

CATALYST FOR CHANGE
FIVE CHALLENGES FOR THE
GOLISANO IDD INSTITUTE.

MELIORA MAGIC
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
2024 CELEBRATION.

ON THINNING ICE
HOW DO GLACIAL REGIONS
RESPOND WHEN ICE DISAPPEARS?

Rochester

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER/FALL 2024

Review



HOW DO SPECIES ORIGINATE?

A biologist finds clues in a remote island nation.



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meliora
spirit
to your
calendar.**

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University of Rochester
Women's Summit

MAY 1

Day of Giving

MAY 31

Golisano Children's Hospital
Stroll for Strong Kids Walk + 5K

SEPTEMBER 18-21

Meliora Weekend

SEPTEMBER 27-28

Wilmot Warrior Weekend

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**“Making a connection
with the next
generation is the best
way—and the right
way—to give back.”**

GERALD GITNER '68S (MBA)
Boynton Beach, FL
Member, Wilson Society
Member, George Eastman Circle
Member, Simon Advisory Council

For Gerry Gitner, legacy means leaving a mark that says, “This is what matters most to me.” He supports higher education because he believes our experiences as students are formative. Gerry grew up in Boston and came to the University of Rochester to attend business school—where he received a teaching fellowship that covered 100 percent of his tuition. After that, his career took off when he became an aviation executive and Fortune 500 CEO.

These days, Gerry is eager to create new networks for alumni and volunteers as a mentor to current students. He encourages them and exemplifies the extraordinary value of a Rochester education.

Gerry has established an endowed lectureship and scholarship, as well as a prize for teaching excellence. He combined outright gifts with life-income gifts and included the Simon Business School in his estate planning. Giving, like this, has a broad reach that makes a difference right now—and well into the future.



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Every year, biologist Al Uy travels by plane, boat, and foot to remote corners of the South Pacific's Solomon Islands. His quest? To answer one of evolution's biggest mysteries: When do new species arise? In June, University photographer J. Adam Fenster traveled with Uy and postdoctoral researcher Emily Shogren to document their work with rare birds—and with the local officials and community members whose partnership is vital to the project. *By Lindsey Valich; photographs by J. Adam Fenster*

ON THE COVER: *Myzomela cardinalis*, known on Makira Island as “kikito.” Photograph by J. Adam Fenster

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Highlights of this year's signature celebration included appearances by Emmy Award-winning journalist Norah O'Donnell, Rochester Mayor Malik Evans '02, and plenty of fun and games on the River Campus, on Gibbs Street, and across the University.

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The new Golisano Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Institute is poised to help lead the next generation of IDD research, care, training, and advocacy. *By Erin Peterson*

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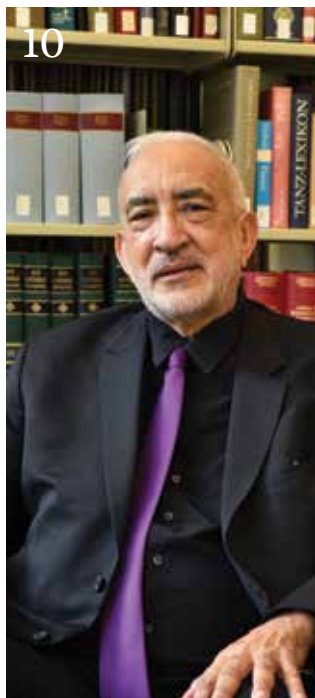
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Discovery at Rochester Is a Team Effort

By empowering research collaborations across disciplines, departments, and units, we're building on a legacy that has defined Rochester as a scientific, cultural, and clinical leader.

By Sarah C. Mangelsdorf

As many of us were growing up, we were sometimes given the impression that pivotal scientific discoveries and historic advances in human knowledge could each be attributed to a single person. The stereotype was that one person worked alone, toiling away in a laboratory or a library or in a remote area of the world until they reached a "eureka" moment.

Those of us engaged in academic pursuits have long known that the image of a lone scientist, scholar, or artist was almost entirely fiction. When it comes to leading research institutions like the University of Rochester, the pursuits of groundbreaking ideas and transformative applications are almost always a team effort.

By that I mean the arrival of the digital age and its explosion of information, data, and communications technology has required modern scientists and scholars to share their collective expertise to tackle important questions and challenges. It's been clear for decades that no single person has all the answers. To really make advances, you need a team that spans departments, units, and schools, one that brings in perspectives and approaches that we would miss if we simply closed our doors and worked alone.

At Rochester, we have been at the forefront of such crossdisciplinary research for more than a century. Think of the



ing together optics, ophthalmology, neuroscience, and other disciplines.

Our undergraduate programs in neuroscience are among the oldest such programs in the country, straddling the worlds of the School of Arts & Sciences, the Hajim School, and medicine. At the Medical Center, the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience spans more than a dozen departments and centers across the University. The institute is home to our Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center, one of 15 nationally recognized centers funded by Eunice

from University Trustee Robert Goergen '60 and his wife, Pamela, the institute today offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees and works with close to two dozen departments and programs.


And earlier this year, we designated the innovative Eastman Performing Arts Medicine program as a University center. Drawing on two of Rochester's signature strengths, the center brings together our expertise in music, arts, health care, and research to advance healing.

As with the Goergen Institute, creating an environment for innovative collaboration also requires partners across the University community. Two recent examples: this spring's historic gift from entrepreneur and philanthropist Tom Golisano will leverage our incredible work in intellectual and developmental disabilities even further; and a transformative gift this fall from entrepreneur and Trustee Emeritus Phil Saunders will boost our teams in orthopaedics and nursing.

As we developed our new strategic plan, *Boundless Possibility*, we wove our history of collaboration into the fabric of our road map for the future. Entering the second year of the plan, we identified 10 University-wide interdisciplinary projects to pilot efforts to build new collaborations across the institution.

While it's too early to predict the future of any of the new projects, we know that in order to be research leaders, we must build on our strengths and our legacy. We do that by empowering our students, faculty, clinicians, and staff to work at their full potential in new initiatives and program enhancements.

As we have for 175 years, the University of Rochester will continue to be a leader as we pursue bold ideas, contribute to the world's store of academic, cultural, and artistic excellence, provide students with transformative learning experiences, and deliver medicine of the highest order.

Thank you for being part of our journey. 

“When it comes to leading research institutions like the University of Rochester, the pursuits of groundbreaking ideas and transformative applications are almost always a team effort.”

founding of the Institute of Optics in 1929. Based at the Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences, the institute draws on our strengths in physics and astronomy, areas throughout the Medical Center, and across arts and sciences.

For more than 60 years, the Center for Visual Science has been a leading research home for vision science, bring-

Kennedy Shriver National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development.

More recently, our data science program was established in 2013 with the intention of bringing together groups of researchers to connect with one another and to share their knowledge. Renamed the Goergen Institute for Data Science in 2015, thanks to a multimillion-dollar commitment

Contact President Mangelsdorf at thepresidentsoffice@rochester.edu.

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

Patients and Profits

Lindsey Valich, in “Doctors, Patients, Algorithms, and Avatars” (Summer 2024), provides fascinating glimpses into the potential future of AI in medicine and health care. Tucked away in the article, though, is a quote from Michael Hasselberg that I found to be either naïve or misleading. “You’re still going to have a human in the loop that will look at the generative AI’s output and see if everything looks right. But the machines take the administrative burden off the clinicians, giving them more time to spend with patients actually doing clinical care.”

At first blush, this sounds like AI will be permitting clinicians to spend more time with *each* patient, resulting in a higher standard of care. But what I find more likely is that private hospitals will simply assign higher patient loads to clinicians, taking advantage of their “more time” to have them see more patients with the same standard of care as before—but at more profitability to the hospital. Private health insurance companies will similarly refuse to pay for any additional time spent with individual patients as it is “unnecessary” care.

AI is an incredibly powerful tool, but it is still just a tool, and it will serve whomever we collectively decide that it exists to serve. So long as health care is considered a privilege of those who can afford it and not the right of all people, the benefits of AI will predictably flow to a few at the expense of many.

*Kirt Wackford '93, '94 (T5)
Idyllwild, California*

A Bit Left Out

As members of the classes of 1987 and 1988, we enjoyed the article “Bit by Megabit” (Summer 2024) but were disappointed that the narrative did not include those of us who majored in Computer Science: Mathematics, an undergraduate degree offered by the math department. Although we were not officially part of the CS department, we liked the computer science professors and were happy that Chris Brown, the chairman of the department, attended our graduation ceremony. I’ve attached a photo of the class with Professor Brown.

Holly Chen '87

Mary Ottaway DeJong '88

Erik Hjortshøj '87

David Levine '87

Double the Kudos

I and many former teammates were intently watching the US Olympic Track and Field trials, and we were thrilled at Cole Goodman '25 qualifying and competing in the men’s triple jump after winning the NCAA Division III triple jump championship this past spring (“Triple Wow,” Summer 2024).

But I was disappointed at the omission of any mention of Tom Tuori '87. The story’s penultimate paragraph begins: “Goodman is the only Rochester student athlete ever to compete in the Olympic Trials in track and field.” While that is technically correct, Tuori qualified to compete in the men’s 1,500 meters in the 1988 Olympic Trials but was unable to do so because of injury. Tuori is still the



ADD MATH: The 1987 and 1988 graduates in Computer Science: Mathematics and then computer science chair Chris Brown (back row, third from left) pose for a group shot.

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Credits

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UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER

school record holder for the men's 1,500 meters.

*Dick Keil '83
Longmont, Colorado*

Keil, a member of the Yellowjackets men's cross-country and track and field teams from 1979 to 83, earned All-America honors in the 1,500 meters in 1983.

The photo of airborne triple jumper Cole Goodman '25 competing in the US Olympic Trials reminded me of the time I set my high school's new school record for the indoor track triple jump back in 1971. However, I'm embarrassed to say that the only reason I was able to set a new record was because that was my school's very first year of indoor track, and I was their very first triple jumper, so obviously whatever distance I reached "had to be" the new record.

Fortunately, in the years since then, many athletes more talented than myself have surpassed my measly distance by "leaps and bounds."

I'll look forward to following Cole Goodman's exploits in the future, and I hope we'll all get to see him trying to bring home the gold in the Olympics in Los Angeles in 2028. You're a "good man," Cole Goodman.

*James Arenò '75
Rhinebeck, New York*

A Chance Encounter

Now that I've moved to St. Louis, I don't have as many opportunities to connect with people who knew my parents, Otto Thaler '49M (MD), '55M (Res) and

Elizabeth Thaler '76, '78 (MS), as when I was in Rochester. My father joined the Department of Psychiatry in 1955 and remained there until his death in 1996. My mother earned both her degrees at U of R after enrolling when two of us three kids finished high school.

But I recently had a medical procedure at the Barnes-Jewish Hospital of Washington University's medical school, and asked the surgeon where he went to med school. When he said the U of R, I asked if he had known my beloved dad, and he did!

As the anesthetic was taking effect, I can't tell you how reassuring it was to know that not only did he graduate from Rochester's medical school but knew, liked, and fondly remembered my dad. I figured I was in good hands.

*Ruth Thaler-Carter
St. Louis, Missouri*

Computer ID-ed?

Over the summer, we asked readers if they could recall the location of the "Computing Center" back in 1986 ("Mac Attack," opening photo, Class Notes). Among those who responded was Arnold Miller '80, who identified the site of the computing center during his time at Rochester as Taylor Hall. Miller, who graduated with a degree in mathematics with a concentration in computer science, wrote: "I spent hours in Taylor Hall working on my computer course assignments. While waiting for punch-card submission printout responses, I and others would do our work for other courses like math, chemistry, English, etc. It was a great study and



Otto Thaler '49M (MD)

work area where you got help on all types of assignments."

Joseph Adler '70 identified another location from his time at the University, underscoring the presence of computing before the establishment of a dedicated computer science department. He wrote: "In 1968 or 1969 I took a Fortran programming course at what I think was the computer center. It was on Elmwood Ave., roughly where the Hilton Garden Inn is today."

According to Melissa Mead, the John M. and Barbara Keil University Archivist and Rochester Collections Librarian, "In 1986, the Computing Center was still located in Taylor Hall, and it is likely this picture was taken there—but there were also computing facilities in Rush Rhees Library, Morey, Harkness, Hoeing, and at Eastman, all of which served up Apples and PCs along with training. According to the University's weekly calendar, Fortran IV classes in 1969–70 were scheduled to take place in Lattimore, Gavett, and Dewey, but it makes sense that at least some sessions took place in the University Computing Center with the latest equipment, then located at the site of present-day College Town, as Mr. Adler recalls."

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.

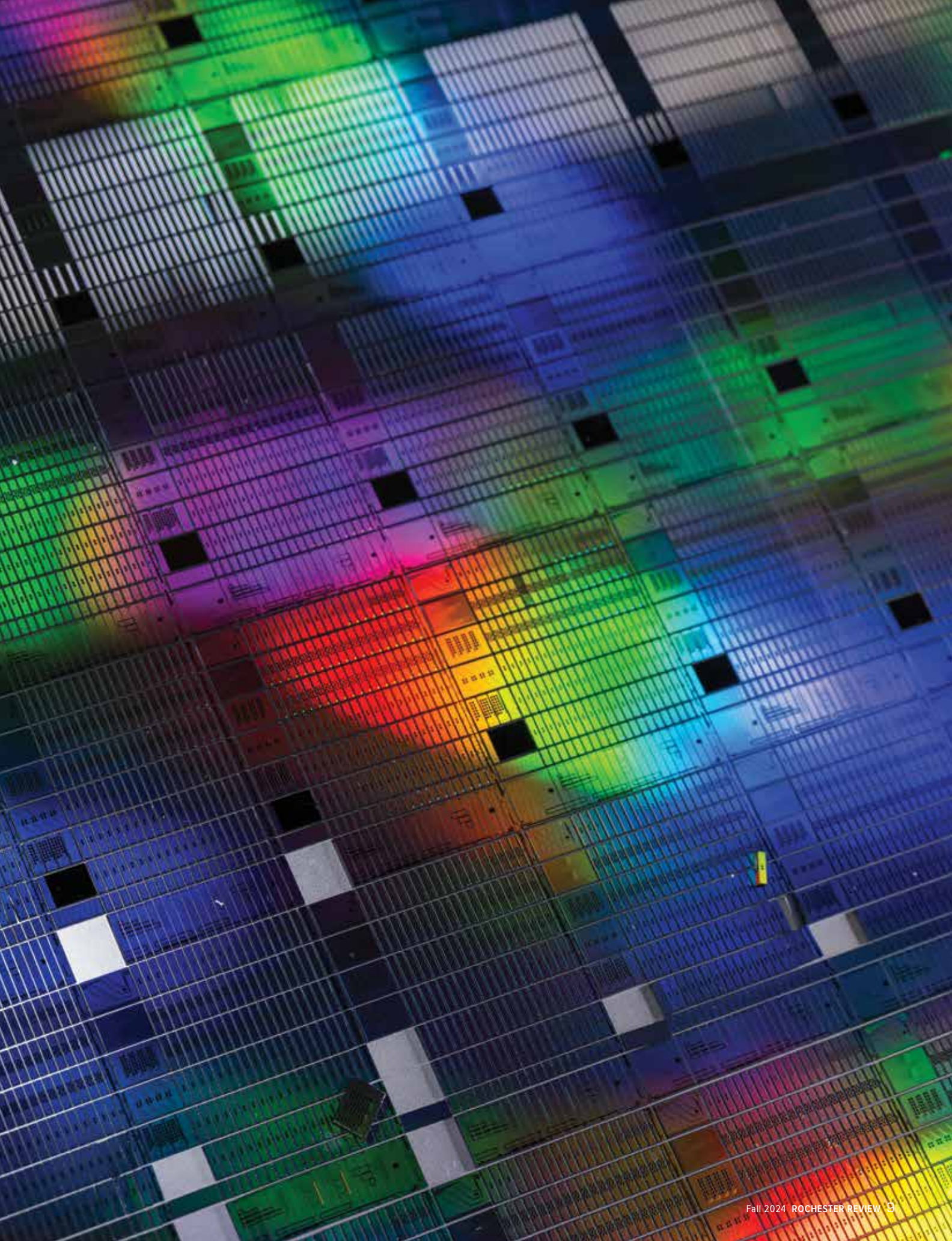


TRACK STARS: Both Tom Tuori '87 (left) and Cole Goodman '25 qualified to compete in the Olympic Trials. Injury kept Tuori from the actual competition, however.

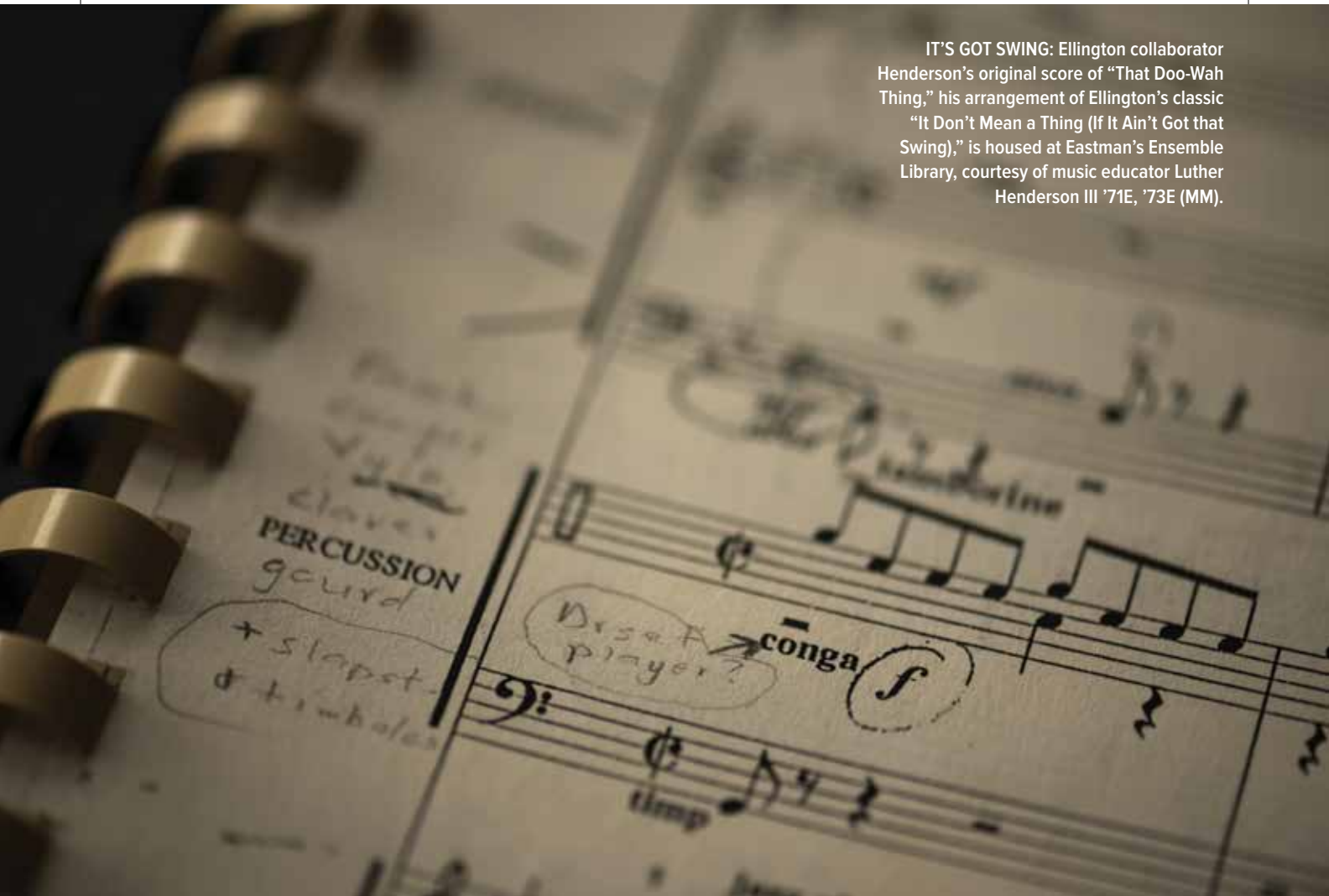
DISEASE MODELING

Get Out Your Tissues

CHIP TECHNOLOGY: A photonic wafer in the lab of Dean's Professor of Dermatology Benjamin Miller contains chips used to create microphysiological systems—microchips with ultrathin membranes supporting 3D networks of human cells, also known as “tissue chips.” He and James McGrath, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Biomedical Engineering, are implanting human lung and brain cells into the chips to model respiratory disease effects on the brain and test therapeutic drugs to prevent and treat symptoms. The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response within the US Department of Health and Human Services, awarded a three-year contract to the research team to develop the tissue-on-chip technology. PHOTOGRAPH BY J. ADAM FENSTER



IT'S GOT SWING: Ellington collaborator Henderson's original score of "That Doo-Wah Thing," his arrangement of Ellington's classic "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got that Swing)," is housed at Eastman's Ensemble Library, courtesy of music educator Luther Henderson III '71E, '73E (MM).



