with the available data and disproportionately target poor African American families above others.”

That’s why Raz argues in her book, in her classrooms, at conferences, and in op-ed pieces that many family investigations and subsequent child removals are unjustified and stem from a misguided policy shift that began in the late 1960s—away from supporting families to investigating them and removing children instead.

She’s been sounding the alarm for several years now about the need to keep struggling families intact and to separate children from their families only as the very last resort—and not for reasons of neglect.

“What looks like neglect is often a lack of money and resources,” says Raz. “If parents lose their children simply because they are poor, the system is failing.”

In her classrooms she teaches with the same zest and urgency that runs through her research, asking students to turn their newly acquired knowledge on public health policies into local op-ed submissions.

In the fall semester, she taught a first-year seminar titled *Unequal, Unjust: 100 Years of Racism in American Public Health and Medicine*, which she says provided “an incredible opportunity” to talk about the pressing issues of the day.

Says Raz, “I didn’t come into this looking for politics; politics found me. And then it opened my eyes.” **R**

JOSH CASSADA '00 (PHD)

Scheduled for Liftoff

STATION TO STATION: US Navy test pilot **Josh Cassada '00 (PhD)** is scheduled to join a mission to the International Space Station later this year. Cassada, who earned his doctorate in physics from Rochester, has been assigned to NASA's SpaceX Crew-5 mission, expected to launch from Kennedy Space Center in Florida no later than fall 2022. Cassada—shown here with a retired Saturn V rocket at the Johnson Space Center in Houston—will serve as pilot for the mission, which represents his first space flight. Selected as an astronaut in 2013, he previously was set to take part in a mission aboard NASA's Boeing Starliner program. Once at the space station, Cassada will join other crew members “for a long duration stay to conduct science activities for the benefit of humanity and exploration,” according to NASA. PHOTOGRAPH BY J. ADAM FENSTER



MARY LATTIMORE '02E

Has Harp, Will Travel—and Upset Expectations

Touring 200 days a year, collaborating across genres, and coaxing unexpected sounds from an often stereotyped instrument, an Eastman alumna is forging a new identity for the harp.

By Robin L. Flanigan

Mary Lattimore '02E calls her harp “my friend.”

They’ve been through a lot together, and the instrument has the scars to prove it. There’s the nick from a friend’s drumstick that got away during a performance, and the scratches from the kitten who used it as a jungle gym.

“It definitely has the marks and scratches, but it’s all about our personal history together,” Lattimore says. “My memories are on this piece of wood that I’ve been traveling with for so long.”

That piece of wood is about six feet tall and weighs 85 pounds, and, before the pandemic, it accompanied the Los Angeles–based Lattimore on tour some 200 days of the year.

“That was my idea of heaven,” says Lattimore, who in seven years burned through three used Volvo XC90s—a model that could accommodate the harp she inherited after high school from her mother, who used to play with North Carolina’s Asheville Symphony Orchestra.

Along the way, Lattimore has established herself as a leading musician in creating a new identity for the harp, helping take the instrument in musical directions that few thought—or were aware—that it could go. A composer and performer, she’s earned recognition for her experimental approaches to crafting sounds that defy the stuffy stereotypes of the harp as well as for her eagerness to ignore musical genres as she shares her music.

Her most recent recordings, *Silver Ladders* (2020) and the anthology *Collected Pieces II* (2021), earned rave reviews from the music site *Pitchfork*, which devotes most of its attention to rock and roll and rap music. She’s collaborated with Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth fame and Neil Halstead of the seminal shoegaze band Slowdive. (Halstead also produced *Silver Ladders*.)

She’s recorded albums with noted folk musician Meg Baird and has worked with electronic musical artist Juliana Barwick, singer-songwriter Sharon Von Etten, among many others.

Classically trained at the Eastman School of Music, she counts the Cure as one of her favorite bands.

“People have a lot of preconceived ideas about harps and how they’re supposed to sound,” she says. “So if you deviate from that idea of angels and that classic harp association, you’re being vulnerable. You’re taking a bit of a risk.”

Lattimore says she’s comfortable with risk in part because of her education at Eastman. Aside from learning how to play the classics and improvise, she became competent in composing parts of music that sound equally thoughtful and unexpected.

Given the number of notes played on a harp with each hand simultaneously, she says, sometimes a melody can get buried.



SOUND ART: Harpists who deviate from preconceptions about how harps are supposed to sound take “a bit of a risk,” Lattimore says.

Lattimore remembers her harp professor, Kathleen Bride, singing the melody to “accentuate the real, concentrated essence of the song.”

“I definitely still use that now when I write melodies,” she says. “I think about her singing and how beautiful a piece can be if you keep that simplicity in mind, even if you’re layering and layering.”

Lattimore’s latest release, the nine-track *Collected Pieces II*, features her hallmark layers of melody, including two written in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 lockdown. At the time, she wasn’t feeling particularly creative, and she had no intent to release either one. But she wound up releasing both “We Wave From Our Boats” and “What the Living Do” in hopes of capturing “a weird mood from a weird time.”

Another track, “For Scott Kelly, Returned to Earth,” was dedicated to the astronaut best known for spending nearly a year in space—and written after breaking her jaw during a fall. She couldn’t talk for two months, which made her think about herself “returning back to Earth and learning how to talk to people again

after a long time of quiet isolation.” (Lattimore, who emailed the song to NASA, heard through the space agency that Kelly loved it.)

Since her first recording in 2013, Lattimore has released three albums of new music, along with compendiums and collaborations.

When the pandemic halted touring, Lattimore turned to more collaborations. She says the process of learning from, and communicating with other people through instruments involves curiosity and trust, and leads to exciting musical evolutions. She recently recorded the instrumental duet “Sugar Kiss” with guitarist Steve Gunn, with whom she has performed for years.

Now focusing part of her creative output on film scores—another COVID-19-related byproduct, as a way to “pivot in a worst-case scenario”—Lattimore is working on music for two documentaries. Though still young, she thinks about how such work could be good to keep her involved in music creatively as she ages, once she’s not able to lug around her “giant 85-pound sculpture” anymore. (In fact, both her parents had hip replacements around the same time after moving the harp for so many years.)

The cumbersome nature of her craft is also why Lattimore keeps a second harp at a backline company in Prague for overseas shows, an investment made possible through a Pew Fellowship grant in 2014.

Early this year, Lattimore was happily back to touring—back to meeting new people, exposing audiences to an instrument they may not ordinarily see, new adventures, and new landscapes.

“Going from place to place—there’s a freedom in that,” she says. “You can kind of leave mundane things behind because there’s so much purpose and meaning.” **R**

Flanigan is a Rochester-based freelance writer.



CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS: As the pandemic limited her ability to tour, Lattimore has focused on collaborations with other musicians and scoring films.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowjacket to Lead the NFL’s Giants



GIANT JOB: A onetime Rochester defensive back, Daboll brings a highly regarded coaching history to his role as the Giants’ head coach.

Longtime NFL coach **Brian Daboll** ‘97 is taking his football acumen from one end of the state to the other as he begins a tenure as the head coach of the New York Giants.

The Giants announced in January that the team had hired Daboll, who has been the offensive coordinator for the Buffalo Bills for the last three years.

Under Buffalo head coach Sean McDermott, Daboll is credited with helping turn the Bills into American Conference title contenders.

His success at Buffalo, along with coaching positions with several NFL teams, has made Daboll a hot prospect for a head coaching position in the league for the past few years.

Over the course of his career, Daboll has won five Super Bowl rings while on the coaching staff of the New England Patriots, and he has also been an offensive coordinator for the Cleveland Browns, the Miami Dolphins, and the Kansas City Chiefs.

In 2017, he was the offensive coordinator for the University of Alabama, rejoining one of his early-career mentors, Nick Saban, and helping the Crimson Tide to a national title.

At Buffalo, he led the Bills to the AFC title game in 2020 and was named the NFL’s Offensive Coordinator of the Year for the 2019–20 season. The Bills’ 2021 season ended in Kansas City, when Buffalo came up short in an overtime thriller in the AFC divisional playoff game.

At Rochester, Daboll, an economics major, played defensive back before an injury sidelined him. He turned to helping the football team’s coaching staff while still an undergraduate. **R**

NAVERA BURKI '21S (MS)

Data Analyst by Day, School Entrepreneur by Night

The founder of a Pakistani school keeps up with her students half a world away after signing off each day from her full-time job as a data analyst.

By Kristine Kappel Thompson

As a senior at the highly regarded Lahore University of Management Sciences in Pakistan in 2018, **Navera Burki** '21S (MS) met a first-year student who shared Burki's longtime entrepreneurial interest in launching a grade school for Pakistani children.

Together, Burki and fellow student Maryam Khawaja spent a year planning what would become the Al-Bayan School in Lahore.

They rallied donor support, found teachers, met certification requirements, and decided on a location—a two-bedroom apartment with a large lounge—in a low-income neighborhood.

They went door to door looking for families who wanted to send their children—from kindergarten to grade two—to the school. In 2019, they launched a one-year pilot program with 25 kids, a week after Burki's undergraduate commencement.

In its fourth year, the school is thriving and serves more than 100 students up to grade five. Today, five women lead the school, and all of them volunteer their time.

