



**ROCHESTER VIEW** » Runner climbs Cobbs Hill in the early morning as the fog burns off. LISA COOK, ROCHESTER

# ROCNews

RIT SAUNDERS College of BUSINESS  
Saunders College of Business Welcomes  
**DAYMOND JOHN!**  
FRO OCT 11 PM  
See full details on page 3E, Roc Next Section  
FOR TICKETS GO TO SAUNDERS.RIT.EDU/SHARK

## News briefs

### Teen hit on West Ridge dies

The 15-year-old bicyclist hit by a car on West Ridge Road on Friday evening died later that night, police said Saturday.

Greece police said Chris Saunders of Greece was pronounced dead about 11 p.m. Friday.

No charges have been filed against the motorist.

Greece police Sgt. Ryan Parina said Saunders was crossing West Ridge near Fetzner Road with his bicycle when a westbound sedan struck him about 7:30 p.m.

The Greece Central School District and Monroe 2-Orleans Board of Cooperative Educational Services released a joint statement about Saunders' death on Saturday afternoon.

He was previously a student at Apollo and Arcadia middle schools and most recently attended a BOCES program. Counseling will be provided for students and staff on Monday.

"Staff members at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES say they will always remember Chris' smile and his kindness toward his friends and fellow students," according to the statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Chris' family."

### City man shot on Dewey Ave.

A 32-year-old Rochester man was shot Saturday on Dewey Avenue.

Rochester police Lt. Jeff Koehn said the man was shot in his torso outside 712 Dewey Ave. about 4:55 p.m.

The man was conscious and walking around when police arrived, according to Koehn. He is in stable condition at Strong Memorial Hospital, police said.

Koehn said the shooting is under investigation.

### Golisano donates to Kearney

B. Thomas Golisano has made an unspecified contribution to Bishop Kearney High School, money that will be used to create a new scholarship fund.

The B. Thomas Golisano Scholarship Fund will offer students assistance up to and including the cost of full tuition. The awards will be given based on academic ability and financial need.

Tuition for the current school year is \$9,100, according to the school's website.

Prospective students can apply for the scholarship immediately, and enroll as early as November. For more information, contact Fred Tillinghast, director of admissions, at (585) 342-4000, ext. 246.

### Fairport has forum on search

The Fairport Board of Education is inviting the community to a forum to help assist the board and search consultants in the early stages of its selection process for a new superintendent.



The group 11G performs Saturday at the kickoff for the #RememberOctober random acts of kindness campaign. From left: Neriah Santiago, 17; Chelse Chambers, 19; Jessamine Maldonado, 19; Jonathan Maldonado, 15; Aidan Rhys-Davies, 17; and Janivette Rivera, 24. CARLOS ORTIZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## 'Flood the world with positive'

### Campaign seeks to inspire youths

**Meaghan M. McDermott**  
Staff writer

All too often, the only news Rochester's young people hear about their peers is negative.

Combating all that bad by getting word out about the good is the aim of Generation News, a youth-driven local nonprofit that seeks to find and publicize the abundance of positive stories about young people and what they're doing.

"There's a saying that whatsoever a man thinks he is, that is what he is," said Justin Ortiz, founder and executive director of Generation News and the afterschool job skills initiative, Generation Outreach. "We want to put the positive out, flood the world with positive."

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### TO LEARN MORE

For more information about Generation News and #RememberOctober, go to <http://generationnews.org/>.



Eight-month-old Nathan Ortiz of Rochester plays with the hat of his uncle, Brandon Griffin of Gates, at the #RememberOctober kickoff at South Avenue Recreation Center. CARLOS ORTIZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## UR study explores slavery's legacy

### Its impact is still a factor in today's South

**James Goodman**  
Staff writer

The American public's attitudes about race have been the subject of any number of books, but three University of Rochester political scientists are presenting a study that puts the focus back on slavery.

The three — Avidit Acharya, Matthew Blackwell and Maya Sen — looked at the 1860 U.S. census in the South to determine where there were concentrations of slaves and then looked at recent public opinion polls.

What they found is that counties in the pre-Civil War South, where slaves often made up a sizable percentage of the population, harbor more racial resentment today than counties that had a population with a low percentage of slaves.

While the authors don't dismiss other factors that can shape views, they present a case for linking the institution of slavery to the mindset of whites in the South today, at a time when racial issues have resurfaced there and elsewhere.

"We show that contemporary differences in political attitudes across counties in the American South trace their origins back to the influence of slavery's prevalence more than 150 years ago," write the authors in a summary of their 52-page study.



Avidit Acharya



Matthew Blackwell



Maya Sen

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### READ THE STUDY

To read the report, "The Political Legacy of American Slavery," click on this story at [DemocratandChronicle.com](http://DemocratandChronicle.com).

# Slavery

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## Importance of past

A recent posting about the study on *The Huffington Post* website generated more than 3,400 comments — and a host of complaining calls to UR.

“There is a strong division and a strong polarization in the way people react,” said Blackwell. “You can have two comments that are juxtaposed against each other — one that says these results are obvious and one that says these results are obviously wrong.”

Sen noted how their study, “The Political Legacy of American Slavery,” touched a sensitive nerve.

“We, as Americans, don’t want to be shackled by the past. One of the things we are suggesting in the study is that things that happened long ago continue to affect us today,” she said.

Beginning with Sen’s presentation in late September at the University of California at Riverside, the authors are appearing at Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania Law School, the University of California at Berkeley, Columbia University and Yale University.

Reactions from experts on slavery and civil rights were generally favorable, though questions were raised.

“The study seems sound to me, as far as it goes, and it confirms a general observation that white racial attitudes and political identification are more conservative in the deep South than elsewhere,” said Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James McPherson, who is a professor emeritus at Princeton University.