Eastman Scores

Luther Henderson III '71E, '73E (MM) chooses Eastman's Ensemble Library as home for his father's Duke Ellington arrangements.

By Jim Mandelaro

Early in 1970, famed musical director and orchestrator Luther Henderson Jr. brought his new show, *Purlie*, to the Eastman School of Music. The musical was soon to open on Broadway, and Henderson chose to iron out the kinks at the school where his son, Luther Henderson III '71E '73E (MM), was a student.

Testing a Broadway show in an out-of-town venue was a common practice, and often the conductor had to simplify parts for the less experienced orchestra. But this orchestra was composed of Eastman faculty members.

"Luther," Henderson III recalls his dad telling him the next day, "you're going to a better music school than I did. And I went to Juilliard."

Henderson III is a professor of music and humanities emeritus at Los Angeles City College. After Eastman, he earned a doc-

tor of musical arts in orchestra conducting at the University of Texas at Austin and embarked on a career in music education.


His father, who died in 2003, grew up in the Sugar Hill section of Harlem, where his neighbor was the legendary jazz pianist and composer Duke Ellington. Henderson Jr. became friends with Ellington's son, Mercer, who also went on to Juilliard.

In adulthood, Henderson Jr. would work closely with Ellington on projects, and Ellington often referred to Henderson Jr. as his "classical arm." Among those projects were arrangements of Ellington's compositions—scores that Henderson III kept and donated to Eastman last fall.

The collection, housed in the Ensemble Library, includes 11 songs from the 2000 album *Classic Ellington*. The songs were composed by Ellington and arranged and orchestrated by Henderson Jr. to commemorate Ellington's 100th birthday in 1999. They include "That Do-Wah Thing," "Solitude in Transblucency," "Sophisticated Lady," and "Isfahan."

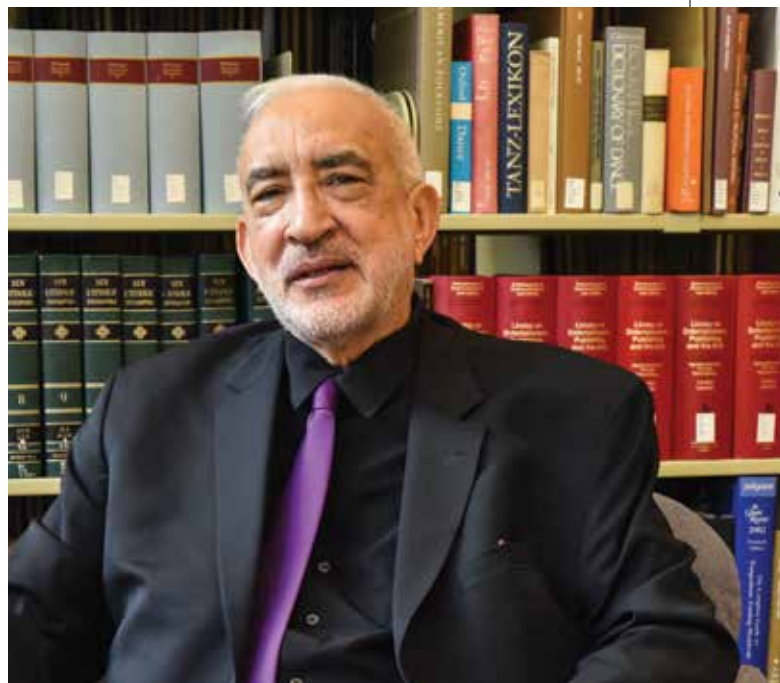
Henderson III also donated his father's National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master award, bestowed shortly before the elder Henderson's death, to Eastman.

Eastman's Ensemble Library collection includes more than 20,000 items in fields such as orchestra, band, choral, and jazz. But the Henderson collection is different and special, says jazz department chair Jeff Campbell.

"There's just not generally a lot of orchestra music produced in a jazz setting," he says. "The fact that it's produced by the father of an esteemed alumnus—and it's Duke Ellington music arranged for an orchestra—makes it extra special. Students will be able to study the details of this great work and have access to it. It's a significant donation." 

"The fact that it's produced by the father of an esteemed alumnus—and it's Duke Ellington music arranged for an orchestra—makes it extra special. Students will be able to study the details of this great work and have access to it."

—Jeff Campbell, professor of jazz and contemporary media



HONORING A FATHER: "My dad was so impressed by Eastman," says Henderson III. The son of the famed orchestrator and arranger is a professor emeritus of music and humanities at Los Angeles City College, a Los Angeles real estate broker, and a former orchestrator and arranger at both the Grammy and Emmy Awards.



CLASSICAL ARM, JAZZ MASTER: Henderson Jr., Ellington's "classical arm," also worked on more than 50 Broadway productions, including a 1988 revival of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, in which he was pianist, orchestrator, arranger, and musical supervisor.

COURSE WORK

Composing in Reel Time

A journey through film score history sets students on the path to understanding—and crafting—their own compositions.

By Johanna Lester

A wicked witch releases a horde of flying monkeys. A police detective develops a debilitating fear of heights. A young boy takes an alien for a celestial bike ride. Odds are at least one of these descriptions conjures up not only an iconic visual but also a musical reference. Maybe it's the swelling of strings or the insistent pulse of a bass line. Such is the power and lasting impression of a film score.

But how do you get from a filmed scene to musical intent to cinematic vibe to actual composition? And why is it important to understand what makes a great film score *actually* great?

In TH 425: Film Music Analysis, taught by Mark Watters, director of the Beal Institute for Film Music and Contemporary Media and an associate professor of contemporary media and film composition at Eastman, students are guided through past and current film scores to understand why choices were made during the scoring process and how to implement that information and vocabulary into their own compositions.

"I'm very proud of this class," shares Watters, who petitioned to have the course added three years ago. "It focuses on harmonic analysis and, most importantly, how these harmonies—and the orchestration—affect the dramatic impact of the cue."

For Watters, the course curriculum and progression through the history of cinema draws out important questions: "What makes a piece of music sound scary? Or funny? What makes it sound like the scene is set in outer space or a French ballet rehearsal? How are themes created and manipulated to tell a character's story?"



CONDUCTING BUSINESS: Graduate students in the Beal Institute for Film Music and Contemporary Media compose original scores and conduct them live-to-picture during the annual Visual Music Concert.

The scope of the films taught—from *King Kong* (1933) to *Pollock* (2000) to *Alien* (1979) to *Lincoln* (2012)—provides students with a broad knowledge of film score history, which leads to better informing the compositions that Watters has them create throughout the semester. Adding to the unique nature of the course, students aren't directed toward a textbook but rather are asked to subscribe to the David McCaulley Film Scoring Analyses YouTube account.

And one session is taught by the Emmy Award-winning composer Jeff Beal '85E, cofounder with his wife, Joan Beal '84E, of the Beal Institute for Film Music and Contemporary Media and Distinguished Visiting Artist.

"Students must have at least a comfortable knowledge of music theory to take this class," notes Watters. "All this leads to evaluating the success of whatever the intent was of the composer: What was the filmmaker wanting the audience to feel?" **R**

Film Music Analysis

Instructor: Mark Watters, associate professor of contemporary media and film composition

On the Syllabus

Unit: The Early Years—1930s and 19th-century Romantic era influences

Featured score: *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) by Herbert Strohart

Assignment: Compose a short motif appropriate for a villain. It should have a pulse!

Unit: Bernard Herrmann: The most distinctive and influential composer of his generation

Featured score: *Vertigo* (1958): two cues; *Psycho* (1960): three cues

Assignment: Compose a 30-second piece that incorporates the same signature progression as the "Love Scene" in *Vertigo*: Major chord with an augmented 11th to a Minor 9 chord but without the 7th.

Unit: John Williams, Part 1

Featured scores: *Jaws* (1976), *Star Wars* (1977), *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), and *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980)

Assignment: Complete an analysis of an assigned excerpt from a cue from one of the *Star Wars* films.

Unit: Danny Elfman

Featured scores: *Beetlejuice* (1988) and *Batman* (1988)

Assignment: Compose a 12-bar piece that matches the quirkiness of Elfman's earlier scores, such as *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* and *Beetlejuice*, or dark and brooding, like his score for *Batman*.

Unit: Romance and Christmas

Featured scores: *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (2008) by Alexandre Desplat and *Belles On Ice* (2008) by Mark Watters

Visit Rochester.edu/news/musical-excellence to learn more from Watters about the importance of creating musicians of the future.

RESEARCH NOTES

On Thinning Ice

How are humans who live in glacial regions responding to the rapid disappearance of ice?

By Sandra Knispel

In some respects, glaciers have become the latest endangered species, a bellwether of global warming. Climate scientists like to point out that ice has no political agenda—it simply reacts to external forces. But historians Stewart Weaver and Tanya Bakhmetyeva '06 (PhD) argue for another dimension. Says Weaver: “Glaciers shape not just our physical landscapes but also our social and cultural ones.”

While climate scientists are documenting the physical loss of the world's glaciers and are racing to find ways to slow it, Bakhmetyeva and Weaver are racing to collect and preserve human history—and the history of glacial science—in the face of rapid climate change.

The husband-and-wife team has been gathering information in high-altitude mountain ranges since 2017. Their latest research is focused on the remote Pamir Mountains, located mostly in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan with fringes that extend into Afghanistan, China, and Kyrgyzstan. The mountains are home to thousands of glaciers, and it's difficult to overstate their importance as the region's natural water towers. According to NASA, nearly 90 percent of people in Central Eurasia rely on melted mountain waters for agriculture, energy, and drinking water.

With a National Endowment for the Humanities research award, the duo has joined the PAMIR Project, an international collaborative dedicated to developing an interdisciplinary

understanding of the high-mountain region of Asia. At the project's official kickoff meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Weaver, a professor of history, and Bakhmetyeva, a professor of instruction in history and associate director of the Humanities Center, joined geographers, cartographers, glaciologists, biologists, and geophysicists.

What makes the glaciers in the wider Pamir region so interesting to scientists and humanists alike is the curious fact that they melt and recede much more slowly than other glacial regions in the world. In the 1990s, scientists discovered an idiosyncrasy—the so-called Karakoram Anomaly (named after the mountain range)—whereby glaciers in the adjoining mountain ranges of the Karakoram and the Pamir remain largely unchanged, or even show small ice gains, in contrast to the marked retreat of other glaciers around the world.

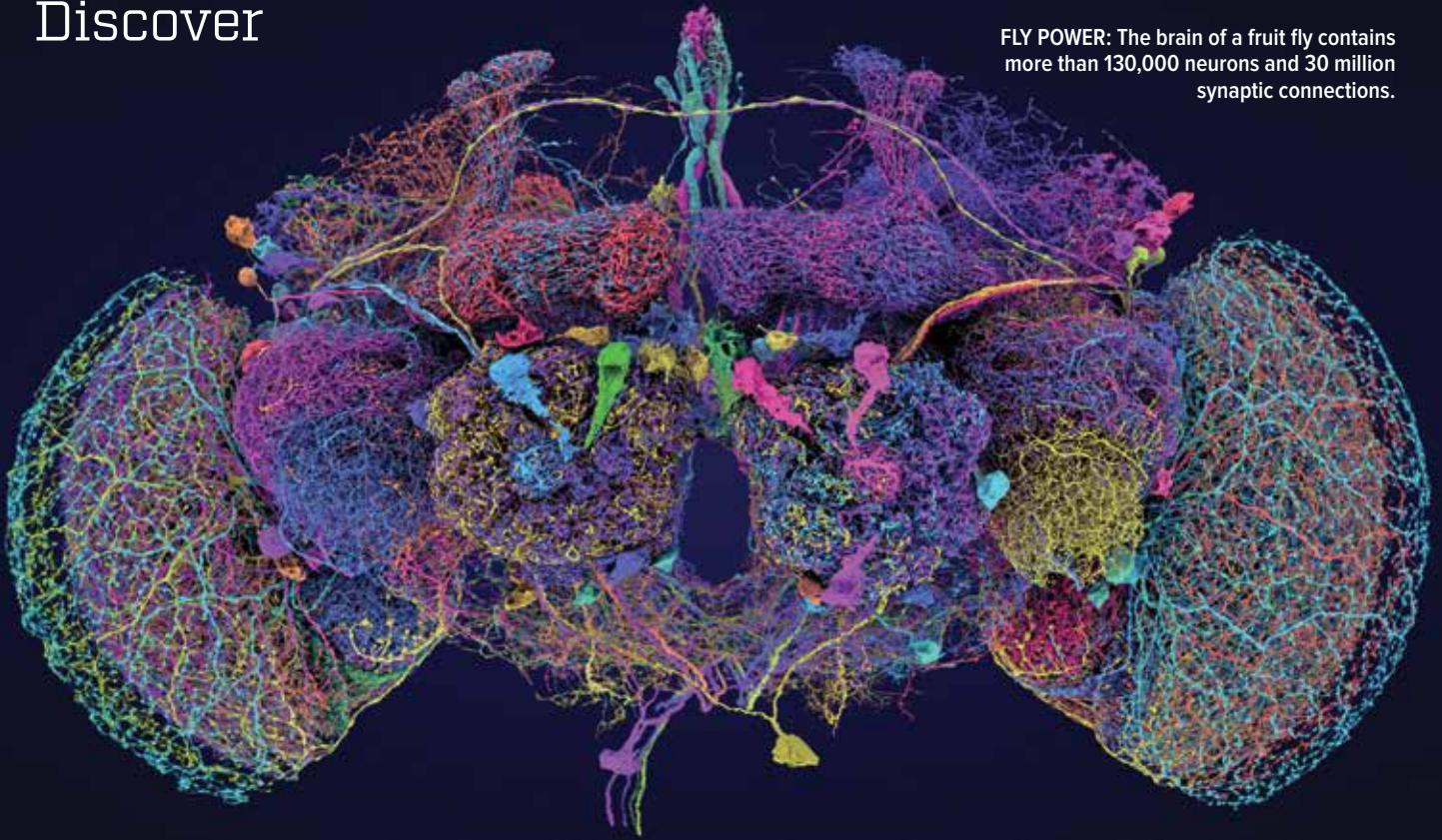
“There's something relatively stable here that intrigues everyone,” says Bakhmetyeva. “Understandably, there's a lot of desire to explain it.”

The duo is hoping to finally set foot on the glacier some time next year. The timing may prove auspicious: The United Nations has designated 2025 as the launch of a “Decade of Action” to preserve glaciers. Dushanbe is at its center, playing host to a large symposium on glacier protection. [📍](#)

TREKKIN': Equipped with crampons, carabiners, and trekking poles, Weaver and Bakhmetyeva explore the Austrian Alps. Their research takes them high atop mountain ranges as well as deep into archives.



FLY POWER: The brain of a fruit fly contains more than 130,000 neurons and 30 million synaptic connections.



A Fly's Brain? 'Far More Complex than We Imagined'

Researchers have developed a groundbreaking new resource—the FlyWire Connectome—that maps every neuron and synaptic connection in the central brain of *Drosophila melanogaster*, or the fruit fly.

Detailing more than 130,000 neurons and 30 million synaptic connections, the revolutionary tool will expedite inquiry into how the brain works and expand the questions that can be asked.

“The importance of this cannot be understated,” says Gabriella Sterne, an assistant professor at the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience, who contributed to the research. “The first time I saw the complexity of the connectome, it literally blew my mind because we have been thinking of these circuits in a simplistic manner, but we can now appreciate that they are far more complex than we imagined.”

Sterne contributed to the work as a member of the FlyWire consortium, co-led by the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, UK, Princeton, the University of Vermont, and the University of Cambridge. The researchers will use the resource to untangle complex brain connections and functions, inform machine learning, and improve understanding of the human brain.

—Kelsie Smith Hayduk

Autism and Intonation: What's the Connection?

When we speak, we change our pitch, rhythm, volume, and timing to convey particular meanings or emotions. Researchers have long known that these variations—which they call speech prosody—can be difficult for people with autism to interpret, but they didn't know exactly why.

Traditionally, problems with speech prosody have been attributed to either a reduced sensitivity to subtle sound variations or challenges in interpreting social cues that convey others' thoughts and emotions.

Instead, a team including Chigusa Kuru-

mada, an associate professor in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, and Loisa Bennetto, an associate professor in the Departments of Psychology, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, and Neuroscience, find that the difficulty arises from a complex intersection of sensory processing and cognitive interpretation.

Kurumada, Bennetto, and their team tested more than 150 participants and found that autism is linked to perceptual inflexibility—a reduced ability to adapt to the constant changes and variations of human speech.

The research provides a novel explanation for why speech communication is more difficult for adolescents with autism versus adolescents without autism, especially at a developmental stage when social interactions become considerably more diverse and require the flexibility to navigate them.

The team's future research will explore how this adaptivity develops from childhood to adolescence—in both children with autism and those without.

—Lindsey Valich

A Pathway to Progress against Macular Degeneration

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a leading cause of irreversible vision loss in the United States. Despite existing treatments, the underlying mechanisms of the disease and effective therapies remain elusive. New research published in the journal *Developmental Cell* provides insight into the cellular mechanisms behind AMD and offers potential avenues for new treatments with fewer side effects, says lead author Ruchira Singh, who holds appointments in the Flaum Eye Institute and the Center for Visual Science.

As people age, deposits of lipids and proteins, known as drusen, accumulate in a layer

of cells at the back of the eye. These deposits are often an early indicator of AMD. Using human stem cells, the team identified a cellular pathway through which they successfully reduced drusen formation, suggesting that targeting this pathway could be a promising strategy for preventing the disease.

“Cellular pathways involved in drusen formation are key drivers of AMD progression,” says Singh. “If we can halt the accumulation of drusen, we may be able to prevent the disease from progressing to a stage where vision loss occurs.”

—Mark Michaud



ALL A BLUR: Macular degeneration is the leading cause of vision loss in people over 60.

