



News from Simon's Rock

DECEMBER 2020



First-Ever Founder's Day Match Challenge a Success

In honor of Simon's Rock founder Elizabeth Blodgett Hall's 111th birthday and in celebration of her remarkable achievements, Simon's Rock marked Founder's Day on November 16. With the support of a generous donor who pledged a matching gift if we met our goal, we set out to raise \$111,000. And we did it! Or rather, you did it! Thank you to everyone who supported that drive last month.

The good news doesn't end there! Inspired by our fundraising success, another anonymous donor has matched the full Founder's Day total, resulting in a 2-for-1 match for every dollar donated that day!

We are on track to have one of our best fundraising quarters ever at a time of urgent need. If you haven't made your gift yet, [please consider donating today](#). As a special year-end incentive, if you make a gift of \$100 or more by December 31, we will thank you with a Simon's Rock tote bag. If you make a gift of \$1,000 or more, we will thank you with a brick on the Mods patio, engraved with your personalized message.

And, in case you missed it, [watch our video tribute to Betty Hall](#)!



Simon's Rock Founder
Elizabeth Blodgett Hall

Popular Science Highlights Our Successful Fall Semester

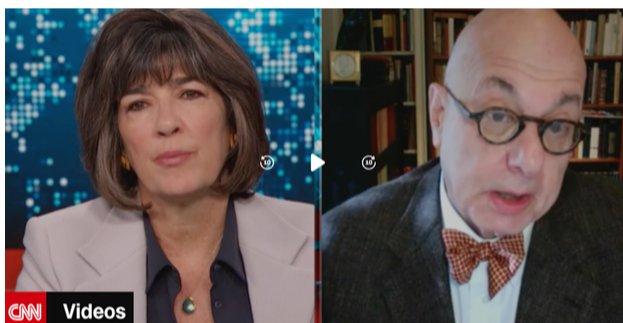
Popular Science spoke with Provost John Weinstein about the success of the in-person portion of our fall semester, which recently [concluded with zero residential COVID-19 cases](#). Thanks to ongoing testing, rigorous health and safety protocols, and the support of our on-campus community, the article notes that our strategy "worked without a doubt." We look forward to replicating the safe on-campus experience for the primarily in-person spring semester; students will begin returning to campus in late January. [Read the full article](#).



Leon Botstein Discusses Education and Democracy on CNN

Leon Botstein, President of Bard College, recently spoke with CNN's Christiane Amanpour about the vital links between democracy and education in the context of COVID-19-related school closures in New York City.

[Watch the full interview](#).



We Want Your Stories!

Thanks to all the Rockers who have shared their college stories with Archivist Erin Donahue over the fall semester. Dozens of alumni from each decade have participated in our story-collecting project so far. If you haven't joined us yet, stay tuned for information about how to participate in the spring semester.



Info Sessions for Prospective Students with the Provost

Prospective Simon's Rock students and their families are invited to join the Office of Admission for informational calls with Provost John Weinstein, starting tomorrow, December 11. John will share updates from the fall semester, discuss Simon's Rock's past, present, and future, and answer questions. If you know students interested in learning more about us, this is an excellent opportunity for them to meet John and hear his insights firsthand. Feel free to pass along these details and encourage interested students and families to register in advance:

College Sessions

December 11, 7:00–7:30 p.m. EST. [Register](#)

December 12, 6:00–6:30 p.m. EST. [Register](#)

Academy Sessions

December 12, 5:00–5:30 p.m. EST. [Register](#)

December 14, 7:00–7:30 p.m. EST. [Register](#)



Save the Date: Next Alumni Zoom Meet-Up on December 30

Join us once again with host David Segil '00 for the next Alumni Zoom Meet-Up. Rockers from all classes are invited to this virtual gathering on Wednesday, December 30, 7:00–9:00 p.m. EST. Join us and come ready to share your Simon's Rock stories and some holiday cheer.

For more information and the meeting link, contact advancement@simons-rock.edu.



Pets of Simon's Rock

This is Rose! Rose's human is Jojo Vinai '20 (Bard Academy student).

Got a cute pet pic you want to share? Send it along with your name, entering class year, your pet's name, and your contact info to Rebecca Wehry, rwehry@simons-rock.edu.



Bard Academy and Bard College at Simon's Rock
84 Alford Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230
simons-rock.edu/givenow

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