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THE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER
How alumni, parents, and friends support the College of the University of Chicago

IN THIS ISSUE: 1 THE NEXT ODYSSEY 5 SECRET LOVES 13 SHOW OF SUPPORT: JUAN SABATER AND MARIANNA NUNEZ
Their next New Leader Scholars make their way into the world.

The College established the New Leader Odyssey Scholarships in 2009. These competitive scholarships—awarded to Odyssey Scholars of exceptional academic and professional promise—cover tuition, room, and board, and include a $5,000 stipend for summer research, travel, or internships.

Three New Leader recipients from the Class of 2014 told the College Newsletter about their journey to the University of Chicago and where they’re going next.
I was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, but I’m of Indian origin with African heritage. My ancestors are from Gujarat, India, but the past four generations of my family were born and raised in East Africa—my mother’s family in Uganda, and my father’s in Tanzania. In 1972 Idi Amin’s “economic war” expelled both countries’ South Asian populations. My mother’s family went to Scotland; my father’s family to Canada. They met in England and in the 1980s settled in the United States, where they ran a dry cleaning business.

Growing up in the United States was interesting because my background was so different. I’m fluent in four languages as well as English. My family spoke Gujarati at home. I picked up Hindi from watching Bollywood movies from a young age. I learned Urdu from Pakistani friends—Hindi and Urdu are similar. And Spanish is widely spoken in Texas, so I had Spanish in school from middle school onward. At the College I studied Arabic, which was the hardest to learn by far.

During the summer of 2013, with the support of a New Leader Scholarship, I had the chance to intern at the Girl Child Network (GCN) in Kampala, Uganda. I stayed with family friends of South Asian ancestry, so the home environment was very similar, but I was the only foreign intern at the organization. It was hard to adjust to at times.

My main task was to travel to schools and community clubs to talk with girls about topics such as lack of confidence, sexual violence, teenage pregnancy, unhealthy relationships, and HIV/AIDS. I also worked on a project to improve menstrual hygiene. Girls in rural Uganda typically miss four or five days of school per month because they can’t afford sanitary pads. There’s an atmosphere of fear and shame around menstruation.

That experience led to a new interest in global health work. Since June I’ve been working as a program coordinator at the University’s Center for Global Health. We have a number of field sites: a household air pollution project in Nigeria, a wells project in Ghana, and an HIV/AIDS project in India. I write status reports on these projects and manage international visitors.

I’m also developing a project on menstrual hygiene and its mental health consequences. I haven’t chosen the country yet. My plan is to do interviews with girls to find out what resources they have and what they know, then bring in sanitary products or teach the girls how to make them. I also want to provide more information on hygiene during menstruation, so if clean water isn’t available, teach them how to sanitize that water.

If I could change one thing right now, it would be to have the world recognize that women’s rights are human rights. In too many places in the world, that is not the case.
Cell plans

NORA VIVANCO GONZALEZ, SB’14
MAJOR: Biological sciences

I first got interested in science in middle school. My biology teacher mentioned that a bacterium could be made to express insulin to treat diabetes. I was so awestruck by this concept that I decided to attend the science and technology high school in Alexandria, Virginia, where I grew up.

When I came to UChicago, I joined Stephen Kron’s lab in molecular genetics and cell biology as an undergraduate student researcher. My original goal was to do cancer research, but I ended up being assigned to a project involving Candida albicans, which causes yeast infections. I was more excited about doing research than anything else, so I didn’t care that the project wasn’t the one I originally wanted.

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This summer I’m working as a public affairs section intern at the US embassy in Stockholm. I recently finished helping draft an article for State Magazine, the State Department’s internal magazine, about a bike trip that Ambassador Mark Brzezinski made across Sweden. It was really interesting to experience the internal clearance process. The article had to be approved by many different departments to make sure it accurately represented the event and US policy.

I’m also working on a big project about the Arctic environment. The embassy is collaborating with the World Wildlife Fund and a production company to film a series of short videos about how we are affecting the Arctic climate. I helped edit the scripts, coordinated the logistics of a trip to the northern part of Sweden, and flew there with the ambassador and Swedish actor Felix Herngren to make the videos. On the trip I was responsible for all still photography.

Last winter I met Ambassador Brzezinski when he visited UChicago’s Institute of Politics. Ambassador Brzezinski signed an agreement with the IOP to bring interns to Stockholm. I applied and was selected as one of the two interns. I will be here until September 18, right after the Swedish national elections.

I don’t speak Swedish, but that hasn’t been a problem because everyone here speaks English. Last year I spent eight months living and studying in Vienna and Paris. I love to travel and adapt to a new setting very quickly.

One big difference is the sunlight. The days are a lot longer here in the summer. On my first day in Stockholm, I went for a walk around the old town after work. It was supposed to be a short afternoon walk, but I got home around midnight. I didn’t realize how late it was.