And although Burki, who earned a master's degree from the Simon Business School in 2021, works full time as a data analyst at the New York City headquarters of Barnes & Noble, she remains actively engaged in the school's day-to-day operations—just as she was when she was a Simon student.

As she was beginning her career search, Burki found support from another Barnes & Noble alumnus, **Elmer Salmo** '18S (MBA), and found a mentor in **Jonathan Cohen** '90, a financial systems consultant in Boston. The two connected through The Meliora Collective, the University's career networking program designed to bring together alumni, students, and other members of the University community.

"I've really just given Navera support and advice," says Cohen. "She's done the hard work of finding a job in the US that makes great use of her skills. Her drive is inspiring, as is her passion for helping young people in Pakistan."

During the day, the self-described data storyteller works on the company's digital and ecommerce initiatives like the website Bn.com and the electronic reading device, Nook.



CLASS PHOTOS: Burki (far right with student) helped found the Al-Bayan School, which began with classes for kindergarten through second grade (bottom left photo) and now includes preschool (top left photo) through fifth grade. Burki continues to help manage the Lahore, Pakistan, school remotely.


In the evening, Burki logs on from her apartment to catch up on the success of the Pakistani students.

"Pakistan is 10 hours ahead of us, so I often come home from Barnes & Noble and then start my day with Al-Bayan," she says.

Burki notes that about 60 percent of the Pakistani population is under 30 years old. Just a small percentage come from wealthy households—and, as a result, they have opportunities that the majority don't.

"There's a huge income inequality issue in Pakistan," says Burki. Children from wealthier families have avenues to go into business or to start careers overseas, while less advantaged children often have to quit their schooling to support their families, she notes.

According to Burki, many members of earlier generations left Pakistan and never returned.

"My generation wants to change this—to make Pakistan strong and well educated. We want our country to thrive, and we want to take action to help it improve. That's why we have this school—to make a difference." 

JANINAH BURNETT '02E (MM)

She's Got 'Clazz'

A renowned soprano inspires audiences in opera, Broadway, and jazz.

By Robin L. Flanigan

Janinah Burnett '02E (MM) was two when her Uncle Henry, a bass player, sat her down in a chair onstage during a show. A year or two later, she climbed into the lap of her father, legendary jazz drummer Carl Burnett, while he performed.

"I came to this planet a musician—a singer, specifically," she says. "I know that I arrived here with the intention to do just that. And it happened that the universe supported me by placing me in a very supportive circumstance. Being around the music was home for me."

The music and vocal performance major at the Eastman School of Music now is an accomplished performer in her own right.

Burnett, who studied classical and vocal jazz music at Spelman College, a historically Black liberal arts college for women in Atlanta, made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera and has sung for Margaret Thatcher and with Ray Charles. She has performed at the Tony Awards and at a private birthday celebration for Oprah Winfrey at the home of Maya Angelou.

In more than 25 cities around the world, Burnett has starred in operas that include *Porgy and Bess*, *Don Pasquale*, *La Traviata*, and *Carmen*.

And she has earned glowing reviews.

About her role as Lolo in Harry Lawrence Freeman's Opera *Voodoo*, the *New York Times* wrote that Burnett "treated her potentially campy role with the care and affection you might give a long-lost family heirloom while lifting it from a dusty box at the back of the closet."

Burnett, who lives in New York City, now stars as Carlotta Giudicelli and the Innkeeper's Wife in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway, where previously she starred as Mimí in Baz Luhrmann's production of *La Bohème*.

Meanwhile, she pursues creative musical projects on the side to challenge her artistry and heighten awareness of social justice.

In February 2021 she released her debut album, *Love the Color of Your Butterfly* (on her own label Clazz Records), named after a phrase her mother used when Burnett, growing up, wanted to be like someone else instead of following her own intuition.

Not wanting to be limited by genre or style, Burnett created her 13-track album with a mix of art songs by Black composers, oratorios, jazz, opera, spirituals, rhythm and blues, and show tunes.

"I wanted to embrace all the musical styles that I cross paths with in this musical journey of mine," says Burnett, who coined the term "clazz" to describe the melding of the styles.

"Originally it was about classical and jazz coming together, but the musical field is so broad, and the roots are all connected somehow," she explains of the term. "My goal with this album was to show that it's all just storytelling. The storytelling is the link, and the music is the magic on which the messages travel."

Burnett is also behind "I, Too Sing America: A Lament for the Fallen," a musical tribute through rhyme, reason, song, and spoken word to those whose lives have been taken through violence in Charleston, South Carolina; Ferguson, Missouri; Flint, Michigan; and elsewhere.

"As artists," she says, "we have a responsibility to translate the



STORYTELLER: "Music is the magic on which messages travel," says Burnett, noting that she tries to share her own journey with listeners.

feelings of people into sound so that we can acknowledge what has happened and can heal."

The firm foundation in languages and technical support in singing she received at Eastman are, for Burnett, an integral part of her reputation as an in-demand singing actor.


Of her teacher Carol Webber, now a professor emerita of voice, Burnett recalls, "The way she encouraged me was very loving yet distant. She gave me the space to grow. She told me I have wonderful high notes, and I sing nothing but high notes now—so many—so I'm always thinking of her."

Now it's Burnett's turn to do the teaching.

She's now working with two emerging professionals in her Midtown Manhattan vocal studio, La Janinah Voice Studio. (Adoring Italian fans call her "La Janinah.")

"It has been a joy to reiterate what it means to be an artist, what it means to prepare yourself to sing and perform on stage," she says.

Burnett says her greatest love is showcasing her own creations for new and diverse audiences, a conglomeration of listeners who take her back to the word "clazz."

"It's almost like a special looking glass through which to discover beautiful ways that the music is all connected," she says, "and that we're all connected." 

Flanigan is a Rochester-based freelance writer.

ALUMNI LEADERS

Meet the Chairs of the University's Alumni Board

By Kristine Kappel Thompson

Formed in 2017, the University's Alumni Board provides insight, guidance, and expert counsel to the Office of Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement. Representing all the University's schools, the diverse group of 22 alumni helps develop programs and services that highlight the benefits of maintaining a

relationship with the University after graduation. During the recent Together for Rochester one-year engagement and fundraising campaign, for example, the board formed several work groups dedicated to equity and access, career programs and placement, and overall alumni engagement.

The board is led by chair **Lizette Pérez-Deisboeck** '87 and vice chairs **Mark Goldstein** '78 and **Adam Konowe** '90.



Lizette Pérez-Deisboeck



Mark Goldstein



Adam Konowe

A University trustee, Pérez-Deisboeck is general counsel for Battery Ventures, a venture capital and private equity firm. A long-time volunteer and donor, she says board members recognize that each graduate's experience at the University is unique.

"We want to amplify alumni concerns and respond to their interests. We are well positioned to do this, as our members come from all of the University's schools and represent a span of ages, races, and affinity groups as well as a cross-section of geographic regions.

"We may hold different types of degrees and have very different lives and career paths, but we share a commitment to the University's mission—to make the world better. That's what connects us all.

"I want to find alumni—be they in Wichita or New Orleans or overseas—wherever they are to hear what they want from their alma mater. I want to know when their kids are looking at colleges will they consider Rochester. I would also like to know if they are interested in being mentors or whether they need mentors for themselves. And I want to better understand how we can add value to their lives. There is so much we can do together, no matter where we are."

The retired CEO of Actuant Corporation, Goldstein has hired more than a dozen University graduates over the years. He's also been an active mentor and participant in The Meliora Collective and serves on the Boston Network Leadership Cabinet. He and his wife, Jill, established a scholarship through the David T. Kearns Center.


"The University provided me with a great education, lifelong friendships, and a solid network. I get great personal satisfaction paying it forward and helping current and recent graduates and other alumni make the most of what the University can still offer them.

"We want alumni everywhere to look to the University to further their education and learning, to mentor and network, to get or give career advice, and to share their skills and experience. As a working board, we are diligent about rolling up our sleeves and finding ways that students and alumni—now and in the future—can thrive."

Konowe is senior vice president at Edelman and an adjunct communications professor at American University. Being a cochair of the board is a natural progression for him, as he's volunteered with the University since he was a first-year student host for prospective students. Staying engaged with the University runs in the family, too. His daughter, Celia, is a 2021 graduate pursuing a Take Five program this year.

"It's important for us to think about people in various life stages to identify where they see value in terms of University programming and services.

"[Staying connected over time] doesn't always mean coming back to campus and taking a nostalgic walk through the Eastman Quad, as enjoyable as that might be.

"It's really about doing the right thing for our alumni. As we've seen during the pandemic, we know how to do this, and we engage with each other via Zoom. When the time is right, we can connect in person." 

Learn more about the Alumni Board

Representing alumni from all of Rochester's schools, the Alumni Board advises University leaders to help shape alumni and constituent engagement strategy. Learn more: Rochester.edu/alumni/alumni-board.

Class Notes



FAUVER FESTIVITIES: The University's main commencement ceremony is returning to Fauver Stadium on the Brian F. Prince Athletic Complex this spring for the first time in nearly a quarter century. (This photo shows the 1988 ceremony.) The planned May 13 ceremony will kick off a weekend of activities to celebrate all students who are graduating in 2022. (See page 19.) Recognize anyone? Email us at rochrev@rochester.edu.

