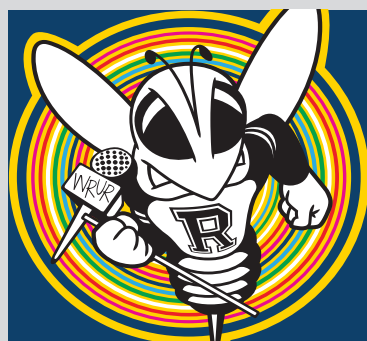




2020 | FALL EDITION | THESTING.WRUR.ORG



Inside This Issue

Getting Creative

Ryan's Creative Updates

Engineering

Ben's Engineering Updates

Productions

Michael's Productions Updates

Album Review: Treasure

Phi's Music Department Update and Album Review

The FM Shows for 2020

Lauren's FM Updates

This Semester with Sting

Celia's Sting Updates

Radio Beyond College

An Interview With An Alumna

WRUR TV

Victor's TV Updates

Fundraising Note

Help Us Keep Independent Radio Alive!

A Letter from the General Managers

*Michael Gallagher '21 &
Kayoung Kim '22*

Hi everyone!

Our names are Michael Gallagher and Kayoung Kim, and we are the GMs for the 2020-2021 school year! Michael is a senior majoring in Economics and Applied Math. He has been a member of WRUR for four years, and has been FM Director and Music Director in the past. Kayoung is a junior majoring in English and minoring in Legal Studies, and has been Creative Director and Sting Director in previous years. Both have been Sting DJs, and are currently FM DJs on 88.5.



This semester has been very different for us at the station. The majority of our meetings have been moved completely online, and station capacity is limited. But despite these changes, we have been very lucky to see a stream of new members with various interests in our different departments. We've even had one in-person event, Trick or Beats, where we had the opportunity to see many of our new members in person! Though the station is now equipped with ventilation fans, hand sanitizers, and signs about COVID safety protocol, we are still very much the same college radio club we have been in the past. We are beyond proud of our new eboard, who has managed to keep the station alive through a global pandemic, and excited to see what the spring semester will bring!

One project we are excited to announce is fundraising for a new FM board for our studio. Though this is one of our more ambitious projects, we are hoping that with the support of all our members, previous and present, our FM studio will soon be fully functioning again. We are planning to release more details and information in the month of December!

Though this semester has provided us with many challenges, we've overcome each one together as a tight, close-knit community. We hope you will enjoy all our fall department updates, and get to know the eboard members for the 2020-2021 school year!

Meliora,
Michael and Kayoung



Getting Creative

Ryan Maciel '22

Typically a lot of the focus in the creative department is on group activities and events, which have obviously been limited this semester. However, we have still been able to do some exciting projects. At the beginning of every academic year, WRUR goes to the activities fair and does station tours to bring new students to the station. Creative and other departments worked to generate online content for our virtual activities fair booth and were very excited to see plenty of new faces at our general meetings.

The Creative Department also held collaborative meetings to create station shirts for this semester. In short, this semester has been a lot of fun and we can't wait to report on our progress in the spring semester.



Engineering

Ben Shissler '22

This semester has provided a challenging environment for us here at WRUR engineering, but I'm excited and encouraged at all we've been able to accomplish as a department. We've managed to grow the size of the department, with a crew consisting of a few returning members as well as a handful of new faces.

We've been very fortunate this semester to be able to hold weekly in-person engineering meetings at the station. The engineering department has always been a place that's provided its members with the opportunity to learn new things while working on projects, so the ability to meet and work on things in person has been hugely beneficial in helping us live up to that goal. It has also provided an opportunity for first year students to better get to know some older members of the club in the absence of weekly in-person general station meetings. The engineering meeting experience was really important to me as a first year student in helping me find my place in a new and intimidating college environment, so I'm very excited that we have been able to hold meetings and provide that experience to a new group of students.

We've also been pretty lucky this semester in that nothing vital to the functionality of the station has decided to stop working. In the absence of any major problems popping up, we've been able to focus our efforts on other things, such as finalizing some upgrades in the computer racks, working on reviving our pre-record/demo studio, and figuring out solutions for socially-distant two host shows. Overall, we've done a lot of good work this semester, and I'm looking forward to keeping that momentum going in the new year.

Productions

Michael LeBlanc '22

College in the time of COVID has brought many new challenges to the Productions department, but we have managed to make the most out of the situation. The virtual activities fair and general interest zoom meeting attracted many new members to radio, and soon we had a lot of first years in the Productions department.

