

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE



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FALL 2023, VOLUME 116, NUMBER 1



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EDITOR'S NOTES

IN ANOTHER COUNTRY

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

As we finalized this issue's story about Scholars at Risk—the international network that finds safe havens for intellectuals and artists who are in danger in their home countries—I had the opportunity to meet **Oksana Maksymchuk**. The award-winning poet and translator spoke to me on campus one October afternoon.

Maksymchuk left her native Lviv, Ukraine, in February 2022. Lviv, she says, is known for being very Ukrainian in a war that aims to stamp out Ukrainian cultural identity. The killings of poet Volodymyr Vakulenko, in the early months of Russia's invasion, and of conductor Yuriy Kerpatenko, the following fall, stay on her mind. For the occupiers, she says, being an artist is a predictor of resistance.

After more than a year moving from place to place in Europe, Maksymchuk arrived at the University of Chicago in July. She knows Chicago well, having completed her philosophy PhD at Northwestern about 10 years ago. Some aspects of her life now are “normal”—her son is going to school, she is writing poems, there are no air raids.

Safer does not mean easier. Maksymchuk feels the isolation of someone who, in her words, “is permanently dealing with troubles at home,” where family and close friends live amid warfare. When we spoke, her heartbreak at being away was apparent. But in Ukraine right now, as in too many places around the world, intellectuals and artists like her are especially vulnerable to targeting.

No two scholars placed through Scholars at Risk share the same circumstances for leaving their countries. Their individual stories all command our attention. What they do have in common is being under threat for speaking, for writing, for thinking. Welcoming places where these activities are fiercely protected continue to be needed in our world.

Joining the masthead

The *Magazine* welcomes **Armin Afsahi** as publisher. Armin joined the University in April as vice president for Alumni Relations and Development and quickly became a friend and partner of the *Magazine*, with ideas and enthusiasm in abundance. He previously worked as a senior leader at universities including the University of Denver, UC San Diego, Georgetown University, and Harvard University. We are delighted he's now a UChicagoan—and a *Magazinian*. ♦

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This page

Eureka! In September campus filled with budding scientists when the South Side Science Festival returned for a second year. More than 500 presenters led 100+ interactive demonstrations exploring science's role in our daily lives and promoting science, technology, engineering, and math as potential career paths.

On the cover

Scholars at Risk works to provide refuge to intellectuals and artists in danger at home. See "Out of the Woods," page 30.



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LETTERS

The *University of Chicago Magazine* welcomes letters about its contents or about the life of the University. Letters for publication must be signed and may be edited for space, clarity, civility, and style. To provide a range of views and voices, we ask letter writers to limit themselves to 300 words or fewer. Write: **Editor, The University of Chicago Magazine, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615.** Or email: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.



Story taps memories

Thank you for “Jimmy’s Woodlawn Tap: An Oral History” (Summer/23).

My history of Jimmy’s across a decade-plus as a student and Hyde Park resident includes many nights (and some afternoons), many pitchers, many salted fries, many conversations, and many friendships cemented.

While I might quibble with some of the observations and even the selection of observers (the *Magazine* may wish to seek out more voices for the bar’s 80th anniversary), the piece is great scaffolding that every Jimmy’s patron—and avowed nonpatrons like Hanna Gray—can add to from their own memories.

Catherine Skeen, AB’91, AM’02, PhD’03

NARBERTH, PENNSYLVANIA

The article on Jimmy’s brought back many memories. A tradition in the Department of History in the 1960s and 1970s was after the oral defense of one’s dissertation to have your examiners take you to Jimmy’s for a cocktail, beer, or other libation. In my case, my escorts included Professors John Hope Franklin and Arthur Mann. Several days afterward, Professor Mann invited my wife and me to dine with him and his wife, Sylvia, at the Quadrangle Club. In my humble opinion, Jimmy’s Woodlawn Tap was a much better experience and lunch.

Edward Mazur, PhD’74

CHICAGO

Thank you for focusing on Jimmy’s with Ben Ryder Howe’s (AB’94) cleverly presented and entertaining oral history. When I wasn’t “nose to the grindstone,” studying in Regenstein, I would stop at Jimmy’s on the way home—it was helpful to have a beer or two to wind down. The place certainly has a fascinating history, complete with U of C celebrities, and it was good to read about Jimmy Wilson himself.

Michael Worley, AM’76, PhD’86

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Before joining the State Department, I spent the final years of my PhD program at the University behind the bar at Jimmy’s. The experience served as a boot camp introduction to the nuances of diplomacy, learning to work with a diverse clientele—to listen; question; persuade, if necessary; caution; and, in one instance, actually use force to end a dispute. All in a day’s diplomacy. The Woodlawn Tap: covert diplomatic training ground. Who knew? Thanks, Jimmy.

James Przysup, AM’68, PhD’75

OAKTON, VIRGINIA

U of C Magazine team, thank you! The memories of Professor Frank Kinahan alone are worth the piece. I drank with him at Jimmy’s, won the Little Red Schoolhouse teaching award named after him (my only grad school achievement), and attended his funeral. I celebrated friends’ birthdays at Jimmy’s, ate the bar’s food, also ate Harold’s in the back corner, and one night among the chessboards in the middle room played a game of Battleship against Mr. Anthony Miller, AM’93 (set purchased for this occasion specifically).

Jon Aronoff, AM’95

BETHESDA, MARYLAND

When I joined the faculty in 2007, my son, who had written his undergradu-

ate thesis on Saul Bellow, EX’39, told me I had to go to Jimmy’s. After I did, I told a colleague that it was a dump, and that for a place with such a rich history you would think they would fix it up a bit. His response: they did.

Karl Matlin, Professor Emeritus of Surgery and in the Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science

FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

A fine atmospheric evocation of Jimmy’s Woodlawn Tap—but with one error that I recognize. Jimmy’s had yet another owner, for a fairly short period in the 1960s. The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) made a feint toward buying up the whole block between Woodlawn and University, so as to distract attention from its real (and successful) effort to buy up the block between University and Greenwood. The aim was to avoid having to pay excessive prices for the apartment buildings it bought. How do I know this? My father was the founding president of LSTC at the time and occasionally shared such juicy tidbits.

Let’s be clear that this temporary ownership by LSTC presented no threat to the ambience of Jimmy’s. After all, Martin Luther saw beer as a fine lubricant for theological discussion and insight, as evidenced by the many LSTC students who were to be found in Jimmy’s.

Stewart Herman, LAB’66, PhD’88

MINNEAPOLIS

The article in the Summer issue of the *Magazine* that struck me was about Jimmy’s, where I spent much time while in Hyde Park, 1965–80.

I wonder what happened to the cartoon that used to hang on the left side wall of the first room. I have a copy that I got from behind the bar in 1975, the weekend I got married. Among those

I wonder what happened to the cartoon that used to hang on the left side wall of the first room.

featured in the cartoon was my husband, Marshall Kolin, AM'53, PhD'65, and his great friend, economics professor George Tolley, AM'50, PhD'55. I had it framed, and it still hangs in my house.

Any information about the fate of the original?

Dee Ann Holisky, AB'69, AM'74, PhD'80

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

The illustration still hangs in the bar, near the door to the east room, protected by plexiglass. See a detail of the illustration, which includes Kolin and Tolley, at right.—Ed.



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Comprehensively UChicago

In 1953, when I enrolled in the College, I had no real interest in studying—my interests lay elsewhere (“So You Think You Can Comp?” Summer/23). But I needed a degree, and at that time the College only required you to stay on campus for nine months and pass the required comps. I also learned that the comps could be taken elsewhere, as long as they were administered by a person or institution approved by the University.

I stayed on campus, as required, but rarely went to class. As soon as the nine months were over, I headed to Cuba to go skin diving. The University sent my comps to the University of Havana, where they were administered by a professor there on the same day everyone else took them in Chicago.

I took subsequent comps at the New York University testing center, the home of a professor in the South of France (where I had a delicious French luncheon in his garden), and finally at the Sorbonne in Paris.

After I got my degree from the College, I learned that as a woman in the 1950s, I needed to have “female skills” to get a decent job, so I learned typing and shorthand and then got a job as a secretary in Paris.

Later I got a master’s degree in planning and worked as a planner for 25 years. Before retiring from that career, I went to law school at night for four-plus years and then practiced law for 14 years, advocating for the causes I believe in. (This retirement career turned out to be the most satisfying.)

It was only in my inactive 80s that I began to appreciate the comprehensive education I got from the College, which enables me to see the connections between and among current ideas and events and those of the past.

Ann Tyler Fathy, AB’56
SAN DIEGO

Angie’s gist

Thanks for sharing the interview with Angie Torain (“Good Sport,” Summer/23). Her use of the words “writing,

interpreting, and applying rules” to describe NCAA compliance was impressive. I know the NCAA has its problems, but that group aside, I’d never heard a more welcoming way of describing the aims of people charged with making sure we’re all doing the right thing.