But McPherson raises the question of whether racial attitudes of whites in the counties studied might be more influenced by the high concentration of African-Americans living in these areas today.

A failure to pay adequate attention to how the post-Civil War South developed is also found in other critiques.

But the study’s relevance to the present was noted by the Rev. Marvin McMickle, president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

“This paper helps explain why the ink was not dry on the June 2013 (Supreme Court) ruling about the Voting Rights Act before Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Texas — all major slave-holding states — took immediate steps to suppress the black vote in their states,” McMickle said.

William J. Harris Sr., an instructor of history at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, said that, while the legacy of slavery, race and racism continue to play a role in the development of the nation, quantitative analysis has limitations.

“Racial demographics or economic systems alone cannot be used to explain a community’s actions at a given time, let alone a century and a half later,” Harris said.

**“This paper helps explain why the ink was not dry on the June 2013 (Supreme Court) ruling about the Voting Rights Act before Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Texas — all major slave-holding states — took immediate steps to suppress the black vote in their states.”**

### REV. MARVIN MCMICKLE

president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School commenting about the study published by three University of Rochester political scientists

### Method of analysis

The three authors, all assistant professors in political science at UR skilled in the use of statistics, decided to go ahead with the study early this year.

For starters, the authors — using the 1860 census — looked at the percentage of the population that was slaves in 1,251 counties in states south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

They then looked at opinion polling data of more than 39,000 white Southerners from 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 compiled by the Cooperative Congressional Election Study, which does Internet polling.

Counties that in 1860 had a population with a high percentage of slaves were most likely now to have a white population showing racial resentment. The question for measuring resentment is whether the person polled agreed with the statement that generations of slavery and discrimination make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower classes. Disagreement with the statement indicated resentment.

The white population in counties that once had a high percentage of slaves was also more likely to be Republican than in Southern counties that had lower concentrations of slaves. And the white population in counties that had a high percentage of slaves was more likely to be opposed to affirmative action.

About 90 of the counties in the South had pre-Civil War slave populations less than 3 percent and had views similar to some counties in the North — an example being Campbell County, Ky., in the South having similar views as Perry County, Ind.

“Taken together, these results are clear. Slave prevalence in 1860 has an effect on the political attitudes of Southern whites today,” says the study.

The study is limited in focus to the South, as the authors point out in defining the scope of their research.

Richard Newman, who teaches history at Rochester Institute of Technology, said that the authors provide quantitative evidence of the “slavery effect” on American society.

“But we should not overlook the fact that racism remains a national problem,” Newman said.

Many of the counties in the study that had a large percentage of slaves now have a sizable African-American population, but the history of slavery con-

tinues to be a factor, Blackwell said.

Even with two Southern counties that today have the same percentage of African-Americans, the one that in 1860 had more slaves currently shows more racial resentment.

Migration patterns are also taken into account by the paper and would not affect the study’s findings, Blackwell said.

The paper takes note of how after the Civil War — and the end of slavery — blacks continued to be oppressed by a tenant farming system that made them beholden to white landowners. Segregation also took hold.

Another sign of racial hostility toward blacks was the high incidence of lynching in the South.

But the authors point to the importance of slavery shaping opinions that were handed down.

“How would pre-Civil War slavery directly affect attitudes today? We hypothesize that the abolition of slavery in 1865 was a cataclysmic event that undermined Southern whites’ political and economic power,” says the study.

The Southern white elite, however, continued to promote anti-black sentiments.

“These racially hostile norms were subsequently passed down through generations, resulting in contemporary anti-black attitudes that can still be felt today,” says the study.

Emilye Crosby, who teaches civil rights and African-American history at the State University College at Geneseo, said that at the heart of the study’s argument is that political attitudes of some whites in the South are influenced by slavery.

She agrees that to some extent that has been the case, but questions whether slavery is as predictive as the study suggests.

“I think my biggest concern with the paper is the emphasis that ‘attitudes’ or ‘feelings’ were passed down through the generations without sufficient acknowledgment of institutionalized racism and the way it would fuel, reinforce attitudes over generations,” she said.

## WHAT THE EXPERTS ARE SAYING

“It is also significant that scholars in Frederick Douglass’ Rochester have provided this perspective — it is exactly what Douglass himself said over and over again in the 19th century: Slavery was a behemoth that continued to impact Americans’ views of government, politics and social life well after the Civil War. If Douglass were around today, he would not be surprised in the least by the results of this study.”



Richard Newman

— Richard Newman, professor of history, Rochester Institute of Technology

“The one problem in the study is that it does not separate the impact of slavery from the impact of a higher concentration of African-American population today. ... White racial attitudes may be more influenced by contemporary racial demographics than by those of 150 years ago and more.”



James McPherson

— James McPherson, history professor emeritus, Princeton University

“It is not surprising, in light of this study that the very places in this country that are most resistant to black and minority voting rights are the very Deep South states where slavery had been most intense.”



The Rev. Marvin McMickle

— The Rev. Marvin McMickle, president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

“At the heart of their argument is that the political attitudes of some whites — those who live in high slave-holding counties — are influenced by the historic factor of slavery, not simply contemporary predictors. To some extent, I would agree with this and think that it is almost certainly accurate. I’m not sure, though, that slavery alone is ‘the predictor’ in the way they argue.”



Emilye Crosby

— Emilye Crosby, history professor, State University of New York at Geneseo

“The legacy of the past always plays a role in the development of thought in future generations. However, a quantitative link between one’s economic and social legacy and political views generations removed is difficult to ascertain.”



William J. Harris

— William J. Harris Sr., instructor of history, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

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