

WRUR 88.5



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Inside This Issue

WRURTV

Victor's TV Updates

Engineering with Ben

Ben's Engineering Updates

Getting Creative

Ryan's Creative Updates

A Special Interview with Simon Raymonde

Phi's Music Updates

This Semester with FM

Lauren's FM Updates

Sting in Spring

Celia's Sting Updates

Radio Beyond College

An Interview with an Alumnus

Productions

Michael's Productions Updates

Fundraising Note

FM Fundraising Success!

A Letter From the General Manager

Michael Gallagher '21

Hi everyone!

We're coming to the end of one of the most hectic school years likely ever, and are happy to be coming out on the other side unscathed. Thank you to everyone who followed WRUR's progress and stayed informed about how we were doing. We are very happy to share that not only did we successfully run the station under Covid restrictions, but we actively improved and are better than ever!



We have dozens of new Sting DJ's, and our number of FM shows has almost doubled since last year, despite having to space slots out an hour apart for safety. We also have managed to keep an active social community around the station through messaging apps like Discord, and had events and listening parties over video apps like Zoom. Most exciting of all was our successful campaign to raise \$20,000 for a new FM Board, with all the help and generosity that poured in from our incredible alumni! The selection and installation of the board will be an ongoing process through the fall, so stay tuned for more updates!

This has certainly been an unusual year to be General Manager, but it was ultimately a rewarding one. I want to thank my co-GM from the fall, Kayoung Kim, without whom we wouldn't have had such a stellar year. We miss her very much and are looking forward to seeing her in the station again! I have learned a lot about crisis management and doing things in new and unprecedented ways, with the help of our endlessly creative and committed Executive Board. Helping make sure a place as essential as WRUR made it safely through the pandemic has been my proudest accomplishment, and I am happy and confident about the hands in which the seniors are leaving the station.

Meliora,
Michael



WRURTV

Victor Chang '23

The spring semester brought many opportunities to the TV station which were not available to us in the fall. With the weather changing in our favor, and outdoor events starting back up, we were able to get back on track with our production schedule. The largest scale event we had this time around was The Recall's outdoor concert. Not only was it very successful and had a great turnout, but it gave us confidence that we could still do what we did best: filming and livestreaming. TV looks forward to doing similar things in the future with The Recall and other groups who may be interested.



We also had several internal changes, most notable of which was shifting from Facebook livestreaming to our YouTube channel. This has long been a wish of mine, as splitting our audience between the two platforms wasn't healthy nor productive for either. This consolidation will serve to be very useful in upcoming semesters with increased content and archives.

Though we were unable to collaborate with the ice hockey team last semester, I look forward to being able to get back into the swing of things next fall with our new platform and new members. I'm personally very excited for what's to come, though of course I am also sad to see our graduating seniors leave. We wish former TV manager Samantha Torrellas best of luck with her future endeavors, and hope she'll come back to visit sometime. Stay tuned for a whole lot of new content coming around next year and as always, if you see us filming around campus, don't be afraid to say hi!



Getting Creative

Ryan Maciel '22

This year was an exciting one for the Creative Department! We have been working on initiatives to get people more involved with the station while abiding by public health guidelines. An especially fun one was our new Station Camera—a film camera purchased by station members for capturing some of the goings on in the station in a Covid-safe way. We plan to start a photo wall after the film is developed and think it will be a great addition to the community feeling at the station. Additionally, we held two station-wide cleaning days this semester and kept the space nice and tidy. We also purchased a new whiteboard to keep track of a cd-review leaderboard in the main hallway. Lastly, this semester we are printing and distributing new DJ-designed stickers to our members! We beyond thrilled with the activity in the department this year and are excited to see how it will grow in the future.

Engineering with Ben

Ben Shissler '22

The spring semester has seen us build on the progress we made last fall in terms of WRUR engineering. We managed to maintain the large involvement we had going in the fall, and we welcomed a few new members as well. We were still fortunate enough to be able to hold in-person meetings on a weekly basis, and we managed to get a lot accomplished.

One of our biggest projects this past year has been finding a way to host socially-distant multi-host shows on both The Sting and 88.5 FM. We have a few long-running multi-host shows on both platforms, and we wanted to make sure that these shows were able to return to some sense of normalcy like our single-host shows. We were able to achieve this by connecting our demo studio to both Sting and FM studios. A few parts and some handy soldering and we were able to run the necessary XLR cables between studios to connect microphones and headphones, and two DJs were able to co-host a show from two separate rooms.