I also appreciated hearing about her role as the Maroons athletics director. Whenever I do my lecture on how Americans find time to play (for undergraduates enrolled in my American Civilization Since 1865 class here at the University of Alabama), I look forward to sharing how the first Heisman winner was Jay Berwanger, AB’36, a University of Chicago student.

She gives me hope that good can happen in academe for us.

Finally, as an educator who also happens to be a woman and person of African descent, it was a pleasure seeing Torain’s many achievements. She gives me hope that good can happen in academe for us.

An aside: Loved the story on Jimmy’s too. During my waning days in Hyde Park, I recall being there a lot with a friend in the cohort behind me. Burgers, fries, and a good beer alongside a bit of conversation—but also pleasant silence—were great ways to slowly move on from Chicago.

Sharony Green, AM’08
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

Math, poetry, and more

Your note (“A Poet Walks into a Bar,” Editor’s Notes, Summer/23) resonated with me and brought to mind the best of my days at the U of C in the late 1960s and early ’70s. No, not the sit-in. No, not the not-so-great dorms and ratty apartments. No, not the South Side of Chicago and Hyde Park, with all of their well-merited features.

The best was to study mathematics and to read and study poetry. I can recite your “Kubla Khan,” as well as a lot of Keats and W. H. Auden and many others.

Also, it helped to fall in love.

The great part of the College is to hold diverse ideas in your head—and to pursue these in a gratifying way through classes directed by great teachers. Yes, math and poetry and literature can coexist. Yes, you can have a really diverse intellectual life. I studied with David Bevington; Herman Sinaiko, AB’47, PhD’61; Irving Kaplansky; Israel Herstein; and others who were not only leaders in their fields but really good at sharing their knowledge.

Many years after, I found myself in international business in Moscow, São Paulo, Mumbai, Beijing, and many other places. Everywhere, after a bit of conversation, one question came up: “Where did you go to university?” I regard that question as an endorsement of the general education program.

Steven Hyde, AB’71, MBA’76
MAPLE CITY, MICHIGAN

Too cool

Regarding “Monochromatic Blues” (Summer/23) by Carolyn Purnell, AM’07, PhD’13: Very perceptive psychological observations about the colors pervasive in present-day society. The only thing I think was overlooked is that the monochromatic tones are also “cold.” What with the wood floors and neutral colors in homes and apartments today, I feel children especially are missing out on a warmth that comes from sunny, cheerful colors and soft fabrics. Possibly these missing entities might also have a psychological effect.

Sonja Velins, MLA’97
LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS

Speaking v. seeking

Yesterday I received my alumna copy of the *Core*, the College magazine, and I not only felt embarrassment that Bret Stephens, AB’95, was awarded the University of Chicago Alumni Professional Achievement Award in 2014 but also found it ironic that the *Core* posted a copy of his 2023 Class Day speech (“The Joy of Argument,” Summer/23) a few pages before a lengthy article wherein UChicago scholars contemplate the end of the world (“Are We Doomed?” Summer/23). Stephens has spent decades

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Artist rendering. See cabotrevelstoke.com/legal for restrictions.

denying human-caused global warming and only recently acknowledged that climate change is really happening, yet he blathered to UChicago's students about "independent thinking." Stephens epitomizes the fools he lambastes—those who see themselves as independent thinkers but are not. He is not a "truth-seeker" in any way.

The University of Chicago should be profiling and offering speaking opportunities to those who actually seek truth and follow facts and understand scientific principles, not those who deny reality, sow discord, and promote false beliefs that contribute to the ruination of our planet and society. I am proud that some students walked out of Stephens's speech, as they should have.

Our planet faces challenges that may destroy us all, and the University of Chicago should be working to solve those problems, not hosting those who contribute to them. I feel ashamed of my alma mater today.

Elizabeth "Betsy" O'Halloran, AB'91
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Silence is golden

The quietest thing I did on campus was study at Crerar Library ("Show; Don't Tell," Alumni News, Summer/23). Seriously, it was way quieter than the Reg (especially the basement). Crerar required a new level of quiet—from taking books out of your bag to flipping pages to study and not disturb anyone (and get a glare). Good times!

Kandice Cole, AB'06, MAT'07
RICHMOND, TEXAS

The cycling life

I was delighted to see the photo of the Monsters of the Midway Criterium in the Summer/23 issue ("Making the Rounds," Alumni News). I was the race's 1993 organizer and commissioned a Monsters of the Midway logo for the race, which was then added to the team jersey.

Leah Kabira, AB'92
DENVER

I grew up in Hyde Park, and while I didn't go to UChicago for college, I did ride with the team during the summers of 1981 and '82.

Mark Dragovan, AB'80, PhD'86, was a physics grad student who was the main organizer for us. He had a VW bug that we could use to get to races. Often four of us would pack in the car with four bikes on the roof.

I remember one overnight trip out to the Quad Cities. The budget hotel charged by the person and not the room, so one rider hid in the back well of the VW. The hotel manager asked why we were paying for three people when we had four bikes on the roof. We thought we were being clever by saying, "One bike is extra in case someone has a mechanical problem." He let it slide, but I doubt he believed us.

We often trained by heading west on 55th Street/Garfield Boulevard. We could get out to some quieter roads near Palos Park. Sadly, back then there were terrible racist stickers on lamp-posts as soon as we crossed Cicero. I recall skulls and crossbones and swastikas warning people of color to beware (the language was cruder).

I wish I had photos of the group, but I only have memories.

Andrew Dordal, MBA'92
EMMAUS, PENNSYLVANIA



I usually don't have the time to flip through the alumni magazine cover to cover, but I just got the Summer/23 issue and saw the U of C Vélo Club photo from 1991 on page 64. Since you asked for cycling memories ...

Tony Lang, AB'89; Tom Luster, MBA'90; and I were the cofounders of the club in the fall of 1988. I designed

the original logo that winter with MacDraw in an on-campus computer lab (probably the B-school computer room, on one of the upper floors of Stuart Hall), and we got jerseys made so that U of C folks could join the Midwest collegiate racing scene in the spring of 1989. While Greg LeMond had already won the Road Race World Championship and Tour de France once, cycling was still a bit of a fringe sport in the United States, and if I remember correctly, there were only about 15 of us in the club (with a core group of five to seven). We'd do regular group rides, mostly leaving from Promontory Point to go up the Lake Shore Drive paths beyond the Loop and Lincoln Park toward Evanston, somewhat taking our lives into our hands as none of the sprucing up of the waterfront parks on the South Side had happened at that point. We almost preferred riding in the winter as the colder temperatures typically meant we had the paths to ourselves.

We continued into the 1989–90 academic year, and I've been super excited to see on Facebook that it looks like the club has been in continuous existence since then, and it seems our original sponsor, Turin Bicycle, has somehow managed to stay alive in some form today.


Bill Tsang, MBA'90
REDMOND, WASHINGTON

Follies fondness

Thanks for the rehearsal photo from *Life in the Faust Lane* ("A Deal with the Devil," Alumni News, Summer/23). Memory serves a little feebly, but I can offer the following: A bunch of us cast members played multiple roles in the production. Rehearsals were diligent, but the result was many forgotten lines and lousy ad-libbing during the two performances (much to director Steve Cobb's [MBA'82] dismay). We must have been too fixated on landing the "perfect" job around that time of the semester ... sans the influence of Faust.

One of my contributions was the role of an appropriately California-caricatured interviewer for Hewlett-Packard ("Hewy-Pewy") complete

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with neon-ish leisure suit, flip-flops (far from a standard fashion item in that era), and a faux bronze complexion. I recall interviewing Shipley Munson, MBA'82, while positioned partly upside down in a Zen-like lotus position on a leather lounge chair. Fortunately, I'd had some prior acting experience. It must have been a hoot because at the cast party, one Nils Ahbel, MBA'92, offered up an appropriate "thank-you" gift for those performances: suntan lotion.

Shipley got the job offer, but as luck would have it, he moved on to a much better career option.

Perry Ninger, MBA'82

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

I was a cast member in the very first GSB Follies in May 1975. There were about 12 of us. The chief instigator was Marcia Edison, AB'71, MBA'76. She gets the credit for creating, writing, and directing the whole thing—and doing it all very well.

You'll find this first Follies written up in the old GSB magazine *Issues & Ideas* in the Autumn 1975 issue. I played dean of students Jeff Metcalf, AM'53.

I played Jeff Metcalf again—the same plaid pants I wore 10 years before, characteristic of what Jeff wore, fit a bit tighter.

We did a reunion production 10 years later, with Marcia again as the key person behind the production. University trustee and Council on Chicago Booth member Mary Lou Gorno, MBA'76, was the producer. I played Jeff Metcalf again—the same plaid pants I wore 10 years before, characteristic of what Jeff wore, fit a bit tighter.

