INSIDE:
PREPARING FOR COMMENCEMENT
Page 2 | News
MESSAGES FROM CAMPUS LEADERS
Page 6 | Opinions
FOUR YEARS: OUR SENIORS IN SPORTS
Page 15 | Sports
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Commencement Prep Underway, Costs Down from Last Year

CHRIS LANGFIELD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rain or shine, about 1,400 undergraduate graduates will graduate in the 166th College Commencement ceremony Sunday morning—at around 40 percent of the cost in previous years.

The annual standard student services budget has typically included close to $500,000 for Commencement costs, Roger L. Smith, Senior Financial Officer for the College, said in an email interview.

But because of budget cuts, this year’s Commencement, and Commencements going forward, will cost closer to $300,000.

When asked for detail about these budget changes, Smith said that “it relates to the staff support, which was a specific item of cost in prior years.”

“The providing office is now a part of the College, and there is no specific charge for staff effort for Commencement services,” he continued.

This money goes toward both the planning process and the event itself.

“Planning for Commencement is a year-long activity,” said Smith, that “involves coordination with many internal organizations”—such as Information Technology, Communications, and Public Safety—and external groups, too, like vendors and suppliers.

The entire planning process is overseen by Event and Classroom Management, as well as the Commencement Office and the President’s Office.

Along with supplies and catering, this money is also spent on renting equipment for the stage, audio-visual services, and facilities charges.

In addition to the Sunday ceremony on the Eastman Quad, each department in the College hosts its own ceremony, in which graduates receive their physical diploma. These ceremonies are held across campus throughout the day.

Erica Fee ’99 will address seniors at the graduation ceremony. Fee founded the First Niagara Rochester Fringe Festival, which, according to the University’s March press release announcing the choice, “has become a pow- erhouse festival for new theatre, comedy, music, dance and children’s entertainment in Upstate New York.”

Fee graduated from UR with a degree in political science, and was a Take Five Scholar, studying film, theatre, and anthropology.

After living in the United Kingdom for 10 years—as an actress running her own theatrical production company—Fee returned to Rochester, her native city. Her involvement in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe inspired her to become the “founding producer and board president,” according to the University’s announcement, of its Rochesterian sibling in 2009.

Previous Commencement speakers include Deborah Bial, founder of the Posse Foundation, Steven Chu, former Secretary of Energy and UR alumnus, and Chris Matthews of MSNBC.

University Spokesperson Sara Miller said that potential speakers “from all over the world” are considered, and that the group that decides—consisting of President and CEO Joel Seligman, the deans of the University, and student leaders from the senior Class Council, along with their faculty advisor—focuses on the speakers’ abilities to offer something valuable to the graduating class and their families based on their lives and professional experiences.

Langfield is a member of the Class of 2018.

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JASON ALTABET  
SENIOR STAFF

Editor's note: This transcription has been lightly edited for clarity.

Roger Ferguson, TIAA CEO and former Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, spoke to Simon School students as part of the Kalsbush Lecture Series on April 19. In a lively, wide-ranging talk, he offered leadership advice to graduates and discussed good habits for a successful career.

What are some of the personal attributes that contributed to your success?

I think the most important personal attribute was a curiosity and a focus on continuing to learn. As for my background, I did formal education until I was almost 30, but I think the important thing is that every job I took, I looked at as a great opportunity to keep learning. [...] I'm a big believer in building human capital. Even to this day, I try to contemplate: “Okay, what did I learn today?” Sometimes what I learn is negative—things I don't do so well. Sometimes it's a new fact, or new information. But it's all about continuing to learn.

What things should we be starting now as college students to improve our habits to become more successful?

I think there are two or three things. One is being very curious. Second, continuing to maintain a large circle of friends and, in particular, having friends and acquaintances who are very different from you, I describe as being in lots of different conversations. The reason to do this is you don't know how someone is going to evolve over time—someone that you meet today might be helpful. But, more importantly, the habit of talking to people who don't agree with you, I think, is really an important way to keep your eyes open and broaden your horizons. The third thing is not to be too linear. One of the things I've observed in madras—perhaps because they are coming through the end of the financial crisis—is I think (they) are very focused on what I learn is negative—things I don't do so well. You don't need to follow a complete amateur. I think you have to have a certain amount of empathy, recognizing that people are coming from different places and have different things going on in their lives. You've got to be able to sort of articulate what you want people to go—sort of the vision thing. The fourth is that you've got to have a certain amount of fortitude. Followers know that the path is not always easy. You don't want to follow a leader who immediately crumbles under pressure.

What sort of pitfalls did you face and how did you overcome to develop that style?

I think a pitfall that everyone does is the smartest one in the room. Well, the way I've talked about it's all about continuing to learn. After more than 15 years of service, the Mane Attraction in Wilson Commons will be closing and we want to thank them for their service to the U of R community. Please visit them at their new MI Hope location!

Finance Figure Roger Ferguson Offers Career Advice to Graduates

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A Major Consideration

BY ANGELA LAI
PUBLISHER

At the major declaration ceremony, the projector displayed alumni’s class years, majors, and jobs alongside their faces. Colored, department-specific flyers, handed out with department-specific picture frames, advertised the careers of UR alumni. These seemed like reassurances: Yes, your major can get you a job.