Making Autonomous Cars Safe and Affordable

An international team of computer scientists has developed a new design for autonomous vehicles that reduces a traditional tradeoff between safety and cost.

Protecting autonomous machine hardware and software from malfunctions, attacks, and other failures has made them too costly for many consumers. Researchers from Rochester, Georgia Tech, and the Shenzhen Institute of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics for Society say that the existing tradeoff is due to a “one-size-fits-all” approach to protection. An example is

Tesla’s use of two chips in each vehicle—a redundancy that provides protection in case the first chip fails but doubles the cost of chips for the car.

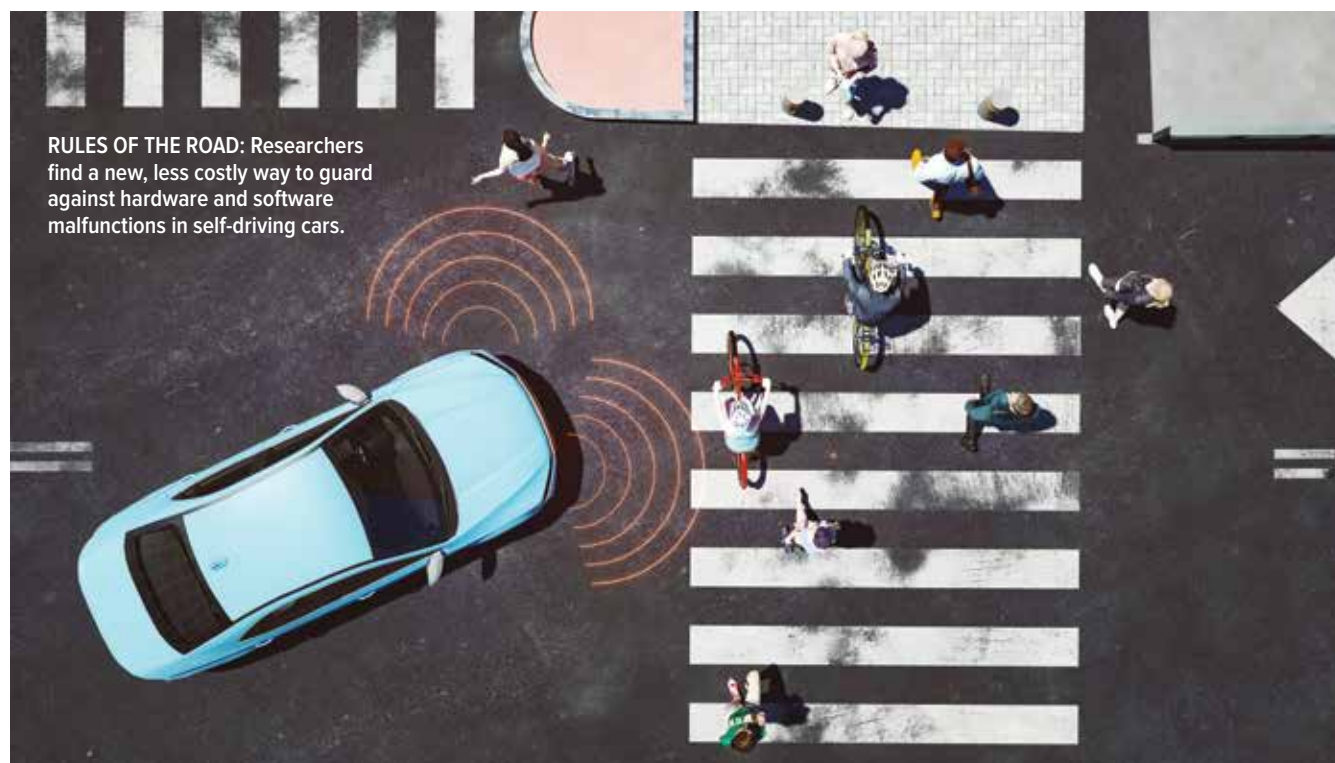
Yuhao Zhu, an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science, says the key to the new design lies in developing “different protection strategies for the front end versus the back end of the software stack.” The front end of an autonomous vehicle’s software stack is focused on sensing the environment through devices such as cameras and light detection and ranging, while

the back end processes that information, plans the route, and sends commands to the actuator.

The method relies on “refin[ing] the approach based on the inherent characteristics of the software and hardware,” Zhu says—rather than relying on a backup chip.

Next the team hopes to overcome vulnerabilities in the most recent autonomous machine software stacks, which are more heavily based on neural network artificial intelligence.

—Luke Auburn



RULES OF THE ROAD: Researchers find a new, less costly way to guard against hardware and software malfunctions in self-driving cars.

Saunders Foundation makes \$30 million commitment to the University of Rochester Medical Center

Historic gift will fuel innovation in orthopaedics and nursing education.

By Kristine Kappel Thompson

The Saunders Foundation, led by University Trustee Emeritus and Rochester philanthropist E. Philip (Phil) Saunders, has made a \$30 million commitment to the Medical Center to support research and clinical programs in orthopaedics, faculty in the School of Medicine and Dentistry, and nursing students.

The gift includes \$25 million to support the groundbreaking work of the renamed Saunders Center for Orthopaedics & Physical Performance, the most comprehensive orthopaedic facility in the northeastern United States. An additional \$5 million will establish a named professorship in orthopaedics at the School of Medicine and Dentistry and create new scholarships in the School of Nursing.

“We are proud to count Phil Saunders as one of the University of Rochester’s great champions,” says University President Sarah Mangelsdorf. “We share his vision for advancing the health and well-being of everyone in our region by providing world-class medical care close to home.”

The Saunders Foundation will establish an endowed research fund and an endowed professorship in the Department of Orthopaedics that will be named for Dean’s Professor Michael Maloney, a renowned orthopaedic surgeon who specializes in sports medicine. Saunders’ gift will also create an endowed scholarship fund at the School of Nursing to support the nursing career goals of staff members at UR Medicine Noyes Health. Based in Dansville, New York, south of Rochester, Noyes Health offers a rural region community-focused health care backed by Rochester’s world-class medical research.

“I am thrilled to give to this center, the endowed professorship for Dr. Michael Maloney, a gifted physician and friend, and to be giving the School of Nursing a new scholarship. Our community needs to invest in professionals such as nurses and I am happy to do this for Noyes and Livingston County.”

David Linehan, the CEO of the Medical Center and dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, adds, “The Saunders gift will advance the Medical Center’s position as a leader in the science and practice of orthopaedic medicine, with ripple effects that benefit the patients and families we serve for decades to come.”

Paul Rubery, department chair and the Marjorie Strong Wehle Professor in Orthopaedics, says the innovative care and




NAMESAKE: In recognition of the long-standing philanthropic support from E. Philip (Phil) Saunders, the University will name its comprehensive orthopaedic facility at Marketplace Mall the Saunders Center for Orthopaedics & Physical Performance.

specialized treatment provided in the Orthopaedics & Physical Performance Center will continue to expand thanks to the Saunders Foundation investment. “Providing world-class orthopaedic care in a patient-friendly facility, while also pursuing ground-breaking research and training the next generation of surgeons is a truly wonderful gift,” he adds.

Maloney says having an endowed professorship established in his name is an honor he could never have expected. “I am humbled to know that a future faculty member in the School of Medicine and Dentistry will carry a title with my name. Endowed professorships allow us to recruit top talent to Rochester and help raise the reputation of the school among our peers,” he says.

“Phil sees the big picture,” adds Lisa Kitko, the dean of the School of Nursing and vice president of the Medical Center. “By creating scholarships at the nursing school, he is making it possible for deserving Noyes staff members to advance their professional skills and achieve their career goals.”

Adds Tom Farrell ’88, ’90W, senior vice president for University Advancement, “Phil believes in ‘helping those who help themselves,’ the quality of our healthcare, and giving back to his community. It has been an honor and privilege to work with him, his daughter Patty Saunders Redding, and the foundation on this historic gift.”

Saunders, who served on the Board of Trustees from 2015 to 2020, has long supported the University, having established the Saunders Family Distinguished Professorship in Neuromuscular Research, the E. Philip and Carole Saunders Professorship in Neuromuscular Research, and the Saunders Endowed Fellowship in Neuromuscular Research. In 2011, the University named its newly constructed home of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute the Saunders Research Building. 

Campus Master Planning Under Way

A 15-month master planning process began June, one that is engaging the University community in mapping the future of the institution's physical footprint. A component of the 2030 strategic plan, *Boundless Possibility*, the planning process will ensure Rochester's campuses and facilities across the region meet the evolving needs of students, faculty, staff, and the broader community.

To date, more than 9,300 students, faculty members, visitors, and staff have participated in surveys and activities that will inform the master plan, including a student housing assessment, transportation and parking study, dining evaluation, and online mapping activity.

Building Projects to Enhance the Student Experience

Several River Campus building projects are planned, including an expansion of the Interfaith Chapel and new spaces for Catholic and Jewish student life enabled by commitments from Joseph Mack '55 and David Greenbaum '73 and his wife, Laureine, respectively.

"Today's student population is quite different from the student population of the 1970s when the Interfaith Chapel was built," says Vice President for Student Life John Blackshear. "Not only do we have more students, but we also have more than 13 religious-affiliated student groups operating on the River Campus."

Algier Appointed to Key Leadership Roles

Longtime student advocate Anne-Marie Algier '16W (EdD) has been named associate vice president for university student life and dean of students. Algier, who has been serving as dean of students on an interim basis since 2023, comes to her new positions with more than 20 years of experience working directly with students in multiple roles, including most recently as the director of Wilson Commons Student Activities.

A champion of a University-wide approach to student experience and success, Algier plans to further efforts to bring all the schools together in fostering a campus climate centered on student wellness and robust cocurricular offerings.

Algier is a past recipient of the



Anne-Marie Algier

Goergen Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Learning and the Student Life Advocate of the Year Award.



ALL IN THE ACADEMIC FAMILY: Generations of former graduate students gathered on campus this fall to honor their mentor, Duncan Moore '74 (PhD). Moore, the Rudolf and Hilda Kingslake Professor in Optical Engineering Science and Vice Provost for Entrepreneurship, was being recognized for his 50 years on the faculty. An internationally recognized leader in optics and photonics with a joint appointment at the Simon Business School, Moore played key roles in the development of the Hubble Space Telescope and in shaping national technical policy as the associate director for technology in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy under President Bill Clinton.

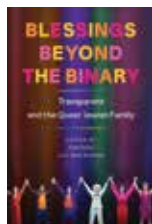
Books

Beyond Policing



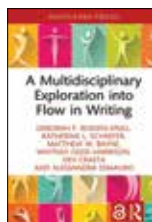
Philip McHarris, an assistant professor in the Department of Black Studies and the Frederick Douglass Institute, traces the historical arc of policing and presents alternative visions for public safety and social justice. (*Hachette*)

Blessings Beyond the Binary: Transparent and the Queer Jewish Family



Nora Rubel coedits a collection of essays exploring the groundbreaking treatment of themes related to gender and to Judaism in the Golden Globe-winning television show *Transparent*. Rubel is the Jane and Alan Batkin Professor in Jewish Studies. (*Rutgers University Press*)

A Multidisciplinary Exploration into Flow in Writing



Deborah Rossen-Knill, founding executive director and professor in the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program, coauthors a guide to “flow;” how it is defined from rhetorical, linguistic, and cognitive perspectives; and how it can be recognized and improved in writing. Rossen-Knill is also a coauthor of *Guidebook to Academic Writing: Communicating in the Disciplines*. (*Routledge*)

Seafarer: New Poems with Earthling and Forever



In a posthumously published collection, **James Longenbach**—“standing on the shore, preparing to journey into the unknown”—presents his final poems, an exploration of his impending mortality. Longenbach was the Joseph Henry Gilmore Professor of English at the time of his death in 2022. (*W. W. Norton*)

Vows: The Modern Genius of an Ancient Rite



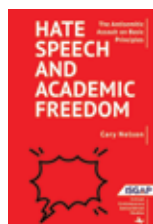
Philosopher, lawyer, and author **Cheryl Mendelson** ’73 (PhD) takes a historical and anthropological view of wedding vows—a Western invention dating to the Middle Ages that marked a radical departure from the traditional marital contract between families. (*Simon & Schuster*)

Earth Diplomacy: Indigenous American Art, Ecological Crisis, and the Cold War



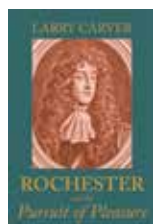
Jessica Horton ’13 (PhD) shows how Native American art in the mid-20th century mobilized Indigenous cultures of diplomacy to place the earth itself at the center of international relations. Horton is an associate professor in the Department of Art History at the University of Delaware. (*Duke University Press*)

Hate Speech and Academic Freedom: The Antisemitic Assault on Basic Principles



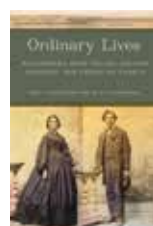
Cary Nelson ’70 (PhD), a professor emeritus of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and former president of the American Association of University Professors (2006–2012), makes a case for how higher education institutions can distinguish between free speech and antisemitic hate speech. (*Academic Studies Press*)

Rochester and the Pursuit of Pleasure



Larry Carver ’73 (PhD), a professor emeritus of English at the University of Texas–Austin, offers a reading of the work of John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, in a biographical context, illuminating a central problem in Rochester criticism: the relationship of poet to his speakers. (*Manchester University Press*)

Ordinary Lives: Recovering Deaf Social History through the American Census



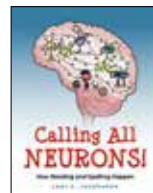
Rebecca Edwards ’97 (PhD), a professor of history at Rochester Institute of Technology, coauthors a social history of deaf women and men in the late 19-century United States. In contrast to previous scholarship focused on schools and leaders, the book captures the lives of ordinary deaf people in their relationships to family and community. (*University of Massachusetts Press*)

Agents of European Overseas Empires: Private Colonisers, 1450–1800



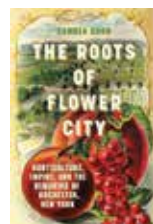
Louis Roper ’92 (PhD) coedits a collection of essays exploring the private European interests that contributed to imperialism, operating both within and outside the polity. Roper holds the position of SUNY Distinguished Professor of History at the State University of New York–New Paltz. (*Manchester University Press*)

Calling All Neurons! How Reading and Spelling Happen



Using anthropomorphic neurons as characters, **Lori Josephson** ’78 tells the complex story of how the human brain learns to read and spell. An educational consultant and dyslexia specialist, Josephson aims the book at parents seeking to understand and motivate their children who struggle with reading. (*Happy Hummingbird Press*)

The Roots of Flower City: Horticulture, Empire, and the Remaking of Rochester, New York



Camden Burd ’19 (PhD), an assistant professor of history at Clemson University, demonstrates the economic and ecological significance of plant nurserymen in the development of

Rochester as a 19th-century boomtown and in transforming urban landscapes throughout the United States. (*Cornell University Press*)

Wagnificent: The Adventures of Thunder and Sage



Bethanie Murguia '93 offers a story of friendship between Thunder, a loving dog struggling with her strong "inner wolf," and her favorite human, Sage. (*Macmillan*)

American Standard: Cheap Trick from the Bars to the Budokan and Beyond



Popular culture journalist **Ross Warner** '93 presents a biography of the American rock band Cheap Trick, starting with its formation in the early 1970s in Rockford, Illinois. The book includes a foreword by Mike McCready, lead guitarist of Pearl Jam. (*Backbeat*)

Latin Redux: A Second-Year Grammar Review



Susan Shapiro '74, an associate professor of history and classics at Utah State University, offers intermediate Latin students a targeted review of grammar and syntax in 15 lessons. (*University of Oklahoma Press*)

Royal Resistance



In her fifth book and first novel, **Jerramy Fine** '99 explores themes of class, gender, race, and the monarchy's place in the 21st century through the story of a princess with a desire to conquer injustice. (*Boadicea Books*)

Jumpstart Your LinkedIn Profile: 67 Actionable Tips



Sandra Long '79, the owner of Post Road Consulting, offers a guide to help professionals enhance visibility and increase potential job and networking opportunities. (*Pro Tip Press*)

Anger: Psychological Reasons Why It Rises and How to Reduce It



Roger Di Pietro '04M (Pdc) presents an overview of anger, identifying and explaining the reasons it erupts, the forms it takes, what factors maintain it, how to avoid getting caught in its grip—and how to respond to the anger of others. (*Self-published*)

The Sustenance of Stars



Leslie Neustadt '71 presents her second book-length collection of poetry. (*Kelsay Books*)

The Cellist's Guide to Scales and Arpeggios



Robert Jesselson '79E (MM), the Carolina Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of South Carolina, coauthors a guide for cellists of all ages and levels of experience and ability. The book includes more than 40 instructional videos available through QR codes. (*Mel Bay Publications*)

The Middle Matters: A Toolkit for Middle Managers



Jeff Sigel '01S (MBA), principal consultant for Proprioceptive, offers a fresh perspective on middle management, highlighting three essential roles for middle managers as doers, leaders, and influencers. (*Jeff Sigel*)

Recordings

Reflections On Love



Tom Nazziola '88E presents new arrangements of classics by Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart, and others, along with a song written by his father. Trumpeter **John Bailey** '88E also performs on the recording. (*Goju Records*)

Plucked & Struck



Percussia, led by artistic director and percussionist **Ingrid Gordon** '92E, presents original works for Celtic harp and micropercussion as well as several tracks composed for Orff xylophone. (*Neuma Records*)

Red Maple: Music for Bassoon and Strings



Peter Kolkay '00E (MM) and the Calidore String Quartet—the quartet in residence with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center—offer a premiere recording of works by contemporary composers. (*Bridge Records*)

Justifiably J. J.: A Centennial Tribute



John Fedchock '85E (MM) presents a tribute to the trombone master J. J. Johnson, recorded live in Indianapolis. (*Summit Records*)

From East to West and Other Choral Works



A collection of sacred music by **Dan Locklair** '81E (DMA), composer-in-residence at Wake Forest University, is performed by the Choir of Royal Holloway, Onyx Brass, and organist David Goode, directed by Rupert Gough. (*Convivium Records*)

Mountains, Oceans, Rivers



Los Angeles singer-songwriter **Lava Hong** '19 offers 10 acoustic ballads showcasing rich storytelling and vocals in both Mandarin and English. (*Lava Hong*)

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.

Ask the Archivist: When Did the University Power Up its First Computers?

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

Luke Auburn's article "Bit by Mega Bit" (Summer 2024) traces the first 50 years of the Department of Computer Science. In 1964 I entered UR as a transfer student. Prior to graduation the next year, I was employed part time in UR financing. Though the details are fuzzy after 60 years, I was entrusted with the routine processing of employee punch cards prior to my oversight of the actual in-house printing of staff and faculty paychecks.

Is there documentation of the beginnings of university administrative computing? —Ronald Epp '65 (PhD)

According to research done by the University's Computing Laboratory Committee, Treasurer LaRoy Thompson wrote in an April 29, 1953, letter to President Cornelis de Kiewiet that "an order has been placed with IBM for rental of a Card Programmed Calculator (CPC)." Receipt of the equipment was at least nine months out, so the committee advised that a survey of offices that might use the CPC—registration, accounting, alumni records, fundraising, etc.—be conducted. In fact, multiple reviews were already underway.

