

WRUR 88.5

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A Letter from the General Managers

Lauren Sigda '22 & Ben Shissler '22

Hi everyone!

We are closing in on the end of another successful school year here at WRUR! A huge thank you to everyone who has followed our progress and supported us throughout the year; your support means the world to us. We are very excited to share the strides we've made as a group.

We've continued to build on the positive momentum we gathered over the past few years. Our involved membership is higher now than at any point in recent memory with over 100 adjacent members of the station. Our cast of FM DJs is up to 13 and counting, fueled by the nearly 50 DJs on The Sting. We are also now operating under a new agreement with WXXI, which will allow us to further expand our FM programming to weekends and earlier day-time slots. Our engineering department is hard at work continuing to upgrade and replace systems and equipment that help our station run. Our creative department has started some aesthetic touch-ups around the station, including repainting walls and murals to help the station feel more like home. We're looking forward to receiving our new FM and Sting boards in the near future as well, marking the huge success of last year's fundraising campaign.



This year certainly hasn't been without its challenges as we continue to restructure the station through the pandemic. We've had to make some adjustments and hold a few meetings and events virtually, and we found ourselves completely remote once again to start this spring semester. However, we have managed to continue to thrive in the face of adversity by prioritizing safe in-person events and virtual community building through means such as Discord. We are incredibly proud of all of the passionate students who have helped us to continue to find success through trying times, and we are both honored to have been able to serve as the general managers of this incredible organization!

Meliora,
Lauren & Ben

Productions

Michael LeBlanc '22

This semester has been exciting for the WRUR productions department. As we see the slow return of in-person events on campus this spring, WRUR productions continues to be active in the campus community. We have resumed providing DJs for the monthly Club Rochester events on campus, where the school provides catering and tables for various clubs and organizations to mingle and network. This event is a good low-stress introduction to productions events for new members.

As the semester progresses, we are looking forward to WRUR's Mystery Hotbox event, at which WRUR decorates and gives away boxes of old CDs. This event builds community among WRUR members on campus, and it wouldn't be the same without music provided by the productions department! With that being our last planned event of the year, we can say that WRUR productions has had a great return to action in 2021-2022, and we look forward to continued growth in years to come!

Engineering

Conor McCole '23

This semester began with a late start and the reintroduction of a number of pandemic safety guidelines which limited our ability to meet until very recently.

Despite this, we have been able to make good progress in updating station security systems, modernizing and standardizing equipment throughout the station, and consolidating IT hardware in anticipation of the new consoles and their auxiliary systems.

We expect this new equipment to be installed by the end of this semester. We will be replacing the FM console, the consoles for the Sting and demo studios, and the audio engine which ties it all together. This change will allow us to have a fresh start from a programming perspective and keep us well occupied as we familiarize ourselves with the equipment and any new features available to us.



Getting Creative

Phi Kasem-Beg '23

We had a slow start to the semester with the first month being online, but we're back and excited to see the WRUR community thrive both in-person and online.

Our plan to repaint different walls in the station has begun. A lot of progress has been made, with the bright yellow walls being repainted a bright, light blue. We have also have freshened up the trim along the walls and doors to complement the newly painted walls. Once we're done with the basic repainting, we will get started on installing a wall of CDs to decorate the hallway to the Music Director's office and sticker door. We also are painting a new mural in front of the station door leading out behind Todd Union. It's been so rewarding seeing so many station members stop by to help paint and keep the station looking its best.

As for the rest of the academic year, we are looking forward to having our Spaghetti Party, Mystery Hot Box, and Semi-Formal to wrap up the year. Thank you for another wonderful year, WRUR!

This Semester with Sting

Lauren Novosat '23

Our membership continues to grow this semester with as much force as the fall. Typically numbers change very little in the spring, as the majority of new members join in the fall semester, when first-year students move in and see us at the activities fair. This semester, however, we already have four new shows broadcasting into the Sting, with several other members actively in the training process.

We are looking forward to the arrival of the new board and exploring new ways to make the Sting better than ever.



Memory Lane

WRUR History with Alumnus Ken Levenbook '68

My name is Ken Levenbook, Class of 1968. I was a disk jockey on WRUR while I was at the University of Rochester.

When I started, we were a carrier wave station broadcasting to the campus from the basement of Todd Union.

