

# North Star

*a Warrior report for alumni & friends of Rochester University*



VOLUME 62  
2020-2021



**Rise**  
**together.**  
**Stand**  
**apart.**



INSIGHT

# from the PRESIDENT



Dear friends,

**Thank you for reading this edition of the North Star.**

Our purpose with this special publication is to invite you into a closer look at many of the wonderful things happening at Rochester University. The year 2020 was tough on everyone. But thanks to our students, faculty, staff, and especially thanks to your support and the help of God, RU is growing and thriving.

Rochester University is an institution of higher education. A fundamental element of what that means is that together we are engaged in the relentless search for truth. We emphasize learning to reason well, to think critically and analytically, and to understand how to evaluate competing truth claims. We read good books. We strive to become literate in mathematics, natural science and technology. We study the lessons of history, learn to appreciate and value the arts, and process the human dynamics of the social and behavioral sciences. In short, we are devoted to becoming well educated human beings.

But, as a Christian university, RU will never settle for a solely intellectual pursuit of truth. Instead, we will always ask the question, "How should we live in light of the truth?" And even more fundamentally, we will always encourage each other to follow in the steps of the one who said about himself, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

At RU, we think of education not as a passport to privilege, but instead as a means by which we are equipped to better serve others. Our students are preparing for lives of stewardship and service. They are already a positive force for good. As you read this issue, you will learn more about how we are doing the important work of a Christian university and how some wonderful people are participating in our continued movement forward. We hope you enjoy this peek inside the world of Rochester University. As you read and learn more about RU, we invite you to join hands with us in the service of our vital mission.

May God bless you,

DR. BRIAN STOGNER, President



# ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY

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above, from left to right:

**TRENTON FAGAN**  
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a message from

**STEVE MOORE**  
Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations

"Support from our alumni and friends is the lifeblood of RU. We are pleased to be able to demonstrate how vital your prayers, donations and involvement are. I hope you are both encouraged and challenged by the stories in this issue of the North Star of how your support has impacted the RU community."



# Rise together. Stand apart.



stories compiled by

**LORA HUTSON**  
Associate Professor of  
Mass Communication

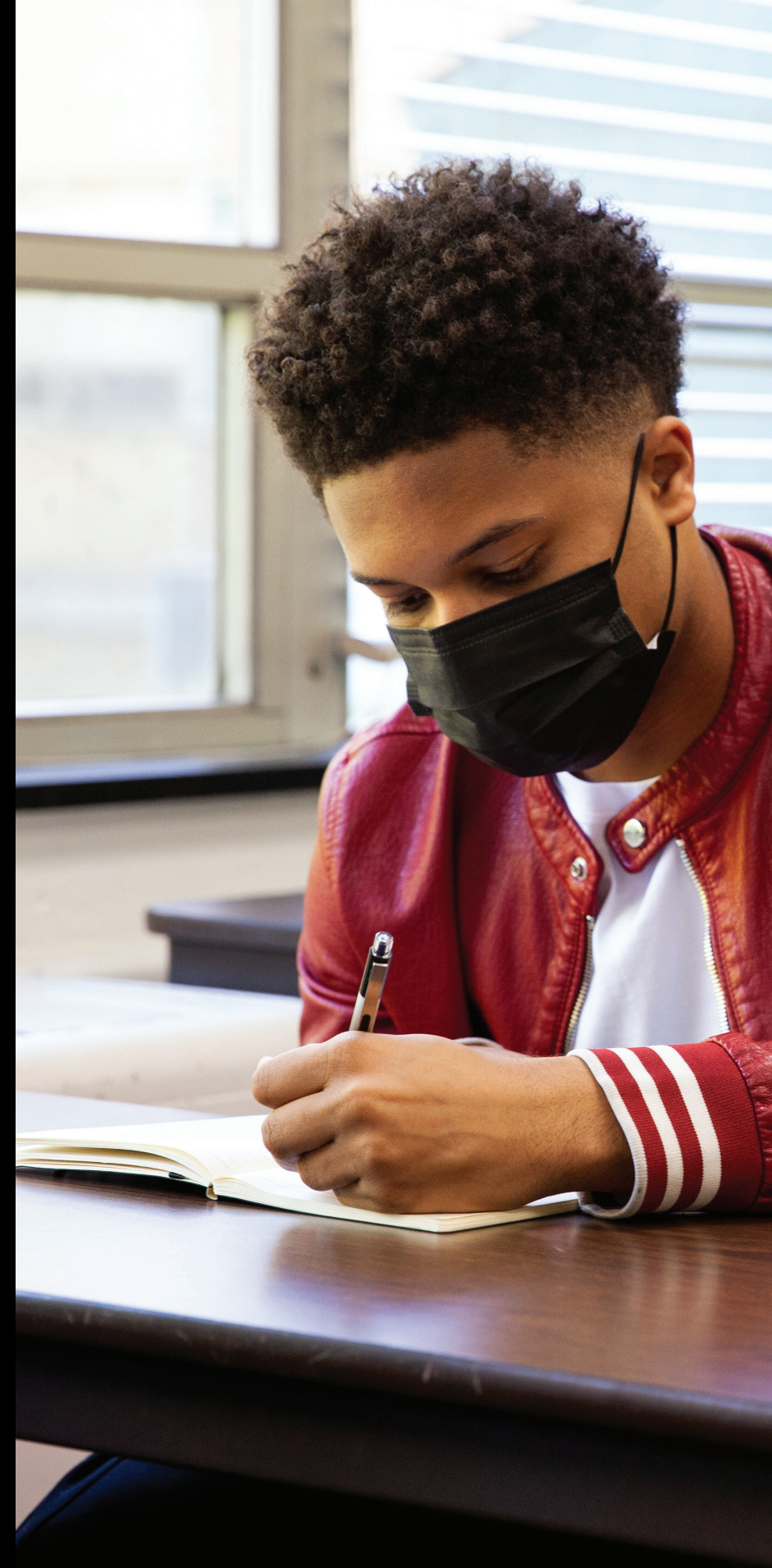
We've grown to like this phrase, first created when the college was transitioning to university status,

because it signifies our community's desire to be diverse and welcoming as we participate in God's mission in the world.

Scott Samuels, RU vice president, laughingly said, "We didn't know that 'Stand Apart' would have such an impact when we decided on this tagline pre-pandemic!" Despite the extra meaning this phrase took on during the past year, we believe this tagline really represents who we are.

Our entire community rises together to help students feel a sense of belonging while studying at RU. Students, faculty and staff come together to blend our shared experiences and to embrace the diversity of our community. This spirit combined with academic rigor develops graduates who shine in our world. Our alumni stand apart by waking up each day to serve in neighborhoods, businesses and organizations with justice and mercy.

We want to share some of this good news with you. Read on to see how our students and graduates are contributing creativity, knowledge and integrity to our rapidly changing world.







# Katie Romano

**RU stats**  
SENIOR  
TRADITIONAL STUDENT

majoring in  
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Katie Romano said Rochester University has surrounded her with love and helped her realize how strong she is.

“Since a month before my freshman year started all the way through my senior year, I have been hit with health battle after health battle. Through it all, I’ve maintained my faith in God and not given up,” she said.

Katie has learned she doesn’t have to fight her battles alone. “With a community as loving, supportive and God-centered as RU, I’ve had people help me find my strength and accomplish anything and everything, even if there are some obstacles along the way.”

Katie has capitalized on every opportunity RU has offered her. She has served as student body president for two consecutive years, been on the board of the Department of Theology and Ministry, and worked with Campus Ministry, Student Government, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Competitive Cheer team and Omicron Omega Zeta social club.

“These experiences gave me the opportunity to meet so many people, and I grew and learned from each one of them,” she said. “I would never be the person I am today without having the opportunity to participate and be shaped by the amazing individuals at RU.”

A senior Christian ministry major who plans to graduate this spring, Katie said RU has helped her learn the value of listening to learn and understand instead of listening just to respond. “God calls his followers to participate in his two greatest commandments; loving him and loving others. By listening to others—learning their stories to better understand who they are and what God is doing in their lives—over listening to respond to them and say something, I am participating in God’s calling of loving others and by doing this I am also loving him.”

With the foundation RU has given her, Katie said she knows she will continue to follow whatever God has in store for her. “I’m going to continue to trust his plan for me. I just want to love others in a way they can know God and see him in me.”



# Richard Kerry Thompson

**RU stats**  
SENIOR  
ACCELERATED LEARNING  
STUDENT

majoring in  
PSYCHOLOGY

Richard Kerry Thompson used a research paper he wrote for Adolescent Psychology class at Rochester University in 2018 as a catalyst to start a middle school in inner city Flint for at-risk students in 2019.

A dean for GearUp Academy, an alternative high school in Flint, Richard interviewed students about why and when they previously quit school. Most of the students said they quit in middle school. Richard took his research to his supervisor, and in 2019, the academy added 6th, 7th and 8th grades to its program.