In accordance with gathering size restrictions, several new members were trained and are ready for live events, whenever they start up on campus again. We were all very sad that Eastman On Campus, our biggest event each semester, couldn't happen. However, we got some live setup action at our Trick or Beats event. The productions department provided music, and some new members got to setup and tear down their first event as part of WRUR.

As the fall semester is coming to an end, we are looking forward to next semester. Several members have expressed interest in our developing podcast program, which will hopefully see some recording beginning in the spring. Many more new members are excited to be trained, and we can't wait to see what opportunities will come for the department.



WRUR members at our Trick or Beats event held this October, decorating boxes filled with CDs on the beautiful Wilson Quad

Music Update and Album Review (*Treasure*)

Phi Kasem-Beg '23

Hello, all! I'm Phi Kasem-Beg, and I took over as the Music Director for this Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. We have some big things planned for next semester, as we're making arrangements to catalog and clear out a portion of our massive CD collection. I also started the Music Department Instagram account back up, so check out @wrurmusic and give it a follow if you'd like further updates from us!

Album Review:

By 1983, one of Cocteau Twins' founding members and bassist, Will Heggie, left the band and went on to play in the beloved Scottish band Lowlife. *Treasure*, released in 1984, is the band's third studio album & first record post-departure of Heggie. The variation in each track is staggering, with many tracks being upbeat & ambient, such as "Lorelei" and "Persephone (For Cindy)". Other tracks such as "Amelia" and "Otterley" are darker and distorted. This album holds a huge presence in both the dream-pop & Shoegaze genre and is one of the Cocteau Twins' most essential releases to date. *Treasure* most definitely set the stage for their later works.

Overall, I would highly recommend this album if you are interested in learning more about this pivotal band of the Shoegaze genre.

It also seems that Shoegaze is of particular interest in the station right now, so I knew I had to pay the band homage for getting me more into the genre.



This Semester with Sting

Celia Konowe '21

A new semester means a return to Sting shows and a new fleet of soon-to-be DJs —albeit with a COVID twist this year. Despite restrictions, and while following the guidelines agreed upon by the GMs, the University, and WXXI, we've been able to welcome back 11 Sting shows and begin training 14 new ones. Radio persists!

Our usual training schedule was set back by about a month as we waited for COVID regulations (regarding station function) to be approved, but began in October nonetheless. In addition to rules regulating mask wear, room capacity, sanitation, and air flow, we ordered individual mic socks for each DJ (on the Sting and FM) to minimize any germ spread.

Our returning lineup has featured many well-loved shows, each with their unique sound: "Permanent Waves" with Ben, "The Frog Pond" with Phi, "Courtney Love Got Away With Murder" with Jenna, "Suffragette City" with Ellie, "The Mystery Machine" with Sara, "Full Moon Leo" with Zophia, "The Chronicles" with Joel, Laurette, and Erin, "Soup du Jour" with DJ Paperback, "Watching the Rain Fall" with Korty, and "Jams and Jellies" with Mick. Make sure to check back in next semester to see when each show is live!

With the commencement of Thanksgiving and our long winter break, I can proudly say that all of our new DJs have completed the last step of training (doing their demos), which means they'll be hitting the airwaves come February! New shows will cover everything from pop to rock to rap and will be unforgettable additions to the Sting repertoire.

Make sure to keep an eye on thesting.wrur.org as we approach the new semester to catch up on our returning shows and discover some new ones!

The FM Shows for 2020

Lauren Sigda '22

WRUR currently has 6 hour long weekly shows, with 11 Sting or returning FM DJs hoping to add a show next semester.

Mondays:

8pm - Breadtime with Molly

10pm- Sonic Highways with Celia

Tuesdays:

8pm- Open Mike with Mike

Wednesdays:

8pm- Closer to the Door with Ben

10pm- The Mixed Tape with Stella

Thursdays:

8pm - Say When with Lauren and Ryan

Stay tuned for next semester's lineup!

Radio Beyond College

An Interview with Alumna Sarah Tembeckjian '14

Q: Why did you join WRUR, and what was your role here?

