

WRUR 88.5

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None of this would be possible without you!

A Letter from the General Managers

Abi Milner '19 and Nate Nickerson '20

Howdy Alumni!

We're Abi and Nate, WRUR's General Managers for the 2018-2019 academic year. Abi is a senior studying political science, psychology, and religion. In her time at WRUR, she has been Music Director, Creative Director, and has hosted shows on both The Sting and WRUR 88.5. Nate is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering and minoring in art history. He had a Sting show from 2016-2017 and was Productions Director last year.



Nate Nickerson '20 and Abi Milner '19

We're thrilled to be the General Managers of this great club and to work with such a motivated Executive Board. All of our department heads are very enthusiastic about the plans for the semester. Not only are we improving the station physically and technologically, we are also focusing on emphasizing the emotional significance that the club has to so many people associated with the University.

WRUR is central to both of our experiences at the University of Rochester. Since we first came to campus, the station has been our home away from home. Our dorms have changed every year, but the station has always been there for us. The college radio community is like no other in the fact that it gives students a chance to express their individuality and creativity through a wide spectrum of outlets. Radio means something different to each station member, and each station member brings something unique to the club. Students from many majors and backgrounds are brought together through their devotion to bettering WRUR, whether they're sharing music that they love, running live sound for events on campus, or rewiring speaker systems in our ceiling. WRUR holds a special place in both of our hearts, and we can't wait to spread our passion to the rest of the radio community this year.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter! Feel free to contact either of us to hear more about what's happening this semester.

Meliora,
Abi and Nate





WRUR's Current eBoard at the Activities Fair

Live Productions

Liz Shafer '20

It's a new year with WRUR and with that comes a bunch of new production members. There has been a steady stream of new member training sessions in preparation for our upcoming events. New members are excited to start helping out with setup and teardown, and even more people are jumping at the chance to DJ live events. It's fantastic because the sheer amount of events that we will be doing is starting to pick up. As always, Meliora Weekend was extremely busy for our department, and Eastman on Campus. We are really excited for things to keep moving forward!

This year productions is going to be taking part in a couple of interdepartmental projects. We will be broadcasting hockey games with the help of the TV and Engineering Departments. This is going to be a fun chance to get sports on The Sting more often, and let the productions team work on some live setups.

Productions are also planning on working closely with engineering on a couple of projects that will allow us to start recording again! One of our big goals for the year is to (re)start music/content production. We want to open the studios in the station to all of the productions members. We are trying to make the Meatlocker studio more usable by deep cleaning the live room and working on some acoustic treatments. The productions team will get a chance to act as acoustic consultants as we plan on doing analysis of reverberation in the live room. We will be working with the Engineering Department to make a mobile studio that will allow us to turn the demo studio into a live room and the FM studio into a room for recording and mixing. Students will be able to sign in to use either studio with a little bit of training. Once we get these projects underway it will give us a chance to start doing recording and productions workshops for our members, and even a couple of projects, like interviews or recordings of some local musicians. This is shaping up to be a really fun year for the department.

TV Moving Forward

Sam Torrellas '21

This is a very exciting year for WRUR TV! This semester we welcomed seven new members to the TV family. The crew has many plans for this semester, and a few ideas are already in motion. A weekly parody news show will soon be airing on our YouTube channel and in Rettner Hall. TV has also started live-streaming our home hockey games on The Sting page with our amazing announcer, David. There are also plans to continue the tradition of interviews at school events, such as the pumpkin launch.

We plan on collaborating with other clubs in publishing material. We recorded the UR Beatboxing Collective's performance and plan to also record the upcoming fashion show from the Fashion Club. Currently we are working with Campus Times to create short featurettes for covered stories.

This is a very exciting year for the department and we are very excited to be releasing new content and building a stronger presence on campus.

The Sting's Bright Future

John Pinto '20

Every fall semester brings in a new wave of fresh faces, and that means new Sting shows! Just a month into the semester, The Sting has over twenty students currently undergoing the process of becoming Sting DJ's, with some shows due to premiere in the week leading up to publication! Be on the lookout for new shows centered around, country, post-punk and dance. We will also have interviews with faculty members, and in the case of the new show "Woof," songs played from albums whose covers feature some very good dogs.

These new shows will be joining a number of returning favorites, including "The Chronicles", hosted by Joel Mackzum, Laurette McNabb, and Erin Dietrick. A talk show with banter and tunes centered around a different theme every week, "The Chronicles" continues to be the Sting's most popular so tune in Thursdays at 7 p.m. to check it out!