Ken Gilbert, MBA'75

DALLAS

Behind the music

Kudos to Hannah Edgar, AB'18, for "Sounds Reborn" (Spring/23), about the University of Chicago Folk Festival. I was happily reminded of when I was a student in the College in the late 1960s and heard fellow students Paul Asbell, EX'70, (guitar) and Jeff Carp, AB'72, (harmonica) play the blues. Both of them played in blues clubs, and both can be heard on the great album *Fathers and Sons*, featuring Muddy Waters; Otis Spann; Michael Bloomfield; Paul Butterfield, LAB'60; Donald "Duck" Dunn; Sam Lay; and Buddy Miles.

I took some guitar lessons with Paul at the Fret Shop in 1970. He was a genial and patient teacher. As is the case with many music students of limited-to-no talent, the lessons made me a more appreciative listener. Paul Asbell is a musician and teacher in Vermont. Jeff Carp died in a boating accident in 1973.

On a different note, Chandler Calderon's piece on Big Bertha ("Some Drum," Spring/23) astonished me by disclosing the story of the huge drum's nonappearance at Carnegie Hall. It is stupefying that nobody, either at the University or at the legendary concert hall, thought to measure the stage doorway before the drum was shipped to New York City for the Toscanini concert. I'll bet Big Bertha's successor Big Ed, the World's Largest Kazoo, would have fit through that door!

Dan Campion, AB'70

IOWA CITY, IOWA

My memories of what we called folk music on campus go back to the 1951–52 school year. My first year I learned "The Banks Are Made of Marble"

and "This Land Is Your Land" and labor songs (that tickle the edge of my memory as I write—ah, "Slaves of Wall Street, here we sit"). I also learned to dance the hora. The Weavers became big sometime in the early '50s and gave a concert at the Civic Opera House (before the band ran afoul of Joseph McCarthy). I was in the SRP [Student Representative Party] when we sponsored Paul Robeson in Mandel Hall sometime in 1953–55. I remember singing "We Shall Overcome" in the Phi Gam house in 1955–56 and after.

James "Jim" Vice, EX'52, AM'54

WABASH, INDIANA

Following suit

Paul Horvitz's (AB'54) Spring/23 letter on "Called to the Game" (Winter/23) reminded me of when I began to play more serious bridge at U of C in my fraternity, Beta Theta Pi. My first exposure, though, was at home when my parents hosted friends to play social "rubber bridge" with me kibbitzing. Dad [Warren Sexton, EX'23] played at his fraternity, Sigma Chi, where they used an early Goren system.

When I got to the U of C in the 1950s, we played in the Burton Judson dorm and thence on to the Beta house, where a bridge table was permanently set up in the living room with brothers and friends coming and going from a "perpetual game." Several other houses went further and established invitations with tournaments—these included Alpha Delta, Delta Upsilon, Phi Gam, and Zeta Beta Tau.

A couple of our Beta alums were faculty members who played lunchtime bridge at the Quad Club, where I sat in once or twice.

Graduating into the Army, I was introduced to competitive duplicate bridge, playing often with some quite good partners, and where I picked up several master points. But my following business career involved travel and family and no time for club bridge. Now, here in our semiretirement community condo, we have a bridge club that plays weekly at a "dime game," which is both stimulating and enjoyable.

Chuck Sexton, AB'56, MBA'57

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



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RESEARCH AND NEWS IN BRIEF

PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD

The Neubauer Collegium, in collaboration with the Chicago Architecture Biennial, presents the first Chicago exhibition by the Viennese artist collective Gelitin. The interactive work *Democratic Sculpture 7*, seen here on exhibit at a previous location, consists primarily of discarded clothing and invites guests to poke their heads through one of five holes, “thereby turning the static object into a conversation piece,” the Collegium says—“proverbial food for all manner of thought.”

The exhibition runs through January 12, 2024.

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The October launch of UChicago's Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression solidifies the University's role as a leading global advocate for the advancement of free speech.

UCHICAGO VALUES

Free expression at the fore

A new forum promotes free and open discourse at UChicago and beyond.

BY BENJAMIN RANSOM, PHD'22

In October the University of Chicago launched the Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression with a two-day series of conversations. Building on the University's historic commitment to free expression, the Forum will provide a focal point for research into and discussion of these values in academia and in the broader culture. President **Paul Alivisatos**, AB'81, opened the launch event by underscoring the Chicago Forum's ambition to serve as a site for the "never-ending struggle to be a place where free expression genuinely serves the seeking of truths, through listening as well as sharing our own ideas."

Faculty director **Tom Ginsburg** and executive director **Tony Banout**, PhD'12,

joined experts and leading thinkers at the event for discussions of intersecting topics, including technology and political polarization.

"For students, especially, ... expressing oneself does not come easily or automatically," said Ginsburg, the Leo Spitz Distinguished Service Professor of International Law. "It is not simply the absence of constraint which allows us to engage in deep expression. Instead, the University really is required, in my view, to actively construct opportunities for interrogation of ideas and the exchange of views across difference."

The speakers—among them artists, scholars, journalists, politicians, and leaders of such organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union and PEN America—explored creating a university climate in which students, researchers, and instructors feel invited to share their views. Many of the speakers reflected on the complex intersections between free expression and issues of diversity and inclusion.

Tracie Hall, executive director of the American Library Association, noted the role of free expression, libraries, and access to information in building social activist movements and defending mi-

noritized groups. Hall highlighted a quote from an 1867 issue of *Harper's Monthly* that emphasized the role of literacy and information access in the fight against slavery: "The alphabet is an abolitionist." Intellectual freedom and diversity, equity, and inclusion, she said, serve as "mutually reinforcing principles," and "if they are not, we are doing both wrong."

UChicago professor **Cathy Cohen** noted the challenges she has faced as a Black woman throughout her career. "I have been in multiple situations in educational scenarios or classrooms where, in fact, I have been demeaned, and Black people have been demeaned, where there has been harmful speech," said Cohen, the David and Mary Winton Green Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science. "I think part of what I would ask us to do is to say we want to pursue free speech, but to be serious about the complicated nature and the issues that surround the anchoring of free speech."

Nadine Strossen, a past president of the American Civil Liberties Union, said freedom of speech should be a "shared reality" for everyone. "I completely understand that freedom of speech is a double-edged sword," she said. "I defend freedom, for example, for hate speech—not despite the fact that it clearly can have an intimidating and chilling impact on other people's speech, but because I think the alternative of centralized suppression is worse, especially for those groups that have traditionally been marginalized and disempowered."

The discussions were just the start of the Chicago Forum's work to promote the understanding, practice, and advancement of free expression at UChicago and beyond. Inaugural programs will continue through the academic year, including the Zell Series of lectures and events, fellowships and student grants, and arts programming with Doc Films and the Logan Center.

"I hope that you will view this event as a first experiment, as a beginning, not an end," Alivisatos said in closing remarks, "and that you will see the Forum as the place for a constant struggle to get this right." ♦

Photography by Jason Smith



NOBEL LAUREATES

Top honors

Two alumni were recognized with 2023 Nobel Prizes.

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

On October 4 **Mounqi G. Bawendi**, PhD'88, received a share of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Five days later, economic historian and labor scholar **Claudia Goldin**, AM'69, PhD'72, received the 2023 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The two became the 98th and 99th Nobelists who were UChicago faculty members, students, or researchers at some point in their careers.

Bawendi shared the prize with Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences cited the trio's research on quantum dots—nanoscale crystals so small that their properties are determined by the laws of quantum mechanics. Quantum dots are used today in televisions, medical imaging, LED lighting, and more, but before Bawendi's groundbreaking work, it was not clear that they could be refined enough to prove useful. In 1993 Bawendi "revolutionised the chemical production of quantum dots," the academy said, "resulting in almost perfect particles. This high quality was necessary for them to be utilised in applications."

In the 1980s at Bell Laboratories, Bawendi and fellow Nobel laureate Brus researched quantum dots with UChicago president **Paul Alivisatos**, AB'81, also a pioneer in nanotechnology. At UChicago Bawendi worked on polymer theory with **Karl Freed**, now the Henry G. Gale Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in Chemistry. He then con-

ducted experiments on molecular ion spectroscopy with **Takeshi Oka**, now the Robert A. Millikan Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in Astronomy and Astrophysics and Chemistry.

Calling the award "an honor and a surprise," Bawendi pointed to quantum dots' continuing promise. "Over the years, you know, many of us in the field kept thinking, 'When is this going to end?' But the field just keeps on giving, and it's been really amazing to see that."

Claudia Goldin's prize came "for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes," the academy said. Her ongoing research on women's experiences in the workforce has yielded important insights into the gap between men's and women's wages. She became the first woman to win the economics Nobel solo (two women previously won a share of the prize: Elinor Ostrom in 2009 and Esther Duflo in 2019).

Goldin's studies in economics cover a range of topics. She compares her scholarly methods to those of Sherlock Holmes, with her clues coming from data and historical archives. She absorbed the historical approach from one of her UChicago mentors, Robert Fogel, the 1993 Nobel laureate in economics; the 1992 winner, Gary Becker, AM'53, PhD'55, served as another formative influence. "Her research follows very naturally from the mesh between Fogel and Becker, and obviously builds hugely on what they had done," said **Robert Shimer**, chair of the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics. "She's done absolutely amazing things."