Our majors comprise part of our identities as college students. Almost invariably, we name our majors when introducing ourselves, frequently attribute certain traits to certain majors, and bond with others in the same field. A major declaration warrants celebration. Yet we are often encouraged to view majors as the first stepping stone towards a career or as a deciding factor of our future income. Articles list the college majors begetting the highest starting salaries, the majors linked to financial success. Consequently, the majors begetting the best return on investment are deemed the right majors to single out. Let’s recap some of this recent campus activity.

After the University’s Commission on Race & Diversity voted in overwhelming support of banning Yik Yak from University Wi-Fi, President Seligman responded by disregarding that democratic choice and keeping the service on campus. Students decried the result, as their hundreds of hours of activism on the issue were washed away by a single authoritarian decision. The Campus Times Editorial Board, at least according to their internet archives, failed to decry Seligman’s tone-deaf arrogance. The Campus Times Editorial Board piece, “The University’s Class War,” quotes President Seligman virtually word for word as if he were our President. The Campus Times didn’t feel the need to criticize President Seligman virtu really, it’s contradictory.

It’s contradictory. The prominence of our majors to our lives as students and the pressure of job security can make our majors seem crucial, tantalizing to future success. Yet some anecdotes tell us that majors matter less than experience, that what we learn as undergraduates ultimately matters little, that we will learn and adapt with our careers as necessary.

Additionally, for all the articles listing the earnings associated with certain majors, there may be a far greater number (according to the Google search results, at least) telling us why majors don’t matter or why they matter less than we think they do. Though you shouldn’t entirely discard practical considerations, your passion for a major and the personal growth that it allows them should hold at least the same weight, if not more.

To those uncertain about their major, like myself during freshman year, some students appear passionate about and certain in their major to an extent. During my year of trying majoring in computer science (CS), for instance, work as teaching assistants for multiple CS classes, tutor students in CS, work on and read about CS in their spare time, and more.

Their apparent dedication seems like the ideal way to feel about a major, because it seems as though they love what they do.

Lai is a member of the Class of 2018.

Stop Tone Policing, Please

Editor’s note: This letter has been lightly edited for style.

Dear Campus Times,

We’re writing you to address the Editorial Board piece, “A call for decorum in the DPS gun debate,” which ran on April 21. In recent months, the University has faced three crises stemming from two with a negative result and one with a positive one. Let’s recap some of this recent campus activity.

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Lai is a member of the Class of 2018.

Any surprise that we had little trust in the school’s new Commission for Allowing Students to Blow Off Steam? And when it became clear the school was once again managing us without listening, intracting, and responding, we acted. We told the University “NO.” We told the University that we would finally have our demands heard… or prospective students and parents would learn of their deafness. The Campus Times decrees our tone, but is it any surprise that our actions brought the first positive administration crisis response? Instead of making a final decision over the summer, without the students here to complicate things, they conceded on October, or even later. Moreover, students will now have representation in the decision-making process.

With the addition of the provost in that discussion, the student body would continue to be voiceless in a decision that, to some, is understood as a direct threat to the security of their lives. Stop criticizing the students who realized that without using tactics higher on the force continuum, we’d never have been offered our fair share of input.

The Campus Times calls our tactics and the rough questioning “hostile.” We call it progress. We call it forcing the school to finally listen to its students and appease its customers. We call it change.

Meliora, Stephen Wegman and Joey Stephens

Wegman is a member of the Class of 2017. Stephen is a member of the Class of 2018.

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Parting Thoughts from Our University Leaders

The Campus Times reached out to various University administrators and all senior Students’ Association (SA) leadership—the SA President, Vice President, Speaker of the Senate, and Chief Justice—to offer parting thoughts for the Class of 2016 and on the year. These few works alongside scores of other administrators, faculty, staff, and students, each of whom have made lasting impressions on the University and the 2016 graduating class. This is what those leaders had to say.

BY JOEL SELIGMAN

It has been a memorable year, with highlights including new initiatives such as the School of Arts and Sciences Humanities Center and Institute for Performing Arts, the Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center, progress on the renovation of the Frederick Douglass Building and the Science and Engineering Quadrangle which will include Wegmans Hall, the new home of Goergen Institute for Data Science. As our Melora Challenge capital campaign now completion well over its $1.2 billion initial goal, I am particularly delighted that we have raised close to $225 million to support student scholarships and created over 100 new endowed professorships to attract and retain outstanding faculty. A wonderful part of this year was the progress of our students. Many were recognized last month at the Undergraduate Research Exhibition or in performances in our Institute for Performing Arts or in great moments for our sports teams such as our men’s squash team making it to the national championship. All of the University faculty, administration and staff are thrilled that a total of 1,419 undergraduates and 1,814 graduates will receive degrees in our ceremonies May 13 to 15. Congratulations to all the graduates. We are proud of each and every one of you. Seligman is the University President.

BY RICHARD FELDMAN

We appreciate the opportunity extended by the Campus Times to contribute a reflection on the year for its Commencement issue. At a meeting with parents this past weekend, we heard two students describe the extraordinary combination of courses, research experiences, study abroad opportunities, and other activities in the College that had contributed to their education. Hearing them talk confirmed our fundamental thought that the College is more vibrant, more exciting, and stronger than ever.