GearUp Academy balances core curriculum with experiences in social and emotional work, critical thinking, problem solving and communication. “We need to equip students with educational and emotional skills to help them be successful in high school and in life,” he said.

A main feature of the academy is the fact that at-risk high school students serve as mentors for the younger students. “This is a win-win. The middle school students get someone they can relate to and work with, while the high school student feels a sense of responsibility. I had one student who graduated tell me he completed his degree because he had a responsibility to the students looking up to him,” Richard said.

He believes relationships are a core component of success for the at-risk students. “Rules before relationship equals rebellion; relationship before rules equals rejoicing,” he said.

Richard, who already holds a state certificate in education and other degrees earned in Europe, decided to work on his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology at RU to “challenge himself, be a better dean, and better understand the science of learning,” he said.

Richard expects to finish his bachelor’s degree this spring, and he continues to use his education at RU to benefit at-risk students. His capstone senior project focused on “Learned Helplessness and the Potential Effect on Cognitive Distortions, Anxiety and Depression.”

Richard thanks the staff at RU who have empowered him “to levels of a growth mindset and success,” and said he’s even more equipped to help young people “dream big and give them a second chance at school and life.”







**“I’ve found myself in small organizations and a small college where I could be in communities that impact people positively and help fix some broken systems. That started for me at Rochester and carries on with me today.”**



## Laura Corp

graduated in  
2016

majored in  
ACCOUNTING

employed at  
HUMBLE DESIGN DETROIT  
Pontiac, MI

When Laura Corp looks back on her time at RU, she realizes she immersed herself in “everything,” earning valuable real-life experiences before she even graduated.

“Attending a small college gave me countless opportunities to be involved, to lead, to serve. One week I realized I had scheduled 80 hours of activities, so then I learned how to be a little more discerning with my involvement!” she said.

Laura, who graduated with a BBA in accounting in 2016, said her experiences as the president of student government for two years, as a three-year volunteer in Pontiac to help people on social security with their taxes, and as an intern with a local food bank and clothes closet, were her first experience managing budgets, running organizations, and working with a variety of people. “These experiences gave me a chance to ‘fail’ in a safe setting, and to succeed in some too,” she said.

She lists living in Uganda for a month-long study abroad trip as her favorite experience—among the many. “It was amazing to immerse myself into the Ugandan culture and to soak up the culture and experience there,” she said. Laura and the RU team worked with Kibo Group International, a nonprofit that seeks local solutions for poverty and injustice in order to help communities flourish. In addition, Laura worked for two years in RU’s Kibo Corner, which also taught her business skills and people relationships.

Now operations manager for Humble Design Detroit, Laura manages a paid staff of nine and hundreds of volunteers to furnish and decorate three homes a week for families transitioning out of homelessness. She works with local agencies that refer 140 families a year to Humble, coordinates all of the furniture/home good donations, schedules volunteers, and she manages the designers, warehouse staff and movers. “We are in the business of logistics with a heart,” she said.

Laura said she wants to be immersed in a community with a mission to help people. “I’ve found myself in small organizations and a small college where I could be in communities that impact people positively and to help fix some broken systems. That started for me at Rochester and carries on with me today.”

### HOW DOES RU 'RISE TOGETHER'?

*“Rochester University rises together in its ability to support. We come together for one common goal—students. On the admissions team, we see this with employees who go out of their way to reach out and meet with prospective students as they go through the admissions process. This gives them a glimpse into the community and the support they will receive when they become a Warrior.”*

—Stephanie Nelson  
Senior Admissions Recruiter

*“Each office and department at RU rises together by creating shared goals. These goals ensure a dynamic campus community that supports our Christian heritage and promotes inclusivity for all. Without collaboration, we would fail to create this unique community.”*

—Sarah Sager  
Residence Life Coordinator

*“Rising together means supporting each other. In my area of advising, I need to be in communication with my students early in the semester so I am aware of their needs. The more I am in communication, the more I am aware of where a student needs my support. I cannot always ‘fix a problem’ a student has, but I can listen. Sometimes that is all a person needs—a listening ear. Sometimes they are able to work through their issue just by putting a voice to it.”*

—Susan Griffin  
Coordinator | School of Nursing



**“...My professors motivated me to trust God, trust myself and know I belonged...”**

## Que Morgan

graduated in  
2017

majored in  
MASS COMMUNICATION // PUBLIC RELATIONS

employed at  
GENERAL MOTORS +  
SPEAKER | HOST | PODCASTER  
Edmond, OK

Que Morgan brings enthusiasm and passion to everything he touches. A 2017 graduate of RU with a bachelor’s degree in mass communication, Que manages a full-time job with GM while serving as a speaker, host and podcaster.

Que’s full-time gig is as a district sales manager for Chevrolet in Edmond, Oklahoma, where he consults with dealerships to drive profitability and growth. Prior to that role, Que served as a district digital manager for GM to help dealers with the development of their digital marketing strategy and plan. “I enjoy serving as a primary point of contact for dealers. It’s always great when I can be a trusted adviser and a credible resource for them,” he said.

He also works with GMANN, GM’s African American South Central employee resource group, which strives to develop a more inclusive workplace and retain minority talent. “I have a passion for diversity and inclusion, and I hope to help businesses and our culture overcome many of the barriers that currently exist, while spreading positivity to push success in all areas.”

As a speaker and host, Que has emceed over 45 events, including the 2019 Better Money Habits retreat presented by Bank of America and BuzzFeed in Miami, Florida. He has partnered with Bloom, a self-guided mobile therapy app, and he also hosts his own podcast, “Modern Healing.”

A captivating and energetic person, Que said he didn’t always have self-confidence. “I’ve learned that it does not matter if you come from a single parent home, struggle with walking in your calling, or have never felt good enough. You belong here! During my time at RU, my professors motivated me to trust God, trust myself and know I belonged there. Today, I carry that attitude of belonging in every room I am invited in. I’m grateful to RU for reminding me of 1 Corinthians 3:23, which says...‘and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.’”





# Abigail Wasil

graduated in 2017  
majored in SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (new nonprofit management)  
currently pursuing LAW DEGREE AT LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

After earning her BBA in social entrepreneurship at RU in 2017, Abigail Wasil began law school at Liberty School of Law in Virginia. "Law school is one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences. It consists of pushing me through countless hours of studying and learning. The best part is developing crucial skills and being molded into an advocate for the people," she said.

Abigail said her education at RU prepared her for serving in God's world by helping her focus on the bigger picture of the gospel. She said her degree program taught her to "look at people, planet and profit," which helps her see "personhood as the biggest force in the decisions I make and ultimately what is right, just and loving as a Christian to impact lives the most for the sake of the gospel." While in a senior-level social entrepreneurship class at RU, Abigail and a group of six students designed a revenue generating business plan for Mariner's Inn, a homeless shelter in Detroit. They presented the business plan to the board of directors and helped the shelter implement it. "This opportunity allowed me to experience such an inspiring intertwining of a social mission with an economic plan," she said.

Abigail is continuing to learn with real world experiences in law school. In her first year, she argued a case before 10 sitting judges and was a finalist in the Moot Court competition. "This opportunity was such a blessing as they provided real world experience of representing clients for the glory of the Lord," she said. Now in her final year at Liberty with graduation expected in May, Abigail chairs the Alternative Dispute Resolution Board, where members develop negotiation, mediation and client-counseling skills.

Abigail said integrity is the foundation of everything she does. "I strive to live in a way that honors the Lord, and I highly value honesty. Only when we are honest can true connection and openness occur, leading us to a better understanding of one another."

**"My degree program taught me to look at people, planet and profit."**

# Cassie Smith

graduated in 2017  
majored in PSYCHOLOGY  
currently pursuing DOCTORATE DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

The education Cassie Smith received at Rochester University provided her with the academic foundation she needed to succeed in graduate school—and most of all, to pursue her dream job.

A 2017 RU graduate with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in counseling, Smith headed directly to Indiana where she has already completed her master's degree in psychology at the University of Indianapolis. And she's not finished yet!

Cassie is now working on a doctorate in psychology, which will allow her to work in her dream field of forensic psychology—a branch of psychology engaged in testing involved with the legal system or with clients involved with the legal system. She is currently working in her first practicum at a state psychiatric hospital doing forensic assessment, general psychological testing and therapy. "This training experience is my dream job, and hopefully one day I will be doing this work as a licensed clinician."

Cassie said her time at RU prepared her to be a competitive candidate for graduate school. "The faculty pushed and encouraged me to see my own strengths and abilities and nurtured my eagerness to drive for what I wanted and not settle for an easier path. They mentored me not only in educational training, but in career guidance as well," she said.

RU's mission to prepare students for service in God's world fits well with Cassie's approach to her work and life. "Integrity is so important in any field, but relevant to mine specifically. I work with people involved in the legal system. This population does not have patience for professionals who lack integrity."