Goldin's landmark work *Understanding the Gender Gap: An Economic History of American Women* (Oxford University Press, 1990) heavily relied on little-known records in the National Archives to ground its story of constant change in women's work over the 19th and 20th centuries. By that account, change has not been linear and wage discrimination is one among many factors in the persistent gap between men's and women's pay.

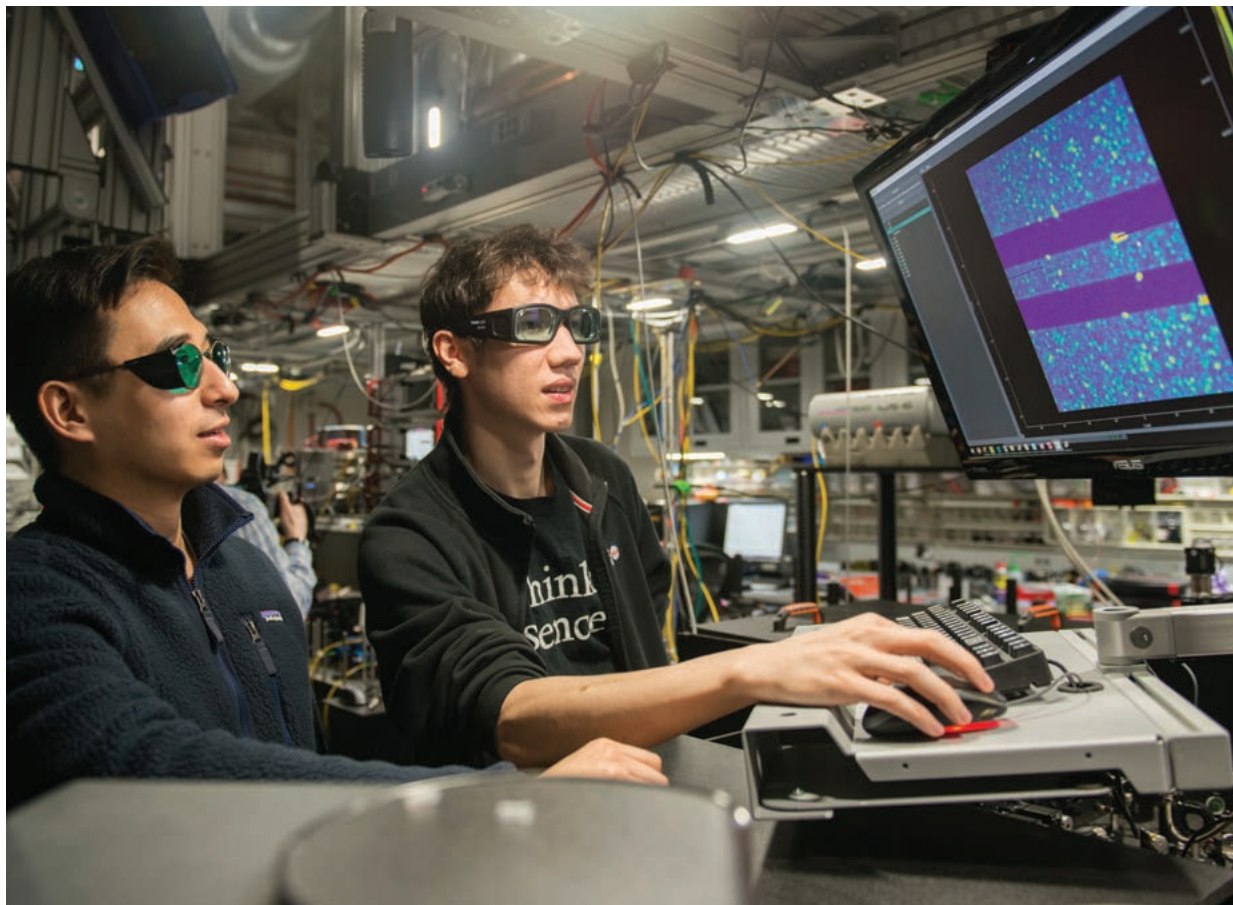
"It certainly means a tremendous amount," Goldin said of her Nobel win. "It also means a lot because it's an award for big ideas and for long-term change." ♦

QUICK STUDY

PUBLIC HEALTH

WATER SAFETY

Collaborators from Argonne National Laboratory and the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering—including **Haihui Pu**, **Junhong Chen**, and **Xiaoyu Sui**, PhD'22—and from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee have developed a reliable, mass-producible water sensor. Each sensor can detect one common contaminant (*E. coli*, lead, mercury), and multiple sensors can be used simultaneously to detect contaminants in real time. The sensor, described in a July 13 paper in *Nature Communications*, houses a silicon substrate coated in a nanometer of graphene. Gold electrodes are imprinted onto the graphene surface, which is then insulated with a nanometer of aluminum oxide. Results were analyzed with machine learning algorithms that measured toxin levels in parts per billion. The sensor could help ensure water safety and optimize water reuse.—C. C. ♦



Over the past decade, the University of Chicago has helped establish the city of Chicago as a global hub for research in quantum technology and as home to one of the largest quantum networks in the country.

COMPUTING

Quantum central

New partnerships position UChicago as a leader in applying quantum technology to global problems.

BY UCHICAGO NEWS

On May 21, alongside world leaders at the G7 Summit in Japan, the University of Chicago formalized two agreements to transform the future of quantum technology. The first is a 10-year, \$100 million plan with IBM and the University of Tokyo to develop the blueprints for building a quantum-centric supercomputer powered by 100,000 qubits. The second is a strate-

gic partnership with the University of Tokyo and Google, with Google investing up to \$50 million over 10 years, to accelerate the development of a fault-tolerant quantum computer and to help train the quantum workforce of the future.

Quantum-centric supercomputing is a new and promising area of high-performance computing. IBM's partnership with the University of Chicago and the University of Tokyo will work toward the delivery of a 100,000-qubit system by 2033. Qubits are the basic units of information in quantum computing, similar to bits in classical computing.

The distinctive properties of computing via quantum mechanics, alongside both classical and artificial intelligence computing resources, might allow a 100,000-qubit quantum

computer to tackle many complex problems extremely quickly. That could bring tangible benefits to the lives of many—for example, by identifying molecules for new medicines and designing more efficient, sustainable solutions for energy.

The IBM partnership will work to advance the underlying technologies of such a system, and to design and build the necessary system components at scale. In tandem, the collaboration with Google will help ensure that quantum computing is developed safely and responsibly, and that the benefits of the technology are shared by everyone.

“Achieving breakthroughs at scale in quantum technology requires deeply rooted and productive collaboration around the world and across a broad range of industry, academic, and government partners,” said University

Photography by Jean Lachet

of Chicago president **Paul Alivisatos**, AB'81. "Quantum information science and technology is at a crossroad, where foundational discovery and technical innovation will combine to create real breakthroughs. The University of Chicago is thrilled to partner in this endeavor."

"Building a massive quantum-centric supercomputer on the time scale envisaged by our partnerships represents an extraordinary grand challenge—not only for our institutions and our nations, but also for humanity," added **Juan de Pablo**, executive vice president for science, innovation, national laboratories, and global initiatives.

Since UChicago decided more than a decade ago to make quantum technology a focus of the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering, the city of Chicago has become a leading global hub for research in quantum technology and home to one of the largest quantum networks in the country.

The Chicago Quantum Exchange (CQE), headquartered at UChicago, convenes university, government, and industry partners to advance the science and engineering of quantum information, train the next generation of quantum scientists and engineers, and build the quantum economy. In 2021 the CQE teamed up with the Univer-

sity's Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation to launch Duality, the first US start-up accelerator program exclusively focused on supporting early-stage quantum companies—many of which call Chicago home.

The two universities and IBM hope to expand their partnership to include Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, both CQE members and Department of Energy National Quantum Information Research Centers. The labs, managed by UChicago, offer unique capabilities and the expertise needed to deliver the technologies envisioned in the quest to build a quantum-centric supercomputer.

As quantum computers are scaled and interconnected with classical computing systems, the design of efficient software could significantly accelerate the performance and reliability of the new machines, shaving years off development time. "With researchers who are defining new quantum disciplines and working across fields," said **Fred Chong**, the Seymour Goodman Professor in the Department of Computer Science, "the University of Chicago brings a unique research capability to bear on advancing this technology."

The Google partnership will invest in research topics to speed the develop-

ment of a fault-tolerant quantum computer, support the exchange of ideas, promote quantum computing entrepreneurship and business, and train the workforce needed for the next generation. Google will make its advanced quantum processors available to researchers from UChicago and the University of Tokyo and will expand access to classical computing for researchers, helping students and faculty learn how to program and develop algorithms for quantum computers.