Other returners include "The Zoo" with DJ Em (Fridays at 2 p.m.), "MAPShow" with Christophe (Fridays at 3 p.m.), "Soundcheck" with Ann Zhang (Thursdays at 2 p.m.), and "Midday Madness" (Fridays at 11a.m.) with Jess Alexander. And of course, rounding out our week is longtime community DJ Jermaine Jackson, blasting out four straight hours of soul on "The Soul Monologue" (Saturdays at 5 p.m.).

With so much variety and even more on the way, The Sting is sure to offer up something that will catch your ear. Tune in to thesting.wrur.org and find your new favorite niche!

Old and New on FM

Ben Schmitz '19

To start off the year on FM, we have a number of returning shows as well as some newcomers.

General Manager Abi Milner '19 and Chief Engineer Molly Robins '20 are back on air with their show "Breadtime", a gracious pas de trois of generic indie rock, experimental electronic, and men yelling over guitars. Catch them every Monday from 8-10 p.m.

Also returning is "Rock Rewind" with Ben and Jim, two WRUR engineers who play rock deep cuts from the 60s up through the 90s from 6-8 p.m on Thursdays.

Also on Thursday we have a brand-new show from Joshua Copperman '20 titled "Two Sets of Headphones" from 10-11 p.m. Josh is always on the hunt for the newest songs from alternative and indie favorites, so be sure to tune in to stay up to date.

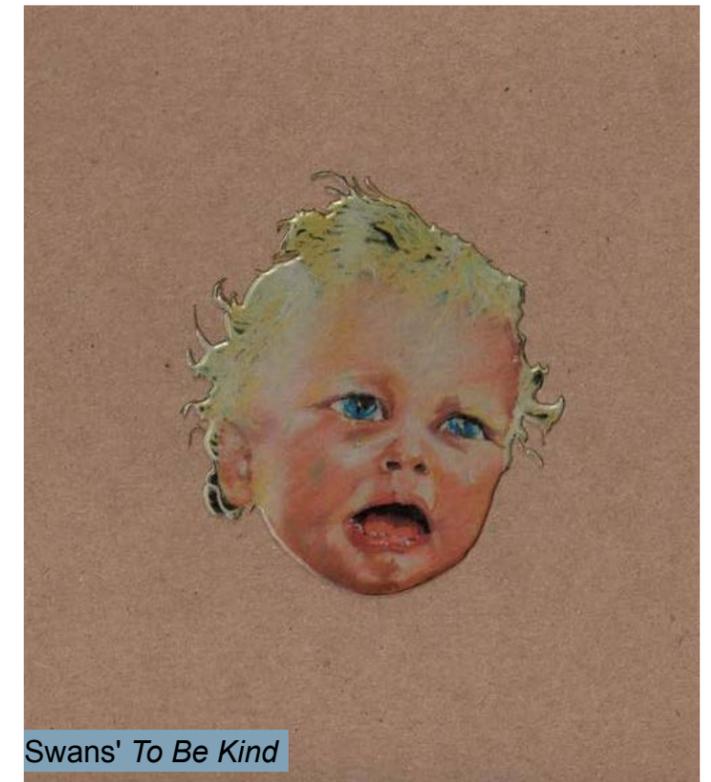
My alternative variety show, "Ben & Dan's Soiree Musicale", now Wednesdays 9-10p.m., remains on air despite my cohost, Dan, being abroad for the semester. I have been trying this semester to limit my music selection to only CDs from the station's music library instead of my own. This often results in me choosing songs to play that I had never heard before auditioning them for my playlist. This has made the playlist creation process much more exciting week to week, so I've been encouraging other DJs to explore WRUR's CD library in the same way.

As the year progresses, we should have even more shows coming on air, hopefully including a show from our Music Director, Mike Gallagher '21, and another from former station manager Scott Kirschner '17.

Lastly, here at WRUR we are remembering longtime community DJ Heavy Metal Bob, who passed away last year. Bob and his show "Academy of Shred" were WRUR staples for years and will be dearly missed.



