News from Simon's Rock

JULY 2020

Welcome Dr. John B. Weinstein, the New Provost of Simon's Rock

We are pleased to announce that on July 1, Dr. John B. Weinstein assumed the role of Provost and Vice President of Simon's Rock. A 20-year veteran of the Bard Network as an educator and administrator, John will oversee the academic mission and provide curricular and administrative leadership for both Bard Academy and Bard College at Simon's Rock. Get to know more about John and his vision for Simon's Rock in this video.



Campus Reopening Plans

Our <u>Campus Reopening Plan</u> for the fall semester prioritizes the health and safety of our entire community. On the advice of public health experts, we are planning for primarily in-person, socially distanced classes and virtual course options for students unable to return to campus. We have revised the academic calendar to minimize student travel for both <u>Bard Academy</u> and <u>Bard College at</u> <u>Simon's Rock</u>, and after the November break, we will convene all classes remotely to complete the semester. We have also partnered with the <u>Eli and</u> <u>Edythe L. Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard</u> to



provide COVID-19 testing on campus during the fall semester for students, faculty, and staff. As always, you can find the latest updates and resources on our COVID-19 response planning on the <u>Simon's Rock website</u>.

Support the Next Generation of Rockers

Like colleges across the country, Simon's Rock took an unexpected financial hit last spring as a result of the pandemic. We made many changes quickly, including residential life and course instruction adjustments that will carry over in some form to the new academic year. What remains unchanged, however, is our commitment to providing a lifechanging learning opportunity to younger scholars. To access that experience, more students than ever will require financial support. If you have already given to the Fund for Simon's Rock, we thank you, and ask



you to renew your donation. If you have not given yet, we ask that you delay no further. The gift you make today will make a difference in a new Rocker's experience tomorrow.

Donate online or call 413-644-4776 to arrange to donate by check or securities. Thank you.

Monthly Alumni Zoom Meet-Up

We thank David Segil '00 and Valerie Ferrier '94 for helping forge a new tradition. Each month, Rockers from all classes are invited to meet up on Zoom to reconnect from the comfort of home. The next gathering is scheduled for **Thursday**, **July 16**, from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. EDT**. Join us and come ready to share your Simon's Rock stories. For more information and the meeting link, contact <u>advancement@simons-rock.edu</u>.



Next Alumni Book Club: July 23

The Simon's Rock Alumni Book Club convened virtually for our first session on June 24, discussing Emily St. John Mandel's newly topical 2014 dystopian novel, *Station Eleven*, which, eerily enough, imagines a devastating flu pandemic. We had a great time untangling the complexities of St. John Mandel's book and exploring its connections to our current circumstances. For our next read, an alumna participant suggested Tommy Orange's award-winning 2018 novel *There There*. Next meeting: Thursday, July 23, at 8:00 p.m. Contact Alumni Library



Director Brian Mikesell at <u>bmikesell@simons-rock.edu</u> for the meeting link. Hope to see you there!

Virtual Info Sessions for Prospective Rockers

Do you know a high school student who's curious about starting college early, but questions what it will mean to return to school in the fall? Please direct interested students and their families to our <u>virtual information sessions</u>!

While we temporarily forego the charm of a gathering in the Oak Room in Blodgett, families can still meet with us—minus the cost of flights or a day or two away from work. Prospective Rockers have been engaging this way all summer—having one-on-one video conversations with current students, taking a virtual campus tour, and joining sample classes—like a math workshop with professor Miha Habič to reimagine counting and a creative writing discussion with professor Brendan Mathews to uncover "What is Story?"

While we plan to safely reopen campus to prospective students and families later this fall, we'll continue to offer these virtual engagement and discovery opportunities. If you see a future Rocker in a middle school student, please send them to <u>visit Bard Academy</u> for a virtual tour. If you know a student ready for the College, our virtual doors are always open for a <u>visit to Bard College at Simon's Rock</u>.

Alumni Career Series Continues

The Office of Institutional Advancement has teamed up with the Office of Career Development for an alumni conversation series about work and careers. If you missed our June and July sessions with authors Marco Greenberg and Cleo Stiller '02, respectively, you can tune in below to catch the recordings. Meanwhile, we urge alumni to watch your inbox for news of upcoming events.

"Alumni Job Search 2020 with Marco Greenberg, author of *Primitive: Tapping the Primal Drive that Powers the World's Most Successful People*" > Watch now

"Understanding #MeToo and Workplace Culture with Cleo Stiller '02, author of *Modern Manhood: Conversations about the Complicated Work of Being a Good Man Today"* > <u>Watch Now</u>



Marco Greenberg



Cleo Stiller '02

Pets of Simon's Rock

Meet Emperor Norton, known to his family as Skitters. Skitters' human is Caitlin Xantha von Graf '90.

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, <u>rwehry@simons-rock.edu</u>.





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

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