Rewind to 1951: almost from the moment de Kiewiet became our fifth president, he initiated studies to evaluate the monetary and intellectual costs of maintaining two campuses and two undergraduate

colleges versus returning to coeducation by unifying the undergraduate students on the River Campus, leaving the Memorial Art Gallery at Prince Street along with the Eastman School of Music dormitories. Perhaps no decision since its 1850 founding has so thoroughly affected every aspect of the University.

In Spring 1952, an Accounting Committee survey reported that "non-uniformity" was uniformly present in payroll. The

Hospital and College were each using National Cash Register (NCR) tabulating systems, having determined that the cost to rent an IBM machine was too high.

Another office used the IBM service bureau in Rochester and paid for processing time rather than renting (and maintaining) the equipment directly. The processes for invoicing and purchasing were similarly distinct.

Meanwhile, Rochester faculty in a wide variety of departments were clamoring for an on-campus facility, but consultation with Cornell revealed that "... the IBM people are a little over-enthusiastic about our need for the CPC for scientific research."

It appears that Rochester's 1953 order was not fulfilled, and the University Computing Center would not open until early 1956.

A Burroughs E101 was received in April and an IBM 650 was installed in July. Senior staff included Thomas Keenan '47 and Patricia Eberlein, who would have faculty appointments in physics and business, respectively. Informal courses in programming were offered beginning in the fall.



KEY PUNCHERS: A 1967 photo shows faculty and students operating key punching machines in Taylor Hall.

As was often the case in the early decades of computing, many of the staff in the center were women. Far from being "hidden figures," these women served as senior programmers and computer operators; taught classes in Fortran and running subroutines; and their publications were regularly announced in the newsletter of the Computing Center.

In the spring of 1957, registration of the University School students was piloted using the new system. "On the whole, we believe there is real merit in this type of application and feel that its continued use and development is warranted." It would take another two years to complete the transition University-wide.

Within a few years, computer use at the libraries was underway, too. In November 1965, science libraries' supervisor Phyllis Richmond wrote John Graham, dean of the School of Engineering, "In the process of planning future computer usage . . . please don't forget the library! [We] will eventually need to tie in with the projected 3 trillion-bit computer (when built) at the Library of Congress via shared time or . . . [in cooperation] with Cornell, Syracuse and Buffalo, since none of us could afford the computer ourselves."

Payroll was being processed using the IBM 650 well before you arrived on the scene; the facility was located in Taylor Hall, home of the University School. In the 1960s, the location of computing equipment would split according to purpose: administrative work would shift to Wallis Hall, with advanced academic and research machines occupying a new building near the corner of Elmwood Avenue and Mt. Hope (now the location of College Town). ^R

For more computing memories, visit library.rochester.edu/rbscp/blog/ata-fall2024.

SPORTS

An Exceptional Team

Meet the recipients of Athletics and Recreation's highest honor.

Ten seniors are the most recent Yellowjackets to earn designation as Garnish Scholar Athletes. The awards, named in memory of Lysle (Spike) Garnish, a coach and athletic trainer at Rochester from 1930 to 1948, recognize distinction in both athletics and

academic achievement throughout the recipients' first three years at Rochester. [@](#)

Interviews by Dennis O'Donnell.



Jeremiah Anandarajah
Soccer / Computational biology

"I am a big advocate for the saying, 'Attack wins games, defense wins championships.'"



Gracie Giannettino
Lacrosse / Political science and environmental studies

"Being a threat in multiple ways, like being a goal scorer and a passer, is the toughest for a defense to stop. It makes it hard for the team to know what you are going to do."



Megan Bell
Track and field / Biomedical engineering

"Every athlete certainly comes in with a level of 'natural talent,' but working hard in practice and focusing on the little things outside of practice are key to success on the track."



Jose Libby
Tennis / Financial economics

"If I'm playing a player I don't know, I balance my instincts as well as what my coach thinks to come up with a strategy."



Bryce Berkoff
Swimming and diving / Computer science

"I typically like to hope the swimmers besides me are swimming fast and have a good swim, so it pushes me to beat them and [get] a better time for myself."



Alexia Nelms
Volleyball / Psychology and brain and cognitive sciences

"A lot more goes into [the role of the setter] than people recognize. It's about knowing your teammates and what will make them most successful. It is about understanding the other team and what will force an error."



Happy Chane
Football / Biomedical engineering

"I talk a lot pre-snap . . . I love that I can talk to the offense and try to get them off their game with a little banter."



Krish Vennam
Tennis / Computational biology

"Since we play so many different players, I have found it best to work on myself and get to the top of my game instead of focusing on opponents."



Colby Crusier
Baseball / Political science

"I was recruited solely as a pitcher . . . I was lucky enough to show enough potential from both sides my first fall that I was allowed to two-way going forward!"



Raquel Williams
Basketball / Health policy and Black studies

"The best way to help players adjust is just to be there when they need you. For me, I want to be that person who is always available to answer a question, be a sounding board, or anything people need from me."

EVO LU



OVERVIEW: The Solomon Islands offers biologist Al Uy a rare setting to study evolution by observing birds in their natural habitat, combining fieldwork with genetic analysis.



T I O N ' S

M O M E N T

O F

T R U T H

BIOLOGIST
AL UY
VENTURES TO
THE SOUTH
PACIFIC
TO ANSWER
ONE OF
EVOLUTION'S
BIGGEST
MYSTERIES:
**HOW DO SPECIES
ORIGINATE?**

by **Lindsey Valich**
photographs by J. Adam Fenster

IN THE REMOTE JUNGLES

of the Solomon Islands, where the songs of rare birds echo through the dense treetop canopy, professor of biology Al Uy has been on a quest to capture a fleeting moment—one that could help unlock the mysteries of evolution. ¶ Inspired by a concept coined by prominent evolutionary biologist Ernst Mayr, Uy is focused on what is known as the “moment of truth” in biology—the precise point where one species begins to split into two. As he observes and studies birds in their natural habitat, Uy offers a glimpse into the ongoing process of evolution, revealing how nature continuously shapes new species before our very eyes.

“The biggest mystery we’re trying to understand is the origin of diversity, what Darwin called ‘the mystery of mysteries,’” Uy says. “Where do species originate and where does diversity come from? And once a species originates, how is it maintained?”

Since 2005, Uy has travelled to the Solomons in the South Pacific to help answer these questions. On a trip this past June, Uy and the members of his lab—including postdoctoral researcher Elsie Shogren, who has accompanied Uy on fieldwork trips since 2022—focused their work on species of flycatcher and honeyeater birds.

While these families of birds are not exclusive to the Solomons, the archipelago—like Darwin’s Galapagos Islands—offers a unique research environment because of its geographical isolation, diverse ecosystem, and the presence of multiple islands with varying conditions and unique species. The islands’ different environments create natural laboratories where species can evolve in isolation, leading to high levels of biodiversity. This isolation, coupled with areas where species interbreed, allows the researchers to study the processes of speciation, adaptation, and gene flow.

Uy and Shogren both began their careers as ecologists, studying the interactions between organisms and their environments. They pivoted, however, when they realized ecology was only one piece of the puzzle and they would need to expand their toolkits to fully explore the complexities of evolutionary biology.

“In order to get to the bottom of what was driving the difference in species, we had to also become geneticists,” Uy says.

Back in Rochester, they’ve partnered with Dean’s Professor of Biology Daven Presgraves, who has taught them a range of advanced genomic sequencing tools to better understand the genetic forces driving species diversity and adaptation. By looking at genetic differences and how these relate to traits like feather color or beak shape, Uy, Shogren, and the other members of the Uy lab track how species adapt to their environments and change over time.

“If Darwin and Mayr and all those scientists had the amazing technologies we have today, they probably would have answered every question about evolution,” Uy says. “We are lucky to be born in this timeframe of a technological revolution that has allowed us to explore these fundamental questions of evolutionary biology.”

LONG JOURNEY: Five flights and a bumpy truck ride bring Uy and his team from Rochester’s Hutchison Hall to Makira Island in the Solomons. In the capital of Kirakira, Uy studies the unique dynamics between two honeyeater bird species. Each day begins at dawn, as the team heads out on foot or by motorboat with local guides to reach various locations around the island.





FROM THE LAB TO THE JUNGLE

In June, Uy and Shogren made their third annual trip to the Solomon Islands as a team.

University photographer J. Adam Fenster accompanied them to document their work.

The journey from Uy's lab in Hutchison Hall in Rochester to the Solomons involves five flights to reach Makira Island, plus a bumpy two-mile ride in the back of a pickup truck from the airstrip to Kirakira, Makira's capital. Uy conducts his research across the island, often relying on small boats to reach remote areas, but Kirakira served as the focus of his most recent trip. Here, the modest infrastructure includes houses, several shops, markets, and a hospital.

The researchers typically spend several weeks in June in the Solomons, staying in guest houses managed by host families. Most of the houses are raised structures that are designed for the humid climate with open layouts for ventilation. Some households rely on rainwater tanks for water, as plumbing and electricity can be inconsistent. When it's available, electricity often comes from generators or solar panels.

On this particular trip, Uy and Shogren have come to study two species of honeyeater birds: the sooty (black) honeyeater (*Myzomela tristrami*) and the cardinal (red) honeyeater (*Myzomela cardinalis*). The two species do interbreed on the Solomon Islands, but they remain distinct. How do the species maintain their distinct identities even as genetic exchanges are taking place? So far, Uy and Shogren have identified a few environmental and genetic factors, including mating preferences, ecological niches, and mechanisms preventing their genes from fully integrating.

"We are approaching this with fine-scale genomic tools as well as boots-on-the-ground fieldwork, where we can actually observe the birds and see what they're doing in real time in terms of their behavior," Shogren says.

In order to understand these dynamics, however, they must first tag and record as many birds as possible in the field, ensuring they gather the data they need for their studies back in the lab in Rochester.

TEAM WORK: Uy's strong ties with the community help support both his research on honeyeater birds and his work with villagers on conservation efforts. When logging companies threatened local forests, Uy worked with leaders to map land boundaries and establish conservation programs. He is collaborating with three communities to designate a 30,000-acre protected area on Makira named "Yato" (meaning boundary in Pijin), to protect endemic species and preserve biodiversity.





THAT KIND OF EXPERIMENTATION ON TOP OF NESTING
BEHAVIOR ON TOP OF GENETICS GIVES US A MORE
COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN TWO SPECIES COME TOGETHER.”





THE KIKITO BOYS

On the Solomons, Uy and Shogren rise before dawn. After a breakfast of crackers and instant coffee, they head out to the jungle alongside a team of islanders called the “Kikito Boys” after the local name for the *Myzomela cardinalis* species. Sometimes the journey involves navigating the coast-line by motorboat or embarking on a nine-mile hike through sweltering temperatures and tropical humidity. Mosquitos are ever present, and malaria is a constant concern on the island.

They work against the clock to set up mist nets—nearly invisible nets used to gently catch birds in the wild. They typically have just a two-hour window in the morning, after bats stop flying and before the sun becomes too strong and the wind picks up, making the nets more visible to birds.

The placement of the nets is crucial and requires a skill and precision that the Kikito Boys have honed for years: the birds fly high in the canopy so the Kikito Boys need to scale the trees to strategically place the nets high and close to nests.

Once a bird is caught, Uy and Shogren measure the bird’s body size and aspects of its morphology, record its conditions and sex, and take blood samples. They put colored tags on the birds’ feet so they can use binoculars to identify individual birds and study their feeding and mating behaviors, and reconstruct their genealogy. Then the bird is released.

To observe how birds defend their territory, Uy and Shogren use taxidermy mounts placed in the birds’ habitat, along with speakers that play recorded bird calls to mimic a live intruder. These setups provoke strong reactions from the birds, who often divebomb the mounts in an attempt to drive them away.

In other experiments, the pair have tested how the birds react to mounts of different colors, such as placing a red bird mount in a red bird’s territory versus a black bird mount, to see how they respond to different potential rivals.

“That kind of experimentation on top of nesting behavior on top of genetics gives us a more comprehensive understanding of what happens when two species come together,” Uy says.

NET WORK: Uy and Shogren work with a team of islanders known as the “Kikito Boys” to set up mist nets high in the jungle canopy to catch and study birds. Involving the local community in the research process, including children like 6-year-old Norman Wapa (opposite page, top), is central to Uy’s fieldwork. The grassroots approach fosters trust and collaboration, strengthening both the research and their connection with the villagers.



A COMMUNITY PROJECT

After a busy morning tagging birds, the team breaks for a lunch of rice, papaya, and root vegetables like cassava, along with the occasional tuna or other fish caught by the Kikito Boys. In the afternoon, they shift their focus to locating new nests scattered across the island. Finding and observing these nests and their inhabitants is important for tracking the birds' genealogies and understanding their mating behavior.

To enhance their efforts, Uy and Shogren have involved members of the local community, offering a small reward for anyone who discovers a new nest. The most successful spotters are often the community's youngest members.

"Our fieldwork season usually coincides with school break, and the kids know their neighborhoods and forests," Uy says. "They have eyes and ears on the area that we would never have if we tried to do this ourselves."

Involving kids and community members in the research process has been a cornerstone of Uy's fieldwork. Unlike many other regions where researchers can rely on established infrastructure to conduct fieldwork, the Solomons require a grassroots approach.

"The only way to do it is to be embedded in the community," Uy says.

Building mutual respect, trust, and collaboration required years of groundwork engaging in open dialogues with the villagers and fully immersing himself in the culture and community.

During their weeks on Makira, Uy and Shogren are often invited to dinners and feasts and to give talks to schoolchildren about their work.

For Uy, a self-proclaimed introvert, these interactions did not come easily at first. However, he has since become fluent in Pijin—the local language, which is a mix of native languages and English. He has become close with his host family, John and Joyce Murray, and calls them his "adopted parents."

THE CHALLENGE OF CONSERVATION

This strong bond with the community didn't only foster Uy's research efforts—it also opened the door for him to work alongside villagers in conservation efforts.

In 2005, logging companies began moving into the area. Many villagers initially supported logging, drawn by its financial benefits. However, they soon grew concerned about the long-term effects on their land and resources and the island's biodiversity—including the birds Uy studies. The villagers enlisted Uy to work with them to explore alternative ways of protecting their forests while still supporting their economic needs.

The Solomons operate under a unique blend of modern government and traditional community structures. Every piece of land in the Solomon Islands is owned by an indigenous community recognized by the federal government. The national government is led by a prime minister elected by the National Parliament, and the country is divided into provinces, each with its own government responsible for local affairs. This arrangement is complemented by traditional systems, where local chiefs and village elders have the final say in community decisions.

To establish a protected land area, Uy collaborated across all levels of governance, beginning with the local chiefs to gain community support. Uy helped establish training programs on running and maintaining conservation programs, conducted workshops on the benefits of conservation, mapped land boundaries, and formed management committees.



FROM FIELD TO LAB: By observing birds in their natural habitat, Uy and Shogren gather data on how species maintain their identities despite exchanging genetic material. In the field, they record the birds' body size, morphology, sex, and condition, take blood samples, and tag birds for identification. The approach allows them to study feeding and mating behavior and reconstruct the birds' genealogy, bringing data back to the lab to better understand species origin and diversity.

"If you don't have buy-in from the entire community, the project is destined to fail," Uy says.

He is currently working with three communities to designate a 30,000-acre space on Makira as a protected area. Named "Yato," which means boundary in the native language, the area would help protect endemic species and preserve the region's biodiversity.

Uy also worked with a non-government organization to establish a carbon trade system, which allows communities to earn credits by reducing deforestation and conserving forests. These credits can be sold to businesses and governments seeking to offset their carbon emissions, providing a financial incentive to support conservation efforts.



“The idea is to start with Yato and then hopefully connect with land in the neighboring communities and cover most of the island under a protected area status to protect the endemic species and imperiled ecosystems,” Uy says.

But on one of their final days on the island during their most recent research trip, Uy and Shogren faced another type of “moment of truth”—a turning point in their conservation efforts. One of the communities that had previously been supportive of the plan to establish a protected area unexpectedly signed a logging license with a logging company, putting the entire conservation project in jeopardy.

Though initially disheartened, the team recognized a narrow window to restore support, as the logging license was set to expire in a few weeks. Uy and Shogren quickly mobilized, briefing the Ministry of the Environment and other government officials and visiting the communities to explain the situation. Their efforts succeeded in rallying support once again, allowing them to move forward with declaring Yato a protected area.

“Hopefully the people of Makira will really see the benefits of this—the island’s first protected area,” Uy says, “and this will be the leverage we need to show other communities that these efforts are feasible.”

For Uy, the experience is a reminder that unraveling the mysteries of evolution isn’t just about scientific research—it also requires a deep commitment to the people and the places that make such discoveries possible.

“The conservation aspect is a direct offshoot of being embedded in the community, which was essential for conducting scientific research,” Uy says. “We don’t want to just collect data and leave. Through the conservation efforts, we can provide tangible benefits for the community and be part of the community ecosystem. This makes our discoveries even more meaningful.” ^R





Forever Better at Meliora Weekend 2024

The signature fall event brought joyous celebrations and meaningful conversations.

By Sofia Tokar

Meliora Weekend 2024 brought more than 10,000 registered students, families, alumni, community members, faculty and staff, and distinguished guests to an event-filled weekend on the University's campuses from September 26–29. The celebration combined homecoming, reunion, and family weekend into a unique opportunity for members of the Yellowjacket family to reunite, reminisce, socialize, and learn together. [R](#)

IT TAKES A VILLAGE: Students, families, and alumni from around the University gathered in “Meliora Village” on the Wilson Quad for games, rides, music, and food.



NORAH THE EXPLORER: Veteran newscaster and Emmy Award–winning journalist Norah O'Donnell, one of only three women in history to solo anchor a network evening news broadcast, delivered the weekend's keynote address in the Palestra.

“Fear and self-doubt is your constant companion. And that may sound daunting, but the key is to turn that fear into fuel and that doubt into determination,” said O'Donnell, recalling her route to her present position “sitting in Walter Cronkite's chair.”



INSIDE OUT: President Sarah Mangelsdorf joined Shankar Vedantam, the host and executive editor of the *Hidden Brain* podcast and radio show, in a conversation in Strong Auditorium about the psychological keys to success. Said Vedantam: “Part of the reason for our endurance and resilience is that we’ve had a number of people looking out for us . . . helping other people transforms the way we think about ourselves. The act of helping other people makes us feel better about ourselves. If you want to make your life better, spend more time looking outward.”

DIALOGUE ON DEMOCRACY: A panel of experts on politics and international relations discussed democracy and elections worldwide during the University Symposium in Strong Auditorium. Among the speakers was City of Rochester Mayor Malik Evans '02 (second from left), who noted that “Most of the folks in our country, not even just in the city of Rochester or Monroe County, they want solutions to their problems, but they’re turned off from the far right and far left. And that’s dangerous because then they won’t participate in the democratic process.”



REUNITED: Valeria Lopez Aldaco '14, Conor McNamara '13, and Zamantha Lopez '13 celebrate with a selfie.



MEDICAL MENTORS: The panel discussion “Shaping the Future of Medicine: Mentoring within Diverse Communities” gathered alumni experts from Eastman Institute for Oral Health, the School of Nursing, and the School of Medicine and Dentistry to address the crucial role that mentoring plays in healthcare professions. Panelists included (from left to right) moderator Nathan Smith '13M (PhD), Le Keyah Wilson '07M (MD), '10M (Res), '13M (Flw), Siddharth Chittaranjan '27M (PhD), '29M (MD), Lexi Land '25N, Luis Rosario-McCabe '94N, '95N (MS), '15N (PMC), '17N (DNP), and Ruben Costa Araujo '26D (Res).