In addition to turning our demo studio into a makeshift add-on to our other studios, we also restored it to its original functionality as a means of recording demos and pre-recorded shows for The Sting. Our Sting DJ schedule has been filling up rapidly, so it was important to have a second space where new DJs could record their demos. We also finished up some upgrades to our computer racks which allowed us to resume recording both Sting and FM shows. Overall, we had a really productive semester! We have a lot of returning members for the fall, so I'm really excited to see where WRUR engineering goes next!

A Special Interview with Simon Raymonde

Phi Kasem-Beg '23

Big things are happening in WRUR's Music Department, as we have started to catalog our entire CD library onto Discogs. Discogs is a website where music lovers can buy, sell, and catalog their collections, and being able to keep track of what we have and don't have will greatly benefit the station. It's interesting to actually know how many CDs we've collected as a station over the decades. A combination of executive board members, DJs, and other station members have contributed to logging each CD into the website. This is still an ongoing process, and we will update on the progress in the fall semester!

This semester, I had the opportunity to interview former Cocteau Twins member Simon Raymonde about his newest record from his collaboration project Lost Horizons. Simon talks about his early career, the founding of independent record label Bella Union, and the process and inspiration for his newest record with Lost Horizons. Simon and Richard Thomas, a drummer known for his time in Dif Juz and Jesus and the Mary Chain, released the first half of "In Quiet Moments" in 2020, and released the full album in February of this year. If you're looking for some new music and have an hour and fifteen minutes to spare, give the record a listen! It comes highly recommended. The album is chalk-full of low-key indie pop tracks with some pretty haunting elements. Each track has a different vocalist, so each song has its own unique flare.

Watch the interview with Simon Raymonde here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Nwpj3db1lg



This Semester with FM

Lauren Sigda '22

FM had many new shows in the spring in addition to returning shows from the fall. FM has looked a bit different in the station this year to adapt to new Covid safety protocols: we have new microphone socks for each DJ, spaced out in-person shows by an hour, and frequently pre-recorded shows. In addition to rigorous sanitization and distancing protocols, we have been able to expand our schedule and have new DJs trained and ready for airtime! We had 10 shows this spring, and the schedule is below.

Mondays:

8PM Celia - Sonic Highways

9PM Molly - Breadtime

10PM Rose - Broke Baroque

Tuesdays:

8PM Mike - Open Mike

10PM Fabian - Completely Committed

Wednesdays:

8PM Ben - Closer to the Door

9PM Sara - Roseum in Nocte

10PM Stella - The Mixed Tape

Thursdays:

8PM Lauren and Ryan - Say When

10PM Andrew - Hipster Machine

Even if you are not in the Rochester area, you can stream our student, alumni, and community FM shows online at <https://www.wrur.org/>

Sting in Spring

Celia Konowe '21

Welcome back to the Sting: The Spring Edition! We kicked off the semester right away because we didn't have to wait for COVID guidelines to be approved. All DJs that were trained last semester were up and on the air in just a few weeks and we ended the semester with 30 shows! The excitement was incredible.

All COVID guidelines—mask wearing, individual mic socks, wiping down equipment, room capacity—stayed in place, although we were able to add the option of a second host on air by connecting the Sting studio to the Demo room (former newsroom) so that both DJs can be unmasked and safely host at the same time.

By the end of the semester, our returning line up included: "Fool's Garden" with Lauren, "Permanent Waves" with Ben, "The Frog Pond" with Phi, "Suffragette City" with Ellie, "Full Moon Leo" with Zophia, "The Chronicles" with Joel, Laurette, and Erin, "Soup du Jour" with DJ Paperback, "Watching the Rain Fall" with Kortsy, and "Jams and Jellies" with Mick.

Our new shows featured: "Press Play" with David, "Prozac by Proxy" with Renee, "Old and Golden" with Dominique, "Here Comes the Sun" with Andrea, "Open Door Policy" with Izzy, "The Up Beat" with Jason, "Alterior Motives" with Liz, "It Grows As It Goes" with Claire, "The Absurd" with Erika, "Outrunning Karma" with Paula, "No Soap, Radiol!" with Abby, "One of Those Knights" with Sarah, "Our Last Rodeo" with Caroline Wilcox and Lauren Cowden, "The Emergency Exit" with Zach, "The Tea Party" with Haven, "unTiTled hour" with Dan, "Basement Show" with Graham, "The Scratching Post" with Alex, "Thyme Loops" with John, and "Zozo'z VibeZ" with Lorenzo.