College

ARTS, SCIENCES & ENGINEERING

MEDALLION REUNION

Rochester.edu/reunion

1941 John Manhold sends an update: His memoir, *The End of an ERA: Diverse Thoughts from 100+ Years of Living* (Newman Springs) has been published.

1951 Dave Ocorr (see '64).

1956 Doug Hercher, the son of **Sally Smith Emmel**, writes that a memorial service was held at the Interfaith Chapel in October for Sally, who died in September. Doug notes that a 2021 reunion "would have been her 65th."

1960 Carol Ruff, the wife of **Bruce Ruff** '67 (MS), asks that Bruce be remembered in Class Notes. Bruce died in October at age 82. The Buffalo native "headed west after graduation and met his future wife [Carol] on a ski lift in Squaw Valley." They were married in 1968.

"During his career," adds Carol, "Bruce worked at several semiconductor and tech companies, including Hewlett Packard and Ultratech Stepper, and was awarded patents for his work." In addition to Carol, Bruce is survived by his two daughters and their husbands as well as four grandchildren.

1962 Ronald Forte belongs to a seniors (80+) softball team that won first place in its division in the world championship games in Las Vegas in 2021. Second-baseman Ron kneels in the front row of his team picture (page 52), second from left.

1963 Jerry Manioci (see '64).

1964 Dick Cavagnol writes: "On a cold, rainy afternoon in November 2021, the Yellowjacket Geezers sat on the sidelines and cheered the overmatched Yellowjacket football team against our archrival, Hobart. The game was part of the Geezers' minireunion, whose members spent the weekend eating, drinking, and sharing memories of 50-plus years ago. The Geezers are former foot-

ball and basketball student-athletes who are close friends from the U of R classes of 1963-66 and who have stayed in contact with each other over the years. Some of our members were missing, but those attending the 2021 minireunion included **Dave Wormuth** '65, **Stu Levison**, **Charlie Rathbone**, **John Burchett** '65, **Dave Noonan**, **Gary Tobey**, me, and **Jerry Manioci** '63. The Geezers were joined by wives **Jan Ingalls Burchett** '66, '69W (MA), and Carol Wormuth. One of the highlights of the gathering was having breakfast with Coach **Dave Ocorr** '51 and his wife, June. Drawing on his phenomenal memory of the U of R, Coach Ocorr, a former student-athlete, journalist, coach, and athletic director, regaled us with vignettes about the rich history of sports at the U of R. It was a weekend for the memory books, and, as long as we are able, we—joined by the other Geezers—will make this an annual event. In the photograph (page 52), we Geezers become reacquainted with an old drink at the Genesee Brew House: left to right, front, Stu, me, Dave Wormuth, Dave Noonan, and Gary;

back, Charlie, John, Carol, and Jan." . . . **Alice Parman** writes that she has published a memoir, *Trade Secrets: A Life in and around Museums* (Blurb), detailing her "50 years as a museum educator, director, and exhibit planning consultant behind the scenes at the Field Museum; sparring with Muhammad Ali; and more."

1965 John Burchett (see '64). . . . **John Hetsko** died in October, writes his wife, Annette. "He had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's several years ago. John played football for Rochester, where he graduated in 1966 with a degree in political sci-

Abbreviations

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



1962 Forte



1964 Cavagnol

ence. After a short time as a Marine lieutenant, he worked for the New York State Department of Probation, where he spent 33 years. After his retirement and subsequent divorce, John moved to Nevada in 2004, where we met and married in 2006. John loved talking about his time at

Rochester and enjoyed his monthly magazine. He also loved his books and read incessantly. He remained physically active all his life and spent a lot of time at the gym." Annette adds: "We had just celebrated John's 78th birthday." . . . **Henry Kesner** sends an update: "Still enjoying trav-

eling throughout the world and just visited my 110th country (Iceland) with my son David in September. My wife of 53 years, Karen, was killed in a hit-and-run auto accident about two years ago. So my son David is taking her place, and we are still exploring the world. I am still oper-

ating my concrete construction business here in South Florida (for 31 years now), and even during the pandemic we were extremely busy. So, my advice as we get older: Keep Working. Have a reason to get up in the morning, and life will be much better." . . . **Dave Wormuth** (see '64).

1966 Jan Ingalls Burchett '69W (MA) (see '64).

1968 Chuck Smith's detective novel, *Dial EM for Empath* (self-published), is available on Amazon, he writes, and his one-act play, *Tempting the Hand of Fate*, appears on YouTube as a staged reading. Another play, *Snack Machine Blues*, can be heard in the Between Acts section of the *Missing Link* podcast as "an immersive audio theater podcast experience."

1970 Nancy Heller Cohen '70N has published the 17th book in her award-winning Bad Hair Day mystery series, *Styled for Murder* (Orange Grove Press). Life gets even more complicated for series protagonist, South Florida hairstylist and new mother Marla Vail, when her mother calls to say, "There's a dead guy in our shower."

1972 50TH REUNION

Rochester.edu/reunion

John Kessel writes, "Having retired in 2019 from full-time teaching after 37 years at North Carolina State University, where I helped found the MFA program in creative writing, I've been concentrating on my fiction writing. My novels *The Moon and the Other* (2017) and *Pride and Prometheus* (2018) are available from Simon and Schuster, and I've got a career retrospective collection, *The Dark Ride*, including stories published from 1981 to 2021, due out in April from Subterranean Press." . . .

Linda Horvitz Post had a large-scale oil painting exhibited on the mezzanine of R. Michelson Galleries in Northampton, Massachusetts. She shares a photo, taken by her husband, **Geoffrey '73**, of herself with the painting, called *The Procession of Hope and Feathers*. A poem by Emily Dickinson, who spent her life in nearby Amherst, inspired the title of the work, writes Linda. "Each of the inhabitants of this painting has at least one winged companion," she adds. "From a pink flamingo, a feathered mask, a seagull ruffled by



1972 Post

the breeze, a landing parrot, and a racing raven to a majestic winged helmet and a beaked Venetian plague doctor's mask, these avian avatars are all part of the narrative."

1973 **Len Joy '74S** (MBA) writes, "My award-winning novel *Better Days* has been rereleased with a new look. It was featured in a Crime Thriller promotion sponsored by Fiction Gateway during the month of November." . . . **Geoffrey Post** (see '72).

1977**45TH REUNION**

Rochester.edu/reunion

1979 **Bob Bly**, author of more than a hundred published articles, has written his 105th book, *The Axioms of Marketing* (Kallisti).

He has also revised and updated his book *How to Write and Sell Simple Information for Fun and Profit: Your Guide to Writing and Publishing Books, E-Books, Articles, Special Reports, Audios, Videos, Membership Sites, and Other How-To Content* (Quill Driver Books), with a new second edition published last October. Bob writes that he has adapted his formulas for writing success—including best practices for monetizing podcasts, YouTube channels, webinars, Facebook groups, social media, and software—to the modern online content market.

1981 **Jacqueline Blackett** has been promoted to deputy director of intercollegiate athletics at Columbia University, where she has spent 32 years both as an administrator and as head coach of the women's

track and field and cross-country programs and part of the athletic department's senior management team for more than 25 years. She is also involved in NCAA Division I governance, including as a member of the NCAA Division I Council, a member of the council's coordination committee, and vice chair of its legislative committee. She holds membership in Women's Leaders in College Sports and sits on the board of Community Impact at Columbia. . . **Patrick Simning '82**, a family medicine doctor in Bend, Oregon, for more than 20 years, has written a collection of stories, *Hunting the Northwest: Stories with Family and Friends in the Outdoors* (self-published). Writes Patrick, "[T]his book is much more than a retelling of hunting stories. It also conveys what it means to be outside pushing beyond

self-imposed limits while respecting the land and animals. These stories honor the traditions of hunting and the camaraderie that develops when shared experiences test us as individuals and groups, making those adventures even more memorable."

1982**40TH REUNION**

Rochester.edu/reunion

1983 **Steve Silverman** writes that last November, "I was reelected to a third four-year term as Mt. Lebanon (Pennsylvania) Commissioner. Our community of 33,000 residents is a suburb of Pittsburgh." Steve is the vice president of purchasing and co-owner of General Wire Spring Co., which has manufactured custom industrial springs since 1930. . .

Susan Johnston Spraragen writes,

You're in good company.

**Expand your network. Share expertise.
Find and post jobs. Get career help.**

Join The Meliora Collective and instantly connect with more than 10,000 University of Rochester alumni, students, and parents.



THE MELIORA
COLLECTIVE



"We gathered in Vermont to have a Class of 1983 minireunion. Pictured from left are **Linda Warshal, Peter Thompson, Lisa Hoyer, Matt Curtiss**, me, and **Fred Mueller**. As Lisa summed it up: 'It's wonderful how you might not see people for years and can still easily fall right back into the friendship!' Indeed, our dear friendships that started from our shared experiences in our dorms, calculus classes, and WRUR have endured!"

1984 Bruce Schneier has been named one of the world's influential computer scientists by AcademicInfluence.com, an organization that uses machine-learning to rank academics and institutions based on influence in their fields. A fellow at the Berkman-Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, Bruce is also a lecturer at Harvard's Kennedy School.