The unique Rochester Curriculum is one of our great strengths. It forces students to identify their interests and create their path in ways that other curricula do not. A result is a passionate and committed student body that is a great joy to work with. This year, a faculty committee completed a review of our curriculum, now almost twenty years old, and resoundingly endorsed its structure. We regularly look for new ways to enable students to discover themselves and to develop their interests.

In the past year, we have created new majors in dance and an improved BS in business. A new Citation in Community Engagement Scholarship that will recognize academically supported community engagement activities was approved last week. Initiatives to improve opportunities for undergraduate research and internships are in development. Innovative new leaders in the Greene Career and Internship Center and in Education Abroad are developing new programs.

The College brings together academic and co-curricular activities in ways not yet seen at peer universities. This provides opportunities for us that will be realized in the renovated Frederick Douglass Building, scheduled to open in the fall. Together with Wilson Commons, this will be center of student life and will house state of the art dining center, improved student activities space, the Burgett Intercultural Center, and a new Language Center.

The year now drawing to a close has had its challenges: a kidnapping, a flooded residence hall, an unprecedented snow storm, and, of course, coronavirus. Issues about race have been prominent. But the College’s diversity is another great strength, providing opportunities to forge connections and interactions that enrich our lives and prepare students for the world they will encounter after graduation.

We know that our campus has not achieved everything we would hope, but we also know that our students have worked with one another and with our local community in ways that make the College, and us, better.

Congratulations and best wishes to all our graduates.

Feldman is the Dean of the College.

BY PAUL BURGITT

As we approach the end of the school year, I cannot help but muse about how far we’ve come since that first commencement in 1851. On that hot July day, a brass band led a procession of undergraduates, public officials, other civic leaders, clergy, ten graduates, seniors, faculty, and University leadership—all white men, primarily New Yorkers, and mostly Baptists.

165 years later, the University will graduate 3000 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree candidates in many academic disciplines; men, women, transgender, from fifty states and 100 countries, in a diverse array of races, ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and religions. Our founders likely would be astonished and proud. Progress, at times, has been rocky and rife with challenges to diversity and inclusion, to collegiality, to equal opportunities for all. Many yet bear the bruises of struggle and carry the burdens of making progress a reality; and though the aphorism of our first president, Martin Brewer Anderson, “Our Work Is But Begun,” still applies, the University community should celebrate our successes and take pride in how far indeed we have come.

Burgett is the University Vice President, Senior Advisor to the President, and University Dean.

BY WESLINE MANUPELILAI

On August 27, 2012, approximately 1,150 wide-eyed freshmen gathered at the Eastman Quadrangle for Convocation. As we exchanged nervous glances and awkward introductions, I could never have imagined how formative and inspiring our time at the University would be. As an undergraduate, I have had the privilege of learning from world-class political scientists, connecting with the University’s most successful alumni, and even dining with the President of the United States. My academics introduced me to a world of unanswered questions and helped me develop the critical thinking skills to seek out original solutions.

Involvement in student groups brought me together with talented and passionate peers dedicated to improving our campus community. My professors inspired my love of learning and took a genuine interest in my intellectual development and future success. My mentors helped me identify my strengths and gave me the confidence to seek out new challenges. And for the last four years, my classmates, faculty, and student leaders have provided comfort and support when I was stressed or overwhelmed.

On Sunday, approximately 1400 undergraduates and graduates will don caps and gowns and return to the Quadrangle to celebrate the bittersweet end to our time at the University. As we look to the future, I am confident that UR has prepared us for success in all of our endeavors. And as I say goodbye to my closest friends, I rest assured that this great institution will bring us together again in the years to come.

Manuelpillai is the outgoing Chief Justice of the All-Campus Judicial Council and a member of the Class of 2016.

Editor’s note: Some of these responses have been lightly edited for grammar and/or style. All photos courtesy of UR Communications and Student Association Government.

Congratulations, Seniors! We love you all.

The Campus Times Staff
Restroom Review, Take Number Two

BY MICHELLE COHEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BY SAM PASSANISI
SENIOR STAFF

Seniors: Want to make sure you squeeze every last drop of experience out of the River Campus before you leave? Look no further. In this section, we’ll cover your Cathedral, your classrooms, your connections.

Campus Times

Nowhere. On campus, the third floor of Wilson Commons is different than on the third and fourth floors of Morey Hall. The bathrooms on the fourth floor of this building, seem as old as campus itself, with rustic brick walls, a quiet and cozy atmosphere, and layers of graffiti on the stall doors. Yet for all their age, they don’t seem dilapidated. These bathrooms are comfortable and well-maintained, and for those who care about such things, their antiquated charm cannot be denied.

The third floor Men’s bathroom, however, are another story.

One each of men’s and women’s restrooms just inside the main entrance, these restrooms are not the cream of the crop—they were renovated two years ago as part of the third-floor lobby of the building. Appearances are deceiving, for they lack basic amenities such as paper towels. In this section, we’ll look at these bathrooms as well as the newly-revised two years ago as part of the third-floor lobby of the building—men’s and women’s restrooms just inside the main entrance. These bathrooms are more than disappointing, the toilet seats are dirty, and the availability of paper towels is unstable, at best. This bathroom is alright in a pinch, but we’d recommend a quick scurry up the hall to the bathrooms right outside the Art & Music library, which are much saner. These are nothing special in their own right, but compared to the ITS bathrooms, they’re an absolute dream. These can also be a good alternative to the standard bathrooms in Gleason.

