

WRUR 88.5

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A Letter From The General Managers

Phi Kasem-Beg '23 & Alex Junquera '24

Hello, everyone!

We're coming to a close on another successful semester for WRUR! We would like to thank everyone who has kept up with us since the beginning of the semester, and we are excited to see what the upcoming spring semester has in store for us.

Since the start of the academic year, we have welcomed many new faces to our station as well as welcomed back our current members. There are currently over 100 affiliate members, with around 60 members actively participating in our weekly meetings and club events. The sense of community that we have built throughout the past few years during the pandemic has only gotten stronger as we begin to shift into a post-pandemic collegiate environment. Our main goal as General Managers is to preserve WRUR's legacy and community for years to come.



It has officially been one year since we began operating under our new agreement with WXXI, which has allowed us to expand our FM programming and given us the ability for more DJs to move from The Sting to WRUR 88.5 FM. This is also the first semester that we have been able to use our newly installed FM and Sting boards, and we could not be more excited to train our DJs on our brand-new equipment. We've run into a few issues here and there, but our new agreement has helped us strengthen our understanding of our programming system as well as our relationship with the folks at WXXI.

So far, this semester has set a wonderful precedent for the rest of the school year. We are excited to continue to share our successes and growth with those who support us. We are beyond grateful and proud to be a part of a wonderful organization and community of hardworking, dedicated, and passionate students.

-Phi & Alex



Station Events

Abby Strugger '24

This has been an exciting semester for WRUR events! We kicked off the year with our semesterly tradition of our Spaghetti party where our club comes together and makes delicious handmade pasta. In addition to DJ-ing at Club Rochester, hosted by Wilson Commons Student Activities, we have found other opportunities to play music at events, in particular, Music in the Quad and several of the opening events of the school year like the first-year Expo.

We welcomed our alumni on campus for our 75th anniversary this year with a Careers in Media panel and station open house during Meliora Weekend. Professor Stephen Roessner moderated the panel and spoke with panelists Molly Robins '20, Caurie Putnam-Ferguson '97, Philip Rubenstein '88, and Hannah Copperman '20. The WRUR and Campus Times alumni spoke about their time on campus and how that has translated into their work today. Thank you to all who attended for your continued support of the station.

We held Eastman on Campus, an event in collaboration with Alpha Delta Phi where student bands from the Eastman School of Music come play on the River Campus at an event free to students. The attending bands were *Bug Day*, *Seldon*, and *The Dylan Knowles Quintet*, and the night was filled with fun music and great dancing.

We also held our annual Trick or Beats! While this event has changed over the past couple of years with the changes in Covid restrictions, we turned this halloween event into a trivia night this year. We were happy to host radio members and their friends for a fun night of music and halloween themed trivia with a lot of candy. We are excited to have welcomed in our new class of first year students and hope for many exciting radio events over the upcoming months.

Getting Creative

Liz Hogrefe '24

We're getting plenty creative this semester! With event logistics now a part of the new Event Coordinator position, Creative has been able to take a stronger focus on the social media side — I started with a cleanup and restructuring of our Discord server to encourage better in-station communication, then worked on making our Spotify more vibrant with weekly updates on playlists chronicling all members' new music shoutouts, and we have plans to start up a station TikTok soon.

In terms of physical station improvement, this summer Phi and I were able to finish the CD wall leading up to the music director's office and it looks great! We're all currently working on cleaning out and decorating the old meat lockers, with the hope for them to be eventually usable as a space for in-studio sessions with local bands. Members of the creative department are also helping with modifications and cleanup on an Art Deco-inspired mural near the station entrance.

As the world opens up even more, it's been great to turn the station back into a welcoming gathering space for our members, and I've loved getting to work with so many enthusiastic new members in the creative department. I can't wait to see what next semester brings for our space!