1983 Spraragen

1987

35TH REUNION

Rochester.edu/reunion

1990 Carolyn Haberek Blanco-Losada sends a photo from a mini-reunion. She writes: "The Ladies of Delta Gamma were back for a URDG summer camp hosted by **Janice Gillman Greenberg** in beautiful Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota." Pictured, from left, are **Maria Habbe Cosgrove**, **Carolyn**, **Eileen McCarthy Cakouros**, **Janice**, **Donna Schwind Border**, and **Nicole Kaplan**. . . **Jennifer Saul** has been featured among the world's most influential philosophers by the ranking organization AcademicInfluence.com. A professor of philosophy at the University of Sheffield and the University of Waterloo in the UK, she specializes in the philosophy of language and the philosophy of feminism.



1990 Blanco-Losada

1992

30TH REUNION

Rochester.edu/reunion

Guitarist and composer **Jono Kornfeld** writes that he has released a three-song EP, *Freshies* (self-published), with his funk/jazz group Hop Sauce. Jono teaches music theory at San Francisco State University. He also teaches theory, composition, piano, and guitar and is chair of the guitar department at the San Francisco Community Music Center.

1993 Jennifer Heller Frank's debut picture book, *The Worm Family Has Its Picture Taken* (Anne Schwartz Books/Random House),

was released in May. Illustrated by Caldecott honoree David Ezra Stein, the book is a Junior Library Guild selection and has a starred Kirkus review. "I wrote this book with the hope that kids would be inspired to celebrate the beauty and differences within themselves and others," writes Jennifer. "As the Worm family finds their own way to shine in their family portrait, it reinforces the idea that all families are unique and worth celebrating." Jennifer adds, "In today's world, parents and children alike could use the message to appreciate differences and as a reminder to take a step back and look beyond the surface to appre-

BRUSH WITH FAME

Undefeated at the Palestra: Basketball Legend 'Coach K'

Long before he became the winningest coach in college basketball history, Mike Krzyzewski played and coached for Army West Point in three games at Rochester's Louis Alexander Palestra on the River Campus.

And he left with a perfect record.

Known throughout the basketball universe as "Coach K"—a five-time national champion with Duke University—Krzyzewski was a senior captain for the Black Knights when they visited Rochester on March 8, 1969. Krzyzewski scored four points in a 59–46 win—the regular season finale for both teams—and Army West Point went on to finish fourth in the National Invitational Tournament. That team was coached by another future legend, Bobby Knight.

The 2021–22 college basketball season marks Krzyzewski's swan song as a Hall of Fame



ARMY POST: Krzyzewski in 1969

college coach. He announced last June that he was retiring after the season, his 42nd at Duke. He entered the year with 1,177 victories, the most by any male or female coach in NCAA history. At venues along the Blue Devils' way, fans of the sport are recognizing Krzyzewski's legacy.

Krzyzewski returned to the Palestra twice as head coach of the Black Knights in 1978, with Army West Point rolling 88–44 on February 10 and 80–60 on November 27. After the February loss, Rochester coach Mike Neer '88W (MS) said Army's defense was even more challenging than national powerhouse North Carolina had been a year earlier in a 103–44 romp over the Yellowjackets.

"They're tougher physically," Neer said. "They just keep coming at you." **R**

—JIM MANDELARO

ciate what makes each person and family special."

1995 Ann-Marie Mason has been promoted to chief legal officer at the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, which she joined in 2019 as vice president and head of shared services for enterprise compliance. Ann-Marie is active with the Corporate Counsel Women of Color and is a member of the board of directors of Listen To Our Voices, a nonprofit organization advocating for children and young adults.

1997

25TH REUNION

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

1999 Nancy D'Angelo Kusmaul, an associate professor of social work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, has written *Aging and Social Policy in the United States* (Cognella). The book, writes Nancy, "examines the issues facing older adults and their families through local, state, federal, and international policy lenses." In 2020, she was selected as a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, the nation's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging.

2000 Ebony Robinson Scott has been nominated by President Joe Biden to be a judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where she has served as a magistrate judge since 2020. Ebony's previous positions include deputy director in the District of Columbia mayor's Office of Legal Counsel, general counsel for the District of Columbia's Office of Human Rights, and assistant attorney general for the Office of the Attorney General. . . . **Beth Meyers** '00E, '02E (MM) (see '00 Eastman).



2011 Habayeb and Schochet

2002

20TH REUNION

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

Matthew Moffa, a registered patent attorney in the New York office of the law firm Perkins Coie, has been promoted to partner. He is a member of the firm's patent litigation group, where he advises high-tech clients on patent prosecution, acquisition, and licensing.

2007

15TH REUNION

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

Sara Ballance '07E, '09E (MA) (see '99 Eastman).

2008 Curtis Stewart '08E (see '08 Eastman).

2011 Serene Habayeb and Owen

Schochet '12 send a photo from their September wedding. Pictured are, front row from left, Alex

Nystedt, **Donghyung (Donna) Ko**, Serene, Owen, **Nora Graham**, Kevin Stiles; back row from left, **Chris Young**, **Amanda Gurin** '10, **Michael Israel** '12, **Ben Wrobel** '10, **Nikhil Chirunomula**, and Aruna Cadambi. The non-alumni in the photo, writes Serene, are spouses. Owen is a researcher at Mathematica in Washington, DC, and Serene is a licensed psychologist at Children's National Hospital and an assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

2012

10TH REUNION

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

Kayleigh Hogan was named a 2020 STEP Ahead Emerging Leader by the Manufacturing Institute. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, events held in Washington, DC, last November recognized both 2020 and 2021 hon-

orees and emerging leaders. The awards and the leadership training program that precedes them are designed to acknowledge and advance women's achievements in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and production. Kayleigh is an asset engineer with Covestro in Baytown, Texas, where she has worked since 2014. She has mentored other engineers both informally and formally during her time at Covestro and also has educated schoolchildren at a local wetlands center. . . . **Elyse Nagler** and **Casey Storme** were married in June in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire. Elyse writes, "Somehow the day moved so quickly that we didn't get our full U of R photo, but here's our wedding party made up almost entirely of Rochester alumni. It was great getting everyone together, and I'm happy to report we're all still very close." Pictured are, from left, **Katelyn Agan Liska**,

What's new with you?



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
ALUMNI

Submit a class note and tell us about a new job, recent travel, family news, retirement activities, gatherings with alumni, or anything else you want to share. Whether it's been five years or five decades, we'd love to hear what you've been up to.

Share your news today.

uofr.us/notes

Alexis Castillo, **Madeline Korber**, **Donald Schwartz**, Casey, Elyse, **Michelle Ketcham Wallace**, **Robert Barnard**, **Jodie Luther Reid**, and **Alex Caghan** '13S (MS). Other guests included **Katie Kao**, **Brittany Hylen Schwartz** '11, and **Myra Levine** '75. . . In 2021 **Andrew Polec** performed back-to-back roles in two musicals at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. He played the lead roles of Berger in *Hair* and the Grinch in *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. . . **Owen Schochet** (see '11).

2015 Rachel Eskridge and **Zachary Hession-Smith** '17 were married in a September wedding in Whately, Massachusetts. Attendees included **Kristina Fricker** and **Beth Warnock** '17. After the wedding, writes Rachel, Zachary began a new position as development coordinator for Historic Deerfield. She is employed at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.



2012 Nagler and Storme



2015 Eskridge and Hession-Smith

2017

STH REUNION

Rochester.edu/reunion

Joe Clark (see '16 Eastman). . .

Zachary Hession-Smith (see '15).

2020 Gersandre Gonsalves-

Domond sends a photo: "I came back for Meliora Weekend, and I was lucky enough to take a picture with President Mangelsdorf. Also pictured is Lilo Blank [far left] and my dog, Viking."

2022 Senior Isabel Murphy,

winner of a Suzanne J. O'Brien Book Award in 2019 and the Eli and Mildred Sokol Prize in 2020, has illustrated a children's book, *Alliterative Animals: A to Z* (Dorrance), written by Virginia (Sandra) Gonsalves-Domond, a professor of psychology at Ramapo College of New Jersey and mother of **Gersandre Gonsalves-Domond** '20.

Graduate

ARTS, SCIENCES & ENGINEERING

1967 Bruce Ruff (MS) (see '60 College).

1974 Steve McGuire (MS) sends an update: he has been named the James and Ruth Smith Endowed Professor of Physics Emeritus at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in recognition of his contributions to

teaching, research, and service over two decades. Steve writes that over his career he has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. For example, in 1998 while on the Cornell faculty, he was the guest of President Bill and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on the occasion of the Millennium Lecture given by the theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking. In the spring of 2008, having published extensively in nuclear physics and its applications, he lectured in the National Institute of Standards and Technology Colloquium Series on "LIGO: At the Forefront of Optical Materials Research." Later that year he was elected a fellow of the American Physical Society "in recognition of outstanding contributions to physics by one's peers." Steve adds that in his role as a principal investigator to the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory Scientific Collaboration, he "received the 2016 Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics 'for the observation of gravitational waves, opening new horizons in astronomy and physics.' Led by laureates Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish, and Kip Thorne, I was a member of the international team of LIGO scientists awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics 'for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves.'" Steve is a past president and a fellow of the National Society of Black



2020 Gonsalves-Domond

Physicists, and in 2020 he was interviewed by the American Institute of Physics Center for the History of Physics. Most recently he has been named a 2022 "Louisiana Legend" by the board of directors of Friends of Louisiana Public Broadcasting System in recognition of distinguished achievements in the field of physics and service to the Louisiana community. Steve's oral history has been made part of the Library of Congress HistoryMakers collection.