To promote research breakthroughs, Google will invest in faculty grants and fund graduate and undergraduate research at universities around the world. The partnership will help train hundreds of students and build a pipeline of talent in electronics, chip fabrication, software engineering, and more.

"Through these partnerships, we will develop the research and engineering environment necessary to advance quantum science discoveries and build the workforce of the future," said **David Awschalom**, the Liew Family Professor in Molecular Engineering and Physics at UChicago and founding director of the CQE. "It is only with international and industrial collaborations like these that we'll accelerate the pace of quantum technologies and their translation to society." ♦

QUICK STUDY

QUANTUM SUPERCHEMISTRY

THEORY, TESTED

A team led by physicist **Cheng Chin** has successfully observed "quantum superchemistry" in the lab for the first time, confirming previous theories of what are known as "quantum-enhanced" chemical reactions, and realizing a goal that scientists have pursued for 20 years. To achieve these reactions, the researchers cooled cesium gas to near absolute zero, where they could bring each cesium atom into the same quantum state (a term that describes characteristics such as spin and energy levels). Next they manipulated the magnetic field to instigate reactions. Under normal conditions, these chemical reactions would take place individually as particles collide, but when the atoms entered the same quantum state, molecules formed collectively. The reactions occurred more quickly, and the final molecules shared identical chemical and physical properties. Researchers also observed that the reactions involved three atoms, with two forming a molecule and the third remaining single. The experiment's findings, published July 24 in *Nature Physics*, help scientists understand quantum many-body chemistry and how to control quantum-enhanced chemical reactions, paving the way for experiments with more complex molecules.—C. C. ♦

NEUROSCIENCE

Connecting

In writing about her father's life, Anna Huttenlocher, LAB'79, saw links between his work in pediatric neurology and his traumatic childhood in Nazi Germany.

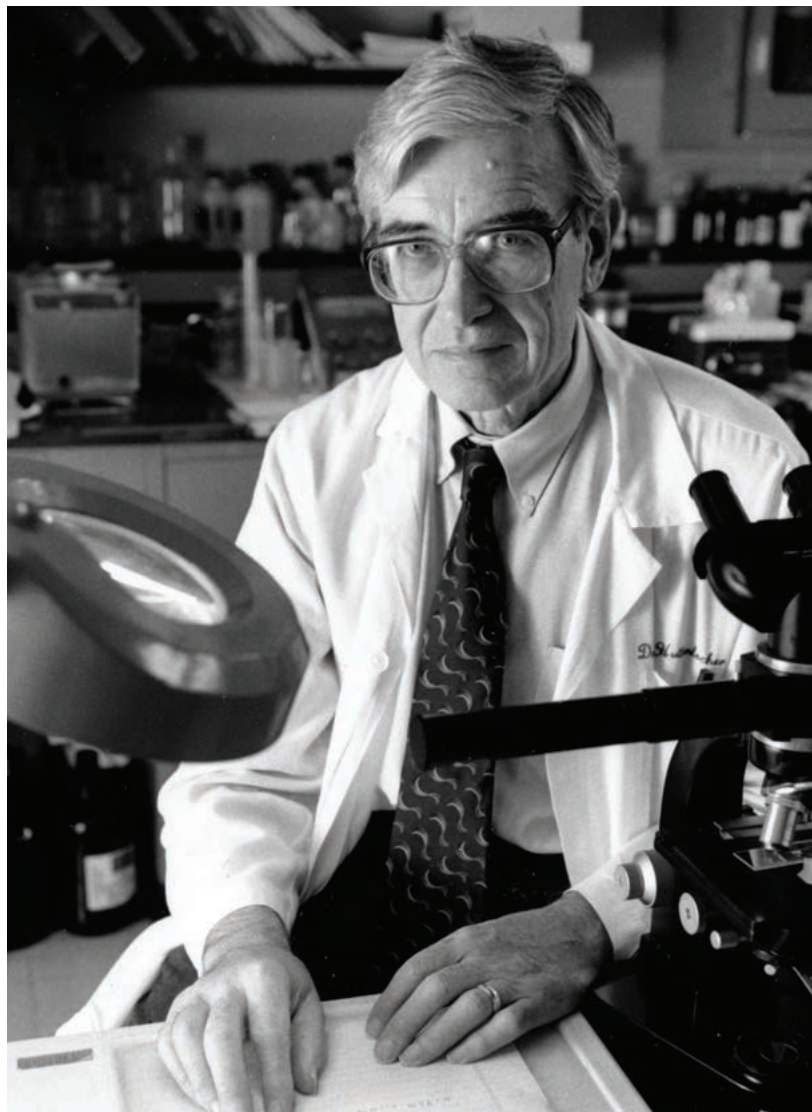
BY MARY ABOWD

When Peter Huttenlocher was a boy growing up in Germany in the years just before World War II, his mother openly defied the Nazis and had to flee the country. Only 6 years old, he would not see her again for more than a decade. From there, his was a childhood of moving, hiding, going hungry, and witnessing horrors.

Huttenlocher, who died in 2013, rarely spoke of these painful memories, says his daughter **Anna Huttenlocher**, LAB'79. But they unquestionably drove his life's work. Peter became a pioneering University of Chicago neuroscientist and pediatric neurologist who, in 1979, discovered “synaptic pruning,” the process of synapse elimination in the developing brain.

Though it had been well established that the brain's synaptic connections increase dramatically during early childhood, Peter was the first to determine that millions of these connections are subsequently eliminated as children grow and learn. That streamlining, or pruning, of little-used neurons and synapses begins in early childhood and coincides with key developmental milestones, such as learning to walk or speak, Anna writes.

In her book, *From Loss to Memory: Behind the Discovery of Synaptic Pruning* (Cambridge University Press, 2023), Anna chronicles her father's remarkable life as a physician-scientist, connecting the dots between the childhood trauma



UChicago neuroscientist and pediatric neurologist Peter Huttenlocher's research gained broader recognition in the final years of his life and after his death in 2013.

he kept hidden and a career marked not only by groundbreaking research but by fierce advocacy for his young patients. “He had an understanding of childhood suffering that was more than most people,” she says. “He was very focused on moral issues—what makes people do good things and bad things.”

Though initially received with skepticism, her father's discovery made a lasting impact on the understanding of early childhood education and the early introduction of subjects, like musical training and second-language acquisition, to capitalize on periods of optimal

neural plasticity. “It was this whole idea that there are these windows” of opportunity, she says, a concept now considered foundational.

Peter had his own window of opportunity in December 1948 when, at nearly 18, he reunited with his mother in Buffalo, New York, and began a new life. He quickly learned English, then motored through his studies in philosophy and premedicine at the University of Buffalo, graduating in three years.

While in college, Peter met his wife, Janellen Burns, whose career as a cognitive psychologist would flourish

READING BY THE NUMBERS

Number of books that history professor Adrian Johns has written about books

2

Natural limit to reading speed, in words per minute

300

Percentage of 1950s US first graders taught to read using the Dick and Jane series produced by education dean William S. Gray, PhD 1916

80

Percentage of their day spent learning to read

40

Maximum number of new words per page in the Dick and Jane books

1

Number of times "look" appears in *We Look and See*

37

Number of children Johns has

4

Number who taught themselves to read to understand the first Harry Potter book

1

alongside his. Both completed graduate degrees at Harvard and, after teaching at Yale and Columbia, respectively, they moved to the University of Chicago in 1974, where Janellen had been offered a position in the Department of Psychology (at the time of her death in 2016, Janellen Huttenlocher was the William S. Gray Professor Emeritus in Psychology). Peter joined the School of Medicine faculty the same year as a professor of pediatrics, later adding neurology.

From the time he arrived at the University, Peter spent countless solitary hours imaging synapses with an electron microscope. But being "kind of a caregiver," his daughter says, he was also drawn to the clinical side of his work, warmly engaging with and advocating for his patients. In *From Loss to Memory* a former student, the 2011 Nobel Prize winner **Bruce Beutler**, MD'81, recalls how Peter sat at the bedside of a patient afflicted with Reye's syndrome, a brain condition linked with aspirin use during viral infections. The child was comatose, but Peter, "deeply moved," called out his name hoping for a response.

Fascinated by questions of nature versus nurture, the effect of environmental influences on children's brains, and the promise of neuroplasticity, Peter founded the first US learning disabilities clinic at UChicago. "He saw complicated patients with difficult diseases and the families were struggling," his colleague **Susan C. Levine**, the Rebecca Anne Boylan Distinguished Service Professor of Education and Society in the Department of Psychology, recounts in the book. "Peter gave them hope—not false hope—but he believed in the plasticity of the brain and the capacity for the children to improve."