**"The faculty pushed and encouraged me to see my own strengths and abilities and nurtured my eagerness to drive for what I wanted and not settle for an easier path."**



**'STAND APART.' WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN YOUR VOCATION?**

*"It means discovering the unique opportunities that will enhance my experience and skills to more effectively understand my calling in God's world. RU professors, advisers and mentors continue to support me in this journey."*

—Samantha Fisher, Senior

*"The comments I hear about our teacher education graduates are examples of 'standing apart.' Principals look to hire our graduates knowing they are both highly trained in their content area and have hearts to serve in the mission field of teaching."*

—Dr. Mel Blohm  
Director | School of Education

*"While dissolution is tearing into our isolated communities, breeding on fear and frustration, there has never been an easier time to bring light. I stand apart when I pause before responding and listen without interrupting. A kind word, a thoughtful hello, an unhurried approach stand tall in a compulsive culture that lives for immediacy but lacks love."*

—Rebekah Pinchback, Registrar





# Lindsey Leppek & Linda Brown-Twum

graduated in  
2017

majored in  
NURSING

employed at  
ST. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL  
Pontiac, MI

HENRY FORD HOSPITAL  
West Bloomfield, MI

LINDSEY LEPPEK started her first job on the Neuro Stepdown Unit at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac after graduating from Rochester University in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Within a year, Lindsey was awarded the prestigious DAISY Award, an "international nurse recognition program that celebrates the compassion and skill nurses bring to patients and families every day."

Since then, Lindsey has been honored several times with DAISY Awards. One patient who nominated Lindsey was completely dependent on her care due to an extreme case of C-diff. In the nomination, the patient wrote that Lindsey's "disposition was always positive, skilled, cheerful and helpful." Six months later, the same patient was back in the hospital for back surgery, and she requested Lindsey as her nurse. "I always felt the most secure, relaxed and well cared for when she was assigned to my room. I felt so confident in her ability to perform on my behalf at the highest level."

Lindsey attributes her education at RU—especially clinical opportunities and the small class size—to preparing her well to be a nurse. "The professors knew your name and gave you their cell phone numbers. They were always available if you needed extra help," she said.

"I became a nurse to help people who could not help themselves," Lindsey said. "My grandparents have been in and out of the hospital, and I have seen the different spectrums of nurses. It's amazing what a difference having a good nurse makes. I wanted to be the factor that could make someone feel cared for in their toughest hours." Now working in the surgery unit at St. Joseph, Lindsey enjoys being part of an entire medical staff that gives each patient personal attention.



Lindsey Leppek (above) and Linda Brown-Twum (below).



LINDA BROWN-TWUM attended RU as an adult and says the experience taught her time management. "I was a full-time mom, taking classes, doing clinicals and community service and more. It was a lot to manage and was a challenging time, but it prepared me to be a nurse."

Linda is most proud of her ability to be a team player. "I work with aides, janitors, fellow nurses, doctors. Everyone is on my team." She has received more than 10 nominations for DAISY Awards, which she attributes to her "watch me make your day great" attitude and tendency to get patients to laugh and relax. She does this by trying to learn something interesting about them, or getting them to open up and teach her a word or two if they speak a foreign language.

In one DAISY nomination, a patient wrote, "[Linda] served as my nurse for 2-3 days, and her actions were impeccable. She was timely, gentle and especially knowledgeable of the medications she provided. She made me laugh in the midst of my pain. Above all, she was very patient with me while I was at my worst. I needed someone to work with me and care about my feelings and she did." Another nomination stated, "Nurse Linda is the hardest working person I have ever met. She promises help and follows through. Most people think this behavior is to be expected, but when you are on the receiving end, you'll quickly find out this is not the case. When I'm under her 'motherly wing,' I relax, knowing she will follow through with all my needs."

Linda says she does not do anything extraordinary—nursing is just her ministry. "It's a calling. You meet people in a vulnerable state. You hold their hand, and you listen. As a Christian, as a mother, as a human being, I know I'm here to save lives."

# CAMPUS HEADLINES



## ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY SETS ENROLLMENT RECORD FOR FALL SEMESTER

Rochester University achieved a record enrollment in fall 2020 despite the challenges of a pandemic and predictions of a national decrease in college enrollment.

Statistics show an enrollment increase of 13% compared to the previous fall, and for the first time in the institution's history, an overall student headcount of more than 1,200, which includes traditional, accelerated and early college students, President Brian Stogner said.

"I am pleased to report that RU has apparently bucked a national enrollment trend for decreases in college enrollment. The National Student Clearinghouse reported an overall 3.8% decline in enrollment this fall at four-year private colleges and universities in the United States," Stogner said. "I am thankful to the entire RU campus community for its hard work in ensuring a quality educational environment in the midst of these uncertain times."

Vice President Scott Samuels said the university set records for both traditional daytime students, which includes both freshmen and transfer students, and students enrolled in early college programs. Samuels attributed RU's enrollment success to the outstanding recruiting job of the varsity coaching staff and the RU Pledge Loan Repayment Assistance Program, which helps graduates, beginning with freshmen in the fall 2020 class, to repay student loans.

"Many factors, such as the cost of college, concern about student loan debt, and the pandemic, could dissuade students from attending college," Samuels said. "But with the RU Pledge and with our supportive RU community where we give personalized attention to every student, we are pleased to educate a record number of students."





## RU PLEDGE OFFERS LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE TO FUTURE GRADUATES

Rochester University is now offering all incoming freshmen a loan repayment assistance program, providing a safety net for future graduates facing student loan debt.

“We are confident in the preparedness of our graduates to enter the workforce, and this program is a way for us to further support student success after graduation,” said RU President Brian Stogner.

The RU Pledge Loan Repayment Assistance Program will provide substantial assistance to students and parents who borrow any of the following types of loans: federal student loans, private alternative loans and Parent PLUS loans.

The RU pledge is simple for students. Once they are employed after graduation, if they’re not earning at least \$45,000 annually, the RU program provides assistance with repayment of student and Parent PLUS loans at no cost to students or families. The assistance will continue until the graduates’ incomes rises to \$45,000, or until their loans are completely paid off.

“Families and students are mindful of the cost of college and concerned about student loan debt, so they often are reluctant to use student loans to pay for their education,” said RU Vice President Scott Samuels. “We certainly do not feel an RU education can be measured in dollars alone, but we want to ease concerns over the use of student loans by making a pledge to our new incoming freshmen.”

[RochesterU.edu/RUPledge](https://RochesterU.edu/RUPledge)

## LEVELING THE COLLEGE PLAYING AND PAYING FIELD

RU has partnered with social enterprise, RaiseMe, to help expand access to higher education, especially among low income and first generation students. Rather than waiting until the end of high school to earn scholarships, which is often too late to impact college ambitions or choices, RaiseMe enables students to earn scholarships throughout high school. They can start as early as 9th grade, by doing all the things that best prepare them to succeed, whether getting good grades, volunteering in the community or joining an extracurricular activity.

[raise.me/join/ru](https://raise.me/join/ru)

## ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY SELLS NORTHEAST CORNER OF PROPERTY

Rochester University recently sold 7.9 acres of its property for \$2.5 million, which improves the university’s financial standing while ensuring improvements to the campus and local community. Pulte Homes purchased land on the northeast side of campus and began construction in the fall for a new townhome community called The Groves at Rochester Hills.

Benefits of the land sale and development project include:

- **Addition of \$2.5 million to the university’s assets** allows the institution to reduce its debt, focus on future capital projects, and improve its financial standing with the Department of Education.

- **Extension of the road that circles campus**, named Warrior Way, with sidewalks lining both sides of the road.
- **Continuation of walkways to the Clinton River Trail** so the community can enjoy nature and activity without having to use busy roads.
- **Construction of a joint detaining pond** that RU will be able to use when it constructs new facilities on campus.
- **Conservation of trees** behind the Groves. Pulte has worked with the university and City of Rochester Hills to retain as many of the property’s roughly 1,100 trees as possible, in addition to planting new trees for those that are removed.

[pulte.com/thegroves](https://pulte.com/thegroves)







## CHIEF FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION AWARDED PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

The 2020 J. Robert and Mary Utley Philanthropist of the Year award was presented to Chief Financial Credit Union for its giving spirit and commitment to community. Chief Financial is deeply rooted in the greater Rochester community and serves as an exceptional model of local values and philanthropic spirit. RU's partnership with Chief Financial has provided care to many students in need, including a loan to a student who totaled her vehicle in a car accident, educating students about taking on credit card debt while in college, and working one-on-one with a student who has medical-related debt. Chief Financial has worked alongside RU to create a plan for future sponsored events and new facilities, and, most importantly, the Chief team is always willing to be present in the work and happenings of Rochester University.