YELLOWJACKET SERENADE: Austin Lansey '28 and the rest of the Yellowjackets perform at Saturday night's Dinner at the Meliora Village Tent with A Cappella Jam.

FOOTBALL 4.0: The Yellowjackets beat the visiting University of New England 42–21 during the homecoming game, giving the team a 4–0 start to the season for the first time since 2000.



BRINGING THE LOLZ: Joel McHale—actor, comedian, and a star of the TV series *Community*—brought his signature brand of comedy to the guests at the Palestra.



STREET EATS AND BEATS: Revelers gathered outside of the Eastman School of Music for a block party—complete with food trucks and performances by Eastman student musicians.





A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

THE UNIVERSITY HAS HELPED FUEL A
SEA CHANGE IN THE CARE AND FLOURISHING
OF INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. A NEW INSTITUTE,
FUNDED WITH A HISTORIC \$50 MILLION GIFT FROM
ENTREPRENEUR TOM GOLISANO, WILL DRIVE
THE NEXT TRANSFORMATIONS IN RESEARCH,
TRAINING, CARE, AND ADVOCACY.

BY ERIN PETERSON

W

hen Lisa Latten's son, Ian, was diagnosed with autism at age two and a half in 2007, what she remembers was her fear. "I thought, 'What am I going to do?' I had this overwhelming need to close ranks—to protect my child, to protect myself," she recalls. "As a parent, you recognize that the world is not set up to support our kids, accept our kids, and love our kids."

IN THE INTERVENING YEARS, she has found caring doctors and dentists at the Medical Center who are skilled at working with Ian and other children who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). She's witnessed a significant jump in awareness, as the number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder quadrupled between 2000 and 2020. And she and her son have benefited from research and new approaches to care, including many pioneered and honed at Rochester.

Latten herself has helped propel this change: today, as a clinical administrator in the Medical Center's Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, she helps families who have concerns about their child's development connect with the resources they need. In addition, she often informally provides emotional support to parents who find themselves in the spot she was in 17 years ago. "Sometimes, families just want someone to say, 'I've been that parent, I really do know how you feel,'" she says.

The University has long been known as a leader in the field of IDD. It is one of just eight institutions nationwide with three major federally funded programs that support IDD-linked training, research, and advocacy. Over the past decade, the University has invested more than \$80 million in IDD research and care, opening new facilities and expanding research programs. Its pediatric clinicians work with more than 15,000 IDD patients annually, and the school's dentistry program cares for more than 2,000 patients.

And thanks to a recent \$50 million gift from businessman and philanthropist Tom

Golisano, these efforts will accelerate even further. Future plans include a new facility, the Golisano Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Institute, that will bring together more specialists and researchers to help individuals with IDD and their families thrive. They also include increased funding and collaboration for research, training, care, and advocacy.

Killian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Chair in Neuroscience and director of the Del Monte Institute John Foxe, who has been tapped to lead the new institute, calls it an "extraordinary investment" that will help fuel Rochester's growth from its already lofty perch among IDD-focused institutions. "It will allow us to paint on an even bigger canvas," he says.

Latten knows that the time has never been better: even as she's seen the positive changes over the course of her son's life, she knows challenges remain. For

example, Ian, now 19, is aging out of pediatric care. While this is part of a positive development nationwide—individuals with IDD are living longer, healthier lives than ever before—it also means that there are fewer options that will support his ongoing care and thriving.

Even more than that, Latten is ready for a world that will fully embrace her son as he is. "When I think about the world I want to see, or the world that we will leave after I'm gone, I think: 'Don't we want a society that is inclusive for our most vulnerable people, where people can get what they need?' The work we can do is about building that world. I hope that is what a U of R alum would want. The possibilities are right here in our backyard."

We highlight five pressing challenges in the field of IDD—and how the institute's researchers, clinicians, patients, and advocates will work toward solutions.



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WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE WORLD I WANT TO SEE, OR THE WORLD THAT WE WILL LEAVE AFTER I'M GONE, I THINK: 'DON'T WE WANT A SOCIETY THAT IS INCLUSIVE FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE, WHERE THEY CAN GET WHAT THEY NEED?' THE WORK WE CAN DO IS ABOUT BUILDING THAT WORLD.

Lisa Latten

CLINICAL ADMINISTRATOR, DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS, AND PARENT OF A CHILD WITH AUTISM

1 CHALLENGE:

Researchers in the IDD field face physical barriers to collaboration.

SOLUTION: Bring experts doing IDD-related research across disciplines together in one place.

INSIGHT: Across the University, researchers are bubbling with ideas that have the potential to transform IDD care. Currently, more than 100 investigators at the University are focused on IDD research, with more than 200 research projects in process.

Among other things, these projects aim to shorten patients' hospital stays, illuminate differences among IDD populations at the molecular level, and prevent common complications in IDD individuals, like pneumonia, through targeted interventions.

The diversity and sophistication of the work is one reason that Rochester is one of only 15 nationally recognized Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers. The designation recognizes institutions with expertise across basic, translational, and clinical research.

But the complexity of the research increasingly demands that experts work together to make meaningful progress, says

Mark Taubman, CEO emeritus of the Medical Center and Dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry.

"It used to be that individual laboratories could do everything, but now you need to pull in people who have expertise in specific areas," he says. "For some brain imaging projects, for example, you need multiple people who understand molecular biology, imaging, and clinical manifestations of complex disease."

When researchers have offices and labs in a single, signature space, it creates what John Foxe, the Killian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Chair in Neuroscience and director of the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience, calls "the geography of integration." That's what he expects the new institute will bring about.

"When you get all the folks from various entities into one space," he says, "you can have conversations over a pot of coffee, or pop your head around the corner to ask a question of somebody. It will get rid of inertia and barriers."



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THE INSTITUTE WILL ALLOW US TO PAINT ON AN EVEN BIGGER CANVAS.

John Foxe

DIRECTOR, GOLISANO INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES INSTITUTE

2 CHALLENGE:

Care for individuals with IDD is fragmented across many sites and services.

SOLUTION: Offer coordinated expertise all in one place.

INSIGHT: Long waiting lists for services split across many sites and specialties are among the many frustrations that families of IDD individuals face when seeking care for their loved ones.

It's a topic that Carrie Baker '24W (MS), the mother of Ella, a 21-year-old with Down syndrome, knows intimately. "So many people with disabilities, Ella included, see many different specialists. It's important for their health and longevity for those specialties to understand not just the disability, but to communicate with one another," says Baker, who is also the director of the Family Experience Program in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics.

Just as it addresses barriers to research collaboration, the institute is designed to replace fragmented with holistic care.

Dennis Kuo, chief of the Division of

Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, says there are useful models that have been developed in other areas of medicine. "We know that there are models of integrated care where the healthcare system has taken a good look at this issue, like oncology,"

he says. "I do think we can solve this. It's important, because families are asking for more than just solutions to symptoms and challenges. They want to make sure that they, and their children, really have the chance to thrive."



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WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE MODELS OF INTEGRATED CARE . . . I DO THINK WE CAN SOLVE THIS.

Dennis Kuo

CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS



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CONNECTING PERSONALLY WITH FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WITH IDD CHANGES PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES VERY QUICKLY.

Steve Sulkes

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF PEDIATRICS



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PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT SPECIALTIES RECEIVE GENERAL TRAINING, BUT NEVER REALLY LEARN HOW TO WORK WITH THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY.

Laura Silverman

'02 (MS), '07 (PhD), '08M (Flw)

DIRECTOR, LEADERSHIP EDUCATION IN NEURODEVELOPMENTAL AND RELATED DISABILITIES (LEND)



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WE HAVE A STRONG HEAD START IN BRINGING THE UNIFIED INSTITUTE TO FRUITION.

Suzannah Iadarola

DIRECTOR, STRONG CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

3 CHALLENGE:

There are too few clinicians who have the expertise to treat the many patients with IDD. They are often centered in a few key hubs, requiring families to uproot their lives to get the care they need.

SOLUTION: Develop leaders in the field with deep expertise—while also ensuring that all of our medical students get basic training to care for individuals with IDD.

INSIGHT: Professor emeritus of pediatrics Steve Sulkes spent almost his whole career working with individuals with IDD—but he admits as a medical student, his knowledge of developmental disabilities was limited, and his empathy was minimal. “I had a terrible attitude,” he says. But when he was able to go out into the community and meet these individuals as they were living their normal, daily lives, he was instantly transformed: “It changed my whole focus.”

That's a big reason that the School of Medicine and Dentistry offers a family experience that connects families and individuals with developmental disabilities with medical students and other learners. “It puts you up close and personal, not as a professional, but as a learner, with

people who have developmental disabilities,” he says. “It changes people's attitudes very quickly.”

Other relatively straightforward types of medical training—such as ensuring that care providers ask how an individual with IDD prefers to communicate—can open up more opportunities for practitioners at every level to support basic care for people with IDD. “More than 10 percent of the population has a developmental disability, but nowhere close to 10 percent of curriculum time goes to thinking about how to work with them,” Sulkes says.

Rochester will also continue to operate the federally funded Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND), a program that has trained thousands of professionals since its inception in 1994. “People in different specialties receive general training, but never really learn how to work with the

disability community,” says LEND director Laura Silverman '02 (MS), '07 (PhD), '08M (Flw). “Our program is unique because we train specialists and advocates to become leaders in the field of developmental disabilities.” Over the years, LEND has trained professionals in 14 different disciplines, including doctors, psychologists, dentists, and educators.

As Rochester experts continue to work on these projects, director of the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities Suzannah Iadarola says that she and others are particularly excited about the ways that the institute can help bring together both experts at Rochester and the disability community beyond the university. “We began working on a strategic plan before we knew there would be a new institute, so we have a strong head start and template for how we'll approach this type of unification,” she says.

4 CHALLENGE:

Dental care is especially hard for people with IDD to access and is their number one unmet health need.

SOLUTION: Build on the Eastman Institute for Oral Health's history of innovations in care for people with IDD by expanding specialty care and resident training.

INSIGHT: Visiting a dentist for complex oral care can be anxiety provoking for any patient. For patients with IDD, many of whom have a heightened sensitivity to sensory stimuli, that anxiety can be a reason to avoid necessary care. The Eastman Institute for Oral Health (EIOH) has been providing care for people with IDD for 45 years through community clinics and a custom-designed mobile unit and, in that time, has introduced a number of adapta-

tions to meet the needs of these patients. Chief among those is a set of techniques to help reduce patients' anxiety while slowly building trust. As a result, EIOH has been able to provide care without anesthesia in many instances. Hundreds of EIOH residents have been trained in the techniques and are applying their skills throughout the US and around the world. An existing specialty clinic, renamed Golisano Specialty Care, and additional oral health care facilities in a completed IDD institute "will allow us to significantly increase our impact locally and globally," says EIOH Director Eli Eliav.



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THE INSTITUTE WILL ALLOW US TO
SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE OUR IMPACT
LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY.

Eli Eliav

DIRECTOR, EASTMAN INSTITUTE
FOR ORAL HEALTH



RESEARCH AND CARE: A study participant (left) uses behavioral and cognitive testing technology at the University's Center for Advanced Brain Imaging & Neurophysiology; Complex Care Center dental assistant Maureen Steinbacher forms a bond with patient David Goodnough.



WHAT IS IDD?

Intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) refers to a group of conditions that begin during the developmental period and typically continue throughout life. These disabilities can affect how a person thinks, learns, and interacts with others.

While there is significant variation among individuals, developmental disabilities may include conditions that affect mobility, learning, and language.

Intellectual disabilities include challenges linked to learning, problem solving, communication and self-care. Some common examples of IDD include autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome.

How many people have IDD?

The IDD community can often feel hidden. But the numbers of people with an IDD diagnosis, both locally and worldwide, are significant.

19,000
individuals locally

8
million nationally

120,000
regionally

220
million worldwide

5 CHALLENGE:

The voices of IDD individuals and their advocates are often quashed because of stereotypes, power imbalances, and lack of representation.

SOLUTION: Put individuals with IDD and other advocates at the heart of decision making.

INSIGHT: Strong Center Advocacy specialist Jeiri Flores has spent a lifetime bumping up against a world that was designed for walkers. When she rolls up to a set of stairs in her wheelchair, it puts that reality into sharp focus. “[In the past,] the person with disability was the issue; maybe I should have found a different way to approach the steps,” she says. “Maybe I should’ve booty scooted up the steps.”

The implications of that barrier are that the systems in place are acceptable, and that an individual must adapt to those systems. But more recently, the spotlight has shifted to the flaws in the systems themselves. “The issue is not me,” Flores says. “[Maybe there just needs to be] a ramp on the side of the steps.”

Through the Strong Center, a federally funded University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities program that

helps people with disabilities live their best lives in their chosen communities, Flores shares personal stories like these with many audiences to help advance policy and practice for individuals with IDD. By sharing research, news, and anecdotes, she helps unpack the complexities that people with IDD face in their daily lives.

One overarching goal of the Strong Center’s work is to help give individuals with IDD and their families a stronger sense of agency in efforts related to their support and care.

For example, a Strong Center-supported effort is helping ensure that people with disabilities and their family advocates are fully included and competitively paid as team members to help co-design clinical and research programs at Rochester, says Carrie Baker ’24W (MS), family experience coordinator in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. “A mantra of the disability community that we really try to live out in our work is ‘Nothing about us, without us.’”



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IN THE PAST, THE PERSON WITH THE DISABILITY WAS THE ISSUE. . . THE ISSUE IS NOT ME.

Jeiri Flores

SPECIALIST, STRONG CENTER ADVOCACY
WHEELCHAIR USER

EXCERPT

Inside Philanthropy Shines a Light on Golisano's Giving

Tom Golisano's \$50 million gift to create the Golisano Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Institute isn't the only major commitment he's made in the last several months. In October, *Inside Philanthropy* showcased the extraordinary commitments the Rochester area native is making to Upstate New York this year.

BY ADE ANENIJI

IN SEPTEMBER, billionaire Paychex founder Tom Golisano surprised 82 nonprofit organizations at a press conference with a \$360 million commitment in unrestricted grants. The beneficiaries, all in Upstate New York, work on causes including animals, education and healthcare for developmentally disabled children.

Raised in a middle-class suburb of Rochester as the son of a macaroni salesman and a seamstress, Golisano is worth \$6.5 billion today. He has a track record of giving that goes all the way back to the 1980s, when he established the Golisano Foundation, and his lifetime giving totals some \$775 million.

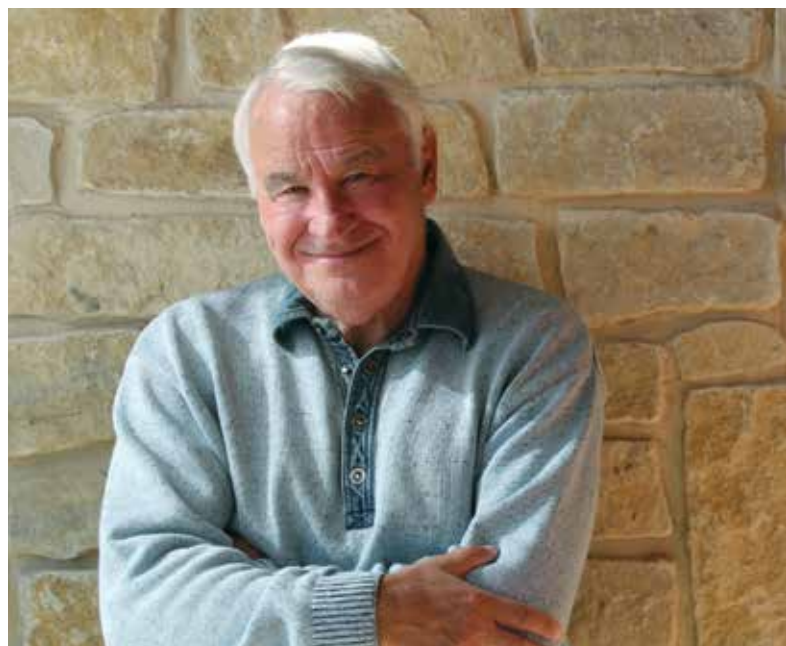
After high school, he worked as a bank teller to help his parents with their finances, and then went to Alfred State Tech, a two-year college.

After graduating, he eventually found work at a payroll processor that provided services for large companies. But soon he noticed a gap in the market and realized he could provide these same services to small companies with 50 employees or fewer. So Golisano took the leap and started his own company, Paychex, in 1971, with just \$3,000 and a credit card. The early days were tough, but soon, the company started making money and expanded its orbit beyond western New York. In 1983, the company went public. Today, it employs 16,000 people and has a market value of around \$50 billion.

Two years after Paychex went public, Golisano and his wife at the time, Gloria, decided that they wanted to start giving back. Their son, Steven, is developmentally disabled, and Gloria sought to better understand his condition.

Over the past three decades, Golisano and the Golisano Foundation have emerged as top donors in this space, pledging or donating more than \$300 million to support individuals with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. A main component of the foundation's work is building institutions and centers that it intends to serve as national models of collaboration for inclusive health.

Golisano thinks that there's still not enough awareness in the philanthropic community about the range of organizations on the



ground working on developmental disabilities. And that lack of awareness serves as a barrier for these organizations to connect with funders.

One of the Golisano Foundation's biggest grantees in the developmental disabilities space is the Special Olympics. The foundation contributed more than \$67 million to launch and expand the Special Olympics Healthy Communities program so that people with intellectual disabilities can access healthcare in their communities all year.

So why did Golisano decide to take his giving to the next level in Upstate New York? The Golisano Foundation already had a long-running list of trusted grantees that it has worked with through the decades in Upstate New York and southwestern Florida. Golisano calls both of these places home, and had provisions in his will for more money to flow to these organizations in the form of a bequest. But more recently, he started to change his thoughts about that.

"I applied for immortality and didn't get it," Golisano said. "So I decided that rather than waiting for me to kick the bucket, I would advance the money to them ahead of time. Why make them wait?"

Of the \$360 million, \$201 million flowed to Rochester organizations, along with another \$66.5 million to Buffalo nonprofits and \$40 million to ones in Syracuse. Golisano gifted the remaining \$52 million to the Golisano Foundation. Organizations run the gamut from nonprofits that serve the community like Veterans Outreach Center and the Child Advocacy Center of Greater Rochester; education groups, including Alfred State College and Niagara University; and animal welfare organizations, including Better Together Pet Rescue Center and Rochester Emergency Veterinary Services. Golisano's huge commitment to animal welfare organizations is thanks to his wife, former world No. 1 women's tennis player Monica Seles, a passionate animal advocate.

Excerpted from Adeniji's October 8, 2024, *Inside Philanthropy* article. Reprinted with permission.



Show Us Your Town

Toronto

A local alumnus shares plenty of picks for the perfect long weekend.

By Kristine Kappel Thompson

BREWS, BOUTIQUES, AND BUSKERS: Kishner witnesses a rare quiet moment in Toronto's Distillery District. Home in the 19th century to Gooderham and Worts Distillery, the complex was transformed into an arts, dining, and culture destination in 2003—and is a national historic landmark and one of Kishner's favorite Toronto hot spots.

Known as one of the world's most multi-cultural and cosmopolitan cities, nearly 28 million visitors are drawn to Toronto each year for its culinary delights, sports culture, historic landmarks, and vibrant arts and cultural scene.