1986 Paul Vianco (PhD) sends an update: he has retired from a 35-year career with Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he went to work immediately upon graduating with a PhD from the mechanical engineering department. Paul adds that he and his wife, Karen, have three daughters and have relocated to Enfield, New Hampshire, where they will enjoy their retirement years.

1995 Kristen Kulinowski (PhD) has been named a fellow of the American Chemical Society in recognition of her achievements and contributions to science as well as to the ACS. She is the director of the Science and Technology Policy Institute, a federally funded research and development center operated by the Institute for Defense Analyses, where she leads more than 40 researchers. IDA is a nonprofit corporation that provides objective analysis in the public interest of national and international science and technology issues for the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the White House, the National

Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation, among others. Previously, Kristen served as a board member and acting head of the US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, an independent, nonregulatory federal agency that investigates major chemical industrial accidents and makes recommendations for incident prevention.

Eastman School of Music

1959 Ron Carter '10 (Honorary) has published a new book, *Chartography—Reinvented Transcriptions* (Retrac Productions), which explores the factors that go into making a great bass line. QR codes enable readers to access recordings of performances and hear how the musicians reacted to changes in bass lines.

1960 Vince Lenti '62 (MA), a professor emeritus of piano and the Eastman School's historian, discussed the school's history, including the content of his new, third volume of Eastman's narrative, *Nurturing the Love of Music: Robert Freeman and the Eastman School of Music* (University of Rochester Press), in recognition of the school's centennial. **Marie Rolf** '77E (PhD), senior associate dean of graduate studies and a professor of music theory, moderated the October virtual lecture and Q&A, which can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ne6Z05dPt64. Vince will sign copies of *Nurturing the Love of Music* in person at an event in

CELEBRATIONS: 2022

When Is My Class Reunion?

As the University begins to return to many traditional, in-person events, plans are also under way for annual reunion activities to return to campus this year.

The **Reunion Classes of 1955, 1956, 1960, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1975, 1976, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2015, and 2016** are scheduled to celebrate with two days of campus events on June 10 and 11.

The **50th Reunion Classes of 1970 and 1971** will begin their celebrations on June 9 with activities through June 11.

The **Reunion Classes of 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017, and 2022** are scheduled to celebrate in October as part of Meliora Weekend, September 29 to October 2.

More details will be sent to alumni as the dates get closer. In the meantime, find and connect with classmates on social media and share plans for reunion using #URReunion.

And to stay up to date on Class Reunions, visit Rochester.edu/alumni/reunion.



March, when Eastman opens its doors to the community as part of the Centennial Celebration.

1962 Vince Lenti (MA) (see '60).

1964 Patricia Dengler George '65 (MM) has published *The Top Octave Book: Playing with Artistry for Flute or Piccolo* (Theodore Presser). Patricia received the Chicago Flute Club Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017 and currently writes the "Teacher's Studio" column for *The Instrumentalist*.

1965 Patricia Dengler George (MM) (see '64).

1967 Raymond Egan's composition "In Memoriam 9/11" was performed in a live concert by the Harmonia Chamber Singers under the direction of Robert Duerr at St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo on September 11. The concert is available on the cathedral's YouTube channel. Raymond currently serves as organist for the First United Methodist Church in Santa Barbara, California.

1972 Pamela Poulin '83 (PhD), a professor emerita at the Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Conservatory of Music, has published *In the Footsteps of Mozart's Clarinetist: Anton Stadler (1753-1812)* (Pendragon Press), part of the publisher's Early Music Series. Clarinetist and music historian Pamela continues a performing career as a soprano soloist and as an actress portraying women's rights advocates.

1977 Marie Rolf (PhD) (see '60).

1979 Diane Abrahamian '86 (MM), a senior associate voice instructor at the Eastman Community Music School specializing in jazz and contemporary music, writes that she was the guest conductor for the 2021 New York State School Music Association Conference's All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble. The ensemble performed under Diane's direction in Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre in December.

1982 Jeff Stockham (MM) (see '16 Eastman). . . . **Basil Vendryes**, principal violist of the Colorado Symphony since 1993, released his first solo recording, *Three Centuries of Russian Viola Sonatas* (Toccata Next), in October. The proj-

ect explores the sonatas of Glinka, Shebalin, Bunin, and Sokolov, spanning 1825 to 2006. Basil teaches at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music.

1983 Bill Eddins '86 (MM) writes that he plans to open MetroNOME Brewery in St. Paul, Minnesota, with business partner Matt Engstrom sometime early this year. The start-up brewery will sell craft beer, with all proceeds dedicated to providing music lessons and instruments for Minnesota children whose families couldn't otherwise afford them. Bill has been a home brewer for several years while maintaining a busy career as a conductor, including international appearances as guest conductor. This new venture aims to address the critical funding gap for local arts and music organizations that need support in order to serve students and families in meaningful ways. . . . **Pamela Poulin** (PhD) (see '72).

1984 William Nyaho (MM) has been appointed to the Music Teachers National Association as its first vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion. In the newly created position, William will serve on the association's board of directors as a key leader. He will also chair a new committee charged with advocating values of diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the entire association—national, state, and local.

1986 Diane Abrahamian (MM) (see '79). . . . **Bill Eddins** (MM) (see '83). . . . **Ted Gurch** (see '88).

1987 Gregg August (see '88). . . . **Todor Pelev** (MM) (see '99).

1988 Florida-based harpist **Dawn Edwards** writes that she received an arts project grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for her artistic and educational programming of South Dakota's Chamber Music Festival of the Black Hills. She is the festival's founder and has been the artistic and education director for the past 15 seasons. The grant supports more than 50 free educational programs each summer, serving the Native American children of the Lakota Sioux on and off the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation as well as underserved children throughout the Black Hills. The award is also based on her collaborative efforts and the high artistic output of the chamber music festival series featuring musi-

cians from the Atlanta Symphony and Minnesota and St. Paul Chamber Orchestras. Eastman alumni who have been featured at the Black Hills festival include clarinetist **Ted Gurch** '86 and flutist **Aaron Goldman** '99. Dawn previously received an NEA award for her virtual choir community project "We Are One-Mitakuye Oyasin" sung in Lakota and English by more than 200 children. The project won second place in Europe's largest Native American film festival. Dawn works to give all children, regardless of their socio-economic status, the benefits of arts education. She says her goal is "not working separate from the community but from within," and she collaborates directly with community leaders to present local heritage in a positive manner. . . . **Tom Nazziola** has been nominated for a Grammy for best instrumental composition for "Cat and Mouse" from the album he released in August, *Distant Places* (Goju Records). Tom writes that the recording features a host of Eastman alumni, including **Gregg August** '87, **Terry Goss**, **Dan Willis (Daniel Wieloszynski)** '90, **John Hollenbeck** '90, '91 (MM), and **Greg Chudzik** '06.

1990 John Hollenbeck '91 (MM) (see '88). . . . **Brett Stemple** (see '99). . . . **Dan Willis (Daniel Wieloszynski)** (see '88).

1991 Thomas Lanners (DMA), a professor of piano at Oklahoma State University, sends an update: "I was a member of only the second group of pianist-pedagogues inducted into the Steinway and Sons Teacher Hall of Fame in September 2021 [as well as] the 2021 recipient of the Wise-Diggs-Berry Endowed Award for excellence in the visual, performance, or written arts at Oklahoma State. I presented both an online lecture and master class for China's Sichuan Conservatory and a video session for the Shanghai Conservatory of Music International Piano Pedagogy Festival (which had 600,000 registrants last year) in December, having traveled to teach a week of master classes in Zacatecas, Mexico, in October." Thomas is pictured at the Steinway Hall of Fame induction banquet in Queens, New York, near the Steinway factory.

1992 Percussionist **Ingrid Gordon** presented a concert of traditional Mexican marimba music at Travers Park in Queens, New York,

last October as part of a program launched in June 2021 and funded by a City Artist Corps recovery initiative. The grants aid New York City-based working artists who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may have been left out of other local and federal funding opportunities. Ingrid currently serves on the faculties of LaGuardia and Hostos Community Colleges in New York City and as teaching artist for the Brooklyn Academy of Music's DanceAfrica program. . . . **Gaelen McCormick**, an instructor of arts leadership at the Eastman School and program manager of Eastman Performing Arts Medicine, will serve as president-elect of the International Society of Bassists from 2023 to 2025. She will be the third woman in the organization's history to serve as president.