## ONLINE INSTITUTIONAL ARCHIVE AVAILABLE

Rochester University recently launched an online institutional archive featuring more than 800 publications and photos dating back to the 1950s. "Since its founding, the university has maintained a collection of institutional publications, photographs and artifacts," said archivist Larry Stewart. "The online collection now makes selected items available to the public for their use and viewing." The online collection is hosted by the Detroit Area Library Network. The network is a consortium of Southeast Michigan academic and public libraries. "Kristy (Wells) Eklund ('01) was a tremendous help in loading all of the information into the DALNET site," said Stewart. "Now employed by DALNET, she found development of the site to be a good project during the pandemic stay-at-home order."

[rochesteru.edu/archive](https://rochesteru.edu/archive)

## TOCCO DONATES \$25K, NAMED RISE MENTORING PROGRAM PRESENTING SPONSOR



President Brian Stogner & Don Tocco

The Tocco RISE Mentoring Program is presented by Don Tocco, a business leader, artist, writer and motivational speaker. Tocco began his career from the back of a forklift and later started a company while \$45,000 in debt. Despite his lack of previous business experience, mentors or formal education, D.L. Tocco

& Associates, Inc. flourished into a national marketing company with collective bids surpassing \$30 billion for its clients. Tocco attributes his success to patience, team work, determination, service to others, hard work and God's grace. His professional success has propelled his passion of reaching young people through mentoring and messages of positivity, perseverance and faith. Since 1977, Don has spoken to thousands of elementary school students, youth groups and college students. For 23 years he was a keynote speaker for the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program, speaking to students in every state and 70 countries. Tocco was also an active leader in the Dale Carnegie performance training courses for 10 years.

Relationship | Inspiration | Support | Engagement

# RISE

## MENTORING PROGRAM



### Relationship. Inspiration. Support. Engagement.

These four ingredients are key to a student's transition to college, persistence to graduation, and success in their professional life. Launched in fall 2020 with a pilot program for juniors and seniors in RU's School of Business and Professional Studies, the RISE Mentoring Program, presented by Tocco & Associates, is an opportunity for students to build their network and create meaningful relationships with alumni and other members of the RU community.

A derivative of RU's academic learning goals known as EPIC (Exploring, Preparing, Integrating, Calling), RISE seeks to help students acquire knowledge and develop skills that will aid them in leading and serving their families, neighborhoods, favored organizations and business ventures. The student-mentee relationships established through the program are central to RU's mission of assisting students in discerning what God has called them to be and do.

### PROGRAM GOALS

Introduction, comfort and persistence

FRESHMAN

Vocation through connections

SOPHOMORES

Engagement and inspiration

JUNIORS/SENIORS



"RISE has helped push me out of my comfort zone. I've seen the benefit of having a mentor, and I have started to look for opportunities to serve underclassmen."

Elizabeth Fahling | Mentee | Senior accounting major



"Something I miss in the 'corporate world' is spending time with and pouring into students. RISE is an opportunity to remedy that and get involved with RU again."

Terrill Hall ('03)  
Mentor | Unit Manager, Travelers Insurance

[RochesterU.edu/rise](https://RochesterU.edu/rise)



## ANNOUNCING

# Connect.RochesterU.edu

your exclusive online networking space

**Connect**  
with classmates & friends

**Expand**  
your network

**Advance**  
your career

**Mentor**  
fellow alumni

COMING SOON





## #RiseTogetherStandApart

### COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Maintaining the safety of community members during the pandemic is one of RU's top priorities. Communication avenues have been established to educate, clarify and raise questions or ideas for improvement, including a biweekly email updating employees on campus operations affected by Covid-19. Additionally, virtual gatherings are available to employees every other week as a forum to discuss the university's pandemic response with RU's Preparedness and Response Team, a risk assessment group chaired by the provost. A wide range of resources was also implemented in the fall to lower barriers to participation in academic and other campus programs, including academic accommodations, technology, counseling and health care. Additionally, COVID-19 PCR testing is provided at no cost through the Oakland County Health Department. The university's aggressive isolation and quarantine procedures for exposure to any COVID-like symptoms have been instrumental in ensuring the campus does not become a conduit for the spread of Coronavirus. Fall 2020 data demonstrates the effectiveness of the campus measures and protocols.



Groceries for six students  
(\$1,600)



Hotspots allowing online coursework for two students

When the pandemic hit, we asked you to help our students make it through various financial challenges by donating to the Student Emergency Fund.

YOU RALLIED LIKE WARRIORS.

# \$10,910

was raised to help students make it through hardships and persist in completing their degrees.

"After applying for financial support from the SEF, I received a gift card to supply necessities for my family and me.

When I needed financial support, RU was a blessing."



Rent/mortgage bills for four students  
(\$1,960)



Textbooks for three students  
(\$320)

The Student Emergency Fund also provided cleaning supplies and toiletries to students living on campus at the start of the pandemic and covered shipping costs to send needed items to those in lockdown at home.

## ACADEMICS

### NEW AND REVISED DEGREES

Rochester University School of Business is offering four new or revised majors targeted to expanding sectors in industry that are seeking skilled employees.

- B.S. in Information Systems—Programming
- B.B.A. in Computer Information systems
- B.B.A. in Nonprofit Management
- B.B.A. in Health Care Management

"We're responding to trends in the business world. Our business advisory boards and institutional data show us that employers in these fields are looking for skilled, ethical employees," said Danette Cagnet, director of the School of Business. "Our students are interested in working in jobs where they can serve others and make a difference in their communities. We're excited to launch these majors."

The first two degrees are offered as part of RU's new Computer Information Technology program, which prepares students to work in a variety of software development roles. Students will be equipped with a solid foundation in computer science, information systems and business. They will participate in Agile and pair programming methodologies, and test-driven development.

### A+ AWARDS

Rochester University's Early Childhood Studies program has been ranked No. 1 in the nation by study.com. The ranking highlights both RU's bachelor's degree in early childhood studies and its bachelor's degree in elementary education with an early childhood endorsement. Graduates of RU's School of Education have a high 95.8% success rate when taking the Michigan Teacher Certification Test, compared to a 90.5% rate statewide. Study.com rankings are unique because they are based upon an institution's academic and career resources, quality of education, and program accessibility. Study.com is a website for students researching schools and careers.

Dr. Remylin Bruder was recognized as the winner of the Beaumont Health Excellence in Healthcare Award at the 2020 Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce Silver and Gold Awards Ceremony. The award honors an individual who demonstrates leadership, innovation and excellence in the healthcare field. Formerly Dean of RU's School of Nursing, Bruder currently serves as vice president of academic affairs, provost and nursing professor.

### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Since 2018, Academic Affairs, through the Office of the Provost, has focused on the following key strategic aims:

- Build RU's academic brand
- Strengthen existing programs
- Add key academic programs

"Our team of academic leaders embarked on a journey, otherwise known as committee meetings, filled with exploration, preparation, integration and discussions about vocation and calling. Dr. Remylin Bruder said, "The outcomes of this journey gave rise to our EPIC learning goals."

Formally launched in fall 2020 with a year-long academic freshman experience, EPIC articulates how and why we educate at RU. "Within the academic brand of EPIC lie the skills our faculty model, and all students cultivate. EPIC establishes a foundation that will hopefully continue in our students' own heroic vocational journey," said Bruder.

Pictured below: Dr. Bruder in the classroom



**EXPLORING** Students will broaden their understanding of the world in its beauty, diversity and complexity.

**PREPARING** Students will acquire knowledge and develop skills to serve in their neighborhoods, organizations and businesses.

**INTEGRATING** Students will connect and apply knowledge and skills to their personal and professional lives.

**CALLING** Students will discern what God has called them to be and do.



# WARRIOR RECAP



## BASKETBALL TEAMS SECURE WHAC CONFERENCE TITLES, ADVANCE TO NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

The Rochester University women's basketball team secured its first regular season WHAC conference title, along with its first NAIA National Tournament berth on Feb. 21 with a home win against Aquinas College. The night before, the Warriors took out Indiana Tech University, ranked No. 9 in the country. The victory set the stage for the Warriors to win the regular season title, which they did by putting away Aquinas 60-47 and earning the #1 seed in the WHAC tournament. The team finished the shortened regular season with an overall record of 13-1 and a perfect 12-0 in conference play.



The Rochester University men's basketball team beat Cornerstone University on Feb. 23 to not only win the conference regular season championship, but also secure an automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship. The Warriors came back from 21 points down at the half and finished with a 5-point win, giving RU a final regular season record of 11-2. This includes a close loss to an NCAA Division 1 team and a 10-1 conference mark. The men's team earned the No. 1 seed in the WHAC tournament. This marks the third year the men's team has qualified for the NAIA National Tournament since joining the NAIA before the 2012-13 season.