Abi Milner '19 and Ben Schmitz '19

Swans' *To Be Kind*

Album Review: *To Be Kind*

Michael Gallagher '21

Do you think your listeners would like the musical equivalent of a kick in the teeth? That is essentially the effect that most songs on Swans' *To Be Kind* give. Michael Gira's legendary post rock bad boys deliver their most cinematic, tense, and brutal album since the '80s. Every song is a perfect study in intensity and building and releasing suspense, with incredible booming production and killer riffs; riffs that are repeated over and over again, like falling into a maelstrom that's yelling at you. Gira's vocals are no less interesting, ranging from bellowing to shrieking. At points it sounds as if he is actually being inflicted pain while singing, to an extremely visceral and jarring effect. As machine-like and brutal as a lot of the arrangements are, they wouldn't be nearly as interesting without the album's crystal-clear production. Opener "Screenshot" begins piecemeal, with every new piece of the riff joining in one by one, each individual element perfectly juxtaposed and spaced around you, as if the musicians are slowly gathering around you. "She Loves Us" ends its 17 minute run with the band becoming more and more distorted, bleeding into each other into a blob of throbbing sound. The only downside of the album's genius is that most of the songs, like most post rock compositions, are very long, ranging from five minutes to thirty-four minutes. Probably the most radio-friendly song on the album is "Oxygen", a seven minute white-knuckle ride that was first described to me as "scary Primus". Overall this album is an effort to listen to, but a rewarding one.

Radio Beyond College

An Interview with Alumnus Adam Konowe '90

Q: What was your role at WRUR?

I had a few. My first gig was as an engineer helping cover the 1986 local elections in the fall semester of my first year. But mostly, I was a FM DJ for two shows a week (folk at lunchtime and jazz/new age at night). I also served as an operations manager helping enforce station and FCC regulations. The latter wasn't always easy or fun, but it was necessary and helped preserve FM for today's students to enjoy.

Q: What were your proudest accomplishments at WRUR?

Running a radio station, let alone two channels under the same roof, is tough for any e-board. However, as an operations manager, I was proud of how we provided amazing opportunities for students across all roles, yet still kept FM fully programmed seven days a week and AM (what's now The Sting) most of the time too. As a DJ, I had the pleasure of sharing my love of two very different genres of music with listeners on and off campus.

Q: How did your experiences with WRUR help you with your current career?

After graduating from the University of Rochester in 1990, I went directly to graduate school at American University (AU) in Washington, D.C. AU's student station, WVAU, was in pretty bad shape, but I dove in regardless as a DJ and chief engineer. After earning my master's degree in communications, I went into live television as a producer and director. My WRUR experience definitely helped me embrace the stress and chaos of live TV without fear. It also provided me with invaluable teamwork and leadership skills. I only do TV freelance these days, unfortunately. However, outside of my advertising and PR agency day job, I teach communications at AU and even served as WVAU's faculty advisor for seven years (2011-2018).



Adam Konowe '90

Q: If you could bring back any former WRUR projects/events back, what would they be?

I mentioned election coverage earlier. I think it was awesome that WRUR would send reporters and engineers to the local Democratic and Republican election night events, plus the Monroe County Board of Elections, to report live alongside the area's professional radio and TV stations. Also, the University of Rochester used to host a dance marathon to raise money. WRUR would simulcast it from the Palestra via underground cables that went from there to Burton/Crosby, where we did an initial mix, then to the station for air. Both of those events were great and taught useful skills, but even just expanding and sustaining our FM presence would be noteworthy.

Q: As you continued with your career, did you find any aspects of radio to be specifically unique to WRUR?

WVAU never had a true FM signal and these days it's an internet only station. Unfortunately, a lot of college radio stations don't broadcast in the traditional sense anymore. I think that's a shame since the stakes are higher, so I encourage WRUR staff to protect and grow their FM presence. However, any college radio and TV experience is great. Understanding media and other forms of content creation and distribution has never been more important. Moreover, college media consistently attracts an amazing group of people who can become as close as those in Fraternity and Sorority life or athletics. What could be better?

Engineering Innovations

Molly Robins '20

WRUR's Engineering Department is super excited for all of the projects we are working on this year! From finding uses for our older equipment to repairing our current equipment and making room for new projects, we have already got a huge list of projects that we are ready to tackle. Just in the first couple weeks of classes, we've already repaired an LED light strip for the lounge and brought an old IBM Personal Computer back to life.

One of our main goals this year is to have the Engineering Department be a space for students to practice and learn engineering skills in a practical environment they might not get in a classroom. Our IT Director is helping interested members in getting their own test pages, so that members can get experience with HTML, PHP, CSS, and other web design languages. Most of our members have a general understanding of how the systems around the station work, such that they can assist with immediate repairs around the station.

Our main projects for this year include working with the productions department on the Meatlocker studios, implementing acoustic paneling in those studios, and adding a donate button to The Sting website. We'll also be continuing our repairs and improvements on the user interfaces for our Monitoring System and Music Catalog, such that these systems are more intuitive and useful.

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 broadcasting that enriches the greater Rochester area. In addition to providing a public media service, WRUR also gives students leadership and radio experience 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 a fan favorite!), and so much more.

This would not be possible without your support! This year, our goal is to get our recording studios back up and running, and replacing broken productions equipment. 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:

rochester.edu/giving/WRUR

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!

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