Nearby, in the hallway connecting the Gleason Library with the Rush Rhees circulation desk, the bathrooms adjacent to the copy machines are perhaps some of the busiest bathrooms on campus. Even if you’re completely at home in public restrooms, these bathrooms can put you on the pressure. As library-goers bustle in and out, these bathrooms don’t rate too highly on our list, but they won’t be around for much longer anymore. With the upcoming construction of Lam Square, these bathrooms will be demolished, and we’re excited to see them as soon as possible from the entrance. Once inside, you’re greeted by a scene that can be unsettling, and sometimes grungy. The Achilles heel of these bathrooms is their eponymous toilets, which have even been known to overflow at times. This is apparently a known issue—a sign on the wall entreats you to report any malfunctions to the librarians. Let’s be honest, though. If you plug up the toilet in the library, the last thing you’re going to do is march downstairs and confess to the librarians.

The Basement

A few bathrooms on campus, both good and bad, are defined by their sheer strangeness. If novelty in your bathroom experience is what you seek, the men’s and women’s rooms on the top floor of Todd Union are the perfect destinations. These bathrooms are as different as day and night, and each can only be described as “an experience.”

The top-floor men’s bathroom in Todd, located off the north stairwell and through a door into the theatre department, is little larger than a closet in size. At the end of a narrow tunnel is an antique wooden stall, and if you squeeze past that you can reach the tiny urinal. The sink is back at https://campustimes.org/ - PAGE 7

The all-gender restroom by Starbuck’s is a Spartan, no-frills relief space.

For performers in the May Room, the bathroom proper, is a multi-purpose space for a new generation of writers—a community of women supporting each other in an unlikely of places, the most trying of times.

Where else to visit, if you can’t fit Men’s in time? Wilson Commons boasts a full complement of bathrooms, with the best of these located on the fourth floor outside the May Room. These bathrooms are fairly spacious, and are popular among their fans as a good location for checking one’s appearance during a long day on campus—perhaps even an occasional selfie. The women’s room houses a long mirror in an ante-room off the bathroom proper, with soft dressing-room lighting and a convenient shelf for one’s belongings. It’s the perfect place for performers in the May Room to check themselves out before going on stage, but it’s also the perfect place to stop and recuperate on your way out of the Pit after lunch. An added bonus is that these bathrooms are rarely crowded, so even shy poopers can feel comfortable setting up camp here.

Elsewhere on the Quad, Bausch & Lomb Hall features a suite of fairly normal bathrooms with one distinguishing feature. Thanks to a full wall of south-facing frosted glass windows, these restrooms are bathed in a bright, welcoming glow that’s almost startling upon entry. Visit these bathrooms in the daytime while taking a break from physics lab, and they’re an excellent location to replenish your stores of Vitamin D. As an added bonus, a double-door airlock ensures privacy. Women’s is located on the third floor across from the Physics, Optics, & Astronomy Library, with men’s on the second and fourth floors. They can be a bit toxic, but on a wintry January day, sometimes that’s exactly what the doctor ordered.

The Bizarro

Consistently ranked as some of the worst places to go are the bathrooms outside ITS behind Constructions. These bathrooms are met with frequent complaints from students for several years. First, they’re small and cramped. If there’s someone else in there when you walk in, you’d better hug the wall—or better yet, turn around and walk out. These bath-rooms are also unusually crowded and smelly. They’re heavily used by the campus community, and that includes drunken seniors stumbling off the Gold Line at 1 a.m. The men’s bathroom has just one stall, alongside an overgrown auto-flushing urinal. The problems don’t just stop there: The flow velocity of the sink leaves much to be desired, the toilet seats are often dirty, and the availability of paper towels is unreliable, at best. This bathroom is alright in a pinch, but we’d recommend a quick scurry up the hall to the bathrooms right outside the Art & Music library, which are much saner. These are nothing special in their own right, but compared to the ITS bathrooms, they’re an absolute dream. These can also be a good alternative to the standard bathrooms in Gleason.

Bathrooms located in a crowded tunnel are already at a disad-vantage. Another example of this is the pair of restrooms under Hoyt Auditorium. Try to avoid using these (and their outdated hand dryers) if you’re on your way outside—your still-damp hands will be chapped and frozen by the time you reach the warmth and safety of Carlson.

The bathroom situation in Carlson, though, is anything but a picnic. There are two sets of re-strooms available in the building, and both of them are tucked away on the first and second floors, as far from the entrance as possible. Once inside, you’re greeted by a scene that can be unsettling, and sometimes grungy. The Achilles heel of these bathrooms is their eponymous toilets, which have even been known to overflow at times. This is apparently a known issue—a sign on the wall entreats you to report any malfunctions to the librarians. Let’s be honest, though. If you plug up the toilet in the library, the last thing you’re going to do is march downstairs and confess to the librarians.

The Watertower

The Watertower is a Spartan, no-frills relief space.

The all-gender restroom by Starbuck’s is a Spartan, no-frills relief space.