I started college thinking I wanted to major in mathematics, but fairly quickly I realized that mathematics was not my thing. I was very interested in the social sciences, so I started taking those classes. Pretty soon a political science major started coming together, so that’s what I picked. I like to think of it as political science choosing me instead of me choosing political science.

I used to have very specific five- and ten-year plans. But then different opportunities presented themselves that weren’t part of the plan, and those turned out to be the most interesting and fun experiences of my college years. Now I like to live in the moment.
At UChicago, theatrical suffering is a proud tradition. But the College is more than brutal winters and equally brutal O-chem finals. Here’s a short list of things we love. Just don’t expect to find them on a T-shirt.

By Sean Carr, AB’90

At Scav Hunt 2013’s squirrel kissing booth, there’s no such thing as a free kiss.
Fall

The air is crisp, the leaves are turning, nothing is due yet.

THE HOGWARTS ATMOSPHERE

When the Harry Potter series first leapt to the big screen in 2001, many premillennial alumni surely got a nostalgic kick watching Harry, Ron, and Hermione eat, sleep, sleuth, and spell their ways through what looked like Ida Noyes, Harper, Burton-Judson, and other spaces across the UChicago campus. Younger College grads and current students can be forgiven for scouring the course catalog for a potions class or hoping that Muggle Studies might fulfill their Civ requirement.
Everyone knows (or should know) the drill. UChicago was not just a Big Ten powerhouse—it was the Big Ten powerhouse. Jay Berwanger, AB’36, didn’t just win the first Heisman Trophy; he won it when it was still called the Downtown Athletic Club Trophy. It’s tough to live up to a history like that—even if you didn’t cut football for several decades—but UChicago still fields serious contenders across Division III, and just about every student plays something, even if it’s just midnight Frisbee. So, yes, Bartlett’s “Glory of Manly Sports” mural is anachronistic and, since 2002 (when the building became a dining commons), out of place, but its intended meaning still rings true.

**NOOKS, CRANNIES, AND OTHER STUDY SPACES**

Today the dazzling sunlight in Mansueto provides ideally studious surroundings, just as, once upon a time, the geometric cushions in the Harper North pits were the perfect back supports (or pillows) for a leisurely Saturday with Adam Smith or Herodotus. But every now and then you need the laser focus only total seclusion can provide. That’s when you burrow into the deepest, darkest corner of the Reg stacks or, if you don’t mind a few mummies for company, the Oriental Institute library.

**DOC FILMS**

First year, it’s Doc—maybe something in the Wednesday Truffaut series—followed by coffee at the Med (or vice versa). By fourth year, Doc is the perfect start to an all-Ida Friday night: the latest Bond flick, say, and then the Pub for pool, a pitcher, and wings. And even in everything-at-your-thumb-tips 2014, the answer to “What’s at Doc?” is still “Check the poster.”

**HOUSE T-SHIRTS**

Once upon a time, UChicago T-shirts took self-deprecation—one might even say self-loathing—to serious lows, viz., hell. But these days, the tone is a kinder, gentler self-mocking, with a strong hint of pride in all those quirks that make UChicago the unique place it is. Hence, “That’s all well and good in practice, but how does it work in theory?” and “If I’d wanted an A, I would have gone to Harvard.”

"THE GLORY OF MANLY SPORTS"

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Winter

What keeps us going through the season of our discontent.

KUVIASUNGNERK

The College makes you fearless. Quibble with Aristotle’s reasoning? Sure. Take on a Nobel laureate in a crowded lecture hall? No problem. No wonder a UChicago student’s idea of January fun is early morning calisthenics at the Point and doing the Polar Bear Run through the quad au naturel. At least the ice-carving activities are family friendly.
COFFEE SHOPS (INCLUDING THOSE IN PIERCE AND THE SHORELAND, RIP)

UChicago hardly lacks for coffee shops, from the staid of name but beloved Cobb Coffee Shop and Classics Café to the more soulfully monikered Grounds of Being in the Div School basement and Hallowed Grounds on the second floor of Reynolds Club. Coffee shops in the dorms, with captive audiences, never had to worry about attracting (or offending) potential customers. So Tanstaafl, in the dearly departed Pierce, paid homage to Milton Friedman’s (AM’33) “’There ain’t no such thing as a free lunch.” The Shoreland, just rebabbed into luxury rentals with one gig internet speed and a “pooch parlor,” no longer has a coffee shop, let alone one with the ultimate take-it-or-leave-it name: Fred.

