PART VI

MELIORA FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM
Part VI. *Meliora* for the New Millennium

This section follows up on the *Meliora* theme of part 1 by celebrating the magnificent achievement of alumna Donna Strickland and former faculty member Gérard Mourou in sharing the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics. Donna’s award for her dissertation research for her PhD in optics while working under the supervision of Mourou at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics was only the third Physics award to a woman in the history of Nobel Prizes. A number of short reminiscences by people who worked with her during her student days make up Essay VI.23. A second by the current director, P. Scott Carney, goes out on a limb to predict where the process of amelioration that we have described in previous essays will take us in our centennial year, 2029.
3. From left: University president Richard Feldman, Donna Strickland (PhD ’89), and U.S. Representative Joe Morelle celebrate at the university’s annual commencement dinner. Morelle made a statement on the House of Representatives floor recognizing Donna Strickland, Gérard Mourou, and the University of Rochester’s Laboratory for Laser Energetics for their 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics. The statement was inserted in the Congressional Record, and a framed version was personally presented to Strickland at the event during commencement weekend.