While I was there, we started WRUR.FM 90.1. I had to get my third class FCC license in order to operate the board for the FM station. I took my written test in New York City over Thanksgiving vacation.

I hosted a rock-and-roll evening program on AM and an opera program on FM using a large vinyl record collection at the station.

During the AM program, I read the 15 minute newscast at 7:15.

I read the news after backtiming the instrumental lead in record on one of the two turntables we used on the board so the music stopped 10 seconds before the hour to announce the station id.

I remember repeating frequently during the opera program: "You're tuned to WRUR. The voice of the men and women of the University of Rochester. Broadcasting on 90.1 on your FM dial from Todd Union on the River Campus."

At that time we had one teletype news machine and we would "rip and read" the news on the hour. For the weather, we would call the local weather station number and record the data on a sheet of paper, hopefully every hour.

While I was there the station manager was Jim Carrier, which I thought was funny since we were broadcasting on the carrier wave through the electric system of the university.

I was also the photo editor of the Campus Times for a couple of years before graduating.

I'm now a retired lawyer in South Florida.

Album Review: *Mystic Familiar* *John Lewis '24*

This spring, the Music Director role has been full of fun, growth, and new tunes! With many notable records releasing this semester, it has been a great experience to introduce them to the rest of the station. Not only that, but opportunities to cover shows as a press member have revealed themselves and made this time even more exciting! Working with the rest of the executive board, we have planned fun events, run workshops, and fostered a comfortable and accepting environment for both old and new members. I am excited and proud to say that this semester has been one of the best, and a lot of thanks for that goes to the Music Director position.

Here's a review of a recent album that I found interesting:

Title: Dan Deacon, *Mystic Familiar*

Genre: Synth-pop

Release Date: February 2020

Review: What an incredible album. The amount of sentimental, vulnerable, and yet danceable and fun sounds that flow throughout this record is super unique. I think Deacon really put it all together here as his last project was a bit choppy and had some great songs but felt like there was something missing. I'm not sure what more he could have done that would have plugged those holes on *Mystic*. Tracks like *Become a Mountain* and *Fell into The Ocean* show off what Deacon is capable of: loud synthy psych pop that makes you smile and think about the good ol' days. Throw this on any playlist that is a bit more experimental.

RIYL: Of Montreal, Panda Bear

Swears: Clean

Recommended Tracks: 1, 3, 5, 6, 9

Label: Domino

John Lewis 1/31/21



WRURTV

Victor Chang '23

This past semester has been a success on the outreach front. We collaborated with the Creative Arts Club to livestream their annual fashion show. We also worked with the Students' Association Government to livestream the presidential debate. That, in and of itself, is a huge boon, but we also have a couple of new projects in the works, so look forward to that! Overall, I'm happy that our department is starting to flourish again, and I look forward to sharing it with all of you!

This Semester with FM

Sara Whitemore '23

This semester has been very successful for FM! With five new DJs and even more students in training, it is panning out to be a nicely filled schedule, just in time for the ever-anticipated new board arrival! Aside from increasing our on-air members, we have kept FM in WRUR thriving through continual cleaning of the studio and always keeping our continuously-growing CD collection up to date. It is so exciting to see and feel the new love for FM from new DJs, and I can't wait to keep going and growing!

Mondays:

8pm - Broke Baroque with Rose
9pm - What's Cooking? with John
10pm - 10PM Again with Graham

Tuesdays:

8pm - Sonic Highways with Celia
9pm - Left of the Dial with Ellie
10pm - Imaginary Folklore with Jason

Wednesdays:

8pm - Closer to the Door with Ben
9pm - The Mixed Tape with Stella
10pm - Completely Committed with Eman and Fabian

Thursdays:

8pm - Say When with Lauren and Ryan
9pm - Roseum in Nocte with Sara
10pm - Easy Listening with Liz

Stay tuned for next year's lineup!

Fundraising Note

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

All this would not be possible without your support! Please help us by contributing to our organization and becoming a friend of WRUR. You can donate using the following link: <https://www.rochester.edu/alumni/giving-back>. Scroll down to where it says "Make a Difference," and click "Make a Gift."

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

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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Contact Us

Comments, questions, or feedback? Contact the Alumni Coordinator directly at the email listed above.

Follow @wrur on Facebook and Instagram for more updates!