THE LATEK-HAMANTASH DEBATE

Who’s right? Who’s wrong? Will one of these examples of Jewish holiday cuisine ever reign supreme? Unimportant. When sophistry is practiced at this level—by the likes of Martha Nussbaum, Edward “Rocky” Kolb, Hanna Gray, and Douglas Baird (at left), under the guiding whimsy of the late Ted Cohen, AB’62, professor in philosophy and the College—the only things that matter are that everyone laughs and everyone gets to eat.

PRIMAL SCREAMS AND MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST

Ten straight hours of studying is enough to make even the hardiest Hegelian flip his dialectic. So don’t keep it in. Head to Hutch Commons and scream out your frustrations with everyone else. That’s the idea behind the sporadic primal scream gathering. The best way to stifle a scream? Put an omelet in it. Such is the genius of the midnight breakfast, also sporadic, also in Hutch. Either way, second wind achieved.

THE LASCIVIOUS COSTUME BALL

From 1970 to 1984, the Lascivious Costume Ball existed as a fantasy mash-up of the Garden of Eden and the Playboy Mansion—albeit a fantasy with a 70/30 male/female ratio. A milder LCB was revived in 2008, just in time to enjoy the full effects of climate change in Chicago. Is that an extra pair of long johns under your toga, or are you just happy to see me?
Spring

When a young student’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of graduating... but first you have to finish that BA paper.

BOTANY POND AND ITS CREATURES

The C-Bench has never been an ideal spot for reading Kant or quietly contemplating a change in major (or “concentration,” for those who once pondered a switch to Politics, Economics, Rhetoric, and Law). For moments like those, your best bet is Botany Pond. You never know what will scamper, swim, or waddle by. Just remember: local custom dictates that if you lock lips on the bridge, you’d better be ready to put a ring on it.
SCAV HUNT
College students are going to misbehave. Students in the College are going to misbehave in creative, outlandish, and ingenious ways. So UChicago has dedicated a weekend to it, put it on a points system, and called it Scavenger Hunt. Unconfirmed rumors have the University warning everyone in a three-state radius and telling NORAD to stand down for the duration (the words “nuclear” and “reactor” have shown up on the list at least once).

PROM DRESS RUGBY
The high school prom exists to create troublesome—even traumatic—memories. Even if you went, it never lives up to expectations but does leave a mark. Prom Dress Rugby, played annually during Alumni Weekend, lets members of the women’s rugby club question traditional notions of femininity while pounding out any prom frustrations long before they can metastasize into decades of unhealthy relationship choices and unnecessary therapy bills.

SLEEPOUT, RIP
Those who weren’t there will never get it. “You slept out to register for classes?” Yes, getting into Little Red Schoolhouse or Western Civ with Karl Weintraub, AB’49, AM’52, PhD’57, seemed important enough to endure rain, no showers, and Jethro Tull blasting nonstop from someone’s tent. And yet, in the years before Sleepout was put to rest in 1987, it was how College students defined fun.

THE BAGPIPE PARADE
It’s either the worst sound you’ve ever heard—a goose and a swarm of bees fighting over a harmonica inside a vacuum cleaner?—or the most stirring. That’s the bagpipes. Thankfully the taste of most UChicagoans seems to fall into the latter camp, if the absence of earplugs and pained grimaces at Convocation is any measure. A June mainstay since 1990, bagpipes have recently become fashionable for fall, ensuring there’s nary a dry parent’s eye at the start of O-Week.

METCALF INTERNSHIPS
Metcalf Internships got off to a modest start: eight placements the first year (1997). The program, named for Harold “Jeff” Metcalf, AM’53, a former director of athletics and Chicago Booth dean of students with a knack for connecting College students with employers, has grown to 1,000 paid substantive internships in 2013–14. So what’s next for the Metcalf Interns—world domination? (They think it’s cute we have to ask.)
Show of support: Juan Sabater and Marianna Nunez

A parent’s role doesn’t end when a child leaves home.

Last June Juan Sabater and Marianna Nunez, parents of Maria Sabater, ’17, were appointed co-chairs of the UChicago Parent and Family Program and the Dean’s Parent and Family Council. Both groups seek to get more parents involved with the College in three ways: supporting career advancement and internships, connecting with other parents, and encouraging philanthropy.

Juan and Marianna, who live in New York City, spoke with the College Newsletter about the program and why parents should think about joining—as well as what they would change about UChicago if they were presidents for a day.

What was your own undergraduate experience like?

MARIANNA: My undergraduate experience was very different from the US experience. I attended college in Venezuela and lived at home; then I studied in Europe and Boston. What I loved about my experience was the international opportunity and the ability to learn about different cultures.

JUAN: I went to Princeton, where you’re inculcated into the culture the day you walk in. The first thing you do as a class is sit together, sing the university song, be told about the institution’s history. It creates a strong sense of identity and community.

Did you want your daughter to follow in your footsteps?