`
A FULFILLING CAREER SHOULDN’T LEAVE YOU EMPTY HANDED.

The recently-renovated third floor restrooms in Morey are home to some of the naughtiest, strongest hand dryers on campus.

Bathrooms, rivaled in size only by the men's bathrooms on the second floor of Hutchinson Hall, where every male scientist on campus can go pee at the same time, if necessary. The Hylan basement bathrooms can be eerie if you're there alone, but don't worry, because you'll probably be joined in short order by an errant Facilities worker.

Honorable Mentions

In this section, we'll go over a few bathrooms which might not be the fanciest or most covered, but which deserve a shout-out anyway.

The first of these is the all-gender restroom in the lobby of Anderson residence hall. For residents of Anderson, it's usually first choice if your roommates are using the single suite toilet, or if you're in a rush on your way home. This bathroom is clean, comfortable, and large, especially since you have it all to yourself. If this one's occupied or if you prefer a more secluded location, there's another bathroom in the Anderson basement, which is also a good bet. The conveniently-located women's bathroom on the first floor of Todd is very popular, thanks in part to the retro, '70s-style armchair and loveseat, and in part to the low ceiling that makes you feel like a Hobbit in a hole.

Melissa Hall, while not a good building, per se, is home to some very respectable bathrooms. In particular, the ones just off the stairwell on each floor are almost never crowded. You'll have the place to yourself, if you can stand the dim lighting.

On the opposite end of the spectrum (of visible light), the bathrooms in Goergen Hall behind Pura Vida are frequently cited as a student favorite. Like the rest of the building, they're new, bright, and open in nature. The men's room in this location is also home to some of the only non-flushing urinals on campus. It's eco-friendly and very green.

* * *

So farewell, seniors. Although we're sure you're feeling googled after a grueling four years of college, we hope you have time to revisit some tried-and-true bathrooms on campus before you pee-ce out. Cohen and Rossacci are members of the Class of 2017.

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What I’m Thinking About During Graduation

BY CHRIS D’ANTONA
HUMOR STAFF

Friends and loyal reader, this will be last piece of work as a “humor” writer for the Campus Times. In preparing and brain-storming for this article, I had a number of different topics that I wanted to write about—so many, in fact, that I thought it might be better for me to write a list of discussion points instead.

Hollaback Girl is the greatest song of all time. I don’t feel the need to defend this claim.

The Campus Times sports section makes journalism harder than it has to be by having their writers cover sports of which they have no understanding.

I know this because of the many track articles I’ve read during my time as an undergrad. With claims of two people finishing in first and runners traveling faster than cars, I’d say maybe we could at least get a swimmer to write these articles. [Editor’s note: We consider it a conflict of interest for writers to cover groups of which they are members or issues in which they have a vested interest. Sorry, Chris.]

The SA government took credit for bringing macaroni and cheese back to the Commons when I know for a fact that I had a major role in that decision—not them. This is a true story: A couple days after I wrote that “Macaroni & Cheese Soup” article earlier this semester, Dining Services contacted the CT editor to let them know they had read my article and would be bringing back macaroni and cheese within the next couple weeks. About a week later, on the day that macaroni and cheese was brought back, the SA Government Facebook page shared an Impact petition and the picture of the returned mac claiming that the Impact petition was to thank for change. Coincidence?

I think not.

On a campus of about 5,000 undergraduates, only a fraction casts votes for SA Government positions. No one cares what your SA government platform is. I voted for Vito Martino because he has the same first name as my dad. I’ve never met Vito, but I assume he’s a lot like my dad. Thanks, Vito!

The Warner School of Education wastes more money than any other view from the top since their debut occurred the same year many of us were born. I’d be unfortunate if walking under the clock tower actually is a curse. I only need to make it through three more days to dispose it. Cheers.

The view from the top of Rush Rhees Library during official tours doesn’t look any different than any other view from the top you may have experienced—except one is during the day.

Campus Dining Services and Facilities up their games during Orientation and Commencement. I feel like a circle is completed.

D’Antona is a member of the Class of 2016.

Poking Fun at the News

BY CHRIS HORGAN
SENIOR STAFF

1. Tracy McGrady recently stated that Steph Curry’s unanimous MVP win is proof that the NBA is softer than it used to be. Yes, the NBA is too soft for a guy who’s name sounds like a Dr. Seuss character.

2. Hulu founder Jason Kilar delivered the commencement address at the University of North Carolina. He used to do commentary for NASCAR but now he’s charging $7.99 per month with no commercials.

3. President Obama is set to speak at both Howard University’s and Rutgers University’s graduations. Obama stated, “Well, if you thought these four years were tough, imagine having to do it a second time.”

4. A man requested a restraining order against God, to which God replied, “Fine, I’ll be there in spirit.”

5. “Another study has found that calling your mom on the phone can make you feel better, Chris,” said my mother.

6. A Chinese boy was born with 31 fingers and toes. This turns the story, “This little piggy, into a novel.

7. Philly Jesus was arrested in Philadelphia for trespassing and disorderly conduct at an Apple Store. He was placed in jail, but after three days, he disappeared.

8. A Florida man accidentally shot himself while cleaning his gun, and didn’t notice the wound until he changed his shirt two days later.