This Semester with FM

Sara Whittemore '23

"You're listening to 88.5 WRUR-FM and HD Rochester"... It is so great to hear that ID through the airwaves! FM has had a lot of exciting changes since last semester, including the installation of the new board! We are loving every minute of being in the studio with the new equipment, and cannot thank you all enough for helping us get there. With the DJs we have now, 4 others freshly demoed, and a handful more in the midst of the demo process, it is looking like the spring will fill our schedule up! Here are the shows we currently have on air:

Mondays:

8pm- The Monday Meld with Eman

9pm- The Night Shift with Molly

Tuesdays:

8pm- Easy Litzening with Liz

Wednesdays:

8pm- Roseum in Nocte with Sara

9pm- About Time with Graham

Stay tuned for next semester's lineup!

Music Update

Molly Goonan '24

This fall has been a super fun and exciting time to be Music Director! With so many artists releasing new music, it has been so cool to talk to promoters and share these albums with the station! I've implemented a new way of checking CDs out for review, have started to utilize digital burns from promoters and re-organized the Google Drive for the position. We've also hosted discog-ing sessions, where members of the station have helped to catalog and organize our CD library! It has been such a rewarding experience to be able to have a part in making the station better and I can't wait for what the next semester brings!



Album Review: Shannen Moser, *The Sun Still Seems to Move*

Genre: Indie Folk/ Alternative Country/ Philly Indie

Release Date: 9/30/22

Review: This has been one of my favorite albums that we've been sent this semester. There's something really sweet and genuine about Moser's voice and, although her lyrics are fairly simple, they hold a real weight to them that is only enhanced by the acoustic backing. Track 1, Paint by # is definitely a stand out, with the violins and guitar pairing so well with her vocals, and is a great way to get the album started. Tracks like Liminal and Oh My God, showcase her writing, the wonderful orchestrations this album has, and really hit you in the heart, in the best way possible. Definitely worth a listen!

RIYL: Adrienne Lenker, Lizzy McAlpine,

Swears: Clean

Recommended Tracks: 1, 2, 5, 6, 9

Label: Lame-O

Molly Goonan 11/17/22

Productions

Winston Liu '25

During this semester, the Productions department has been able to revive an event that died out during the COVID-era. Music in the Quad is a semi-frequent activity that involves students bringing productions equipment into the Eastman Quad to play music for several hours. In its recent revival, we've seen great success with playing our new music directly into the quad. Productions in addition has overseen its traditional events with music for Club Rochester and contributed to Eastman on Campus, bringing in Eastman student bands to perform on the main campus. With the resurgence in public events, you can expect the productions department to rise with it.

Engineering

Jack Cunningham '24

Greetings from the WRUR Engineering Department!

For the fall 2022 semester we have been working on a couple of projects to build out the department a bit more. One of the projects is clearing out the old station recording studio and doing an audit of the old equipment determining what is needed and if the equipment is usable. If the equipment is useful, the department is trying to manage any repairs or cleaning in house. In addition to this project, we are also working on a number of smaller repairs around the station (i.e. solving issues with phones, printers, CD players, and other outboard equipment). As training for newer members in the Engineering Department I have put together a speakers and amplifier kit to help get a better understanding of how to use the department's tools as well as gain a better understanding of electronics in context.



Memory Lane

Interview with WRUR Alumnus Steve Katz '97



How did you first become involved in WRUR?

I first joined WRUR as part of the news department, which was really active at the time. Freshman year, I had a vague idea that I might want to be a journalist, and I remember walking to campus one Monday before joining and seeing a newspaper which said that Patti Hearst was arrested. I rushed to the department to see if they had an Associated Press machine, which they did. After this, I got more involved in the station by hosting news segments on air and becoming a DJ.

What were some of your favorite experiences from WRUR?

While I was there, probably as a junior or sophomore, the station had shows take place at 6am where they would play strictly jazz and deliver the news. I got to do the first show as the news guy broadcasting with a DJ.