Drawing on her father's personal documents, including a box of family letters she discovered shortly before his death in 2013, Anna had begun writing about her family, not with a book in mind but out of curiosity. A ser-

endipitous event changed that. While attending a medical conference in Italy in 2016, Anna—herself a physician-scientist who studies cell migration in inflammation and cancer at the University of Wisconsin–Madison—was taken aback when a presenter showed a slide from her father's 1979 paper about his discovery. "It is unusual to see decades-old figures presented at current-day scientific conferences," she writes. "This tends to be done only for truly groundbreaking studies."

That event helped her realize the true influence of her father's work and how his findings had gained broader recognition in the final years of his life and after his death. This inspired her to write a book that not only would tell his story but place his research in a larger scientific context, highlighting the significance of synaptic pruning for a broad range of neurological disorders such as schizophrenia, autism, and Alzheimer's disease.

In the latter two decades of his life, Peter developed Parkinson's disease. He monitored his condition like a scientist. "I have become an expert on Parkinson's dementia," he told his daughter a year before his death at age 82. "It is all about the synapses and abnormal pruning."

As his disease worsened, Peter's painful childhood memories began to surface, along with agitation and even terror. For the first time, he shared with his family a traumatic story from his youth: At 14, he arrived late to school one day to find the building destroyed in a bombing, with his teachers and classmates trapped inside. His dawning had spared his life.

Other previously unspoken words and feelings followed. Peter expressed that his mother, a vocal critic of the Nazis, should never have fled Germany and left him. "If she had been quiet," he said, "she could have stayed." All those many years later, the little boy was finding his voice. ♦

LOCOMOTION

Fish gym

Researchers want to know: Why would a creature that can swim want to walk?

BY WILLIAM VON HERFF

“Inelegant” is a generous way to describe how *Polypterus* moves on land.

A small brown fish with a wide flat head and strong pectoral fins, *Polypterus* wriggles powerfully when Valentina Di Santo, a fish physiologist from Stockholm University, places it on a mesh mat on the floor of Rowe Laboratory at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL).

“This one’s a jumper,” says Di Santo, a visiting scientist in MBL’s Whitman Center, which hosts researchers from around the world. She watches as the *Polypterus* writhes, periodically launching itself into the air in twists and spins. But then the fish calms down and begins to do something very un-fishlike. Contorting from side to side, *Polypterus* swings one pectoral fin forward, then the other, slowly dragging its body across the ground like a clumsy salamander. In a rudimentary way, it’s walking.

Walking is among the most important moments in vertebrate evolution. The first fish that crawled onto land diversified quickly to exploit an abundance of resources, giving rise to everything from amphibians and reptiles to birds and mammals.

This oft-repeated story, however, obscures the real moment of innovation. “[Walking] really happened long, long before the first fish ever thought about going onto land,” says Di Santo. Before fish walked on land, they were able to walk underwater.

The first to climb onto shore needed strong fins to support its weight. It’s probable that before land walking, fish would have adapted to “proto-walking” along the seafloor. In all likelihood, this underwater walking behavior is the origin of the transition to land.



Polypterus is one of several fish species that have exhibited walking behavior. Researchers at the Marine Biological Laboratory are attempting to find out why.

Understanding how walking began is key to understanding our ancient past. Along with UChicago paleontologist **Neil Shubin**, Di Santo is working to answer a simple yet vexing question: Why would something that could swim ever choose to walk?

Di Santo and Shubin believe the answer is efficiency. Fish are inherently unstable underwater, especially at low speeds when they need to move their fins to control posture—and swimming slowly requires a lot of energy. Like riding a bike, swimming is much less stable at slow speeds. Being able to stroll along the seafloor might be like getting off the bike and walking.

At the front of the lab is a transparent three-foot-long tank shaped like a race-track; inside is a treadmill with a high-

speed camera underneath. This hybrid flow tank/treadmill allows Di Santo and Shubin to watch exactly what happens when a fish starts walking.

When the experiment begins—with the tank full of water and a fish at the starting line—the treadmill and flowing water start moving at the same speed. “We expect that fish may walk rather than swim at the lowest speeds,” Di Santo says. As the water flow velocity increases, though, there will be a point when the fish may choose to lift up in the water column and swim instead. All the while, the high-speed camera films how the fish moves its fins, and an oxygen meter measures how much energy the fish expends as it transitions from walking to swimming.

Photo courtesy Valentina Di Santo

“We’re trying to understand the rules of walking,” Di Santo says—which fins the fish uses, how it moves its body, when it chooses to swim and to walk, whether there is a transitional period of hybrid “skipping” locomotion. The scientists will test at least 11 different species, including sharks, rays, gobies, and lungfish, trying to understand what defines their walking style. *Polypterus* will be tested, too, but only after it undergoes special training.

This training happens next to the flow tank, in what Di Santo calls a “*Polypterus* gym.” Some of the fish here live in tanks with no water, just mist coming down from pipes. *Polypterus* do just fine. They have lungs, so they can breathe air as long as misters keep them moist. Without water to swim in, though, they have to walk.

Di Santo and Shubin hope to test how these fish change their walking style—and the efficiency of it—as they get more familiar with life on land. In some tanks, they have even installed pebbly hills for the fish to climb to see if uneven terrain might drive changes in their walking style. The fish will remain in this enclosure for three months to a year. “There’s a chance that after so long out of water,”

Di Santo says, “these fish may start to move more efficiently.”

This audacious idea—training *Polypterus* to behave like a salamander—is not the final step of the project. While Di Santo runs the flow tank experiments, Shubin will do anatomical studies to figure out the exact anatomy of these fishes’ fins, both normal *Polypterus* and those in the terrestrial tanks.

[Walking] really happened long, long before the first fish eve thought about going onto land. Before fish walked on land, they were able to walk underwater.

Then, armed with Di Santo and Shubin’s data, roboticist Fumiya Iida of the University of Cambridge will try to construct a robotic *Polypterus*.

If Iida can make a robot that walks and swims like the real thing, he can try creating robot versions of other walking fish and compare them to their real-life counterparts.

They could even bring the fossil fish *Tiktaalik* to life.

Tiktaalik was a fish that lived 375 million years ago. It was long and crocodile-shaped, spending most of its life in water but occasionally walking on land. When Shubin codiscovered the fossil *Tiktaalik* in the Canadian Arctic in 2004, it was hailed as the “missing link” between sea and land vertebrates—our ancestor.

Unfortunately, fossils can only tell us so much. But if Iida could make a robot *Tiktaalik*, scientists like Di Santo and Shubin could examine how it might have moved. A realistic robotic *Tiktaalik* could reveal a lot about why fish decided to take to the land.

“Fishes are so much like us,” Di Santo says. Both fish and people try to save energy when they can, she says. This quest to save energy is so powerful that it might have laid the foundation for the evolutionary success of land-dwelling vertebrates: one day a fish grew tired of swimming and decided to take a walk along the seafloor, kicking off one of the most important events in the history of our planet. Thanks to Di Santo and Shubin’s research, we may one day better understand why that change came to be. ♦

PSYCHOLOGY

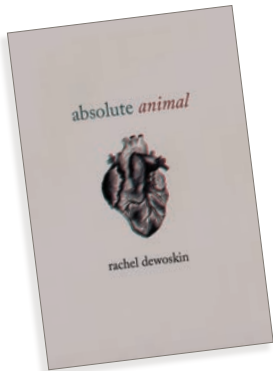
QUICK STUDY

COMPASSION'S LIMITS

Compassion can bridge divides among humans. But a team from psychologist **Fan Yang**’s Human Nature and Potentials Lab and the University of California, Santa Barbara, found that compassion has limits. In a paper published in *Cognition* in August, the team concludes that we are less likely to extend compassion or help to those we believe have immoral intention, character, or group membership. And if something bad happens to these people, we are also more likely to feel that they deserve to suffer—and to feel morally justified in doing so. In one of the four studies comprising the experiment, groups of US adult subjects who self-identified as Democrats or Republicans responded to three scenarios, one in which a member of the opposing party experienced suffering as a result of a political action, one in which a member of the opposing party suffered due to an apolitical act, and a third in which someone with no stated political affiliation suffered after an apolitical action. Researchers found that subjects felt less compassion and less willingness to help those with an opposing political identity, even if their suffering was not connected to a political act. These findings indicate that moral judgment is a barrier to alleviating suffering.—C. C. ♦

Fresh ink

A selection of recent books by UChicago faculty members.



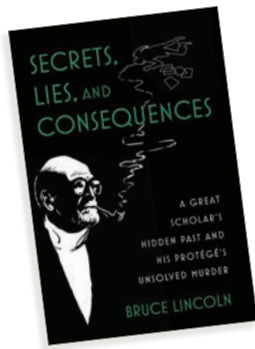
Absolute Animal

University of Chicago Press

By Rachel DeWoskin

Associate Professor of Practice in the Arts

Vladimir Nabokov once wrote that “a writer should have the precision of a poet and the imagination of a scientist.” In this new collection of 41 poems, **Rachel DeWoskin** uses formal poetic techniques to explore the boundaries and connections between human and animal behavior. Sonnets about heart surgery and meditations on loss accompany studies of romance among voles and reflections on climate change. Incorporating translations of poems dating as far back as the Tang dynasty, the author also stages encounters across time, place, and language. DeWoskin immerses the reader in the disorder and uncertainty of being a human today, as well as in that which enriches our experiences.—C. C.