*These are developing news stories. Visit [RochesterUwarriors.com](http://RochesterUwarriors.com) for results from the NAIA National Championship games.*

## RU SEES RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

The 2020-21 academic year boasts more athletes than any year in school history, with a total of 340 Warriors filling out rosters for the university's 20 intercollegiate teams. The record-breaking number is a combination of successful retention and 158 new student-athletes, which in and of itself is a record. Several sports saw a jump in their roster numbers, including volleyball, men's reserve basketball, men's soccer, wrestling and the running sports.



## WARRIORS SUCCEED IN THE CLASSROOM

Fifty-one Rochester University student-athletes were named to NAIA All-Academic teams throughout the last year. The figure is a record high for the Warrior athletic department, which has been a member of the NAIA since 2012. In order to be named to an All-Academic team, an athlete must be a junior or senior and have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50. The department as a whole had a cumulative grade point average of 3.06.



## CARTWRIGHT BECOMES FIRST WARRIOR NAMED NAIA NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Men's basketball player Armand Cartwright sealed his place in RU athletics' history by becoming the first Warrior to be named a NAIA National Player of the Week on Feb. 18, 2020. Cartwright scored 32 points in back-to-back games and led the Warriors to wins in both contests over nationally ranked opponents (#24 and #13). During that stretch, Cartwright was almost unstoppable as he shot 53% (18-34) from the field, 60% (9-15) from three-point territory and 19-20 from the free throw line. Cartwright said, "Honestly, I just have a great team and coaching staff around me. I give God the praise and glory for it. My teammates and coaches helped me win this award." Head Coach Klint Pleasant said, "Armand is a coach's dream. Great student. Great player. Great person. I would not trade him for any player in the country." Cartwright, who graduated at the end of the 2019-20 season, averaged double figures in scoring each of his four seasons at RU, with a total of 1,961 points.



## PLEASANT COMPLETES DOCTORATE DEGREE

Student-athletes were not the only ones focusing on academics during the last year. Vice President–Athletics and Head Men's Basketball Coach Klint Pleasant earned his doctorate degree in educational leadership from Lipscomb University. Pleasant successfully defended his dissertation entitled "Measuring the Impact of Educational Changes at a Low Performing School" in October. The work focused on change management within the field of education. Pleasant is one of only three athletic directors in the state of Michigan to hold this credential.




## BASKETBALL TEAMS HOST PLAY-OFF GAMES

After just three years as members of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, both the men's and women's basketball teams have hosted first-round conference playoff games in the Garth Pleasant Arena. The two teams have played in a combined 10 WHAC playoff games since RU joined the conference shortly before the 2017-18 academic year.



### Class of 2001


 **William Shinsky**  
Meritorious  
Contributor & Coach

### Class of 2017

 **George Beaudoin**  
Meritorious / Contributor

 **Bill Fox**  
Meritorious / Contributor

 **Roger Knapp**  
Meritorious / Contributor

 **Garth Pleasant**  
Meritorious  
Contributor & Coach

 **Diane Connor Rellinger**  
Women's Basketball

### Class of 2018

 **Fred Harrison**  
Men's Basketball

 **Terri Howe**  
Women's Basketball

 **Frank Rewold**  
Meritorious / Contributor

 **Hayley Richards Woodall**  
Women's Volleyball

 **Jim Tague**  
Men's Soccer

 **Jim Trail**  
Baseball

 **Barry Wheeler**  
Coach

SHINSKY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



## The Show Must Go On

As pandemic conditions halted the ability to have live audiences, RU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance shifted its efforts to accommodate a virtual theatre season, currently streaming on YouTube.

"It is a new journey, but we decided to take what could be overwhelming and make it an opportunity to educate ourselves and our community, as well as challenge ourselves artistically—students, professionals, staff and faculty alike," said Robert Arbaugh, associate professor and artistic director.

These challenges include everything from costume design, set construction, lighting and prop choices to timelines and skillsets that complement the demands of on-camera performances.

"In this current dark time, we believe the arts can be a light," Arbaugh said. "We intend to continue to uncover truth and light through the perilous times. While we are presenting our productions in a new, virtual way, our philosophy remains the same: to engage, inspire and impact the community around us...and now, all over the world, virtually."

+ [rochesteru.edu/theatre](http://rochesteru.edu/theatre) for streaming and general info



## Fine Tune

Seeking to continue RU's choral tradition that began more than 60 years ago, Dr. Joe Bentley founded the Rochester College Alumni Chorus in 2016. Now comprised of alumni, students, faculty and staff, as well as friends in the greater Rochester community, the group has come together under the banner of 'The Choral Union of Rochester University.' It welcomes new singers in September and January of each year. The Choral Union has performed at various churches throughout southeast Michigan, for the National Day of Prayer at the annual Rochester Prayer Breakfast, with the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Chorus, and with the Rochester Symphony Orchestra for the annual Christmas concert.

+ [choralunionru.org](http://choralunionru.org)



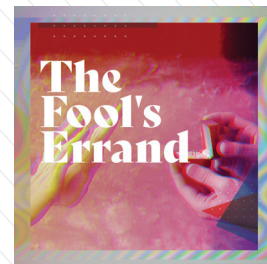
### THE WATCHLIST



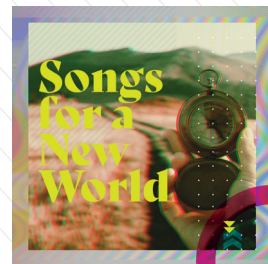
by William Shakespeare



by Sophocles & Euripides



by Tracey Vineyard



by Jason Robert Brown



## We Have Issues

Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, Shield Media gives students an outlet to voice their thoughts about university, national and societal issues. Shield is created by students and advised by faculty in RU's Department of Mass Communication. Students who work with Shield Media are able to use their creative talents in producing content, while gaining valuable media experience.

Started in 2000, The Shield began as a monthly four-page newspaper produced by a staff of seven students and one adviser. As the reading habits of its audience shifted and graphic design was added as a track option for the mass communication major, the newspaper changed format and became a four-color magazine published quarterly in 2008. The Shield continued to grow by adding a website, social media, podcasts and videos, leading to rebranding as Shield Media in 2014.

Many former staffers have attributed their ability to secure professional employment after graduation to the portfolio of work compiled during their time on Shield. Jenna Pomaville, who graduated with her mass communication degree in December 2020, said her involvement with Shield helped her create work she never thought she could accomplish. "Shield has done so much for me in the creative world. I feel so confident in my skills. If I were thrown into any kind of situation in the field, I could handle it and execute it," she said.

📍 [shieldmedia.org](http://shieldmedia.org) to see student Shield work







Stream these and future Chapel sessions on RU's Facebook, YouTube or Instagram accounts.

BONUS: No swipe card needed!



Nov. 10, 2020

**CHUCK GAIDICA**  
Emmy Award Winning Broadcast Journalist, Motivational Speaker, Lifelong Learner

"I look back now and realize that no matter where we are in life and in our scholastic career, there is no such thing in God's eyes as 'just a.' You're not 'just a' student. I'm not 'just a' retired weatherman. We are all created in the image of God. There is a place for you in God's Kingdom, a place for every single one of us."

# QUOTED CHAPEL



Oct. 6, 2020

**ABDU MURRAY**  
Senior Vice President, Ravi Zecharias International Ministries

"Jesus cancels the 'cancel culture' that you and I are having to live with right now, and He offers you a hope that only He can give. May you know that hope. May you know that inclusion of community through your Savior."



Feb. 9, 2021

**DWIGHT RADCLIFF**  
Academic Dean—Pannell Center for Black Church Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary

"The life and the legacy of Abraham is [bringing] to bear on the life of Isaac. Isaac is first sustained... from the wells his father has dug. And then, based on the work his father has done, he's able to go out and do his own work.

There will be some work in your life, in your studies, after you graduate, while you're there in community...there will be some work you have to do, and it will be yours to chart alone. There will be times you will be called out into deep, difficult areas that those who came before us had no idea you would have to deal with. There will be some trails you have to blaze. There will be some roads you have to pave. There will be some paths you have to brave...[and] you will have to listen closely to the voice of the Lord and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Oct. 13, 2020

**NIKKI CATHERINCCHIA**  
Discipleship Pastor, The Woods Church



"Sometimes we just need somebody to remind us that if we change our perspective, if we shift our focus, if we put our gaze directly on God and remember his truth, that his joy can be ours, regardless of the season we're in. And sometimes, in fact, often, He moves in the greatest ways in the seasons we would have never chosen for ourselves. That's how we know God is there."