In those days the news department would do a special '24/7 coverage' during election night. We would have remote reporters at the different political party headquarters, who called in and brought us news that we would use to quickly make and deliver stories on the air. WRUR was also involved in this dance marathon, to raise money for charity. Couples would sign up and compete to see who could dance the longest, and the event would go on over the weekend. I got to be a DJ for the dance marathon one year, which was a lot of fun.

How did being a part of WRUR affect how you listen to/engage with music?

My musical knowledge in high school was pretty limited to the top 40. When I started hanging out around WRUR, all the DJ's were playing progressive rock, and it opened my ears to things that I had never heard before. My whole knowledge of bands like Pink Floyd and David Bowie came from radio. The people who liked jazz at the station would take me to jazz shows too. I went to see a band called the Renaissance who were performing for the Rochester Philharmonic one time. It was terrific.

Are there any parallels you could draw between things you were doing in WRUR and what you do now as a career?

I came to college with a vague idea of what I wanted to do, because I was the editor of the high school paper. Then you come to college and realize that everyone was the editor of the high school paper because it was the University of Rochester. So then I came to Rochester and wrote for a bit. I majored in Political Science and International Relations because I wanted to major in something that would be useful to know about if I were to go into journalism. I came out of Rochester already working at a local TV station, worked my way up from a technical assistant, and then in a few years over time my journalism career took off. I became an overseas correspondent. I covered all of those themes that seemed academic and interesting in college. What I learned in WRUR helped me learn how to do news broadcasting, and my classes helped me learn how to do journalism on those topics.

What was the most valuable lesson you learned during your time at WRUR?

When you do radio, it seems that it's just you with a mic, and your creativity. Working as part of the station played a role in my understanding of media being a collaborative industry. It may be one person's voice that you hear, but there's people working the microphones and the cameras, collaborating on the production.

This Semester with Sting

Andrea Sun '24

This year, The Sting started off with change: we got a new board! Thanks to the donations and patrons of WRUR, The Sting had enough funds to purchase a brand new, smaller board for The Sting — one that is a replica of the new board in FM. Because of this (as well as an upgrade to ENCO, our broadcasting software), shows and demos started later than usual, but worry not! As soon as we could, there was a line out the door of old and new DJs who were more than ready to get back on air. The Sting has 32 active shows on air right now with seven of them being brand new!

With the new year, more DJs are utilizing both our physical and digital library with an increase of students using CDs from our collection and tracks off of ENCO. We're also expanding into talk shows and podcasting very soon! In the works are a couple interview-based shows, an advice corner, and building out the demo studio to be a functional recording space. My main goal for the rest of the year is to continue increasing our shows and fill up all those empty slots, as well as really making The Sting reach its full potential. As an internet radio station, there is truly so much space for creative freedom, and I want to make sure that is being utilized. I hope you're just as excited as I am about this, so be sure to stick around and tune in!

WRURTV

Victor Chang '23

We at TV have kicked off the 2022-2023 with a nice running start by leaning into our clearly preferred form of media, the interview. We've had two new interviews ready to go on our channel, the pistachio and halloweekend interviews, with 2 more in the works. Beyond that, we've also been expanding our relationships with other clubs following success with CAC and SA last year, we're delving into livestreaming music performances like NJR shows as well. We also have two exciting new shows of our own in the works. One is a talk show hosted by several of our very own club members as they discuss everything from the very important to very unimportant. If you see them around campus, don't be afraid to drop by and say hi! The other show is an experimental live music stream where viewers can listen to a visual version of the Sting, complete with green screen and over the top board mixing. Stay tuned!

Fundraising Note

The University of Rochester's radio station WRUR serves the campus with programming aimed at the 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 operations opportunities. Tune in for music selected by our very own students, news about campus events and activities, live broadcasts of club and sporting events, and much much more.

We can't do this without your support! 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!

Contact Us

Comments, questions, or feedback? Contact the Alumni coordinator directly at wrur_alumnicordinator@rochester.edu.

Follow WRUR on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more updates!!

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