A few Sting shows were able to continue over the summer and were available to listen to up on the website. Additionally, keep an eye out in the fall to see when all your favorites will be back on air and to discover some new shows!

Radio Beyond College

An Interview with Alumnus Ron Gerber '90, '92 (MS)

Being Alumni Coordinator has the most amazing perks because it allows me to have the opportunity to interview alumni like you! This semester I had the pleasure of chatting with Ron Gerber, a cherished friend of the station, back in May. If you would be interested in getting interviewed for a newsletter in the future, reach out! We would love to get to know you and share your stories.



Q: Tell me a little bit about yourself! What is your current career, and how has radio impacted you beyond WRUR?

I got a bachelor's in physics and one in optics from the University of Rochester in 1990, and stuck around to get my master's degree in optics in 1992. Through it all, I DJed at WRUR! 1992 is actually when I started my show that I still do today on KFAI in Minneapolis called "Crap From the Past." At that time, I also worked at 98 PXY as a DJ on the weeknights, just making a little money to support my music-buying habit. Once I graduated, I decided to use physics as my form of income, and radio as my creative outlet. I got my PhD in optics in the years following, worked as an optical engineer for ten years, and then switched to working on patent law where I remain today as a patent agent! As I've moved around, "Crap from the Past" has moved with me, airing on various stations I've been near across the country. Though radio did not end up being my full-time career, I use my communication skills that I gained and improved upon from my time in radio in my work with lawyers and patents.

Q: Why did you join WRUR, and what was your role in the station?

I listened to music and the radio a lot as a kid, and I knew when I started looking at colleges that I was probably going to want to join a radio station. I do not have any personal connections to radio, I just thought it would be a cool thing to get involved with. I joined as a freshman, and at the time there was not much excitement and interest around the AM station, so I was able to get a slot at noon on Saturdays, which I called "Ron is On," pretty quickly. I really enjoyed my time in AM, so I joined the eboard as the AM director, where I was able to fill all of the airtime slots and train around 120 DJs!

Q: Do you have a favorite WRUR memory?

A handful of memories come to mind! On election night in 1988, I ran the FM board, airing coverage of the election and interviews with the candidates. I ran a tight board that night, with no dead air to be heard. We aired all the information we got until there was nothing left to be said, then just sat around, ate pizza, and rejoiced in the success of the evening. Another fun memory was DJing for dance marathons in the gym where people would dance and dance for 40 hours! I got to DJ by myself in 1990, where they shortened the marathon down to 24 hours, and it ended up being the last marathon, so it was a special night. I planned the event for 6 weeks straight to make sure I had enough music to play without repeats. It was a lot, and I was almost fully successful. I ended up being 3 songs short, so for the last few minutes of the marathon, I played New Sensation by INXS three times in a row. There are so many more stories I could share, but these are two of my favorites.

Q: Do you have a favorite WRUR tradition?

A: We did not really have any long-term traditions back then. We had a lot of turnover year to year, so the main focus was just staying on the air, period. Tradition was not really a big deal back then, we just wanted to play music and have a good time.



Productions

Michael LeBlanc '22

This semester continued to be full of uncertainty for the WRUR Productions department. With COVID restrictions still in place, we were unable to have any on-campus in-person events. However, we worked closely with WRUR TV to livestream a concert by The Recall, a jazz-fusion band comprised of several University of Rochester alumni. With a few new first-year members having been trained as well, the Productions department is eager and ready to get back to work this coming fall semester.



Fundraising Note

FM Fundraising Success!

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.

The 2020-2021 school year brought with it many challenges, but also many victories for the station. If you have not yet heard the buzz, our crowdfunding campaign to get a new FM board for the station has been so incredibly successful, and we have reached our goal! Though the sentimental parts of us all here in WRUR will likely want to reminisce over the FM board that has lasted us 20 wonderful years, we are so excited to start this new and improved chapter for our station.

We have been blown away by the generosity of all those involved in this campaign. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to the 140 donors and the many more who have promoted the crowdfunding. We are so delighted to be able to continue delivering high quality radio content to our listeners and alumni of the station for years to come!

If you would like to contribute to help us improve other aspects of the station as we move into this new chapter, and become a friend of WRUR if you are not already, you can donate using the following link: rochester.edu/giving/WRUR

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

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