



News from Simon's Rock

SEPTEMBER 2020



Students' Safe Return to Campus

After much planning and anticipation, students are safely on campus and have begun in-person, socially distanced classes. Students unable to return to campus are joining us remotely this semester. Our weekly COVID testing for students, staff, and faculty in partnership with the [Broad Institute](#), coupled with our efforts to build a contained community on campus, have enabled a safe and strong start to the semester.

Get to Know John Weinstein

In July, Simon's Rock welcomed a new provost, Dr. John Weinstein. From his formative years to his first job interview at Simon's Rock two decades ago, in an extended profile on our website John describes his passion for early college teaching and his strategic priorities for the College.

> [Read the full story.](#)



Support Financial Aid Through the Fund for Simon's Rock

Each year, the Fund for Simon's Rock generates support from alumni, parents, and friends to provide immediate funding for the College's highest priorities, foremost among these to provide a life-changing educational experience to younger scholars regardless of means. This year, we have pledged a record level of financial support to students. Your donation, of any amount, makes this support possible. If you have already donated to the Fund, we thank you and hope you'll consider an additional gift. If you haven't made your gift yet, you can [donate online](#) or call 413-644-4776 to make payment arrangements. Thank you!



[Make a Gift](#)

Gabriel Asfar In Memoriam

The Simon's Rock community mourns the passing of Gabriel V. Asfar, Professor Emeritus of French and Arabic, who died unexpectedly on August 11. Gabriel worked at Simon's Rock from 1983 to 2014 as both a faculty member and a residence director. In honor of his indelible legacy, the [Gabriel Asfar Scholarship](#) was established in 2012. The Asfar family plans to hold a memorial service in 2021 when COVID-19 restrictions become lifted.



> [Read more about Gabriel Asfar and his legacy.](#)

Pete Baumann Celebrates 50 Years at Simon's Rock

This month marks the 50th anniversary of Pete Baumann's employment as part of the Physical Plant team. Today, Pete continues to reflect on fond memories of witnessing generations of Rockers grow up—he's even seen former students send their own children to Simon's Rock. We're inspired by Pete's dedication to our community and are grateful he has remained with us decades on.

> [Read more about Pete in excerpts from the Simon's Rock Oral History Project.](#)

Upcoming Events – Bonus Edition

Check your email in the next few days for a special listing of virtual events open to the community in the coming weeks! We'll be offering events on poetry, music, literature, and more, plus a very special webinar with two Rockers who are experts in global disaster management.



Future Rockers Can Apply Now for January and Fall 2021

This semester Simon's Rock welcomed 124 new students across Bard Academy and the College. With this admission cycle winding down, we are centering efforts on a strong push for January 2021 applicants; applications are now open for both January 2021 and Fall 2021. Virtual events for prospective students and families continue, including two open houses for Bard Academy on October 17 and November 7. Find more information on forthcoming virtual events on the [Academy](#) and [College](#) websites. And if you know any potential future Rockers, please refer them to the Admission Office, admit@simons-rock.edu or 800-235-7186.

Pets of Simon's Rock

Meet Kupina (her name means blackberry in Serbian). Her human is Chloe Demrovsky '01.

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
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