"Less than four hours north of Rochester, Toronto is really a city for everyone," says **Jeffrey Kishner** '01S (MBA), who was born and raised there. "It's easy to explore by foot, bus, streetcar, or subway, and it offers an extensive network of trails, parks, and urban forests perfect for outdoor enthusiasts."

Kishner, one of 1,000-plus alumni who call this city home, offers an insider's insights into a few of its diverse neighborhoods, plus a few more of his favorite spots.



Downtown and the Harbourfront

Start off at the iconic **CN Tower** and, if you are up for thrills, brave its **EdgeWalk**, the world's highest full-circle, hands-free walk. Harnessed 116 floors above ground, you can take in unparalleled views of the city. From there, venture over to the

Hockey Hall of Fame for a deep dive into Canada's favorite sport. Don't miss the chance to get a photo with the Stanley Cup—a true national treasure. Sports fans might also want to catch a Blue Jays, Raptors, or Maple Leafs game, depending on the season. *Insider tip:* plan well in advance, especially for hockey games, as tickets can be notoriously hard to come by.

For dining, **Gruppo Terroni** offers authentic Italian cuisine in a historic bank building. For an extra-special experience, ask to see one of the old vaults. Or try contemporary Canadian fare at **Canoe Restaurant**, which boasts stunning city views. Next, explore the Harbour-front area, home to the **Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery** and many family-friendly activities. Cap off the day with a short ferry ride to the **Toronto Islands**. This chain of small islands offers breathtaking skyline views, the Centreville Amusement Park (ideal for kids), and an array of beaches, parks, and trails.



The Distillery District and the Market

The Distillery District is a former industrial complex from the early 1800s that has been transformed into a pedestrian-friendly area with shops, restaurants, and breweries. Kishner recommends strolling some of the area's historic cobblestone streets, too, including **Colborne Street**, known as the best-preserved street in Toronto's **Heritage District**. Next, head to the **St. Lawrence Market** and order up one of Toronto's signature dishes: the Veal Sandwich at Uno Mustachio. Cap off the day at the **Rooftop at the Broadview Hotel**, which offers great food and drink options, and more great views of the skyline.

Chinatown and Kensington Market

Explore the Frank Gehry–designed **Art Gallery of Ontario**, showcasing Canadian artists like Tom Thomson and Emily Carr and the Group of Seven along with the world's largest collection of Henry Moore



sculptures. Then visit the nearby **Kensington Market**, full of specialty food shops, eclectic restaurants (Kishner recommends Rasta Pasta for Jamaican fare), and vintage clothing stores. For cheese lovers, don't miss Cheese Magic or Global Cheese. Be sure to check out nearby **Chinatown**, too, known for its walkable streets and authentic cuisine. Kishner's pick: Sunny's Chinese restaurant.



Yorkville and Bloor Street West

The Bloor-Yorkville neighborhood offers a blend of galleries, shops, and cafes. It's also the place for celebrity sightings. Films like *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and *The Shape of Water* were shot in Toronto, which, in addition to Vancouver, is known as the “Hollywood of the North.” Visit the **Royal Ontario Museum**, too, featuring Daniel Libeskind's crystal-like architectural addition, and dine at **Fat Pasha** for Middle Eastern food or **ONE Restaurant**, a contemporary hotspot.

If you have time. . .

Catch a show at the **Second City**, the legendary comedy club that launched Mike Myers, John Candy, Dan Ackroyd, Martin Short, Eugene Levy, and others. Plan to visit **Ossington Ave.**, too, to find one of Kishner's favorite places: **Bang Bang Ice Cream & Bakery**. His top pick: London Fog, a blend of Earl Grey tea and vanilla. For more great food, dine at **Mamak** for Greek fare or the **Pho Rua Vàng Golden Turtle** for its legendary Vietnamese Pho. Save time for a drink at the **Painted Lady** or **Sweaty Betty's Bar**.



Meet Your Guide


Toronto native **Jeffrey Kishner '01S (MBA)** is a finance and operations executive and founder of the recently launched consulting firm Epoche Insights. He's also an active alumnus and a member of the Canada Network Leadership Council and the Simon Alumni Network.

When it came time for him to pursue his MBA, Kishner knew Simon was the place for him. “Even though I was accepted at some excellent business schools in North America and Europe, Simon stood out,” he says, underscoring how he reveled in the international diversity of his classmates. When Kishner isn't working, he's spending time with his wife, Jennifer Gotlieb, and their two children.

Kishner, an avid concert goer, also recommends taking in a show at the **Budweiser Stage**, an amphitheater offering skyline views, or at the historic **Massey Hall**, where he's seen Bob Dylan, B. B. King, and Neil Young. For a more intimate experience, check out **Danforth Music Hall**, the **Horseshoe Tavern**, or **History**, owned by the Canadian rapper Drake.

Deciding when to go?

If you plan ahead and don't mind crowds, attend the **Toronto International Film Festival**, held every September. June is packed, with the **Luminato Festival**, Toronto's International Festival of Arts and Ideas; **Pride Toronto**, one of the world's largest Pride events; and **North by Northeast**, a music and arts festival modeled after Austin, Texas's South by Southwest. In July, experience **Caribbean Carnival** (also called Caribana).

Says Kishner: “The carnival's parade is a must-see.” 

Alumni Networks and You

Get involved in your local regional or international network. Enjoy social events and learning programs and build personal and professional connections. Learn more at Rochester.edu/alumni.

Class Notes



GLITTERING GOLD: Members of the undergraduate Class of 1974 from the School of Arts & Sciences, Hajim School, and School of Nursing gather with their medallions on the Eastman Quad during Meliora Weekend.

River Campus

UNDERGRADUATE

1948 John (Jack) Fassett died in June at age 98. His son, John Fassett Jr., shares some stories of his father's years at Rochester: "Jack played football his freshman year (1942) and, although only 16 years old and 160 pounds, played guard on offense and linebacker on defense. He broke his nose and got one of the first facemasks in football. However, at that time there were no rules regarding facemasks; the first thing opposing defensive players would do would be to grab the facemask. However, it directed the next stage of his life, when he joined the military. He returned to UR in 1946 (playing football that fall), got married in August 1947, and graduated in 1948." After returning from service in World War II, he met Betty, also a returning veteran, who was in the Nursing Education Program, which she did not finish. They were married for 66 years before she predeceased him. Jack funded a scholarship at Rochester in Betty's name. His grandson and John

Jr.'s son **William Fassett '06** is also an alumnus.

1952 Janice Jackson Vanselow '82 sends a photo in memory of her parents, **Donald Jackson Vanselow** and **Milada (Loddi) Steiner Vanselow**. The photo shows Donald and Loddi at their wedding in 1954. Donald died this past spring, and Loddi died in 2018.

1960 Marjorie Browne died at home in July after suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Her cousin Stephanie Abney writes: "Marjorie always recalled and shared proud memories of her matriculation at the University



1952 Vanselow

of Rochester. As her memory declined, she never forgot her experiences in college or her 55 years of service as a specialist in foreign and international affairs at the Congressional Research Service in the Library of Congress. She loved Rochester. As her cousin and caregiver, I regretted that I couldn't take her back to visit Rochester due to her health challenges. However, she always read correspondence and newsletters from Rochester with enthusiasm. She left a remarkable legacy." . . . **Jeanie Maddox Sy '61N** sends a photo of her granddaughter, Campbell Jean Sy, wearing Jeanie's Rochester blazer when Campbell, Class



1960 Sy

of 2025 and a member of the women's lacrosse team, was 10 years old. Jeanie writes that—including Campbell's aunt **Jennifer Sy Heger '87**—Campbell is the third generation to attend the University. Jeanie adds, "I think the UR blazer cost \$25 in 1960."

1962 Susan Klein writes, "I am a professor emerita of special education in the School of Education at Indiana University—Bloomington. I taught at Indiana for 35 years, retiring in 2004. From 2001 until I retired, I was chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. I remain active at the uni-

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

versity as a mentor for younger faculty and as a student advocate in the Student Advocates Office, which provides assistance for students who need extra help or support navigating university policies and procedures; I serve on the conduct team within this office, which helps students who have been charged with personal or academic misconduct. I am a trained mediator and volunteer at a local nonprofit, the Community Justice and Mediation Center, where I also serve on the board of directors. In my spare time, I play tennis, and I adore my five grandchildren, who range in age from 24 to 7."

1983 Reed Brown '75S (MBA) sends news of the death of **Karl (Pete) Sillay** in August 2023, along with an obituary. It reads, in part, "Pete was a loving father, grandfather, brother and son. He was a sailor, inventor and entrepreneur that sought to make the world a better place." Pete's "love for sailing and entrepreneurship led him to Saint Lucia, where he started a sailing charter company before retiring to complete his professional career as a business strategist at the Southern Company, the owner of Georgia Power. Beyond his professional achievements, he loved participating in Toastmasters, refining his public speaking skills which he used to encourage and inspire others. Pete's creativity was centered in inventing and consulting, which he pursued as lifelong passions. In his retirement from Georgia Power, Pete found joy in the tranquil waters of Lake Lanier, where he continued inventing, documenting and sketching his ideas and sailing. His love for and belief in the therapeutic nature of sailing led him to volunteer in the Heart of Sailing program, where he shared his passion with children with autism."

1971 Frank Mamat has been reelected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Jewish Bar Association of Michigan, of which he is a founding member. Frank is a partner at Plunkett Cooney in Bloomfield Hills. . . . **Leslie Neustadt** has published *The Sustenance of Stars* (Kelsay Books), her second collection of poetry. . . . Rocky and **Jerry Newman** traveled to Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, in August to watch Jerry's daughter **Aurora Newman '17** receive her PhD in clinical psychology. Aurora is starting her career as a clinical psychologist in Pittsburgh. . . . **Marc and Joan Levy Zlotnik** (see '05).

1972 Sarah Hartwell has published *A World in Transition: A Snapshot of*

Rochester, New York (Spaulding Press). The book interweaves the story of her family's life in the first half of the 20th century with a social history of Rochester.

1974 Howard Grodman, a retired pediatric oncologist, writes that he is "living the post-career life." He has been married for nearly 44 years and has two grown children but is "still waiting for grandchildren; hopefully we don't need to wait too much longer. Retirement has included learning to sail (a bit), making soap, baking sourdough bread, trying to get some exercise, struggling to eliminate plastic in our lives, and writing a sci-fi medical intrigue novel, which has yet to find a literary agent to champion it." . . .

Jory Magidson, cochief of pathology and laboratory medicine at Atlantic Health System, sends a photograph from "an informal 50th graduation reunion celebration in July hosted by **Roman Dworecki** in beautiful Carmel, New York, showing members of the Class of 1974 (and my wife from the Class of 1976). From left to right are



1971 Newman



1974 Magidson

Gary Meisel, me, **Sheldon Pollack**, **Arthur Sinensky**, **Allen Hauptman**, **Caren Frankel '76**, Roman, and **Larry Schwartz**. A great time was had by all. Thank you, Roman (aka my freshman year roommate)! . . . **Susan Shapiro** has published *Latin Redux: A Second-Year Grammar Review* (University of Oklahoma Press). Susan is an associate professor of history and classics at Utah State University.

1975 Jackie Woodward Reynolds (see '15) . . . **Jake Welch** writes that after a three-year term as president of the Seneca Lake Association, he is serving as president of the Finger Lakes Watershed Alliance, representing all 11 New York State Finger Lakes. "It's an honor to protect and give back to these lakes that have added so much to my life these many long years," he writes. "They are precious and must be preserved."

1976 Stephen Elgert writes, "I was recently elected as the New Hampshire family physician of the year. I am now retired from active practice but still



1975 Welch



1976 Elgert

teach at the Concord-Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency program. I am married to **Ann Hoey '77** and have three children and one granddaughter." . . . **Caren Frankel** (see '74). . . . **Kevin McDermott's** 2023 novel, *They Imagine Texas* (ThickWinter Press), was a finalist in the Regional Fiction: Southwest category of the 18th annual National Indie Excellence Awards.

1977 Ann Hoey (see '76). . . . **Richard and Lori Cohen Josephson '78** send an update on behalf of the Josephson family. Richard writes: "The past year has been a BIG one for our family! Two weddings of our UR grads (daughter, **Emily '06**, and son, **Mitchell '11**), a third grandchild, Molly Josephson, our 'official' retirement (we say this loosely), relocating from Akron, Ohio, to Lakewood Ranch (Sarasota), Florida, and the release of Lori's book, *Calling All Neurons! How Reading and Spelling Happen*. We are very much enjoying this new chapter." (See also '78, '06, and '11). . . . **Larry and Debbie Thayer Reynolds '81W (MS)** (see '15).

1978 Lori Cohen Josephson has published a book, *Calling All Neurons! How Reading and Spelling Happen* (Happy Hummingbird Press). The book, in which the neurons themselves take the stage as narrators, explains how the brain learns to read and spell. (See also '77).

1979 Ernie Hanna, a senior principal and senior geotechnical engineer at GZA GeoEnvironmental, has been named Geotechnical Engineer of the Year by the Philadelphia chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Ernie has been with GZA, an employee-owned multidisciplinary engineering firm, since 1986 and has led teams on complex, high-profile projects in Greater Philadelphia, the mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes states, including solid waste management facility upgrades, building and infrastructure projects, and facilities upgrades at the US Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid

Atlantic in the historic Philadelphia Navy Yard. . . . **Sandra Long** has published *Jumpstart Your LinkedIn Profile: 67 Actionable Tips* (Pro Tip Press). Sandra is the owner of Post Road Consulting, based in New Hampshire.

1980 Brian Cohn '82 (MS) sent an update in September. He wrote: "After 40 years in industry and product development I've started a second (maybe fifth) career and am running for a seat in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Stay tuned on November 6 to see if I was successful."

1982 Peter Antonucci has completed his *Billionaires at Sea* trilogy with *Tides of Betrayal: Scandal on the Waves* (Independently published), the third and final installment in the trilogy that also includes *Billionaire's Paradise: Ecstasy at Sea* and *Scandal at Sea: Billionaires in the Deep*. Peter was interviewed by **Paul Thornton** '79S (MBA) for Paul's *Joy of Cruising Podcast*, where they discuss the new book in depth. Peter mentioned the University in answer to Paul's question about whether readers can enjoy the new book if they haven't read the first two. He says, "When I was an English major at our alma mater, Rochester, I was trained that any piece of literature—or film—should stand on its own. . . . You don't need to read the first two to 'get' the third." . . . **Dan Smolnik** sends an update. He completed an MBA at MIT in 2016 and has a tax law practice in Connecticut. He has published articles recently in *The Tax Lawyer* and the *Western New England Law Review*. . . . **Janice Jackson Vanselow** (see '52).

1986 Paul Hillman writes: "Just received my orders! After 33 years

of service—4 active duty and 29 reserve duty—I am retired as of March 1, 2024, at the rank of colonel, from the US Air Force."

1987 Amy Goldstein Borne writes: "This August I attended the Democratic National Convention in Chicago as a guest of the New Hampshire Delegation. I was able to get this photo with [Pennsylvania] Governor **Josh Shapiro** '95 when he spoke at the New Hampshire Delegation Breakfast. The Convention was an extraordinary experience!" . . . **Jennifer Sy Heger** (see '60).

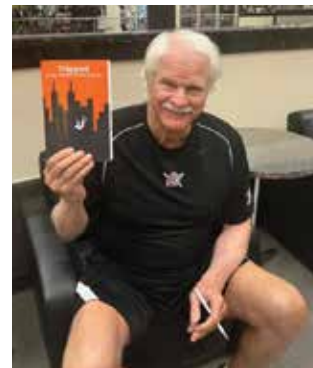
1989 Michael McHale writes, "After 30 years as a prosecutor and counsel to two Supreme Court justices, I have joined the law firm of Hagelin-Spencer as senior trial counsel. My practice will focus primarily on construction-site and automobile accidents, representing both plaintiffs and defendants." . . . Attorney **Mark Zaid** received the 2024 Metzdorf Award from the Friends of the University of Rochester Libraries at the annual awards reception in September at the Great Hall in Rush Rhees Library.

1991 Brett Kinsler writes, "I accepted a faculty position at UR this year and love being back on campus. I am a research assistant professor of neurology at the Center for Health and Technology (CHeT), director of the Health Division, and senior licensing and development director at UR Ventures. My role focuses on expanding the reach of the center's scientific discoveries to improve global health outcomes." Brett adds, "Come visit me in the Saunders Research Building."

1992 George Paskalis and a partner in MG Commercial Real Estate in



1987 Borne



1996 Sweeney



2005 Zlotnik

Providence, Rhode Island, have purchased the firm from its president and founder. George has been a commercial real estate broker for 25 years and a member of the Rhode Island Building Owners Association, where he served six years as a board member and president, and of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce and the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association.

1993 Eric LoPresti writes that he was "honored that the U of R art department invited me to do a solo art exhibition at Hartnett Gallery for Meliora Weekend. A while back, the *Rochester Review* did a feature on my paintings at www.rochester.edu/pr/Review/V75N3/0407_lopresti.html." . . . **Ross Warner**, a journalist who writes about TV, music, and film, has written a biography of the American rock band Cheap Trick: *American Standard: Cheap Trick from the Bars to the Budokan and Beyond* (Backbeat). The book includes a foreword by Mike McCready, lead guitarist of Pearl Jam.

1994 Philip Kusnetz writes that he has been selected to Super Lawyers for the 10th year by Thomson Reuters. His office is located on Long Island, New York.

1995 Josh Shapiro (see '87).

1996 Kevin Sweeney published his second book, *Back to School: A Guide to Stroke Recovery* (self-published), a how-to guide on recovering from a stroke and a follow-up to his autobiography *Trapped: Living with Non-Fluent Aphasia* (self-published), which he wrote after suffering two strokes in 2020. Kevin is donating all proceeds to his church. Retired from his career in the federal government, he is also working on a third book, *One State, Two State, Red State, Blue State*.

1998 James Carden, a Washington-based journalist and a former advisor to the State Department's US-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission, writes that he was interviewed in June by Italian journalist and scientist **Franco Battaglia** '85 (PhD) about the war in Ukraine for Italy's nationwide daily *La Verità*.

1999 Genesee Adkins writes, "In June I was appointed deputy city manager for the City of Bellevue, the largest majority-minority city in Washington State. I joined the city in 2022, and my portfolio now includes the communications, intergovernmental relations, special projects, and community development departments. Bellevue is a home base for growing



1980 Cohn

employers like Pokemon, T-Mobile, Amazon, Symetra Financial, and MiLa, and this spring we opened our light rail line, setting the stage for transformative and sustainable future growth.” . . .

Jerramy Fine has published her fifth book and first novel. *Royal Resistance* (Boadicea Books) explores themes of class, gender, race, and the monarchy's place in the 21st century through the story of a princess with a desire to conquer injustice.

2005 Deborah Zlotnik sends a picture from her June wedding to Michael Langman. Guests pictured include alumni **Matthew Parker '71, Ellen Zlotnik Parker '73, Andy Bernstein '71, Ethel Sidney-Bernstein '71, Debo-**

rah's parents, Marc '71 and Joan Levy Zlotnik '71, Lindsay Wech Nabozny, Peter Nabozny, Erin Fraser, Angela Hamarich, Tracy Feldman, Brienne Bellavita, and Charlie Tabb '71.