Moral of the story: Don’t wear the same shirt two days in a row.

9. UR’s commencement will take place this weekend, which will mark the greatest number of people on the Eastman Quad since last year’s Commencement, with the first day of Spring falling in a close third.

Horgan is a member of the Class of 2017.

HUMOR SHOUTOUT: AS SECTION EDITORS, WE WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALL SENIORS GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY THIS SEMESTER. IT’S BEEN AWESOME WRITING AND ORGANIZING PAGES FOR READERS THIS PAST YEAR, AND WE HOPE WE MADE YOU LAUGH AT LEAST ONCE. IF YOU HAVEN’T ACTUALLY READ THE PAGE, SCREW YOU, BUT I AM ASSUMING YOU AREN’T READING THIS EITHER, WEED LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL SHOUTOUT TO JUNIOR CHRIS HORGAN, WHO CAME UP CLUTCH AND, TO MAKE THIS PAGE POSSIBLE, WROTE THE JOKES ABOVE ON HIS PHONE WHILE TRAVELING. ADDITIONALLY, WEED LIKE TO GIVE SENIOR CHRIS D’ANTONA A SPECIAL SHOUTOUT FOR A COUPLE OF REASONS. TO BEGIN, HE HAS BEEN AN AWESOME STAFF MEMBER WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED MANY GREAT PIECES THIS PAST YEAR. ON TOP OF THIS, HE PUT ASIDE HIS SENIOR WEEK ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE ARTICLE TO YOUR LEFT, WHILE REHABBING FROM A BROKEN FOOT. IT’S BEEN GREAT HAVING YOU AS A WRITER THIS PAST YEAR, AND WE REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU EACH AND EVERY TIME YOU VISIT IN THE NEXT YEAR, TO ALL OTHER HUMOR WRITERS, THANKS FOR MAKING ME LAUGH AND HAVE AN AWESOME SUMMER FULL OF GREAT STORIES TO WRITE ABOUT FOR FUTURE ISSUES. I LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR WORK NEXT SEMESTER.
œu·vre: an App in the Eye of the Beholder

BY ISABEL DRIKKER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One described it as a woman, deep in thought. Another talked about the colors—“pale blues make me happy.” A third, in a word: “sombre.”

Thanks to the new œu·vre app—launched to the public on April 28 and designed by a team of seniors in the Design & Media Studies department—I was able to see these reactions from the other people at the Memorial Art Gallery (MAG) to Andy Warhol’s iconic “Jackie,” and even post mine as well.

“What we are wanting is people to talk more about art,” senior and MAG contact, and group PR leader Svetlana Shaindlin said. “Digital media is a great way to draw people to the museum and enhance their experiences.”

When I went to the event, I was actually unsure of what to expect—the flyers were a little ambiguous. Saying that œu·vre is pronounced like “Ooooo, bruh” but with a v instead of a b doesn’t exactly explain what the app does, either.

Senior and head coder Karina Banda gave me a tour of the MAG, scanning her phone slowly over paintings in the first room. Watching her reminded me of having Snapchat open and waiting for it to recognize a face for one of its filters.

When she scanned it over the “Jackie” painting, a question mark appeared over it. She clicked on it, and the app gave us a 30-second timer, telling us to study the painting as it counted down. Then, it asked a question: “How would you describe this piece to someone who has never seen it? I could swipe through answers that other people had left.”

“The real importance behind creating the app was to encourage people who aren’t comfortable with art,” senior and group project leader David Libbey said. “[People think art] is for people who are knowledgeable and wealthy, and we want this app to kind of be a platform for people who maybe don’t have the access or opportunity to that education but still have an interest in art.”

“Whatever they have to say is a valid thing,” he added.

Except for the time it sometimes took the app to recognize the paintings it has been programmed to put question marks over, I experienced no bugs.

The team behind it, however, including senior Emma Pollock—who is in charge of the website and design choices—admits that there are improvements to be made.

“Maybe it’ll go somewhere in the future, hopefully,” Shaindlin said. “I want people to try it; we do want people’s feedback.”

Shaindlin explained that, design-wise, œu·vre could stand a few alterations.

Director of Academic Programs at the MAG Marlene Hammer additionally suggested a content filter, like what the anonymous app Yik-Yak uses.

Currently, 15 pieces at the MAG are programmed into œu·vre. The team initially intended 20 pieces, but the app could not recognize them for structural reasons. œu·vre is available online at www.œu·vre.co through December of this year.

The creation of a digital space to talk about art does offer people a more approachable way to talk about art. This, of course, requires people who already do. œu·vre may not be an app for people who do not already think about art—but it is an app to think about.

Drucker is a member of the Class of 2017.

Captain America Toes the Dark Side in Muddled ‘Civil War’

BY SAAD USMANI
SENIOR STAFF

Marvel’s “Captain America: Civil War” arrives at a time when superheroes are often fighting each other. Not only than the villainous archetypes to which viewers have become accustomed. The film succeeds in many respects, but, unfortunately, makes the same mistakes that “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” made just over a month ago. Though it has great moments and certainly brings its characters to life, the movie still falls under its own seriousness and lack of cohesiveness.

