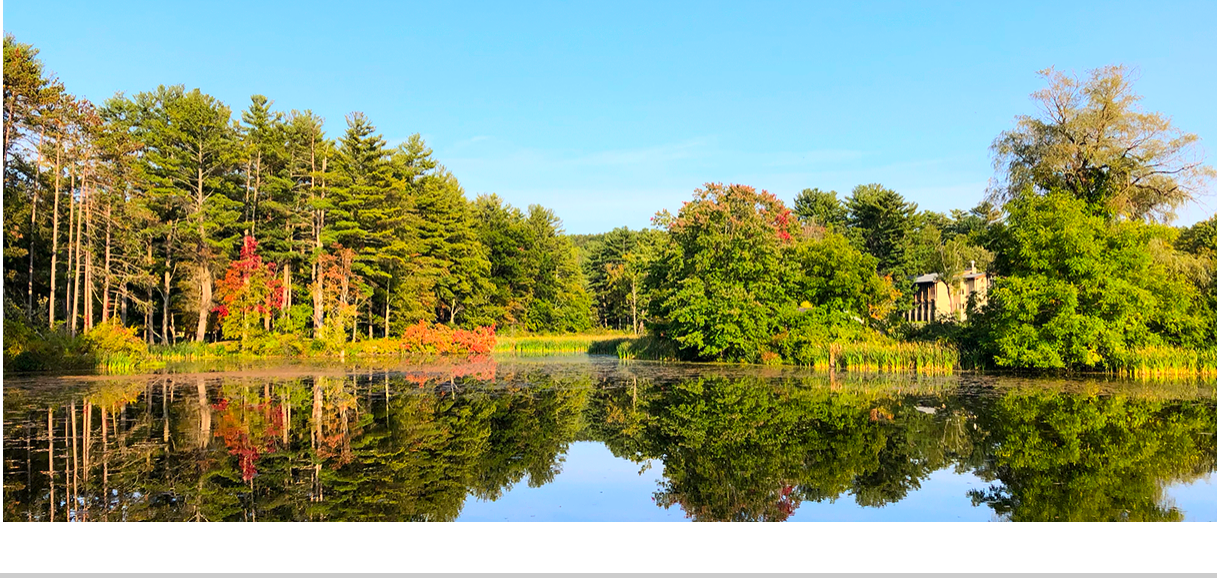




News from Simon's Rock

OCTOBER 2021



Simon's Rock Alumni Connect is Live

[Simon's Rock Alumni Connect](#) is a new virtual platform for Rockers to catch up, network, and share news and photos with fellow alumni. Features include a [Map](#) to locate Rockers in your vicinity and an [Alumni Directory](#) to find old friends. Rockers looking to join, click [here](#)!

For more information or questions about Simon's Rock Alumni Connect, please contact

advancement@simons-rock.edu.

Simon's Rock Alumni Connect does not share, sell, rent, or trade personal information with third parties for their own promotional purposes.



Double Your Donation to Simon's Rock

Many employers will match their employee's charitable gifts, and now we've made it easier for you to find out if your company is among them. On our updated [Giving Page](#), you can instantly search if your employer will make a match. Doubling your donation might be just a click away.

If you've already made a gift in this fiscal year, thank you! We hope you'll consider making another donation of any amount.

If you haven't made your annual gift yet, we encourage you to do so today. You might be able to [double your contribution now](#).

From the Office of Admission: New Team Members and More Open House Events!

The admission team welcomed two new staff last month: Katia Hua, Associate Director of Admission, as well as Houry Yapoujian Schmeizl, Admission Counselor!

Additionally, the Office of Admission hosted an enthusiastic group of prospective Academy and College students and families at recent Open House and Discovery Day events on campus. More opportunities are coming for students and families that would like to get to know us: our next Academy [Open House](#) is on Saturday, November 6, and College [Discovery Day](#) is on Saturday, November 13. Both events include campus tours, sample classes, and time with students, staff, faculty, and the Admission team.



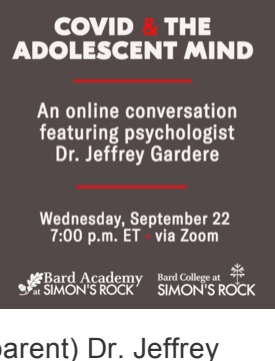
Top: Katia Hua
Bottom: Houry Yapoujian Schmeizl

ICYMI: COVID & The Adolescent Mind

Last month, scores of folks from the Simon's Rock community joined us for a frank conversation about the continuing effects of the pandemic on the adolescent mind.

We were honored to have acclaimed psychologist (and Simon's Rock parent) Dr. Jeffrey Gardere join Simon's Rock deans Kristy McMorris and Brendan Mathews for an informative and heartfelt discussion. If you missed it, you can [watch the recording](#) here.

The conversation was presented by the [Great Pine Society](#), a philanthropic circle of Simon's Rock families. Keep an eye out for future discussions and events hosted by the Great Pine Society.



Halloween Alumni Zoom Meet-Up, 10/28 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

Join our hosts, Catherine Schane-Lydon '80 and Monk Schane-Lydon on Thursday, October 28, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. EDT for a special Halloween Alumni Zoom Meet-Up, complete with a costume contest!

For more information, contact advancement@simons-rock.edu.



Students Contribute During Rock the Community Day

The first day in October gave us wonderful weather for our Rock the Community day of service. From mulching, gardening, and trail maintenance to lending a hand to regional organizations including Flying Cloud Institute and Extra Special Teas, Rockers offered their time and talents for this annual event honoring longtime Board Chair Emerita Emily H. Fisher.



Five Questions With...Erik Elbieh '10

Erik is a cybersecurity researcher and consultant with Palindrome Technologies, a small New York City-area company. He previously worked at General Motors in Michigan leveraging his mechanical engineering background from the Simon's Rock-Columbia University 3/2 program.

1. Summarize your Simon's Rock experience in 12 words or less.

An opportunity to pursue my excessive curiosity to the fullest.

2. What made you decide to pursue an early college education?

My family was living abroad and in the process of moving back to the U.S.A. after being away from the American education system for a number of years. The prospect of experiencing the transition in the middle of high school did not seem particularly appealing to me from the mental or social level. As someone who has always coasted through classes in school, I wanted a bit more of a rigorous mental challenge. Fortunately, Simon's Rock delivered.

3. Where would you like to travel to next and why?

If I was traveling for art, culture, and food, I would pick the country of Georgia. If I was traveling more for personal interests and career, Estonia or South Korea because they're consistently highly ranked for technological innovation.

4. What is one way we can all stay secure online?

There's no simple answer but the number one way that should be on everyone's list is using good password hygiene! 1) Don't reuse passwords; 2) Add multi-factor authentication; and 3) Create secure passwords by making them strong.

5. Why do you give to Simon's Rock?

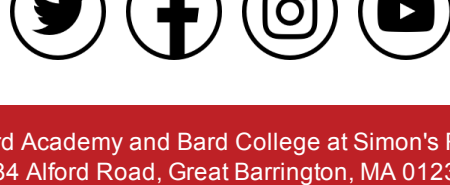
I think of Simon's Rock as an opportunity for those who feel the standard pace is not for them and would otherwise be bored or cognitively deteriorate in the standard options. It's a unique place too, where even though everyone is there for their own set of reasons, there is a lot of common ground.



We're Hiring!

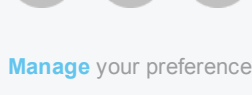
Are you—or is someone in your network—searching for a new career opportunity? We're hiring! [Take a look at our faculty and staff job openings](#)

and feel free to pass on to others who might be interested.



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

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