# 50th Annual PARTNERSHIP DINNER

A VIRTUAL EVENT featuring

**BEN & ERIN NAPIER**  
STARS OF HGTV'S "HOME TOWN"

APRIL 17 2021

4 P.M. (EST)  
VIP BREAKOUT RECEPTION  
with the Napiers

5:30 P.M. (EST)  
MAIN PROGRAM WITH LIVE Q&A

Tickets and sponsorships available today:  
ROCHESTERU.EDU/PD · 248.218.2021



presenting sponsor  
**CHIEF FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION**  
...more than money

## SAVE THE DATE

- 3.18 **WARRIOR LINK: A Virtual Engagement Series**  
Maximizing Your LinkedIn Profile with Angela Buccellato | Founder, The Resume Rescue
- 4.13 **WARRIOR LINK: A Virtual Engagement Series**  
Virtual Speed Networking with Alex Drake ('18)
- 6.18 **FLETCHER-SHINSKY GOLF CLASSIC**  
Cherry Creek Golf Club | Shelby Twp, MI

- Sept. TBA **WARRIOR LINK: A Virtual Engagement Series**  
Ask a Recruiter—Interviewing
- 10.9 **PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE OF HONOR**  
Location TBA
- 11.6 **HOMECOMING**  
Garth Pleasant Arena

...AND STAY SOCIAL





# essential work

Donors (who give any amount!) bridge the gap between the cost of education and a student's ability to pay. They provide affordability and accessibility, advance a critical mission and elevate the RU experience.

Thank you to all those who make Rochester University a philanthropy priority. Take a look at the impact you had during the 2020-21 academic year.

**48** students received **ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS**

**630** students received **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**74** athletes received **ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS**



**186** students received **ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS**

**\$6,385,317**

**scholarship dollars AWARDED TO RU UNDERGRADS**



# Partner with Rochester University at a **LEADERSHIP LEVEL**

When you partner with RU at a leadership level, you create increased mission momentum and strengthen the RU experience for more Warriors. Members of the donor societies listed below connect directly with the students who benefit from their generosity at the annual President's Circle of Honor luncheon.

## GIVING PARTNERSHIPS

**The President's Circle of Honor** recognizes those who give to the university at a minimum of \$1,000 annually. This group supports and sustains the annual budget and helps with capital projects, such as the Garth Pleasant Arena

**The Heritage Society** honors donors who have remembered RU in their estate plan or through a "planned gift" agreement. "Planned gifts" or "planned giving" are terms that refer to several gift techniques that typically involve retention by the donor of a portion of, or an interest in, the asset they are giving to charity. Planned gifts are also made through a will or trust, life insurance and retirement plan beneficiary designations, and other direct—but deferred—gift arrangements.

**The Endowed Scholarship Society** is critically important to RU's future. Permanent endowment is property of the university (including land, buildings, cash or investments) which may not be spent. It must be held permanently and invested to produce revenue for the university. One component of the permanent endowment is scholarship endowment, which is crucial to encouraging and assisting students as they pay for their education.



**Tree of Life**  
*Donors who give a minimum of \$1,000 toward RU endowment are honored on the Tree of Life. This display is located in the heart of campus, inside Richardson Center.*

**Giving Levels**  
**\$1,000** Leaf  
**\$5,000** Small stone  
**\$10,000** Medium stone  
**\$25,000** Cast stone

## HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

There are several ways to support our mission. Rochester University strives to ensure that the charitable giving goals and interests of donors are met.

**ONLINE**  
RochesterU.edu/donate

**PHONE**  
248.218.2021

**MAIL**  
Rochester University  
800 West Avon Road  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
ATTN: Development

**VENMO**  
@RUGiving



## QUOTED

**"Ever since I stepped foot on the campus (of RU), I knew I would be surrounded by like-minded Christians and have a learning environment that would give me knowledge and wisdom. This scholarship makes that possible."**

MELINA EGGETT | Al & Elfrieda Oz Endowed Scholarship Recipient

## We are grateful

for the commitment of those who serve  
**Rochester University. Their prayerful  
governance and investment of time and talent  
help guide the university with integrity.**

### Board of Trustees

Rochester University is governed by a 13-member Board of Trustees. The group provides general supervision of the university, including the control and direction of all institutional expenditures. The board also appoints the university's president.

### RU Foundation

The primary purpose of the Rochester University Foundation is to receive and administer funds exclusively for the benefit and support of RU. The funds are used to promote program initiatives and provide scholarships and awards to RU students.

### Alumni Board

Students who have completed at least 36 credit hours (18 hours prior to 1997) at our institution are considered part of the Alumni Association. The Alumni Board seeks to invest in the future of RU by serving this group of more than 10,000 former students through five key areas—mentoring opportunities, leadership positions, ambassadorships, volunteer work and fundraising initiatives.

### President's Council

This group provides President Brian Stogner with guidance on strategic directions for Christian higher education and how RU can be a stronger force for good in the Greater Rochester community, including the council's own business endeavors. The group offers assistance with networking and building partnerships between RU and other organizations with connected vision and values.

For more information on RU advisory groups, contact Development at 248.218.2021.

## ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joe Alexander | Chairman  
Rick Watson | Vice Chairman  
Rob Clarke | Secretary  
Mark Ide | Audit Committee Chairperson  
Bill Anderson  
Corrin Barnett  
Gary Byram  
LaJuana Gill  
Connie Graham  
Duane Harrison  
Art Pope  
Jim Randolph  
DeAndra Smith

## ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION BOARD

Dave Smith | President  
Duane Harrison | Secretary/Treasurer  
George Seifert  
Judge Lisa Asadoorian  
Frank Cardimen  
Ruth Stephens-Collins  
Kim Russell  
Tom Rellingner  
Todd Graham | Emeritus  
Jennifer Porter | Executive Director

## ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY ALUMNI BOARD

Candace Cain '15  
Jim Chambers '15  
Joseph du Lac '19  
Alex Drake '18  
Keri Gailbreath '08  
Terrill Hall '03  
Dakota Long '16  
Que Morgan '17  
Nicholas O'Neil '17  
Kathlene Smith '96

## ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

Tom Dluzen, Chief Financial Credit Union  
Paul Glantz, Emagine Entertainment  
Dale Jerome, French Associates  
Mary Mbiya, Flagstar Bank  
Dom Morelli, FaithWorks Michigan  
Scott Muska, Skillo, Inc.  
Frank Rewold, Rewold & Son, Inc.  
Fred Sievert, Author  
Don Tocco, Tocco & Associates



**SERVICE**

**Service is a unifying value for our community— alumni and friends serve RU through generosity and advocacy, ensuring the university's well-being and ability to serve students who are prepared to serve in God's world.**

Read on for stories showcasing service through philanthropy and engagement.



SPONSORS AND PARTICIPATES IN RU EVENTS AND SUPPORTS RU'S ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

SERVES ON RU'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

UTILIZES CORPORATE MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

SERVES ON RU FOUNDATION BOARD

**DAVE AND DeANDRA SMITH**  
embody the joy of giving, both of their time and their financial resources.

The Smiths' first interaction with RU, Michigan Christian College at the time, started when Dee began her freshman year in 1986. "I was introduced to the college by Cy and Betsy Addams, who were longtime supporters of the institution when Cy served on the Board of Trustees. Their financial support allowed me to begin my education there," she said. Dee then went to Illinois State University where she met Dave.

The couple remain active in education and the community. Dee teaches 3rd grade at Springfield Plains Elementary and is in her 24th year with Clarkston Community Schools. She serves on RU's Board of Trustees and previously served on the Alumni Board from 2012-2014. Dave is the owner of Dave Smith State Farm Insurance Agency, which he formed in 1997 after nearly a decade working for State Farm Insurance. He also operates PlayAllSports.net, a sports marketing company. He serves RU as chair of the Rochester University Foundation Board.

The Smiths' involvement with RU is truly a family affair. Daughter Rachel, now 26, was a member of the women's basketball team from 2012-13, and Dave helped as an assistant coach during that time. Denton, 19, is a sophomore guard on the men's basketball team and a business management major. Son Kendall, 28, rounds out the family, and the Smiths say they love spending time with their adult kids.

Dave and Dee work to help connect the university with community leaders and resources. "Rochester University opens doors for lifelong learning and growth to students, families, professionals and scholars, and we

believe RU graduates enhance the local and regional landscape through their scholarship and development," they said.

The Smiths give to RU through the corporate matching gift program and by supporting Partnership Dinner, Fletcher-Shinsky Golf Classic, the RU Foundation Warrior Fund and the athletic department.

"We encourage others to join us in giving to RU because it has a strong foundation of faith, mission and purpose!"

**Named a 2020 Newsmaker of the Year by "Crain's Detroit Business," PAUL GLANTZ shines in the movie theater industry and with his heart for education and nonprofit organizations.**

Co-founder and chairman of Emagine Entertainment Inc., Glantz has experienced quite a year navigating his chain of theaters through the Coronavirus pandemic. From being forced to shut down, reopen and shut down again, he has spoken up in the media and to the state government about his industry's economic interests and concerns.

Despite the turbulent year, Glantz continues to contribute to the community. "I believe in the need to share our good fortune," he said. "We believe contributing to society is good business. It's a virtuous circle. We should not just take from society but give back as well."