1993 Violinist **Marc Thayer** '95 (MM) has been named chief executive officer of the Elgin (Illinois) Symphony Orchestra after five years as the executive director of Symphony New Hampshire, where he had led the organization since 2016. He previously held leadership roles with the St. Louis Symphony and with Miami's New World Symphony. Marc continues his role as executive director of the Monteu School and Music Festival, a summer training program for aspiring symphony conductors and orchestra musicians, in Hancock, Maine.

1994 Rosemary Doane Elliot (MM) (see '08).

1995 Marc Thayer (MM) (see '93). . . . **Jeffrey Ziegler** (see '08).



1991 Lanners

1998 Adeline Wong (see '99).

1999 Aaron Goldman (see '88). . . . Three former Eastman students who teach at Singapore's Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music performed in a live concert in October, one of the first since March 2020. Performers included **Han Ling Oh**, violinist for the T'ang Quartet; **Brett Stemple** '90, tubist and acting dean of the conservatory; and **Adeline Wong** '98, composer and theory faculty member. . . . **Heather Netz** '03 (MM) has been promoted to chair of the music department at Idyllwild Arts Academy in Pine Gove, California. During her time at Idyllwild, she has had the opportunity to work with several Eastman alumni, including violin faculty member **Todor Pelev** '87 (MM) and former piano faculty member **Parvati Mani** '08. Most recently, Heather welcomed Eastman alumna **Sara Ballance** '07, '07RC, '09 (MA), who teaches music theory, musicianship, performance, and music history.

2000 Beth Meyers '00RC, '02 (MM) and her band, Damsel, released their second album, *New to You* (Damsel), in October 2021. "We had already chosen a new direction in sound production for our second album, but when the pandemic hit the pause button on our recording schedule timeline we were forced (the whole world was!) to slow down and find new ways to be creative," says Beth of the band's process during 2020. "It was truly a gift to be able to focus on this project at a time when we didn't know when we would play live again."

2002 Mezzo-soprano **Alta Boover Dantzier** (MM) and pianist **Tian Tian** '12 (DMA) released *Life (and Love)* (Centaur Records) in August. It includes two song cycles, Robert Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben* and Sara Carina Graef's *A Woman's Life and Love*. Alta and Tian made the recording during the summer of 2019. . . . The album *Love the Color of Your Butterfly* by **Janinah Burnett** (MM) was considered for Recording Academy Grammy voting in best classical compendium, best instrumental/vocal arrangement, best instrumental solo, and best American roots performance categories. Janinah is also a founder and performer in the musical and social justice tribute of I, Too, Sing America: A Lament for the Fallen, an

effort to help create a healing environment while paying tribute to victims of violence. She also teaches at her vocal studio, La Janinah Voice Studio, in Manhattan. . . . **Beth Meyers** '00RC, '02 (MM) (see '00).

2003 Heather Netz (MM) (see '99).

2005 William Gregory (see '16).

2006 Greg Chudzik (see '88).

2007 Sara Ballance '07RC, '09 (MA) (see '99).

2008 Parvati Mani (see '99). . . . In celebration of Eastman's Centennial, the Morning Chamber Music Series for the 2021-22 season presents three alumni performing alongside current faculty and students. In October, violinist **Curtis Stewart** '08RC performed with members of the Ying Quartet and prize-winning students from the string department. A January 29 performance featured baritone **Malcolm Merriweather** '10 (MM). In April, cellist **Jeffrey Ziegler** '95 will perform a program that includes selections from his latest solo project, *Houses of Zodiac: Poems for Cello* (self-produced). The series is directed by Eastman assistant professor of violoncello **Rosemary Doane Elliot** '94 (MM) and made possible through a gift from Shreedevi Pandya, an associate professor of neurology in the School of Medicine and Dentistry.

2009 Sara Ballance (MA), '07, '07RC (see '99).

2010 Malcolm Merriweather (MM) (see '08).

2011 Christina Xinxue Zhou was a featured guest during the SEA Music Academy's children's music festival in December. Christina is the owner and founder of 12Petals, a global music mentorship program based in Singapore.

2012 Matt Amedio '16 (MM), **Dannel Espinoza** '15 (DMA); **Matt Evans** '15 (MA), '15 (DMA), and **Michael Sawzin** '13 (MM) constitute Project Fusion, an award-winning saxophone quartet. Project Fusion released a debut eponymous CD (Bridge Records) in October. . . . **Doug O'Connor** (DMA) (see '13). . . . **Tian Tian** (DMA) (see '02).

2013 Last October, composer **Baljinder Sekhon** (PhD), an assistant professor of composition at Penn State University, released *Alchemy* (innova Recordings), which comprises five works for saxophone. The project is the result of a decade-long collaboration between Baljinder and saxophonist **Doug O'Connor** '12 (DMA), currently a ceremonial saxophonist with the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own." The Eastman Percussion Ensemble and the Eastman Saxophone Project also perform on the recording. . . . **Michael Sawzin** (MM) (see '12).

2015 Tyler Bjerke (MM) joins the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, now in its 56th season, after having won the audition for fourth horn in August. . . . **Dannel Espinoza** (DMA) (see '12). . . . **Matt Evans** (DMA) (see '12). . . . Tenor **Matthew Swensen** performed Haydn's *Missa in tempore belli* (*Paukenmesse*) with Zubin Mehta in Florence, Italy, in October. In November, Matthew made his debut in the role of Fenton in Verdi's *Falstaff*, also in Florence.

2016 Matt Amedio (MM) (see '12). . . . **Joe Clark** '17RC, **Dominic Giardino**, **William Gregory** '05, **Jeff Stockham** '82 (MM), and **Michael Tumiel** are featured on *The Gilded Age: Late 19th Century Music for American Wind Band* (MSR Classics), a new recording by the Newberry's Victorian Cornet Band, a period-instrument wind ensemble.

2017 Last July, composer and educator **Jon Lin Chua** was featured in Singapore's English-language daily newspaper the *Straits Times* in an article about her composing music throughout her cancer treatment while a student at Eastman. In September, a piece that she was commissioned to compose for Eastman's centennial was premiered at a Faculty Artist Series concert in Kilbourn Hall by mezzo-soprano and voice professor Katherine Ciesinski and violin professor Renée Jolles.

2018 Zoë Merrill (MM) has been appointed a First-Year Violin Fellow with the New World Symphony, a postgraduate orchestral academy located in Miami Beach. . . . **Jonathan (Blake) Pattengale** (see '19).

2019 Garrett Mader and **Jonathan (Blake) Pattengale** '18

formed a Rochester-based band, Two Truths, during COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Since last September they have released their first single, "Brushstrokes," an accompanying music video, and their debut EP, *Electric Campfire* (self-produced).

School of Medicine and Dentistry

1962 Gilbert Simon (MD), a primary care physician for more than 50 years, has published *Ripped Off! Overtested, Overtreated, and Overcharged, the American Healthcare Mess* (Value-Based Health Care). Gilbert says, "I wrote my book to help the layperson understand why their health costs are going through the roof and what can be done about it."

1989 Charles Courtsal (MD), '92M (Res), an associate professor of clinical medicine at the Medical Center and a practicing primary care physician, writes, "I have just had a book published. Not only that, both and the illustrator and I are current U of R employees and Rochester locals. The main character in the book is a relative of mine. Her story was carefully detailed in a diary (written in 1886) that I inherited about a decade ago. When I read the story for the first time, I thought, 'This is too good to be gathering dust in my basement.' So I got started on writing the book." Based on the family's diary, *Revolutionary Girl* (NFB Publishing) tells for the first time the true story of teenager Elizabeth Wilson who served as a spy for General George Washington at the start of the American Revolution.

School of Nursing

1970 Nancy Heller Cohen '70RC (see '70 College).

2017 Rachelle Latona writes that she and her husband, Lawrence, "welcomed a son into the world in May. Big sister, London Rose, and Levi Theodore are adjusting well to being lifelong best friends. We are beyond blessed for what God has gifted to us!"

TRIBUTE

Evan Freiberg '96: 'I Was in Awe of Him'



CLASS OF 1996: Freiberg, David Bartol, Matt Douglas, Steve Ott, Matt Aufman, Earl Reed, and Steve Pacchione met on campus in 1992.

Evan Freiberg was a very lucky man.

Do you know how I know? Because he told me over and over again in the daily phone calls we had in the past two years. He told me that he had such a wonderful life compared to the vast majority of people in the world and far better than so many, many people in our own country. Evan knew that he was lucky, even as he faced a tremendous battle with leiomyosarcoma, a rare cancer.

Evan died last September—six years to the day after the famous baseball player Yogi Berra died at the age of 90 years old. Yogi was known for his famous sayings and truisms like “It ain’t over till it’s over.”

Evan had his own set of sayings and truisms that, while they aren’t as famous as Yogi’s, for those who knew Evan, they were a constant source of inspiration.

“It’s nice to feel important, but more important to be nice,” he would say. Or “It will all work out in the end.” “Trust in your training.” And my favorite: “You must remain positive.”

He often told me that he loved to make complex things simple. It’s an interesting way of looking at things for a guy who went on to earn a PhD from MIT and an MD from Stony Brook University. As a chemist and a radiologist, he was well aware of how life could be complicated. But he lived with a sense of innocent wonder and simplicity—he rarely watched TV (other than sports) and he never wasted time with “The Facebook.”

