



2017 | FALL EDITION | thesting.wrur.org



Inside This Issue

Productions Department Does Cool Stuff, Study Finds

Nate's Productions Update

TV On The Radio

Jorge's TV Update

Alvvays

Antisocialites Album Review

Post-Productions

Interview with an Alumnus

Sting Fever

Lydia's Sting Update

Now On FM

Eric's FM Update

Engineering Tech

Teddy's Engineering Update

Fundraising Note

We can't do this without you!

A Letter From The GMs

Toby Kashket '18 and Carrie Taschman '18

Hello Alumni!

We're Toby and Carrie, the 2017-2018 General Managers of WRUR. We are both seniors this year. Carrie is a double major in English and Economics. She served as music director in '15-'16, and as marketing director last year. Toby is also a double major in Brain and Cognitive Science and Linguistics. She worked as co-music director with Carrie in '15-'16 and as FM programming director last year. We also co-host our own FM show called Pizza Prty where we play current indie and alternative tunes on Tuesdays from 8 to 10pm.



We are very excited to be General Managers this year and to get the chance to lead WRUR. It has been our dream since we were freshmen when we met each other at one of our first station meetings. We have a lot planned for this coming year and we are excited about fostering our relationship with the university and local communities.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter! We have updates from all of our departments talking about our most exciting upcoming projects. If you want to reach out and hear more about what we are doing you can contact Toby at tkashket@u.rochester.edu or Carrie at caroline.taschman@rochester.edu.

We look forward to a great year of radio!

Toby & Carrie



Productions Department Does Cool Stuff, Study Finds

Nate Nickerson '20

2017 is proving itself to be a revitalizing year for the WRUR Productions Department. With the beginning of the semester filled with an influx of new members, Productions has worked on dozens of live events so far this year, including an extensive collaboration with the WRUR Engineering Department to record and rebroadcast a regional debate competition hosted by the University's debate team on September 17. Due to the success of this event and the hard work put in by new members, Productions and Engineering plan to work together on many more major live broadcasting events.

Another important project Productions is working on this year is the renovation of the Meatlocker, WRUR's own recording studio. After a flood in previous years ruined much of the existing equipment and forced the studio to be dismantled, station members desperately want to have the Meatlocker back in action. This year, Productions finds itself in the perfect storm of a wealth of enthusiastic members and a decent equipment situation, so it is a perfect time for a department-wide complete rehauling of the Meatlocker. Lots of this project will be in cooperation with Engineering as well, and soon the station will be hosting live sessions in their own studio, broadcasting live on the air.

TV On The Radio

Jorge Vázquez González '18

The WRUR TV department is undergoing very big changes this semester! In the past couple months we've welcomed 7 new members and 5 returning members, making it the biggest TV crew we've had yet. There is already talk of news, interviews, and sitcom shows and we cannot wait for you to see what we will come up with!

With one show in full production and 3 others in pre-production, the TV station is gearing up for a soon-to-be live-broadcasting control room and studio in Rettner Hall! We will soon broadcast live and pre-recorded shows, and we hope to output weekly or bi-weekly episodes to our television, Youtube, and Facebook channels and pages. Keep an eye out for our crew around campus covering events or in the Rettner video studio creating the next hit campus TV show!



Album Review: Antisocialites

Molly Robins '20 & Josh Copperman '20

Alvays's *Antisocialites* is a collection of dreamy, shiny indie pop supporting tales of love and social lives. The vocals stem from somewhere between Angel Olsen and Amelia Meath of Sylvan Esso, and glide effortlessly over the rest of the band in tracks like "In Undertow" and "Dreams Tonite." Their use of electronics does not distract from the band's talented musicians, and, in fact, support and/or develop the other instruments, like the delay effects on the vocals in "Lollipop (Ode To Jim)."

Alvays proves their talents with a range of emotions and styles. "Already Gone," which is almost minimalist in style, and "Plimsoll Punks," which has more rowdy overtones, can coexist despite their contrasting emotions.

Continuing this diversity, songs like "Your Type" and "Not My Baby" are more straightforward, and "Hey" nearly forgoes the reverb altogether for something almost punky, but still jangly. Molly Rankin's lyrics are also memorable - Rankin refers to herself on the latter as "Molly Mayhem" - and underneath the noise, there are several quotable lines ("Let me state delicately, you're an O and I'm AB").

The production and songwriting is more detailed than the previous album, while still retaining the lo-fi edge of earlier songs like "Marry Me, Archie". For fans of dream pop and indie rock, *Antisocialites* will make for a satisfying listen.

Post-Productions

An Interview with Alumnus Dan Waldman '17

WRUR's productions department has had a wonderful and progressive few years, largely thanks to the dedicated work of Dan Waldman '17. His time leading and participating in the productions department has allowed us to support more groups on campus for both live events and broadcasting. Dan's also shared his love of live music and house shows, which has spread throughout the group.

We caught up with Dan, who lives and works in Rochester. He's working with a local audio company, building guitar pedals and other music equipment. He expressed his love for WRUR and the local music scene, and explained how he's using the knowledge he gained at the station to contribute to his day-to-day life.

Q: What did you do at WRUR?

I joined WRUR right at the beginning of my freshman year, and the community I found quickly became the core of my college family. Specifically, as an Audio & Music Engineering major, my interests led me into the Production department, where most of my involvement took place over my four years. As a freshman, I was a part of every live event, show, and training I could find time for (which, being a freshman, meant basically all of them).