I joined as a second semester freshman. Growing up in New York City, I would listen to NPR-WNYC routinely on the way to school. Though the radio was a big part of my life, I never thought to join until an alumnus by the name of Daniel Gross, who I met at a UR networking event my first semester, told me his biggest regret was not joining radio in college. The advice to join stuck with me, so I emailed the GM at the time soon after. I was just in the music department at first. My junior year, I became the operations director, then GM my senior year. My involvement grew as soon as I joined because I was dedicated and willing to put in the work.

Q: What is your favorite memory from being a part of WRUR?

My favorite collective memories are just hanging out in the station with my group of friends, which was always changing with people joining and graduating. WRUR is unique and special in the way that it lets you connect with people socially you normally wouldn't; I was a music major friends with engineering majors, for instance. I also love my memories in the FM studio, and the adrenaline you get when on air. Lastly, a specific memory I cherish is working the annual art exhibition, *Art Awake*. My freshman year spring semester, I jumped in to run audio for the performance stages for this event. Getting to see what it really takes to run a show sparked my interest, and hooked me into WRUR.

Q: What is your current career, and did WRUR impact your career choice?

I am currently an associate music producer at Dentsu McGarryBowen, which is an advertising agency. As a music producer there, I am responsible for finding the music that accompanies commercials. It is a combination of song searches available for license, known as music supervision, and supervising the creation of original music for advertising. It is cool that the industry is starting to recognize music at the intersection between film and media. My experience in WRUR, being surrounded by all kinds of music, has helped me immensely. I need to be familiar and comfortable with a wide range of genres, and the music library at WRUR definitely opened my eyes to a lot of artists I would not have known otherwise.



Q: Did you gain any skills in WRUR that you still use in your current career?

Not just for my current career, but for all careers to this point, WRUR gave me building blocks to use as a platform when interviewing for jobs. WRUR is a great example of keeping a creative organization running with management and a budget, and the experience you gain from being in this organization is really helpful for tough interview questions. Beyond that, my experience behind an FM board combined with learning from my one audio music engineering class, and from those who were experienced with the tech in WRUR, I now feel comfortable in digital audio workspaces. The focused energy I had on those around me that knew what they were doing has helped me immensely with what I do today. I also learned how to wrap cables, which I actually learned during *Art Awake*. That is a skill I will never forget.

Q: What was your favorite WRUR tradition?

Aside from *Art Awake*, I would have to say spaghetti party, hands down. I can't think of anything else that can top that. I did think it was fun when members sung for swipe access into the station, especially when people got creative with it. But spaghetti party, specifically if you go as a freshman, gives you a whole different kind of view of how cool radio kids really are. As you continue on through the years with WRUR, the seniority element to the group is put in your hands, where you get to be the one to see the newcomers who might be a little nervous, and making them feel welcome at spaghetti party is truly special.

WRUR TV

Victor Chang '23

As a department that focuses mainly on documenting external productions, TV has needed to turn its attention more internally this semester. We've filmed supplemental training videos for both the Sting and FM departments as well as an in-progress documentary for our popular Trick-or-Beats Halloween special event.

Other projects that our members have been working on include a COVID era documentary on its effects on the students on campus and what they personally have gone through to reach the end of this tumultuous year. Additionally, though we haven't been able to continue our ever-popular hockey livestream, we were able to partner with the club Frisbee team and film a two-day game.

Overall, I'm really happy we got to do this much despite the overwhelming circumstances, and we have a bunch of plans in store for the upcoming semester so stay tuned and as always, don't be afraid to say hi if you see us filming around campus!



Fundraising Note



The University of Rochester's radio station, WRUR, serves the campus with programming aimed at students 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, radio experience, and opportunities.

This semester, we really need your help. Our current FM board, the physical interface we use to run all of our FM programming, is on its last leg. It has lasted us twenty years, seeing hundreds of late-night broadcasts, first and last shows, maybe even a tearful goodbye or two. Its sliders have seen thousands of transitions, fade-outs, and talk breaks. Our goal is to purchase a new board to help us ensure that the students of the future get these experiences as well, keeping that connection to our analog past in the digital age.

Radio is something special we share, the intimate experience of sharing music you like with the world, and hoping they like it too. Any help is greatly appreciated no matter the amount. All funds donated will go entirely to the purchase of a new board compatible with our equipment, which will be selected with the help of our parent station. We've been kicking since 1948, and with your support, we hope to still be here supporting independent music well into the future. We cannot express our gratitude enough.

FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

Go to this link, or

<https://give.communityfunded.com/o/university-of-rochester/i/rochestergives/s/wrur>

Click "Make a Gift"

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

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