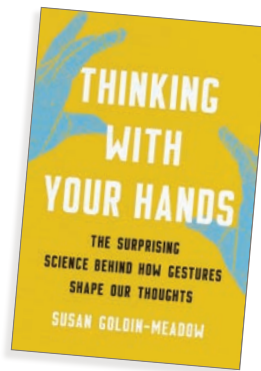
Secrets, Lies, and Consequences: A Great Scholar's Hidden Past and His Protégé's Unsolved Murder

Oxford University Press

By Bruce Lincoln, AM'73, PhD'76

Caroline E. Haskell Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of the History of Religions in the Divinity School

In early 1991, Ioan Culianu, associate professor of the history of religions in the Divinity School, began to receive threatening messages. Soon after, he was shot and killed in a Swift Hall bathroom. It was presumed that Culianu, who had emigrated from Romania in the late 1980s, was targeted by the Romanian secret police for articles he published after the fall of Nicolae Ceaușescu, but the case was never solved. Before his death, Culianu gave some papers to a colleague for safekeeping. **Bruce Lincoln** inherited these papers, which turned out to be Culianu's English translations of articles written in the 1930s by his mentor Mircea Eliade, a fellow UChicago Divinity School professor and Romanian expatriate; in some, Eliade wrote in support of Romania's fascist, deeply anti-Semitic Iron Guard. Quoting from his own translations of these writings, Lincoln explores what they can tell us about Eliade's past, the relationship between Eliade and Culianu, and the circumstances surrounding Culianu's murder.—C. C.



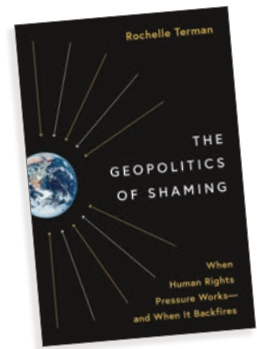
Thinking with Your Hands: The Surprising Science Behind How Gestures Shape Our Thoughts

Basic Books

By Susan Goldin-Meadow

Beardsley Ruml Distinguished Service Professor in the Departments of Psychology and Comparative Human Development

It's often assumed that language has a privileged connection to thought, but **Susan Goldin-Meadow** argues that gesture has much to teach us about how we think. Through gesture, we convey thoughts we don't know how to—or don't want to—express through language, and even thoughts we are unaware of thinking. Someone who says men and women are equally good leaders, but then gestures at eye level when discussing the leadership abilities of men and below eye level when discussing women, may reveal a bias toward male leaders. Children may indicate they're on the brink of understanding a new concept by showing the correct solution to a problem through gesture, even while saying an incorrect answer. Drawing on decades of her own research and that of students in her lab, Goldin-Meadow shows how gesture can be an important tool for parenting, education, and health care. “What if,” the author asks via a chapter's title, “gesture were considered as important as language?”—C. C.



The Geopolitics of Shaming: When Human Rights Pressure Works—and When It Backfires

Princeton University Press

By Rochelle Terman, AB'08

Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science

Though a framework has emerged for defining and monitoring human rights, there is no centralized body that protects these rights globally. A common enforcement method is pressure through shaming by other countries. Despite numerous quantitative studies and specific cases that show the success of such pressure, it sometimes backfires. Drawing on large-scale data, case studies, and original surveys, **Rochelle Terman** argues that enforcement of human rights norms is political. She emphasizes the role that existing geopolitical relationships play in a nation's decision to get involved in human rights enforcement and in the success or failure of shaming. While adversaries may be quick to condemn violations, they may provoke resistance from the offending country, ultimately worsening human rights practices. Shame from allies is more effective, but those parties may be less willing to impose sanctions. Taking seriously how human rights enforcement is politicized, Terman contends, is necessary to ensure its success.—C. C.



First day of Autumn Quarter

September 26, 2023

For the record

FACULTY INVESTMENT

A \$75 million gift from **Amy Wallman**, MBA'75, and UChicago trustee **Richard Wallman**, MBA'74, will augment resources for faculty and support ambitious scholarship in divisions and schools across the University. The couple's pledge—the largest in support of faculty chairs in UChicago's history—will also launch a fundraising challenge aimed at inspiring others to join them in contributing a total of \$150 million to create 30 new endowed professorships. "This remarkable gift, which has the potential to advance scholarship and research across so many fields, speaks volumes about Richard's and Amy's commitment to the University," said **David M. Rubenstein**, JD'73, chair of UChicago's Board of Trustees. It is the couple's fifth significant gift to the University.

NEW TRUSTEES

In May 2023, the University of Chicago Board of Trustees elected four new members. **Paul Carbone**, AB'83, is cofounder and president of family investment firm Pritzker Private Capital. **Richard Gonzalez** is chairman of the board and founding CEO of global biopharmaceutical company AbbVie. **Hilary Krane**, JD'89, is the chief legal officer at talent and sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA). **Vasant "Vas" Narasimhan**, AB'98, is CEO of multinational pharmaceutical company Novartis AG.

In addition, **Barry Fields**, JD'91, has been elected chair of the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC) Board of Trustees. A recently retired partner of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, he has served on the UCMC Board since May 2019 and the UChicago Board of Trustees since May 2022. Fields succeeds **Brien O'Brien**, who had been UCMC Board chair since 2018.

A NEW DEAN FOR PME

On October 1 experimental physicist **Nadya Mason** became dean of the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering. Mason was previously the Rosalyn S. Yalow



Professor of Physics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she led two multidisciplinary research centers. Her own research focuses on the electronic properties of small-scale materials, such as nanoscale wires and atomically thin membranes. A recipient of numerous awards, including the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, Mason is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Mason succeeds **Matthew Tirrell**, who had led the University's molecular engineering program since its inception in 2011.

SECOND TERM FOR PATEL

In August **Nipam Patel** was reappointed director of the Marine Biological

Laboratory, a position he has held since 2018. A scholar of modern evolutionary and developmental biology, he is also a UChicago professor. During his tenure, MBL has created several new advanced research training courses, and its year-round educational

offerings have grown to include a high school program and new courses for UChicago undergraduates. He also launched the MBL/UChicago PhD program, leveraging the partnership between the two institutions.



TECH COLLABORATION

On September 8 UChicago and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay announced a partnership to promote cooperation in fields such as quantum information science, climate and energy, advanced microelectronics, artificial intelligence, and data science. IIT Bombay has also joined the Chicago Quantum Exchange, headquartered at UChicago, as one of five international partners.

LIVING PHYSICS

In September the National Science Foundation awarded \$15.5 million over six years to researchers at UChicago to establish the Center for Living Systems to advance a new field of physics that focuses

on how living matter can store, retrieve, and process information. The center, one of four newly funded 2023 NSF Physics Frontier Centers, will be led by **Margaret Gardel**, the Horace B. Horton Professor of Physics and Molecular Engineering.

MANAGING UP

In July Chicago Booth announced the creation of a 10-month Master in Management Program. The new degree—the school's first in 88 years—is designed for recent college graduates who studied in the humanities, arts, social sciences, biological sciences, or physical sciences and are interested in jobs that value business-oriented skills and knowledge. The first cohort will begin their studies in fall 2024.

MACARTHUR FELLOW

Rina Foygel Barber, SM'09, PhD'12, Louis Block Professor of Statistics, is a 2023 MacArthur Fellow. The annual awards from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation invest in individuals from across disciplines who "show exceptional creativity in their work." Barber was recognized for her work

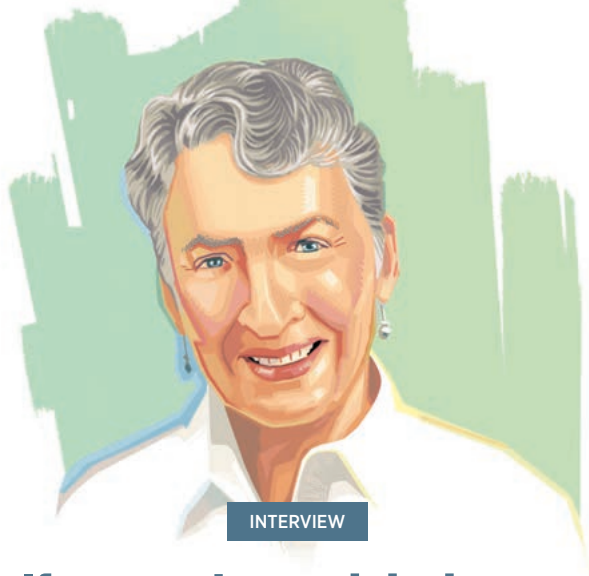
designing ways to better handle large or imperfect datasets, giving researchers in a range of fields—such as health care, climate science, and astronomical imaging—tools to improve

their analysis. In particular, she focuses on ways to quantify the uncertainty of data analysis results.