It is a difficult task to weave together multiple storylines and make something that is cohesive, and “Civil War” does a satisfactory job. The central conflict between Captain America and Iron Man—the two sides of vigilantism—is explored to a healthy degree, and much of the character development is solid. There is true emotional heft to the film, which is a nice surprise in comparison with most films in the Marvel Universe. Though it’s technically a third Captain America movie, the film serves more as a character study of Iron Man. He supplies many of the emotional beats of the narrative and signifies that our heroes are not perfect. Even Captain America—the film’s moral compass—makes a number of morally questionable choices in the film.

Characters like Black Panther and Spider-Man are also introduced artfully, and they have great moments in the film, but they ultimately add nothing to the plot. It’s more of the same world-building that turned off many viewers in “Batman v Superman,” but viewers don’t care this time around because they finally get to see Spider-Man in a Marvel movie. While his appearance is certainly exciting, there’s no real reason for him to be there. He helps out at the ultimate battle at an airport in Germany (which in itself is an exquisitely strange setting to have the grand fight between two teams of heroes) and is promptly shipped back to Queens.

Much of the criticism towards “Batman v Superman” attacked its dark, bleak tone, but “Civil War” just feels grey. The film is uneven: the first half is quite dull and boring, and its action sequences feel choppy and rushed, but it’s all in search of a decidedly more serious tone. It all changes when Spider-Man is introduced and, with a bout of suddenly quirky humor, it suddenly feels as if Joss Whedon came in to direct most of the second half. It’s very fun, but then the main battle is over, the film returns to some of the more serious tone it tried to establish previously, and it does not go off so well. I mean, how serious can you take a movie that has a giant Anti-Man destroying property at an airport?

The film does not rectify any of the recurring problems that the Marvel Universe has, especially in regards to featuring a sophisticated and memorable villain. Though there is no straight forward “villain” in a movie that pits two superheroes against each other, many of the strings are pulled by Helmut Zemo (Daniel Bruhl), who plays the villain. His motivations to do so are more complex, but, like Lex Luthor in “Batman v Superman,” it leads to a single line in the film and has no emotional payoff.

Lastly, in this thirteenth film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, one titled “Civil War,” nothing consequential really happens. One or two characters are injured and some relationships are fractured, but we know that our beloved characters are going to survive and eventually work out the differences they have with each other. Unfortunately, it makes things less exciting. Even if the emotional heft is great, there are no physical consequences to any of it. In the end, we know we’ll be seeing all of our heroes together again in the next Avengers movie.

Usmani is a member of the Class of 2017.
UR Softball Beats Skidmore, Wins Liberty League Championship

BY ANDREW LUCCHESI
SPORTS STAFF

UR Softball (URSB) won the Liberty League Championship this past Saturday after winning consecutive games against Skidmore College by scores of 4–2 and 7–0. This marks the Yellowjackets’ third Liberty League Championship title in as many years. They will begin their bout in the NCAA Division III Championships this Friday as they take on the Penn State Behrend Lions and, later, the St. John Fisher Cardinals. Both games will be held at Fisher’s Softball Complex in Pittsford, NY.

This past weekend, UR put forth their best play with their backs against the wall. The Jacks outscored their opponents by an aggregate of 16–3 over three consecutive elimination games this past Friday through Saturday, one against the RPI Engineers and two against the Skidmore Thoroughbreds.

URSB played a total of five games over three days and finished with an overall record of 4–1. The weekend kicked off with a 1–0 victory over RIT on Thursday, a game in which junior pitcher Eleni Wechsler threw a seven-inning no-hitter. Wechsler allowed only one base runner and recorded five strikeouts, saving perhaps her best performance of the year for when it mattered most.

The Jacks were plagued by a few costly errors and stagnant hitting performances in their first attempt against Skidmore last Friday, but their bats came alive on that same afternoon, when they defeated RPI 5–1. UR rode this momentum on the following Saturday to take their third Liberty League Championship title in a row.

Her run support came from the stylings of first baseman Rachael Pletz, who fired a three-run shot, bringing home freshman Harleigh Kazczezowic and senior Kayla Kibling. Kibling was named the tournament MVP as she hit .600 in five games (9–15) and scored four runs. She retained a slugging percentage of .667 and an OBP (on-base percentage) of .647. Also, on the diamond, she successfully handled all 18 defensive attempts without an error.

Selected to the All-Tournament team, joining Kibling were Wechsler, Pletz, and freshman pitcher Elizabeth Bourne. UR is now 26–21 on the year, a record that may not jump out to the casual observer. But, considering their less-than-ideal 7–13 start that included dropping both sides of a double header at Ithaca college in late March, URSB has bounced back convincingly. Since then, UR is 19–8, earned the No. 1 seed in the Liberty League and, as mentioned, a championship.

To rally a ball club that is six games under .500 to win a championship on their home field only a month later is no small feat, either. Lucchesi is a member of the Class of 2016.

LAST WEEK’S SCORES

THURSDAY, MAY 5
Softball vs. Rochester Institute of Technology — W 1–0
FRIDAY, MAY 6
Softball vs. Skidmore College — L 0–5
Softball vs. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute — W 5–1
SATURDAY, MAY 7
Softball vs. Skidmore College — W 4–2, W 7–0 DH
Baseball at Clarkson University — W 7–5, L 9–8 DH
SUNDAY, MAY 8
Baseball at Clarkson University — W 4–0, 9–0 DH

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 13
Softball vs. Penn State — TBA
Softball at St. John Fisher College — TBA
SATURDAY, APRIL 14
Track at St. John Fisher College — 2:00 PM.