One of the ways Glantz is giving back is through his relationship with RU. "My values hue closely to a faith-based organization," he said. Glantz sits on RU's President's Council and says he feels very comfortable with RU's leadership. Emagine is sponsoring the 2021 Partnership Dinner at a lead level, and sponsored and participated in the 2020 Fletcher-Shinsky Golf Classic. Additionally, RU alumni work on Emagine's leadership team and in various theater locations.

"I'm a big proponent of education. It is a stepping stone to a more secure life. A more highly educated workforce means greater prosperity for all. I'm a big believer in helping others improve their educational attainment," Glantz said.

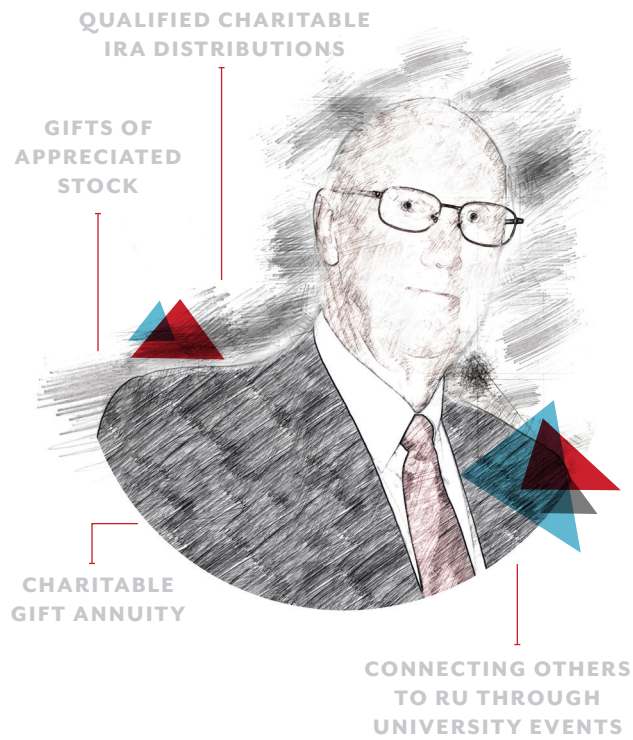


EMPLOYS RU STUDENTS & ALUMNI

EVENT SPONSORSHIP & PARTICIPATION

SERVES ON PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL





**ART POPE'S** service to Rochester University is difficult to match, but he encourages you to give it a try.

"It makes me feel good to help a local university based upon Christian principles, and I think others will find it fulfilling and heart-warming as well," Pope says.

Pope, a retired Ford Motor engineer, has served on Rochester University's Board of Trustees since 1990, which means he has witnessed thousands of students' lives impacted throughout those three decades. "I am very encouraged by the state of the university today. I feel good about being a part of the RU team," he says.

In addition to serving RU with his time and skills, Art supports the institution financially through gifts of cash, securities and other qualifying assets. He also buys a table at Partnership Dinner and invites people unfamiliar with RU to attend. "I invite friends who don't know about the university, such as my fellow Ford guys," Pope says. "The message they hear helps them connect to the worthiness of the university, and hopefully they become supporters."

**Advising and helping others is central to GARY BYRAM'S DNA.**

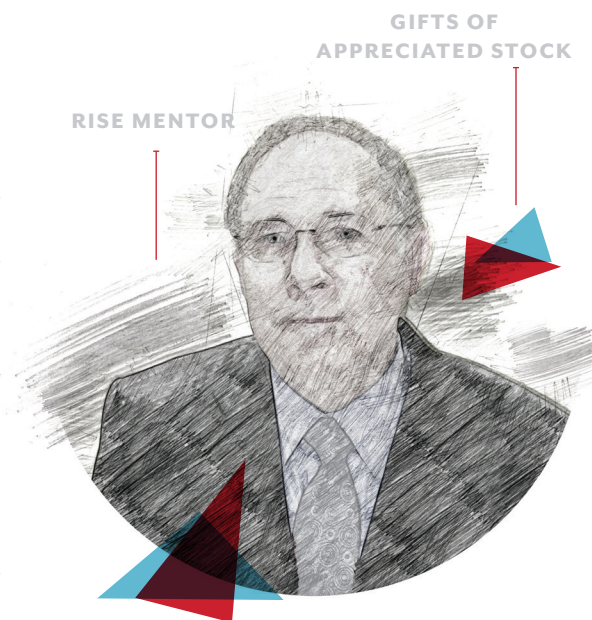
A lifelong strategic consultant, educator and volunteer, Byram's connection to Rochester University began when he and his family attended the Park Forest Church of Christ in Matteson, Illinois. The congregation and many of its members are longtime supporters of RU, including sending young people to attend the institution, donating financially, and hosting events and groups when students visit Chicago. "It was a special opportunity to get to know and understand the history and unique contribution the institution was making to the upper Midwest," he said. Since that connection years ago, Gary and his wife, Wendy, have given to RU, both with their time and with their financial resources.

Byram has served on the Board of Trustees since 2014, and he also volunteers as a RISE mentor. "Part of RU's mission is to help students start a lifetime journey on a path that enables them to make a positive impact on their families and communities. Being involved with RISE and counseling students is a great way to influence lives in a unique way," he said.

The Byrams, who still live in the Chicago area, give to various nonprofits and admit that sometimes it can be difficult to balance contributing to all the deserving organizations. "One of the ways to manage the balance is to do gifts of stock rather than the normal check," Byram said. "Giving stock is a way to provide a larger contribution to RU, or another ministry, while actually minimizing the impact on the yearly budget and cash flow."

For example, the Byrams gifted stock to RU that was purchased 30 years ago and has been appreciating in value. "RU gets to realize the full value of the gift, and I'm not selling a significantly appreciated stock and paying taxes on that gain. It works well for both of us," he said.

Gary and Wendy encourage others to follow their lead. "If you believe in the power of education, even as complicated, challenging and expensive as we have made it these days, then investing in RU and the students we can collectively impact is a pretty easy decision."



For questions and information about giving and engagement, visit [rochesteru.edu/development](http://rochesteru.edu/development)

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Rochester University Budget Summary | June 1, 2019-May 31, 2020

## REVENUE

Tuition and Fees	\$16,409,545	74.7%
State and Federal Grants	\$2,158,631	9.8%
Gifts and Grants	\$1,473,048	6.7%
Room and Board	\$1,412,656	6.4%
Miscellaneous/Auxiliary	\$515,394	2.3%

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,969,274</b>	<b>100%</b>
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## EXPENSES

Instruction	\$6,461,482	31.9%
Scholarships	\$6,385,317	31.5%
Management/General Operations	\$3,291,443	16.2%
Student Services	\$2,878,554	14.2%
Fundraising	\$564,403	2.8%
Auxiliary Services	\$524,728	2.6%
Research and Public Services	\$172,917	0.9%