2006 William Fassett (see '48) . . . **Emily Josephson** and Eric Black were married in Denver, Colorado, last March. Pictured from left to right are **Mitchell Josephson '11** (Emily's brother), **Simone Sidel, Ariele Strauss Clinton, Emily, Ken Kretchmer '71, Richard Josephson '77** (Emily's father), **Ruth Borchardt '78, Lori Cohen Josephson '78** (Emily's mother), **Rona Horowitz Remstein '78, '79N, Robert Remstein '77, and Gail Schupack '78.**




2006 Josephson

Honoring a Football Legend

Following the 42–21 victory of the Yellowjackets over the University of New England during Meliora Weekend, more than 40 former football alumni gathered in the Stark Meeting Room of Fauver Stadium to continue an annual tradition of paying tribute to their iconic head coach, Pat Stark, who died in 2020. Returning former Stark players traveled from several states to mark the occasion and together represented every one of Coach Stark's Yellowjacket teams from the 1969 to 1983 seasons.

After the gathering, alumni posed on the field with current Yellowjacket Head Coach Chad Martinovich.

Attending the event were Rick Basehore '72, Erick Bond '77, Gary Borek '75, Pete Bourke '79, Quentin Call '76, Paul Caputo

'73, Erv Chambliss '76, Len Champion '73, Phil Chrys '75, John Cogar '71, Kevin Eldridge '86, Ed Elze '76, Bobby Ford '84, Andy Fornarola '79, Leo Fusilli '80, Mike Garritano '76, Sam Guerrieri '87, Bill Hammond '73, Pete Havey '79, Ed Heffernan '76, Dick Hipolit '74, Jim Juraska '73, Rocky Lamuro '79, Rick Magere '72, Kevin Maier '78, Jim Mazur '78, Dave McNelis '74, Gary Miller '84, John Minora '81, Tom Murray '82, Phil Newman '79, Joe Novek '73, Chris O'Connor '79, Brian Pasley '76, Kevin Perkins '79, Kurt Peterson '74, Dick Rasmussen '72, Mike Recny '78, Mike Roulan '71, Sam Shatkin '79, Steve Sloan '78, Rich Stark '79, Bill Stefanski '76, Garret Verdone '77, Dave Walsh '76, and Jim Wesp '72. 



2011 Mitchell Josephson and Jennifer Davis were married in Madison, Wisconsin, in July 2023. Pictured from left to right are **Gail Schupack '78**, **Rona Horowitz Remstein '78**, **'79N**, **Ruth Borchardt '78**, **Robert Remstein '77**, **Lori Cohen Josephson '78** (Mitchell's mother), **Mitchell**, **Richard Josephson '77** (Mitchell's father), **Jacob Mitchell**, **Emily Josephson '06** (Mitchell's

sister), **Ken Kretchmer '71**, **Maggie Arbogast Gay**, and **Kevin Gay**. . . . **Tasha Vazquez Santiago** has joined the Orlando office of the law firm ShuffieldLowman as an associate practicing in the areas of guardianship, probate, and estate planning. Tasha has also owned her own law practice, working with families in Central Florida in the areas of probate and estate planning.



2011 Josephson



2013 Woods

2013 Jane (Amy) Woods '19M (MPH), an assistant director in the Medical Center's health equity program support office, sends a wedding announcement: She and Eric Wright were married in September 2023 in Rochester. "The celebration was unforgettable with the presence of several college friends and UR women's basketball teammates, including several from the 2010 Final Four team. Go Jackets!" Amy adds, "I am deeply grateful to the University of Rochester and UR Athletics for these lifelong friendships." Pictured are **Dan Shapiro**, **Rob Reid**, Coach Jim Scheible, **Jodie Luther '12**, **Greta Antonsdottir '14**, **'16N**, **Alycia Pontello '14N**, **Leigh Smith '11**, **Chrissy Keck**, **Bridget Lang-Findlay**, **Liza Maizel**, **Michelle Ketcham Wallace '12**, **Elizabeth Perry Hutton '12**, **Maddie Korber '12**, **Sarah Potter Swan '11**, **Caroline McManus-Stockwell**, **Alicia Lally '11**, **Melissa Alwardt Othmer '11**, **Ally Zywicki '15**, **Erin Carroll '14**, Amy, **Jessica Mastronardi Dowgin '10**, **Alaina Tosatti Vaughn '10**, and **Kristyn Wright-Shapiro '13**.

2014 Alexandra (Allie) Cade '14E (see '14 Eastman). . . **Bridget Hannon Esteves** writes that she and her husband, Wyatt, welcomed a son, Martin Francis, in May.

2015 Emily Hogan and **Ervis Vukaj '16** were married in Lake George in June. Ervis can be seen front left in the picture holding the Rochester banner; Emily is to his left, and Trustee **Gwen Meltzer Greene '65** is directly behind them. Gwen reports a "remarkable" 35 alumni in the photograph. . . . **Rachel Suresky** and **Elise Seyferth** were married in Garrison, New York, joined by many Rochester alumni who gathered for a photo. Pictured from left to right are **Emily Fusco**, **Christina Smiros**, **Laura Keenahan**, **Rachel**,



2014 Esteves

Sasha Ganeles, **Jared Suresky '12** (Rachel's brother), **Michael Breen**, **Katie Breen**, **Jackie Woodward Reynolds '75** (Elise's aunt), **Eric Seyferth '86M** (Res) (Elise's father), **Debbie Thayer Reynolds '77**, **'81W** (MS) (Elise's aunt), **Larry Reynolds '77** (Elise's uncle), and **Sara Reynolds '86M** (MD) (Elise's mother).

2016 Ervis Vukaj
(see '15).

2017 Aurora Newman
(see '71).

2018 Alex Johnson
(see '21).

2019 Lava Hong, a music supervisor and singer-songwriter based in Los Angeles, released her album *Mountains, Oceans, Rivers* (Lava Hong) in June. Lava says she credits her time at Rochester for shaping her musical journey and inspiring her creative endeavors.

2021 Claire Janezic was a finalist in the 2024 Queen Fabiola Contest in Belgium, an international competition of the World Carillon Federation to identify and honor the world's finest carillonists. Claire was a double major in history and music with a minor in audio and music engineering at Rochester. After graduation, she studied at the Royal Carillon School in Belgium. Rochester has been well represented at the competition: **Alex Johnson '18** won it in 2019, and participants this year included **Kayla Gunderson '23** and **Carson Landry**, University Carillonist and lecturer in the Arthur Satz Department of Music in the School of Arts & Sciences.

2023 Kayla Gunderson
(see '22).

River Campus

GRADUATE

1970 Joe Amato (PhD) has written *Spring of Springs: Early Chapters in an Autobiography* (Independently published). The new book follows last year's explorations of self—*Self: One and Many* and *Body: Vessel and Sea of Self*—both published by Crossing Press. . . . **Cary Nelson** (PhD), a professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the author or editor of 35 books, has written *Hate Speech and Academic Freedom: The Antisemitic Assault on Basic Principles*

Eastman School of Music



2015 Hogan

(Academic Studies Press). Cary was president of the American Association of University Professors from 2006 to 2012.

1973 Larry Carver (PhD), a professor emeritus of English at the University of Texas–Austin, has published *Rochester and the Pursuit of Pleasure* (Manchester University Press), a reading of the work of John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, in a biographical context. . . . **Cheryl Neel Mendelson** (PhD) has written *Vows: The Modern Genius of an Ancient Rite* (Simon and Schuster), an investigation into the origin and meaning of wedding vows. An author of both fiction and nonfiction books, Cheryl wrote *Home Comforts: The Art and Science of Keeping House* (Scribner), an unexpected bestseller when it was published in 1999.

1982 Brian Cohn (MS) (see '80 College).

1985 Franco Battaglia (PhD) (see '98 College).

1996 Karen Noske-Kelsey (MA) has released *All Men Are Liars* (self-published). Writing as Marline Williams, Karen writes that the book “frolics through the 1970s’ clash of conformity vs. conscience in the offbeat, hilarious (probably doomed) romance of a hopelessly naive Jesus freak coed and the devilishly handsome campus Romeo.”

2006 Kevin Bucholtz (PhD) has been named associate provost for student engagement and academic excellence at Georgia College.

2019 Camden Burd (PhD), an assistant professor of history at Clemson University, has published *The Roots of Flower City: Horticulture, Empire, and the Remaking of Rochester, New York* (Cornell University Press). Camden writes that the book is based on his doctoral dissertation “and is grounded in the rich archival collections in the University Archives,” part of the Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation in Rush Rhees Libraries. Camden’s interests include digital humanities, and he maintains a website showcasing his work at Camdenburd.com.

2020 Historian Jonathan Strassfeld (PhD) has won the 2024 John Dewey Prize, a triennial award for the best book on the history of American philosophy given by the Society for US Intellectual History with funding from the John Dewey Foundation. Jonathan won the award for his 2022 book *Inventing Philosophy's Other: Phenomenology in America* (University of Chicago Press), a recounting of the division of American philosophy into two camps, analytic and continental philosophy. “Within the American academy, analytic philosophy reigned triumphant throughout the 20th and early 21st centuries,” the prize committee wrote. “Rather than assuming that the methods of analytic philosophy were simply superior to continental philosophy at addressing key questions, instead Strassfeld shows us how the internal workings of the American academy, the interventions of well-placed allies, and sometimes just dumb luck can elevate and entrench certain modes of thinking.”

2023 Rose Zaloom (PhD) writes that in August 2023 she published an essay titled “‘Slack in [Neither] Tongue [Nor] Performance’: The Duchess’s Maternal Authority and Incestuous Revenge in The Revenger’s Tragedy” in the anthology *Boundaries of Violence* (Routledge). Currently, she works as a technical writer.

1978 Steven Smith (DMA) writes that he completed his term as president of the American Matthay Association for Piano after presenting a recital at the Matthay Festival at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, in June. He also performed a recital in February at Penn State, where he has been a professor emeritus of piano since retiring in 2014. Many of his performances are available on his YouTube channel, [@stevenherbertsmith7827](https://www.youtube.com/@stevenherbertsmith7827).

1979 Bob Jesselson (MM), the Carolina Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of South Carolina, writes, “I am now retired after 40 years of teaching at the University of South Carolina. I have published a new book, *The Cellist’s Guide to Scales and Arpeggios* (Mel Bay), and have recently returned from teaching in Estonia.”

1981 Dan Locklair (DMA) sends news of the release of *From East to West and Other Choral Works* (Convivium Records), a collection of his sacred music. The works are



2015 Suresky



2021 Janezic

performed by the Choir of Royal Holloway, Onyx Brass, and organist David Goode, directed by Rupert Gough.

1983 Renée Fleming (MM), '11E
(HNR) (see '08 Simon).

1985 **John Fedchock** (MM) writes that he won the International Trombone Association's 2024 ITA Award, which is given to an individual who has influenced the field of trombone and recognizes their dedication to excellence in performance, education, composition, arranging, and the advancement of the instrument. John received the award at the International Trombone Festival in Fort Worth, Texas, in May. He was featured on the cover of the association's quarterly journal in July in conjunction with the honor. In September John released his 11th album as leader, *Justifiably J.J.* (Summit Records), a tribute for the centennial of trombone master J. J. Johnson's birth.

1988 **Tom Nazziola** has recorded *Reflections on Love* (Goju Records), a collection of new arrangement of classic standards. He writes: "For many years I've been infatuated with the reharmonization of standards, thanks to my beloved teacher, Ray Cassarino," a jazz pianist and a longtime teacher at the Hartford Conservatory. "As a tribute to him, as well as a chance to express myself in a different way compositionally, I've reharmonized and arranged eleven songs on the subject of love, with references to unrequited love, passion, loss, reminiscence, and desire. The songs of Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart, Sondheim/Bernstein are at the heart of this album, including a wonderful song written by my father entitled 'I Know.' The album features settings of guitar trio, solo piano, and piano quartet with trumpet, featuring **John Bailey.**"



1985E Fedchock

1992 **Ingrid Gordon** and Susan Jolles, performing as Percussia, have released a CD, *Plucked & Struck* (Neuma Records). Ingrid writes that the recording, consisting of original works for Celtic harp and micropercussion, “might be the only album of its kind to feature serious classical music for this unique instrument combination. The album also features several tracks composed for Orff xylophone, an instrument that is traditionally associated with early childhood education. In this work, it becomes a serious instrument in its own right.”

1996 Lee Koonce (MM), senior advisor at Gateways Music Festival, received the 2024 Gold Baton—the highest honor given by the League of American Orchestras—at the opening session of the league’s national conference in June. He has been associated with the festival in a number of capacities, including past president and artistic director, since 1997, helping it grow from an all-volunteer local organization into a festival of national significance. Previous recipients of the Gold Baton include Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Yo-Yo Ma, and John Williams.

2000 **Peter Kolkay** (MM) has released a new recording featuring work for bassoon and strings by four contemporary composers: Joan Tower, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Russell Platt, and Judith Weir. He writes, "I recorded the album with the Calidore Quartet, my colleagues at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The disc offers premiere recordings of each work and is intended to broaden the scope of repertoire available for bassoonists to perform with string instruments."

2013 Tommy Dougherty
(see '14).

2014 Alexandra (Allie) Cade '14RC and **Tommy Dougherty** '13 were awarded Maker-Creator Fellowships at the Winterthur Museum in Delaware. As explained on the museum's website, the fellowship "welcomes artists and creators from diverse disciplines to find inspiration in our collections to similarly shape their practices and work." Allie, a violist, is a scholar studying the material culture of music, performance, and tourism in the early 19th-century Atlantic world. She holds a master's degree from Winthur's program in American material culture and is a PhD student at the University of Delaware. Tommy, now playing with



2024E Kahrs

the San Diego Symphony, is a violinist and composer of orchestral, chamber, and solo works. Their project was an exhibit and composition, the *Winterthur Suite*. “As a team comprised of a historian and composer, we are particularly interested in how the understanding of an object can be expanded through sound,” Allie wrote. “*Winterthur Suite* aims to fuse interpretations of the past and present to enrich the physical experience of objects and spaces, creating a new composition that can simultaneously stand alone and work in conversation to encounter familiar objects in unfamiliar ways.”

2016 Sergio Muñoz Leiva (MM) has been appointed director of chamber music at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he had been serving in the same role in an interim capacity since the fall of 2022. Also since fall 2022, Sergio has been a music theory instructor at Project STEP, a nonprofit organization that provides young string players from historically underrepresented groups in classical music with comprehensive music instruction. He performs as a freelancer on both modern and baroque viola with orchestral and chamber ensembles in Boston and elsewhere in New England.

2024 **Noah Kahrs** (PhD) became the third member of his family to earn a PhD from the University after being awarded a doctorate in music theory. He joins his parents, **Mark Kahrs** '84RC (PhD) and **Diane Litman** '86RC (PhD), who both earned their doctoral

degrees in computer science. Mark and Diane met as doctoral students at the University in 1980 and married seven years later. Both teach at the University of Pittsburgh—Litman as a professor of computer science, and Kahrs as an instructor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Noah has moved to Flagstaff, Arizona, where he's an assistant professor of music theory at Northern Arizona University. Although he followed his parents into the teaching field, he never really considered becoming a computer scientist. "While they taught me some coding as a kid, and my music theory dissertation has a few computational aspects, I liked things to be more abstract."

School of
Medicine and
Dentistry

1977 **Jim Powers** (MD), a professor of medicine (geriatrics) at Vanderbilt University and the director of clinical innovation at the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, writes that his team has received the Middle Tennessee Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

1980 Robert Smith (Flw) has written the book *Has Medicine Lost Its Mind? Why Our Mental Health System Is Failing Us and What Should Be Done to Cure It*, to be released by



1982M Wasserman

Prometheus Books in March. Robert is the University Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry at Michigan State University.

1981 David Nash (MD) has been appointed secretary/treasurer of the board of directors of the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education. David is the Founding Dean Emeritus and Dr. Raymond C. & Doris N. Grandon Professor of Health Policy at Jefferson College of Population Health.

1982 Peter Wasserman (MD) sends a photo of himself with his first published book, "an easy-read political thriller" called *The Eye Files* (independently published).

1983 Julian Chang '83M (Res) was the chief medical officer for the Hong Kong Olympics team at the 2024 Olympic Games. It marked his 10th Olympics serving the team.

1986 Sara Reynolds (MD) and Eric Seyferth (Res) (see '15 College).

1987 Robert Montgomery (MD), the H. Leon Pachter, MD, Chair and Professor of Surgery at NYU Langone Health and director of the NYU Langone Transplant Institute, was honored in June with the Jacobson Innovation Award by the American College of Surgeons. Among his contributions to clinical medicine, he helped develop a procedure for kidney donation that has become the standard throughout the world. Robert has expanded transplant services at NYU Langone Health and led the creation of new lung and heart transplant programs; pediatric kidney, heart, lung, and liver programs; and an expansion of the allogeneic bone marrow transplant program. He also led the

team that performed the world's first successful investigational pig-to-human kidney xenotransplant, a major step forward in addressing the critical shortage of transplantable organs.

1991 Michael Chin '89M (PhD), who has served since July 2023 as interim dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Tufts University, has been named permanent dean. Since 2017 he has contributed expertise in virology, molecular biology, biochemistry, and cardiology to Tufts University School of Medicine. While researching the molecular biology of the cardiovascular system,

he also cares for patients. After completing medical school and his PhD at Rochester, he went on to complete a residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, a postdoctoral research fellowship at the National Institute on Aging, and a fellowship in cardiovascular diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Michael is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and of the editorial boards for *Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine* and the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*.

2004 Roger Di Pietro (Pdc) has written *Anger: Psychological Reasons*

Why It Rises and How to Reduce It (Self-published), an overview of anger that identifies and explains the reasons it erupts, the forms it takes, what factors maintain it, and how to respond to the anger of others.

2019 Jane (Amy) Woods (MPH) (see '13 College).

School of Nursing

1961 Jeanie Maddox Sy (see '60 College).



1983M Chang



1978S Shepard

Simon Business School

1978 Steve Shepard (MBA) writes that he and his wife, Barbara, "completed the arduous trek to Everest Base Camp in Nepal in May. The trek was completed over 10 days, covers 40 miles, and includes 9,000 feet of elevation gain, finishing at 17,600 feet at Everest Base Camp." He adds that they "brought Rocky on the trek, of course."

1979 Paul Thornton (MBA) (see '82 College).

1989 Ed Luzine (MBA) writes that he has launched the Ticonderoga Strategic Fund, focused on aerospace, defense, and related tech sectors, through his firm, Adirondack Capital International. He adds: "I appeared in a cameo role as myself on the set of 'The Owl,' episode 8, season 7, of *Billions*, shot in the Adirondack Mountains."

1991 Bob Rivers (MBA), executive chair and chair of the board of directors at Eastern Bank, was recognized by the Asian Community Fund at the Boston Foundation during its inaugural gala as its Ally Honoree for his partnership and advocacy in supporting Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and entrepreneurs of color. Bob has been recognized by many organizations for his work in championing diversity and social justice and has been regularly named among the Top 10 Most Influential People in Boston by *Boston* magazine and to the *Boston Business Journal's* Power 50 list.



2008S Adams

2008 Christopher Adams writes that after several years of reading about the annual "Rochester at Tanglewood: A Spectacular Afternoon of Music" event, he, a longtime New York City resident, organized a vacation to the "beautiful Berkshires of western Massachusetts to join the event in person." Six of his good friends from New York attended with Christopher, who is shown at far right in the group photo. They were "treated to a lovely luncheon among Rochester alumni and to an all-Strauss performance by the Boston Symphony Orchestra accompanied by opera soprano **Renée Fleming** '83E (MM), '11E (HNR)." Christopher adds, "It was a wonderful afternoon, and the group would recommend the annual event (and Rochester!) to anyone who has been curious about it."