Craving even more WRUR in my life, I took on the role of the Production Department Chair, and thusly a position on the Executive Board of the station, for my sophomore year. Being a part of running the station at the top level, as well as running a department built on activity and learning, was exhausting, but ultimately extremely rewarding.

My role for the rest of my time in school was much more hands off, and focused on being around as a resource to teach/ support the younger students, a role I'm glad I'm able to continue as I stay living in Rochester.

Q: Do you have a favorite RUR memory or tradition?

My favorite memories from my time with WRUR are of being involved with various DIY music events. Whether in coffee shops, frat houses, or someone's living room, working with others to set up and run sound for a successful show was, and still is, one of my favorite things. It's about bringing a community together around art, without the formality that often accompanies "concerts." Humans using their knowledge to help other humans share their art with other humans; it doesn't get better than that.



Q: What are you doing now?

After graduating, I stayed in Rochester to work for Adventure Audio, building and designing guitar pedals (and other music gear). We hand build all of our products, meaning we cut the wires, populate and solder the circuit boards, screw on the knobs, all that good stuff. And being that it's such a small company, I have the opportunity to create original circuit designs and see them directly realized as professional products. Not all engineering students can say that of their first job out of college.

Q: How did your experiences at WRUR help you with what you're doing now?

My time in WRUR taught me a lot about working in a small team, both as a member with specific responsibilities, and as a leader who must maintain a more general awareness and delegate individual tasks. These lessons are directly applicable in my current job, finding my place in a small business, but are also applicable more generally in life. Organizing most things requires collaboration, and learning how to manage your own role in a plan while maintaining an awareness of the bigger picture is fundamental to being a helpful part of any team. The practice that I got in WRUR fostered confidence in those skills that I'll carry with me for the rest of my life.



Sting Fever

Lydia Dake '18

The Sting, our exclusively online station, has been off to a good start this semester! At the moment we have 16 returning shows, a few new shows from returning DJs, one brand new show (check it out! Tuesdays from 6-7pm), and about 20 DJs-in-training. Once these new DJs get through their training it's looking like the Sting is going to be full of diverse music and talk shows.

You can view the whole schedule at <http://thesting.wrur.org/schedule/>, but a few of the notable shows airing this semester are EggE (Mondays 4-5pm), which discusses a slew of conspiracy theories, Everybody Talks, a show about sports, feminism, and social issues, and Take One (Saturdays 4-5pm), an improv talk show. Many of the other shows on the schedule are focused on music - tune into any of them to get a peek into what some of our awesome DJs have been listening to lately!



Now On FM

Eric Nolting '18

FM has many new shows this semester as well as several re-turning shows that have been scheduled into new time slots. Wednesdays are wild on WRUR with "Rock Rewind" - a classic rock show hosted by Ben and Jim (two members of WRUR Engineering) who play non-mainstream pieces that don't see much air time from 8-10pm and then continue with the "Academy of Shred" hosted by Heavy Metal Bob from 10pm-12am playing all of Rochester's metal favorites. We have "Pizza Prty" on Tuesdays from 8-10pm, hosted by our two General Managers Carrie & Toby who play a wide range of indie rock and alternative music, and we have a new indie rock show titled "Just Revolutions" on Thursdays from 8-10pm, hosted by David Vandermeer. I personally do a show titled "Jazz Club 88" on Sundays from 8-9pm, following long time WRUR jazz DJ Ruth Elaine from 6-8pm.

WRUR is now free format after 10pm - meaning it is no longer bound by AAA format after that time, which opens up many new opportunities for DJs to explore new genres on the air. We continue to work closely with WXXI through our broadcast partnership with them.

Even if you are no longer in the Rochester area, you can still listen WRUR and hear all our student, alumni, and community DJed shows via a live stream on wrur.org.





Engineering Tech

Teddy Reiss '18

This year is going to be an exciting year for WRUR engineers. The Engineering department is responsible for ensuring the station is functioning 24/7, which involves maintaining the equipment, finding and implementing upgrades, and designing new systems. This semester we are focusing on a variety of infrastructure projects with a goal of upgrading and improving systems as well as designing new ones. Projects for this year include:

- Design and implementation of a live television station as part of WRUR TV. This includes both the studio and the infrastructure connecting it, and pre-recorded content to viewers.
- Upgrades to the signal chain including silence detection, more intelligent Now Playing On TheSting and On-air lights, and an upgrade to iMediaLogger.
- Upgrades to our real-time monitoring system that allows us to know that the station is up and functioning when we are not physically in it.
- Upgrades to our equipment tracking system including the RFID tagging of all equipment to ensure it does not leave without being checked out.

Fundraising Note

The University of Rochester's radio station WRUR serves the campus with programming aimed at University of Rochester students, faculty, and staff, and provides quality public radio programming that enriches the greater Rochester area. In addition to providing a public media service, WRUR also gives students leadership and radio operation opportunities. Tune in for music selected by our very own students, news about campus events and activities, live broadcasts of club and sporting events (hockey is especially popular!), and much much more.

We can't do this without your support! This year, we're especially in need of a new console for our FM studio - and in order to pay for it, we require funding. Please help us by contributing to our organization and becoming a Friend of WRUR. You can donate using the following link:

<http://uofr.us/RochesterMT>

The University's online giving form allows you to quickly conveniently and securely make a gift online.

FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

1) Choose an amount to give under "Gift Information"

2) From the drop down list titled "Please designate my gift," select "Other (please specify)"

3) In the "Other gift designation" box, write "WRUR"

4) You will receive an official receipt from the University and your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law

We thank you from the bottoms of our FM hearts!

Executive Board

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