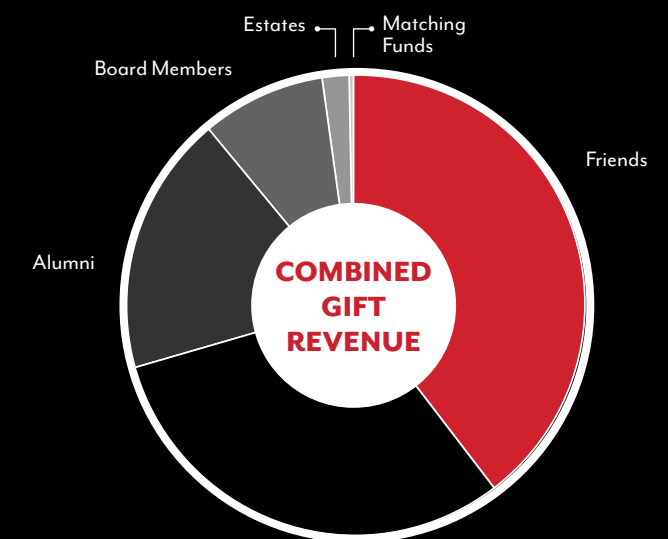
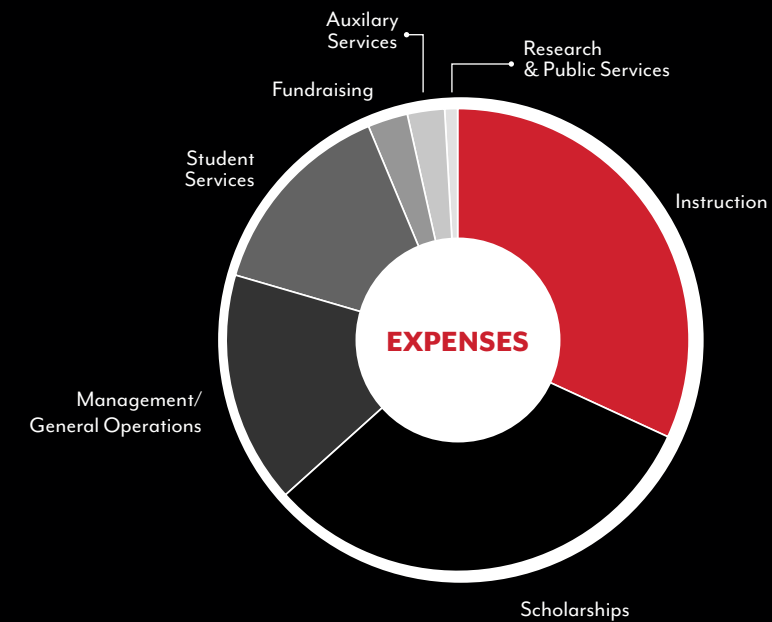
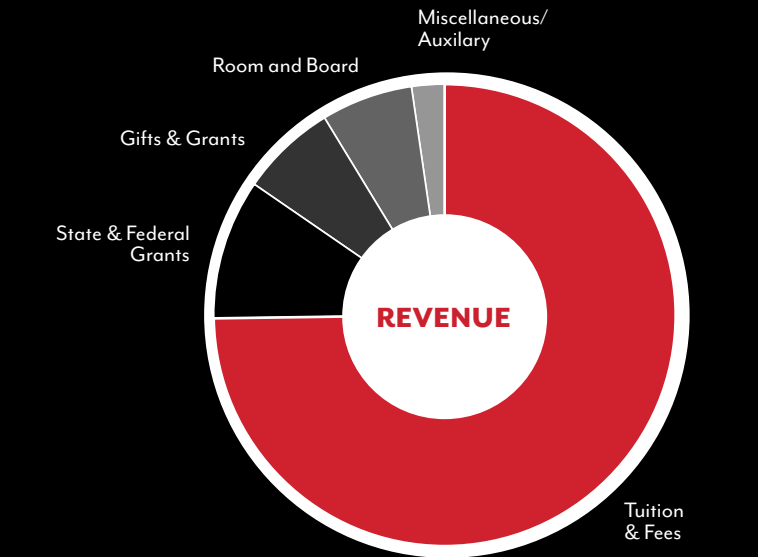
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,278,844</b>	<b>100%</b>
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**NET REVENUE BALANCE \$1,690,430**

## COMBINED GIFT REVENUE (both restricted and unrestricted)

Friends	\$562,330	38.1%
Businesses, Foundations, Churches	\$460,171	31.2%
Alumni	\$275,513	18.7%
Board Members	\$139,628	9.5%
Estates	\$29,987	2.0%
Corporations (Matching Funds)	\$5,419	.5%

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,473,048</b>	<b>100%</b>
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Rochester University is a 501(c)(3) public charity. The University's Form 990 is available upon request through the Business Office.

Businesses, Foundations, Churches



## AT A GLANCE

**MISSION** Rochester University prepares students for professional and personal success as they serve in God's world.

**VISION** Rochester University will cultivate a diverse and welcoming community of learners among students, faculty and staff for the sake of participating in God's mission in the world. Learning together the way of Christ, we will serve in neighborhoods, businesses, and organizations with justice and mercy. Sharing life in the spirit of God, RU graduates will contribute creativity, knowledge and integrity to our rapidly changing world.

**VALUE STATEMENT** Rochester University calls students to discover and develop their unique gifts and abilities to participate in the redemptive work of God. Rochester University welcomes students into a supportive community with personalized attention. RU engages students in a rigorous and holistic education for professional and personal success.

**ACCREDITATION** Rochester University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. In addition, RU is authorized by the Michigan Department of Education to recommend teacher candidates to the state for certification. The Teacher Education Program has applied for national accreditation through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and currently is at candidacy phase in the process.

**PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES** include service learning, Greek life, Chapel, study abroad, Student Leadership Program, Theatre, Shield Student Media, Student Programming Board, Mission Trips, student organizations, Campus Ministry events, Campus Puppy Program, First Year Experience and more.

**ALUMNI** Rochester University has graduated a diverse group of alumni. This vast network of professionals live in 49 states and 35 nations, working and leading in Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, human service organizations, health systems, the education sector and more.

average  
CLASS  
SIZE of **17**

**97%** OF GRADUATES  
are employed or continuing their  
education within a year of graduation

**97%** OF TRADITIONAL STUDENTS RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID  
including scholarships, grants and loans from federal,  
state and institutional sources

CNN's Money Magazine  
recognized Rochester as one of  
the top places to live and the very

**BEST IN all  
of MICHIGAN!**

**1,231**  
STUDENTS  
from 22 states and 13 nations

Located in Rochester Hills, Michigan  
**AMERICA'S SAFEST CITY**  
IN 2019, ACCORDING TO FRONT POINT SECURITY

OUR CAMPUS IS **68 PRISTINE ACRES**  
LOCATED A SHORT WALK FROM DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER  
—and no more than 30 miles from—  
**MUSEUMS • MARKETS • MALLS • CONCERTS**  
**PRO SPORTS • THE AUTOMOTIVE SCENE • OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**  
FOOD TRUCKS + FINE DINING • WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT  
NATURAL BEAUTY, AND ALL KINDS OF OTHER FUN TO DISCOVER



## ACADEMIC PHILOSOPHY

### EXPLORING

Students will broaden their understanding of the world in its beauty, diversity and complexity.

### PREPARING

Students will acquire knowledge and develop skills to serve in their neighborhoods, organizations and businesses.

### INTEGRATING

Students will connect and apply knowledge and skills to their personal and professional lives.

### CALLING

Students will discern what God has called them to be and do.

### TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

English  
Musical Theatre  
Theatre

Tracks available in Performance, Directing/Design  
and Theatre Management

#### BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BBA)

Accounting  
Health Care Management  
Management  
Nonprofit Management  
Sports Management

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)

Behavioral Science  
Biology

Concentration available in Social Work  
Tracks available in Cellular/Molecular Biology and Environmental Biology

Christian Ministry  
Education, Elementary

Majors available in Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary  
and Learning Disabilities

Education, Secondary

Majors available in English Education, Integrated Science Education,  
Learning Disabilities and Social Studies Education

Health Sciences

Tracks available in Health Care Management,  
Pre-Pharmacy and Pre-Physical Therapy

Information Systems—Programming

Interdisciplinary Studies

This program allows students to combine two academic disciplines  
in innovative ways to meet 21st century market demands.

Mass Communication

Tracks available in Broadcast Media Arts, Digital Media Arts,  
Graphic Design and Integrated Media

Psychology

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (BSN)

### ACCELERATED PROGRAMS

#### BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BBA)

Computer Information Systems  
Management

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Christian Ministry  
Early Childhood Studies  
Mass Communication: Marketing Communication  
Psychology  
Strategic Leadership

#### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

RN to BSN

#### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (AA)

#### ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (AS)

### MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Missional Leadership



### INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS

Baseball (men's)\*  
Basketball (men's\* & women's)  
USBC Bowling (men's & women's)  
Competitive Cheer (co-ed)  
Cross Country (men's & women's)  
Golf (men's & women's)  
Lacrosse (women's)  
Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field (men's & women's)  
Reserve Soccer (men's and women's)  
Soccer (men's & women's)  
Softball (women's)  
Reserve Volleyball  
Volleyball (women's)  
Wrestling (men's)

\*varsity & junior varsity

### CLUB SPORTS

ACHA D1 Hockey (men's)

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN:

Men's & Women's Basketball • Women's Volleyball  
Men's Cross Country • Men's Golf  
Men's Soccer • Softball





AMEN

**May God bless us with unity.**

For when we stand together,  
we reflect the unity of His Kingdom  
with the physical representation  
of Heaven on Earth.

**May God bless us with serenity.**

For when we have serenity, we live in faith,  
accepting the things of this world and knowing  
He is ultimately in control of it all.

**May God bless us with dependence.**

For when we depend on the Father,  
we surrender all control—we relinquish  
our possessions, motives and hearts  
to be fixed on Him alone.

**May God bless us with vision.**

For when we have the eyes of the Father,  
we see the world as He does,  
with undeserving grace and never-ending love  
for everyone and everything.



contributed by

**BRIAN PETTY**  
Residence Hall Director  
Center for Student Life Assistant



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Rochester, Mich.  
Permit No. 86



# Hey alumni, did you know **\$5** is all it takes

to make RU better tomorrow than it is today?



Higher alumni giving participation raises:

- RANKING | *U.S. News & World Report*
- DEGREE VALUE | *A win for all Warriors*
- GRANT DOLLARS | *Giving leads to giving*
- OPPORTUNITIES | *For RU students & faculty*

Will you help us reach this alumni giving goal?

**725**  
ALUMNI  
**\$5**

[RochesterU.edu/high5](https://RochesterU.edu/high5)