As a baseball fan, Evan would have been pleased that he and Yogi Berra shared the same date of passing, although he would be the first one to say that he wanted more time. Nobody was more devoted to family and spending time with loved ones—his wife, Felicia, and their children, Leo and Abigail—than Evan.

Evan lived every day of his battle with a positive attitude. He embodied “it ain’t over till it’s over.” One of his last wishes was to gather his friends from Rochester for one last photo. We had to bend hospital rules to make it happen, but Evan was worth it to all of us. Evan fought and fought and fought with an unbelievable spirit and courageous attitude. I was in awe of him. **R**

—MATT DOUGLAS '96

Douglas is the founder and CEO of Punchbowl Inc., a technology company that builds online invitations, digital greeting cards, and group videos.

Simon Business School

1974 Len Joy (MBA) (see '73 College).

1989 W. E. (Bill) Wynne (MBA), a Rochester-area resident for many years, has turned his decades-long passion for racial and social justice concerns into a book detailing his journey of enlightenment regarding how and why systemic racism continues to exist in America as well as assisting others to see what he’s seen, learn from his journey, and act in a positive way to minimize it. *Understanding and Combating Racism: My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist* (PathBinder Publishing), Bill’s first book, was released in November. Bill retired in 2014 from a more than 30-year career in telecommunications and now operates W. E. Wynne Consulting.

2019 Bryan Guzski (MS), '21S (MBA), director of the orthopaedic residency program at UR Medicine’s Sports and Spine Rehabilitation Center in the Department of Orthopaedics and Physical Performance, has written *Movers & Mentors: Leaders in Movement Science Share Tips, Tactics, and Stories* (Independently published), a compilation of stories, thoughts, and advice from more than 75 leaders in the fields of physical therapy and movement science.

Warner School of Education

1964 Ron Iannone (MA), a professor emeritus at West Virginia University, writes that he has published his ninth book, *Looking for Marianne* (Destination Press), a psychological thriller set in Skaneateles, New York.

1969 Jan Ingalls Burchett (MA) (see '64 College).

1994 Don Gala (Donney Drennon-Gala) (PhD) writes that he will present two research papers at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in March. His professional affiliations include the American Psychological Association, Society for the Psychological Study of Social

Issues, Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice, Society for Research on Adolescence, American Society of Criminology, and Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

2008 Tomicka Green Wagstaff (EdD) has been named vice provost for diversity, equity, and inclusion at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Previously, as assistant vice president for student access and success at Rochester Institute of Technology, Tomicka created and implemented diversity, equity, and inclusion curricula and oversaw programs and initiatives focused on eliminating student achievement gaps, which led to a 15 percent jump in graduation rates among underrepresented students.

In Memoriam

Alumni

Faith Barnum Norton '39, '40N, September 2021
Mary G. Curtis '40N (Diploma), September 2021
Margaret Gillette Fogg '40, December 2020
Helen Lamb Rosbrook '42, March 2020
Esther Cohen Germanow '43, September 2021
Sonya Lyman Burgher '46, October 2021
John A. Frantz '46M (MD), August 2021
Jean Rodgers Havill '46, '56 (Mas), November 2021
Mary Gardner Pardee '46E, October 2021
Rosemarie Barrett Carter '47E, November 2021
David D. Dudley '48, '51 (MS), September 2021
E. Pauline Faulkner Handy '48, November 2021
Gretchen DiLoreto Rhoads '48E, '50E (MM), January 2020
James L. Stafford '48, October 2021
Bette Crouse '49N, October 2021
Rosemond Rubin Hammond '49, October 2021
John E. Hershey '49M (MD), November 2021
Joan Epstein Shulman '49, September 2021
George S. Austermann '50, August 2021
Mary Lee Monroe Birmingham '50, July 2021
John J. Bugay '50, October 2021
John H. Diercks '50E (MM), '60E (PhD), April 2020

TRIBUTE

Jay Last '51: At the Intersection of Optics and Art

Considered one of the fathers of Silicon Valley, Jay Last '51, '11 (Honorary) had an extraordinary career in science, technology, and art. As an early leader in the development of semiconductors, he helped usher in the computer revolution.

A noted African art collector, Last was among the first generation of Westerners to appreciate the continent's visual art traditions. He died in November at the age of 92.

After graduating as an optics major in 1951, Last earned a PhD in physics from MIT in 1956. Early in his career, he joined a group of eight entrepreneurs who founded the Fairchild Semiconductor Corporation. There, Last helped develop and produce the first integrated circuit chips, work that paved the way for the computer revolution and established Silicon Valley as the epicenter of the digital world.

Often crediting his grounding in optics for providing him with a special appreciation for form and color, Last pursued his interest in art throughout his career. His collection of African art is now housed at UCLA, and his collection of mid-20th-century lithographic labels is part of the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

"In the early days of my collecting, I and many of my friends were becoming interested in art because it was interesting geometry to us," Last said in a 2016 interview for *Rochester Review*. "And the way I've collected art, the pieces I really appreciate the most are usually the simplest design forms, or the most imaginative design forms."

Last is the author of *The Color Explosion: Nineteenth-Century American Lithography* and the coauthor, with Gordon McClelland, of five other books. In 2015, he published a memoir, *African Art and Silicon Chips: A Life in Science and Art*.

He also founded Hillcrest Press and published books on California art, ethnic art, and graphic arts. He was a founder and member of the board of directors of the Archaeological Conservancy, a national nonprofit organization established in 1980 to preserve US archaeological sites.

Widely recognized as a scientist and humanist, Last received the Maurice Rickards Award from the Ephemera Society of America, and he was awarded the Legends of California Award from the California Historical Society. The University presented him with the institution's highest award for alumni, the Hutchison Medal, in 2005 and awarded him an honorary degree in 2011.

A generous philanthropist who supported numerous museums



INTERSECTING INTERESTS: Pioneering Silicon Valley scientist Jay Last '51 often said his background in optics helped him better appreciate the forms and colors found in the art that he collected.

and educational institutions, Last helped establish a professorship at Rochester and provided support for humanities fellowships as well as the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program, the Language Center, and the River Campus Libraries.

His interests reflected a long-standing appreciation for how the sciences and the arts complement one another. As he told *Review*:

"My advice to somebody going into a scientific trade today would be, don't underestimate how the humanities can make your life a lot richer." **R**

Stanley G. Gester '50, September 2021
Joyce Fairhurst Kopp '50, November 2021
Margaret Jensen McIrvine '50N, '73, October 2021
Arnold F. Ciacio '51, November 2021
John L. Jadlo '51E, August 2021
Jay T. Last '51, '11 (Honorary), November 2021
Doris Sherrill O'Connor '51, '52N, October 2021
Joseph E. O'Keefe '51, October 2021

Barbara Barrett Best '52N, September 2021
Janis Johnson '52E, January 2020
Donald B. Polan '52M (MD), '68M (Res), September 2021
Lo-I Yin '52E (MA), November 2020
Albert E. Anderson '53 (PhD), October 2021
Keith W. Bryan '53E, August 2021
Helen Jansch Crandall '53N, October 2021
Linda Wells Davey '53, October 2021

John M. Glenn '53, September 2021
Raymond Gniewek '53E, October 2021
David C. Goodrich '53 (PhD), September 2021
Thomas F. Harter '53, '61M (MD), July 2021
Joan Riley Pitts '53, '59W (EdM), September 2021
John K. Wilson '53E, June 2021
Lynn C. Fay '54, June 2021
Ruth G. Stewart '54, September 2021
Joan M. Fuller '55, September 2021

Nona F. Pyron '55E, October 2021
Daniel E. Schapiro '55, November 2021
Roy C. Wilck '55, April 2021
Andrew L. Ageloff '56, February 2021
Sally Smith Emmel '56, September 2021
Richard E. Fullerton '56M (Res), October 2021
Thurman T. Grossnickle '56 (Flw), March 2020
Betsy Clark McIsaac '56 (Mas), October 2021

TRIBUTE

Karl Sanford Kabelac: Librarian and Scholar


"You know the question, if a tree falls in the forest and there's no one there, does it make a sound? I often think, if someone wrote an article years ago and no one knew where it was—it would be as if it hadn't existed at all."

This observation of Karl Kabelac, who died last October, was not a hypothetical one. As manuscript librarian in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections for 30 years, he ensured that researchers knew those articles existed. He accomplished this by creating and publishing indexes that brought together information about Rochester, his native Cayuga County, and the Genesee region.

You might think that these pre-Google-era indexes, containing over 30,000 often annotated entries culled from hundreds of unindexed books and journals, would be obsolete today, but to paraphrase Neil Gaiman's observation about librarians, "Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. The Kabelac indexes bring you back the right one."

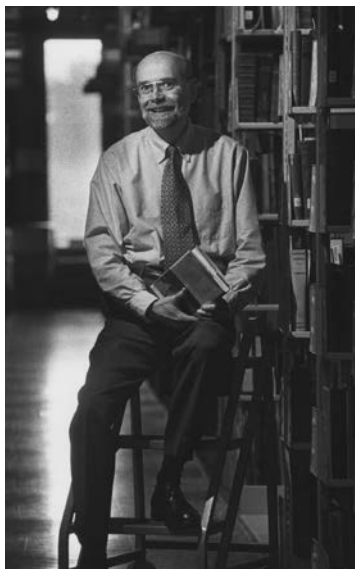
Beyond the indexes, Karl shared the breadth and depth of his knowledge in the reading room, through exhibitions, and in his own publications on topics including 19th-century horticulture, William Henry Seward, and Lewis Henry Morgan. In addition to local history, his curatorial responsibilities included the University Archives, and generations have learned our institutional history through his articles and presentations.