Top: Junior pitcher Eleni Wechsler pitches a no-hitter against RIT. Bottom: Freshman first baseman Rachael Pletz hits a three run home run.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

VanderZwaag Wins Father’s Namesake Award

BY JESSE BERNSTEIN
OPINIONS EDITOR

Like father, like son. George VanderZwaag, UR’s Executive Director of Athletics and Recreation, received the 2016 Harold J. VanderZwaag Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Massachusetts Amherst this past week—an award named after his father.

The award is given yearly to alumni of the Mark H. McCormack Department of Sport Management at UMass Amherst.

VanderZwaag, who earned his M.S. degree in Sport Management at UMass in 1989 and earned his baccalaureate in Economics from Trinity College in Hartford, CT in 1986, previously worked at Princeton as the Senior Associate Director of Athletics, and has been at UR for seventeen years.

“Forme,” VanderZwaag said, “the professional accomplishment that the award recognizes is the significant educational benefits that can be derived through college athletics… for this reason, I was proud to accept the honor.”

During his tenure, 124 student-athletes have been named All-Americans across a variety of sports. Several programs, from Women’s Basketball to Men’s Soccer, have enjoyed some of their best-ever stretches in terms of winning percentage under VanderZwaag. And in 2009, UR added Women’s Rowing, its 23rd varsity team.

“Young Geeks, every one of our varsity teams has either made post-season competition like the ECACs or the NCAAs, qualified for the league playoffs, or won a major end of season event,” Dennis O’Donnell, Director of Athletic Communications said. “Twenty-three sports, 23 success stories.”

For the campus at-large, he has overseen the completion of a $14.6 million renovation of the Geoghan Athletic Center, as well as the design and renovation of the Bloch Fitness Center.

VanderZwaag is currently putting the finishing touches on the Prince Athletic Complex, which will feature a new press box on top of Fauver Stadium, along with a “complete renovation of the Fauver Concourse.” In fall 2017, he expects to build a new locker room complex in the basement of the new residence hall project to be completed.

Thinking even further into the future, the award winner predicts that by fall of 2018, the bottom floor of the stadium will be converted into a locker room space for visiting teams and game officials, so that they are able to “adequately support events” within Fauver. The final stage of this revival campus will include fencing additions to the complex perimeter along with more available space for donors to be recognized.

O’Donnell also compares the Executive Director to a “very successful coach” in the way in which treats each section of the athletic department. “A good coach treats every player differently,” he said, “George excels at that,” he concluded.

Bernstein is a member of the Class of 2018.
Class of 2016 Athletic Achievement Timeline

This timeline recognizes just some of the incredible achievements that senior athletes have made in their four years at the University.

**FRESHMAN YEAR: 2012 – 2013**

November 15: Michelle Reelin won Liberty League Rookie of the Year.

February 22: Bouba-car Diallo placed 5th in the long jump at the NYSCTC Championships.

March 21: Neil Cordell named a 2nd Team CSA (College Squash Association) All-American.

**SOPHOMORE YEAR: 2013 – 2014**

February: Jared Seltzer shot over 40 percent from the floor (64-157) while making 21 three-pointers and shooting 80 percent (32-40) from the foul line.

May: Nolan Schultz threw out 18 runners from behind the plate and set the UR record for percent of successful steals against, allowing only 43.8 percent of runners to steal.

February 28: Christine Ho earned UR's lone win over a nationally ranked opponent, defeating CMU's Angela Pratt (#29) at the UAA Championship.

**JUNIOR YEAR: 2014 – 2015**

October 17: Michelle Relin became the school's all-time leader in scoring following the Sept. 26 game vs. St. Lawrence and broke UR's career goal scoring record in the Yellowjackets' first-ever victory at William Smith on Oct. 17.

February 13: Cameron Edwards helped set another school record earlier in the season when the 4x400m relay team ran a time of 3:56.71 at the Boston U. Valentine Invitational, ranking 42nd in NCAA Division III.

May: Nolan Schultz threw out 18 runners from behind the plate and set the UR record for percent of successful steals against, allowing only 43.8 percent of runners to steal.

February 28: Christine Ho earned UR's lone win over a nationally ranked opponent, defeating CMU's Angela Pratt (#29) at the UAA Championships.

**SENIOR YEAR: 2015 – 2016**

May 9: Evan Janifer was named to the 2016 Academic All-District Baseball team in balloting by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

April 7 and May 7: Kayla Kibling is honored by United States Basketball Writers' Association and is named MVP of Softball's Liberty League Championships.

September 24: UR Lacrosse's Megan Fujiyoshi, baseball's Evan Janifer, Track and Field's Catherine Knox, swimming and diving's Victoria Luan, Men's tennis' Ben Shapiro, and others were awarded Garnish Scholar Awards.
Save the date for
MELIORA WEEKEND

OCTOBER 6–9, 2016

Joe Scarborough
and Mika Brzezinski
from Morning Joe

Trevor Noah

Ben Folds

Ken Burns

Tony Bennett

Registration opens in July

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