2010 Roger Cordero (MBA) has been promoted to vice president of global compensation at Constellation Brands. Roger has been with the company for 14 years and has taken on responsibilities in both US and global compensation at progressively higher levels.



1988W Godshall

Warner School of Education

1981 Debbie Thayer Reynolds (MS) (see '15 College).

1988 Clark Godshall (EdD), senior New York State BOCES district superintendent and chief executive officer of the Orleans/Niagara BOCES, retired after 53 years as an educator and 43 years as a school administrator. For the past 24 years, he was responsible for the educational services for more than 30,000 students at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES, the 13th largest out of 37 statewide. He was an interim district superintendent at five other BOCES. As the BOCES district superintendent, Clark served as the New York State Commissioner of Education's local representative. A former high school science teacher, he taught biology, chemistry, and earth science in the Hilton Central School District and started his administrative career as assistant superintendent for the Penn Yan, New York, Central School District.

1999 Catherine Compton-Lilly (EdD), the John C. Hungerpillar Professor at the University of South Carolina and a professor emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, writes that she will be inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame, an independent organization that recognizes lifetime achievement in the field of literacy. She is the author or editor of several books on literacy and has published widely in educational journals. The awards will be presented at the Literacy Research Association's annual meeting in Atlanta in December. Before joining the faculty at UW Madison, Catherine taught for 18 years in the Rochester area, mostly in the Rochester City School District.

In Memoriam Trustees

C. William (Bill) Brown '61, Trustee Emeritus, died in September. Brown was named to the Board of Trustees in 1985. He also served on the board of the Medical Center. An independent insurance broker and risk management consultant, he developed expertise in New York State cultural institutions and insured the International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House for 40 years.

Faculty

E. David Appelbaum '59, dentistry, July 2024
Wenguo Peng, neurology, May 2024

Faculty Emeriti

Francis Gigliotti '83M (Flw), pediatrics/infectious diseases, August 2024
Lowell Goldsmith '02M (MPH), dermatology, August 2024
Vishnu Mathur, physics and astronomy, June 2024
John Ruef '64M (Res), medicine, August 2024
Thomas Schumacher, piano, May 2024
Ira Shoulson '71M (MD), '73M (Res), '77M (Res), neurology, May 2024
James Zimmer '60M (Res), community and preventive medicine, July 2024

Alumni

June Meon Trout '45, May 2024
Anna Mae Fiedler Anast '48E, June 2024
Margaret Matthews Boland '48, August 2024
John D. Fassett '48, June 2024
Donald Feldman '48, May 2024
Emma Lou Diemer '49E (MM), '60E (PhD), June 2024
Jean Somers Griffith '49, December 2023
Guy B. Bennett '51, June 2024
Doris Blades Black '51, January 2024
Robert R. Bolster '51, May 2024
Robert E. Farnung '51, May 2024
Iwao G. Kawakami '51M (MD), April 2024
Marion Becher Francis '52, '53N, March 2023
Stephen J. Kimmel '52, January 2024
Donald L. Pero '52, July 2024
Jerald J. Rotenberg '52, August 2024
Marlis Drews Schmidt '52E (MM), July 2024
Donald J. Vanselow '52, May 2024
Theodore Baldino '53, August 2024
Alice Monroe Gannon '53N, May 2024
Harold A. Krieger '53, August 2024
Jane Johnson Theiss '53E (MA), June 2024
Richard G. Betteridge '54 (Mas), June 2024
Daniel Boda '54E (MA), June 2024
Jeanine Robinson Dunn '54, '55N, April 2024
Irving S. Gordon '54, March 2024
Sylvia Love McCallister '54E (MM), May 2024
Lloyd A. McCarthy '54M (MD), July 2024

<p>Shirley Crane Schrank '54N, '59, '60W (MS), September 2023</p> <p>Jean Canney Tague '54N, June 2024</p> <p>Arno C. Buhner '55, May 2024</p> <p>Florence Sokolski Cox '55, August 2024</p> <p>Patricia C. Johnson '55N, May 2024</p> <p>Gunars Reimanis '55, '60 (PhD), May 2024</p> <p>Joseph B. Seiler '55, July 2024</p> <p>Stephan R. Taub '55, May 2024</p> <p>Albert Barr '56, May 2023</p> <p>Joan B. Berend '56, June 2024</p> <p>John O. Burris '56M (MD), February 2024</p> <p>Roger H. Carman '56M (MD), '60M (Res), August 2024</p> <p>Myra Somerville Carrier '56, July 2024</p> <p>William E. Hermance '56, '60M (MD), June 2024</p> <p>Nelson B. Leenhouts '56, August 2024</p> <p>Thomas M. Older '56, August 2024</p> <p>Rita Buckley Stack '56, August 2024</p> <p>Bernard W. Eissenstat '57, July 2024</p> <p>James W. Graves '57, '60 (MA), May 2024</p> <p>Stella Pantages Kacandes '57, July 2024</p> <p>Mary M. MacIntyre '57, July 2024</p> <p>Eric G. Musa '57, June 2024</p> <p>Joseph L. Petix '57, July 2024</p> <p>Charles A. Baker '58, '59E (MM), '65E (DMA), July 2024</p> <p>Robert P. Hohlstein '58, May 2024</p> <p>Diane Wangman McIntosh '58E, June 2024</p> <p>Joseph Siracusa '58, June 2024</p> <p>Frederick J. Wajda '58 (MS), August 2024</p> <p>E. David Appelbaum '59, July 2024</p> <p>Michael C. Gemignani '59, May 2024</p> <p>Beverly Borst Kingsley '59, June 2024</p> <p>Keith MacGaffey '59M (MD), February 2023</p> <p>Ann Funkhouser McFarlane '59, October 2023</p> <p>James L. Nicoll '59, May 2024</p> <p>Patricia Fero Shank '59N (Dpl), May 2024</p> <p>Paul C. Smilow '59M (MD), February 2024</p> <p>Allan S. Yetter '59N (Dpl), May 2024</p> <p>John C. Aust '60, June 2024</p> <p>Richard B. Bagby '60, July 2024</p> <p>Margorie A. Browne '60, July 2024</p> <p>Anthony J. Crain '60E (MM), May 2024</p> <p>Carolyn Moss Cummings '60, December 2022</p> <p>Frederick Hecht '60M (MD), June 2024</p> <p>Frederic C. Johnson '60, August 2024</p> <p>Adele Gratz Lerner '60, May 2024</p> <p>Robert L. Neary '60, June 2024</p> <p>Rita M. Resch '60E (MM), July 2024</p>	<p>Susan K. Schwardt '60, July 2024</p> <p>Warren D. Snyder '60, May 2024</p> <p>James G. Zimmer '60M (Res), July 2024</p> <p>Larry B. Church '61, July 2024</p> <p>Mervyn J. Farrar '61E, August 2024</p> <p>Everett T. Keech '61, May 2024</p> <p>Melvyn H. Keiner '61, October 2023</p> <p>Joseph M. Shroyer '61M (Res), July 2024</p> <p>John P. Tagett '61M (MD), May 2024</p> <p>Korkut Bardakci '62 (PhD), March 2024</p> <p>John C. Council '62M (Res), July 2024</p> <p>Donley G. McReynolds '62M (MD), '68M (Res), May 2024</p> <p>George Merkel '62 (Flw), March 2024</p> <p>Carol Riesz Nielsen '62, February 2024</p> <p>David Y. Smith '62 (PhD), February 2023</p> <p>Ringgold W. Wilmer '62, August 2024</p> <p>Sigmund Alexander '63 (MA), May 2024</p> <p>Michael D. Clark '63W (EdM), August 2024</p> <p>Marcia Hammond McBride '63N, December 2023</p> <p>James P. Fitz Morris '63, '69S (MBA), June 2024</p> <p>Marianne Utz Pauley '63, April 2024</p> <p>Charles S. Brown '64E (MM), '71E (DMA), July 2024</p> <p>Monte K. Hoffman '64E, May 2024</p> <p>Jed J. Jacobson '64M (Res), May 2024</p> <p>Vicki Perrill Jones '64, April 2024</p> <p>Alice Mae Kenyon '64 (PhD), '78N, January 2024</p> <p>Alan R. Posner '64, July 2024</p> <p>John S. Ruef '64M (Res), August 2024</p> <p>Robert L. Stearns '64, July 2024</p> <p>Arthur S. Banner '65, '68M (MD), February 2024</p> <p>Marjorie Stevens Branca '65N, '90W (MS), January 2024</p> <p>Joan Spaker Hasselwander '65W (MA), June 2024</p> <p>Helen Schnacky Lindley '65W (MA), July 2024</p> <p>Martin R. Stolar '65, July 2024</p> <p>Neal G. Dunkleberg '66, August 2024</p> <p>Judith Evans '66, '66N, May 2024</p> <p>Janet Webster Metzger '66, '71W (MA), June 2024</p> <p>James A. Schultz '66, May 2024</p> <p>Lee D. Simon '66 (PhD), May 2024</p> <p>Donald T. Tyler '66, August 2024</p> <p>Paul E. Walsky '66, July 2024</p> <p>Wallace D. Brown '67M (MD), August 2024</p> <p>Paul E. Eickmann '67E (MM), '71E (PhD), July 2024</p> <p>Mark E. Glogowski '67, June 2024</p> <p>Park D. Goist '67 (PhD), January 2024</p> <p>Susan Dorfman Kaplan '67, July 2024</p> <p>Hector C. Lombard '67, May 2024</p> <p>Kirby B. Noye '67S (MBA), August 2024</p>	<p>William C. Perkins '67, March 2024</p> <p>William J. Beenhouwer '68E, '69E (MM), December 2023</p> <p>David B. Crane '68M (MD), August 2024</p> <p>Carol Heilman Figdore '68W (MA), July 2024</p> <p>Raymond A. Howard '68E, June 2024</p> <p>John J. Miller '68, August 2024</p> <p>Margaret Lamb Vaughan '68, August 2024</p> <p>Susan Grettler Brooks '69E (MM), August 2024</p> <p>Michael P. Gleason '69, February 2024</p> <p>Margaret Rowe Harrison '69W (MA), July 2024</p> <p>Terry Delrosso Jennings '69, July 2024</p> <p>Iris J. Mercik '69N (Dpl), May 2024</p> <p>Paul Siff '69 (PhD), July 2024</p> <p>Willeen Wilkinson Buchholz '70, '81W (MS), May 2024</p> <p>Francis G. Creamer '70S (MBA), May 2024</p> <p>Janos Csaba '70E (MM), July 2024</p> <p>Richard F. Hunt '70W (MA), January 2024</p> <p>Lee A. Adnepos '71 (MA), July 2024</p> <p>Anastasios Anastasopoulos '71 (PhD), July 2024</p> <p>Karen Kasarjian Barnes '71, '71N, August 2024</p> <p>Donald J. Capuano '71M (Res), '73M (Res), May 2024</p> <p>Robert B. Dolan '71, August 2024</p> <p>Antoinette Mendlow Kuzminski '71 (MA), August 2024</p> <p>Marcia Kaufman Rosenfeld '71W (MA), August 2024</p> <p>Roslyn Schwartz Rubin '71W (MA), August 2024</p> <p>Ira Shoulson '71M (MD), '73M (Res), '77M (Res), May 2024</p> <p>Brian G. Cerow '72E, August 2024</p> <p>Robert W. Conley '72, July 2024</p> <p>Thomas B. Michaels '72 (MS), August 2024</p> <p>Robert L. Johnson '73, August 2024</p> <p>Gregory J. Parks '73, April 2024</p> <p>Norman J. Pointer '73M (Res), August 2024</p> <p>Judith A. Schechter '73, May 2024</p> <p>Christopher Gilman '74, August 2023</p> <p>Sylvia Found Hagerman '74, August 2024</p> <p>George K. Hansen '74 (MS), July 2024</p> <p>John F. Holzwarth '74W (EdD), August 2024</p> <p>John M. Magde '74, May 2024</p> <p>Nancy R. Reed '74N, July 2024</p> <p>Gerald L. Strobe '74M (MD), August 2024</p> <p>Kenneth E. Brader '75E, May 2024</p> <p>Robert N. Neusatz '75E, May 2024</p> <p>Richard C. Bruce '76, June 2024</p>	<p>Thomas J. Aquilina '77 (MS), July 2024</p> <p>Daniel T. Gates '77, May 2024</p> <p>Joan Gebhardt Myers '77, August 2024</p> <p>Richard M. King '78, August 2024</p> <p>Helene Friedman Stoak '78, May 2024</p> <p>Margaret Wahl '78N, June 2024</p> <p>James F. Burchill '80E (PhD), June 2024</p> <p>James E. Mathers '80 (MS), August 2024</p> <p>Jennifer Dundon '81, January 2024</p> <p>Claire Smith Hauenstein '81S (MBA), July 2024</p> <p>Richard E. Sot '81 (PhD), March 2024</p> <p>Francis Gigliotti '83M (Flw), August 2024</p> <p>Theresa B. Litteer '83N (MS), August 2024</p> <p>Rosemary Kew '84 (MA), June 2024</p> <p>Donna Sarachan Lawrence '84, July 2024</p> <p>Linda Roach Yanklowski '84N (MS), August 2024</p> <p>Joan F. Bezon '85N (MS), June 2024</p> <p>Anne E. Crowley '85, August 2024</p> <p>Nicole F. Meadow '85, August 2024</p> <p>David Y. Wang '85, '92 (PhD), June 2024</p> <p>Cheryl S. Beusch '90, June 2024</p> <p>Nancy Perkins Weyl '90M (MPH), '91 (PhD), July 2024</p> <p>Ann Goziotis '91D (Pdc), May 2024</p> <p>Monica J. Jones '92, June 2024</p> <p>Christopher M. Montesano '92 (MA), April 2024</p> <p>Susan E. Patterson '92W (MS), June 2024</p> <p>Patricia Zewe Pakan '93W (PhD), July 2024</p> <p>Stephen M. Salerno '93M (MD), July 2024</p> <p>Michael J. Gage '94, May 2024</p> <p>Anne Murray Barker '96W (MS), '98W (PhD), June 2024</p> <p>Edward J. Forsythe '96, June 2024</p> <p>Patricia G. Armstrong '97W (MS), May 2024</p> <p>John Hauber '97S (MBA), May 2024</p> <p>Anne Murray Barker '98W (PhD), June 2024</p> <p>Hartley C. Starkman '98S (MBA), August 2023</p> <p>Orlando Torres '99, July 2024</p> <p>Lowell A. Goldsmith '02M (MPH), July 2024</p> <p>Kathleen E. Ames '05, August 2024</p> <p>Christopher R. Deigel '06, June 2024</p> <p>Donna Lee Howland '07W (MS), June 2024</p> <p>Chun-Pu Chao '09, June 2024</p> <p>Bea Jörgensen Covell '13, July 2024</p> <p>Joseph O. Hargrave '26, June 2024</p>
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A 'Boom' in Women's Sports

Karen Durkin '87 reflects on how women's sports became big business.

Interview by Jim Mandelaro

I grew up in Stamford, Connecticut. I was passionate about the flute and wanted to study music, but I also wanted the full campus experience. I always loved music but being first chair of a symphony was never really my career goal. I took many classes at Eastman, and I graduated with a major in music and a minor in English.

Ours was a sports household. My father was a coach and an athlete and very, very influential in my life. He pitched for Notre Dame and was drafted to try out for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He coached CYO basketball and Babe Ruth baseball. I followed him around everywhere.

I started as an athlete very young. I was a competitive swimmer from about the age of four or five and that was all I did, training twice a day, always traveling to meets on weekends. And then I got to be 13, and I wanted to do other things. In high school, I played lots of sports—volleyball, basketball, and softball. And then in college, I started with varsity basketball and in my junior year I switched to varsity swimming. I didn't even know if I'd sink to the bottom of the pool when I dove in, because it had been a long time—probably a decade! For many years, I also carried a 1.2 golf handicap.

Karen Durkin '87

Home: Ormond Beach, Florida

Founder of the marketing, communications, and sponsorship firm The Durkin Agency; former CEO, Women's Sports Foundation (2008–10); and senior executive in the National Hockey League (2006–08) and the LPGA (1995–2006)

Major at Rochester: Music

On her father's influence: "My father believed in following your passions but also making sure you knew how to write a good sentence. We used to diagram sentences for fun when I was very young. Thus, my minor in English."

Sports have had lifelong benefits for me personally and professionally. I was a shy kid, so they gave me an outlet and confidence. They're so key in women's leadership. About 80 percent of women Fortune 500 CEOs played some kind of organized sports in their younger years. There's extensive research showing a correlation between women's participation in sports and leadership in business as well as better health.


If you look at my career track, from the LPGA to the NHL to the Women's Sports Foundation, those were all underdog brands. In women's sports, there are so many inequities, and when I came to the NHL, it was the first year back on ice after the 2004–05 lockout. So, the league was really investing in rebuilding.

But there's no question now that women's sports are in a boom that none of us has ever experienced before—whether on the fan side, the business side, or the athlete side. Women's sports are truly now an investment. Media rights, sponsorship revenue, and attendance are all rising, and exponential increases are happening in merchandising, betting, and in team valuations.

When the US women's soccer team won the World Cup in 1999, that was a seismic shift.

We were watching women's soccer more than men's. There were so many things that came after that win that were stage setters for what we're seeing now. Look at the New York Liberty. They got a ticker-tape parade following their victory in the WNBA Championship. The last time that happened for a basketball team was in 1976.

There have been breakthrough women athletes in the past. But what makes someone like Caitlin Clark so powerful is today's acceptance of women's sports. Women breakthrough athletes are having a seismic impact on the business, the fans, consumers, and vice versa—the foundation and context for past athletes were very different.

But now that women's sports is an investment, it's going to have to show a return. The stakes are higher. There are areas where progress is still very much needed. So, can the boom sustain itself? And so I watch the boom and say: "We've got to show the return." 



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by paying it forward

“Joining the George Eastman Circle helps us give to all the programs across the University that matter to us—from nursing and health care to the Eastman Performing Arts Medicine Center, and equity, diversity, and inclusion. My wife, Mabelle, and I enjoy that our membership also provides opportunities to connect with fellow alumni and attend events that continue to spark our curiosity. Scholarship support made everything possible for both of us. Now, we give back so that other students will have the same opportunities.”

ROBERT J. “BOB” PIZZUTIELLO JR. '77, '78 (MS)
with **MABELLE B. PIZZUTIELLO '63N, P'89** (pictured in background)
Members, George Eastman Circle | Victor, NY

Bob is a medical physicist as well as a musician who performs for the Eastman Performing Arts Medicine Center, playing the Chapman Stick in the lobby of Strong Memorial Hospital. Mabelle, a retired nurse, was the trauma program manager at Strong for over a decade.

GEORGE EASTMAN CIRCLE

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OPTICS

Nobel Appearance

STAR POWER: Physics Nobel laureate Donna Strickland '89 (PhD), flanked by Thomas Brown, director of the Institute of Optics, speaks with a rapt audience of students following "You Can't Make Anything Better than You Can Test It," the inaugural colloquium in honor of the late optics leader James C. Wyant '67 (MS), '69 (PhD), '21 (Honorary). PHOTOGRAPH BY J. ADAM FENSTER