JUAN: First and foremost, it was her decision, not mine, and we would have supported her in her choice regardless. That said, I really wanted her to apply to the University of Chicago because I knew it was the right place for her. It’s the equal to Princeton, but better for my daughter. I don’t believe that just because your parent went somewhere, you should have to go there too.

She’s having a wonderful time at UChicago. She loves the academic rigor and has taken courses I suspect she never thought she’d take. She has also met students from all over the world. She has friends from Turkey, India, and Pakistan, and as close as Manhattan.

MARIANNA: The University of Chicago seemed like such a natural fit. We love the academic environment, the beautiful campus, and the many opportunities it affords her. As a mother, I did not want her to go so far. But seeing her at the University, I am very comfortable. We love going to Chicago and seeing Maria Beatriz so happy and growing.

What advice did you give your daughter when you dropped her off at the College?

MARIANNA: I told Maria Beatriz to keep a
I suspect the parent community is composed of diverse and extraordinary people, judging by their children. If that’s the case, then collectively we have a lot to offer.

Balance between academics and fun, and to make friends.

**JUAN:** Take risks. Try different subjects. Explore. That success is not determined by your grade in a course.

**If you were president of the University for a day, what would you change?**

**MARIANNA:** My daughter really wanted to study in a city, and Chicago is an outstanding city. There’s so much to do in Chicago: the culture, sport, and restaurants. I do not think you can ever do enough to maximize the use of those resources.

**JUAN:** I would also try to encourage more school spirit. From the first day, students should know UChicago’s outstanding history and traditions and that they’re a part of that now. It is hard for the students to appreciate the fullness of what’s being offered, what a unique university it is, how the relationships they’re forming now will be so beneficial in life. My group of friends from college has been incredibly supportive of each other, professionally and socially.

Last year our entire family went to Homecoming, and we’re going to do it again this year. My daughter tried to tell me that few people went to the games, but that should change.

**Why did you decide to take such an active role in the parents’ program? What does that mean to you?**

**JUAN:** For parents, your relationship with the University of Chicago is one of the most important relationships you’ll ever make. I don’t mean financially, although that is important. We’re sending our children, which is the greatest responsibility we have. Our bond with the University is a bond of trust. We are in partnership with each other for the benefit of our children.

**MARIANNA:** We want to support the University and help it provide the best education possible, to prepare students for what lies ahead. And we want to encourage other parents to engage and help the University, however they can.

**JUAN:** I suspect that the parent community is composed of diverse and extraordinary people, judging by their children. If that’s the case, then collectively we have a lot to offer.

**What do you hope to accomplish?**

**JUAN:** Well, we just got started. But I would love to help increase the number of internships and externships for students.

We’d also like to encourage parents to consider annual giving. On top of tuition, you might think, oh my goodness. But we would like parents to think about shifting their financial priorities. You’ve already sent your child. The decision has already been made; you’re already involved. The question is, how involved should you get?

**Your philanthropy extends to a number of New York institutions, including the Frick Collection and Lenox Hill Neighborhood House. How does the University of Chicago fit in?**

**JUAN:** The University of Chicago is a priority because of our daughter.

For me, Sunday lunches are the most poignant, because that’s when I realize most that she’s not there. But we know that she is having a wonderful time in a wonderful place. We’re staying connected as a family, just connected in a different way.

—Carrie Golus, AB’91, AM’93

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DEAN’S COUNCIL**

Contact Anne Carlson at alcarlson@uchicago.edu or 773.702.2459.

**HOW FAMILIES CAN SUPPORT THE COLLEGE**

Members of the Dean’s Parent and Family Council are active philanthropists who support the College through both financial donations and advocacy. Members make a leadership gift to the Dean’s Fund for Student Life every year and are asked to consider an additional major gift in an area of interest to their families.

All parents and family members of College students—regardless of income—are encouraged to get involved with the College. Parents are an important source of support for the Metcalf Internship Program, for example. Parents can choose to review internship applications, host a Metcalf Intern at their workplace, make a gift to sponsor an intern at a nonprofit, or hold a reception for Metcalf Interns in their city.

Read more about how parents can get involved at parents.uchicago.edu.
En septembre, le Centre à Paris a célébré son dixième anniversaire. Le centre offre une grande variété de programmes qui comprend la civilisation européenne (enseigné en français et en anglais), les civilisations africaines, les sciences sociales, les mathématiques, l’astronomie, la neurobiologie et les primates et l’évolution humaine. Plus de 200 élèves du Collège étudient au centre chaque année.

In September the Center in Paris celebrated its tenth anniversary. Its wide-ranging programs for College students include European civilization (offered in French and English), African civilizations, social sciences, mathematics, astronomy, neurobiology, and primates and human evolution. More than 200 undergrads study at the center every year.