After retiring in 1998, Karl continued to assist researchers and staff and added online research to his expertise. To his list of publications, he added a series of 54 short biographies of US women bank presidents of the 19th and early 20th centuries. And his donations of books, prints, and manuscripts—many found on eBay—to Rochester and other institutions numbered in the thousands. Karl also established an endowed fund to support professional development for nonprofessional and early-career library staff, perhaps inspired by a similar library policy in place when he arrived in 1968.

As Karl's indexes (now online) ensure those articles will be remembered by researchers, the authors of more than 200 dissertations, books, and articles have made sure Karl will be remembered by acknowledging his curatorial assistance and citing his publications for over 50 years: the most recent will appear in a book to be published in 2022. 

—MELISSA MEAD

Mead is the John M. and Barbara Keil University Archivist and Rochester Collections Librarian.



INDEXER: Kabelac's work helped scholars find the right information.

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TRIBUTE

Bill Boomer '63W (EdM): My Coach, My Mentor, My Best Friend

I met Coach Bill Boomer '63W (EdM) on the pool deck during freshman orientation in the summer of 1977. I lost my best friend when he died in January of this year.

In 1962, the U of R asked Boomer to coach men's swimming. The University could not have imagined the impact Boomer would have on the sport of swimming and, more importantly, on the lives of so many swimmers and associates throughout his career.

I swam for Boomer for four years and worked as his assistant coach for one more. I witnessed his passion for exploring the science of swimming. He studied the relationship of athlete to water, broke down swimming into its fundamental parts, and developed innovative dry-land and in-pool workouts.

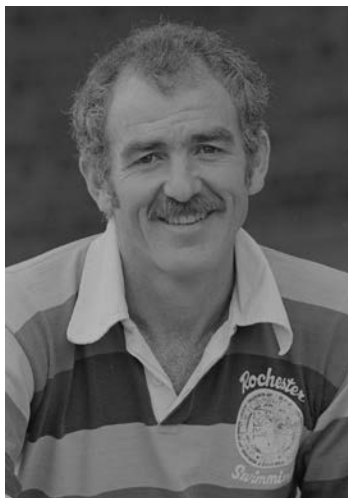
After retiring from Rochester, Boomer went on to work with elite NCAA Division I swim teams, the US Olympic team, and several Olympic teams from nations around the world. His cutting-edge insight into the role that the nervous system plays in movement through water, and its effect on swimming performance, fueled his coaching career.

His Rochester swimmers amassed 118 All-American awards, and he contributed to an untold number of Division I All-America honors and Olympic medals.

Yet the core of Boomer's legacy as a coach was the true gift of his friendship: his compassion and love, generously shared with people in his life. He was more than a coach to me and to many of his swimmers. He was a close and trusted friend, a mentor.

His insight, wisdom, and support helped us sort through life's challenges and share life's joys.

I knew Bill for 44 years. I helped him and his wife, Sally, build their log cabin on a little piece of paradise in Clifford, Pennsylvania. They helped build my house in Vermont. I got engaged on the dock at their pond, and my kids have grown up with Boomer and Sally as part of our family.




LIFE COACH: Boomer's influence "extends far beyond the pool."

"He was more than a coach to me and to many of his swimmers. He was a close and trusted friend, a mentor."

Over the years, swim team reunions became gatherings of Boomer's extended family. Ever-present at these reunions was the esteem, support, and love that his former swimmers and their families have for each other, for Boomer, and for Sally. Many swimmers say Boomer was like a second father to them.

Boomer's contributions extend far beyond the pool. He will be remembered because he changed the lives of the people around him, creating networks of connection that still

thrive, living on through his example. The people and communities he touched will always feel his presence, his compassion, and his love. 

—MARK DELANEY '82

A member of the swimming team from 1978 to 1982, Delaney is a property manager for the Pitcher Inn in Warren, Vermont.

John C. Blydenburgh '69 (PhD),
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Sandra E. Moore '98N, '01N (MS),
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September 2021

Cesar E. Briganti '06M (MD),
January 2021

Jeremy D. Wilson '07 (PhD),
November 2021

Talking to Strangers in Stressful Times

Miguel Fittoria '12, '15W (MS), whose job is to facilitate hard conversations, addresses a burning question: Why are so many of us losing our cool?

Interview by Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

I work in the Palo Alto Unified School District as part of a 10-person team of student and family engagement, or “SaFE,” specialists. This year I’m also overseeing our virtual independent program, which is an at-home option created in response to COVID. In both roles, I act as a liaison between families and the school. The SaFE program was set up to offer a guiding hand to parents who are low-income, or don’t have a lot of formal education, or don’t speak English—and who need help navigating the school system. On the other hand, the virtual independent program draws heavily from well-educated and affluent families who make up most of the district.

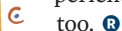
We’re seeing conversations devolve into arguments much more, and more quickly, than we’ve ever seen. Like many of the examples we hear about in the news, or watch on social media, we’re

seeing this happen between people who have a relationship that’s at least in part transactional. Not between close colleagues, or family members, or friends, but between people at the school or school district, and people in the community. Individuals are responding to each other quickly, in a kind of fight-or-flight moment.

There’s a lot of frustration stemming from the novelty of COVID, and all the changes and uncertainty around protocols. It’s caused a lot of things to go wrong, both in our own organizations or ones we interact with. In our case, a lot of families have been confused about COVID protocols. Our district accounts for so many different scenarios. And the first day after winter break, we had a bunch of middle and high schoolers in our new online independent program not able to get into their classes. Their schedules weren’t appearing. It was a mess. We got emails and calls from people saying, “What’s going on?” and “Why is this happening?”

When something goes wrong, it’s stressful on both sides. I’m usually on the “customer”-facing side. People want information and they want it now. But the most detrimental thing you can do is fumble around for an answer that you think is right. Potentially giving the wrong answer, in that moment, we have found to be far worse than initially saying, “I don’t have an answer at this moment. I understand why you’re upset.”

But don’t just say, “I’ll call you or I’ll email you back” either. Or forward the message to someone else, or even worse, say “I’ll transfer you.” We all know those stories! Tell the person who you’re going to talk to; for example, “I am going to go talk to the health coordinator,” and then, “I will get back to you as soon as I have the information.” Now the person is informed, and they have a timeline. And they have someone they know, that they’re now in contact with. When we do things that way, people are usually appreciative.

My team and I are always talking about the idea of spillover. We’re already using so much of our mental and emotional energy to hold the stress back, that any statement or comment can lead us to the worst conclusions, to that fight-or-flight reaction. The spillover can be so hard to contain in that moment. But in all our interactions, it’s important to be aware of the spillover effect on ourselves and to realize the strangers we encounter are probably experiencing it in their own lives, too. 

Miguel Fittoria '12, '15W (MS)

Home: Palo Alto, California

Coordinator for Student and Family Engagement, Palo Alto Unified School District (Pausdfamilies.org)

Favorite ways to unwind: “My biggest one is spending time in nature. But I’m also a mechanic by hobby. I love it because there’s a solution to every problem. There aren’t always clear solutions in my job. But with a car, if something breaks, you can fix that thing.”

Most Valuable Mentor: “If there’s one person who has influenced my life more than anybody else, it’s Melissa Sturge-Apple [now dean of graduate education and postdoctoral affairs]. I worked in her developmental psychology lab my sophomore year. I was just a little coder. I stuck with it and eventually she had me working on the experiments. My senior year we submitted a paper for publication. And then she offered me a job as research technician at the Mount Hope Family Center. Everything I know about organization and follow through has come from my experience in her labs and the things that she expected of her staff.”



Growing a promise

“Students will be able to do much more than they imagined possible.”

THOMAS TESORIERO '81M (MD)

Member, Wilson Society
Member, George Eastman Circle

Thomas Tesoriero '81M (MD) will be the first to tell you how transformational his medical education was here. The quality of the education. The small class size. Faculty members who inspire as much as they educate. As Tom puts it, the University of Rochester's School of Medicine and Dentistry was the cornerstone of his career as a primary care physician.

Tom wanted others to experience the same life-shaping opportunity for growth. He and his husband, Rob, named the medical school as a beneficiary of Tom's retirement assets, establishing a scholarship fund to support medical students who earned their bachelor's degree from a state college or university. It's a profoundly powerful gift that will change lives.



Thomas Tesoriero '81M (MD)—right
and Robert Bertram—left



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WINTERFEST WEEKEND

**A Time to
Break the Ice**

CHILLIN' CAMPUS: Stan Kolonko, the owner of the Ice Farm in East Syracuse, renders a likeness of Rush Rhees Library out of ice during February's Winterfest Weekend on the River Campus. The weekend is an annual campus celebration designed to bring students together with a series of events and activities. PHOTOGRAPH BY J. ADAM FENSTER