OPEN BOOKS

With censorship attempts at US libraries on pace to set a record for the third straight year, the UChicago Library is expanding access to banned books. The library is creating a comprehensive on-site collection of books that have been banned in areas of the United States and is working with the Digital Public Library of America on two initiatives to make banned books available electronically to Illinois residents and to people in communities where the books have been banned.



If you can't stand the heat ...

A new book by chemist Sandra Greer, SM'68, PhD'69, brings hard science to the kitchen.

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93

When **Sandra Greer**, SM'68, PhD'69, was growing up in Greenville, South Carolina, she had zero interest in cooking. She learned during graduate school out of economic necessity. "In some sense it was natural for a thermodynamicist, which is what I consider myself, to get interested in cooking," she says. "But also I like to eat."

Greer's new textbook, *Chemistry for Cooks: An Introduction to the Science of Cooking* (MIT Press, 2023), brings a scientist's expertise into the kitchen, explaining such ordinary wonders as the Maillard reaction (responsible for "the delicious taste and smell of a crusty bread") and colloidal dispersions ("Ice cream is four kinds of dispersion: an emulsion, a foam, a suspension, and a gel!"). Her comments have been edited and condensed.

In the acknowledgments of *Chemistry for Cooks*, you thank Mills College, where you taught *The Chemistry of Cooking* in 2014. Is that class how the book started?

I had noticed that undergraduate students often were afraid of their general science courses. I wanted to have a science course that would be fun. The class filled immediately.

I only taught the course the one time, and then I retired. I had developed my own notes for the course, because I couldn't find a textbook that was quite what I wanted. So the book is based on my notes.

What are the most useful lessons home cooks could learn from your book?

One of the things home cooks have trouble with—and professional cooks as well—is salt. When you're cooking vegetables, if you salt early on, it helps break down the fibers. On the other hand, putting salt on meat right before you cook it serves no particular purpose. And definitely don't put pepper on it. If you put salt on, it doesn't hurt, but it's not going to diffuse into the meat. Pepper is a plant product. It will just burn on high heat, especially if you're grilling a steak.

The way people think about salt and pepper—always using both and always doing it—is mistaken. I've watched TV chefs using enormous amounts of salt and I shudder.

And you don't need all those fancy salts—sea salts, colored salt. As a chemist, I think if it's salt, it should be salt. I think it's Morton's that adds another compound to the salt to keep it from

sticking together. I don't want that in there either. Diamond crystal salt has no such additives. It's just salt.

Have you considered doing a trade version of your book for cooks who are long past college?

I was thinking about that, because a librarian friend told me that no libraries will buy my book because it's a textbook. If I were to turn it into a trade book for the broader market, all I would do is take out the exercises and questions. Otherwise it would be pretty much the same book.

Some younger friends have said, Well, why don't you do a podcast? I don't know if I'm a podcast kind of person.

Do you cook from scratch often?

Every day. Now that I'm retired, it's as close as I get to being in a laboratory.

In the preface, you write that as a child, you loved your chemistry set and microscope. That must have been unusual for a girl in the 1950s.

My parents wanted to give me dolls, which I had no interest in. I wanted what my boy cousins had. I did get them. But I had to ask.

How did you get interested in chemistry in the first place?

There were no scientists in my family, nobody at all. But even when I was a little kid, four or five years old, I wondered what things are made out of. And if you cut something in half, and cut that in half, and cut that in half, what do you finally get down to?

I didn't even know to call it chemistry until later when I saw chemistry sets. And from then on, I thought that was something I wanted to do.

What's next for you?

I don't have another big project. I'm just trying to relax, enjoy a fairly new romantic relationship, enjoy my grandchildren and my children who are nearby. I'm trying to have more fun in my life at this point.

All these books I've wanted to read all these years are piled up around the house. And then I cook every day. ♦



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BOOTH VALUES

*As the top-ranked US business school turns 125,
Dean Madhav Rajan reflects on its tradition of innovation.*

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

Since its founding in 1898 as the College of Commerce and Administration, the University of Chicago Booth School of Business has again and again set out paths that other institutions have followed. It established the first business doctoral program in 1920 and the first executive MBA in 1943; it was first to award a business degree to an African American student and a business PhD to a woman. In 1982 Booth's George Stigler, PhD'38, became the first faculty member of a business school to receive the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel (followed by nine more Booth professors since). Today Booth sits alone atop the *U.S. News and World Report* business school rankings.

In September of the school's 125th year, **Madhav Rajan**, dean since 2017 and the George Pratt Shultz Professor of Accounting, spoke to the *Magazine* about Booth's enduring characteristics, its latest ideas, and what lies ahead.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

What brought you to the University of Chicago?

I spent 11 years at Wharton, then 16 years at Stanford, whose MBA program I had run for the last six years. **Richard Leftwich** [the Fuji Bank and Heller Professor Emeritus of Accounting and Finance], whom I'd known for years, was on the search committee, and he called me. My family had moved to California 16 years before and we were settled in, so initially I said, Let me think about it. I'm not sure I want to make the change. But for somebody who wants to be a dean of a business school, this is probably the biggest job there is in terms of the scope and the impact you can have.

Were your impressions of Booth before you arrived in Chicago borne out?

Mostly. A lot of people tried to warn me about coming here. One of the search firm's questions was about the reputation that Chicago faculty have no interest in change: Did I think

I'd be frustrated trying to be dean? That's not been true at all. I have a vision for what I want to achieve, but that has very much been driven by faculty input. The faculty have been very open to change, and we've had an amazing number of changes that we've been able to realize.

The big risk, of course, in UChicago hiring me was that I had no connection to it. I'd never been a student, never been faculty, and dropping somebody from outside into a place with a very strong culture—you know, you could get organ rejection pretty easily. That didn't happen.

It's striking how many things Booth did first among business schools. Why do you think that is?

This is a unique institution and one that really fits into the University of Chicago. It's a business school, but it takes very seriously the notion that it's an academic institution first and foremost. That means it's always been driven by being the best at core disciplines—whether economics or finance or behavioral science—and at academic research that breaks the boundaries. Booth is a super creative, innovative school that's willing to break things and fly at new things. I think that's what you're really seeing. We want to be the best social science research institution in the world.

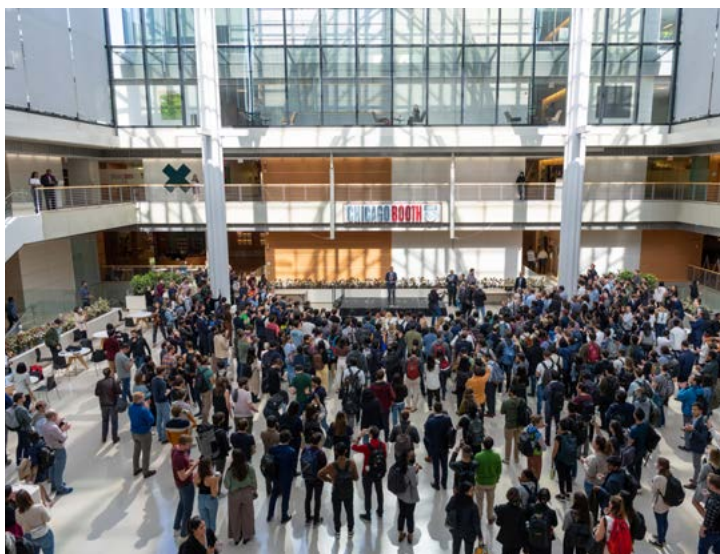
What changes during your time here have been most pivotal?

[Robert J.] Zimmer hired me to shake things up. He said, I love what you did at Stanford, creating a joint degree with computer science and the business school. I want you to do similar things here. The biggest shake-up has been the business specialization within the economics major that we started in 2018–19 in partnership with the College. It's attracting new students who would never have applied, and in the long run it's going to be hugely beneficial to the University of Chicago. For the longest time, we were the Graduate School of Business, with no connection to the College. I think long after I'm gone, that will be the biggest change I'll have brought to Booth.



Booth is a super creative, innovative school that's willing to break things and fly at new things. I think that's what you're really seeing. We want to be the best social science research institution in the world.

Since his appointment as Chicago Booth's dean in 2017, Madhav Rajan has worked to connect the business school with the University.



Another is our accelerated JD/MBA with the Law School. We also have a joint degree with computer science that's running really well, and we're starting one with biomedical sciences next year. Now the University is thinking about how to replicate that in other areas: What are other joint degrees that could be done?

Another change will come next year. We are starting a new degree program for the first time in decades. Up to now, the only programs we taught were the PhD and MBA. Next year we'll start teaching a one-year master's in management. This was approved unanimously by our faculty, and getting faculty to approve anything unanimously, I think, is an achievement. My vision for this is a 4+1 year program. Somebody comes to UChicago, wants to study a STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math] major or a liberal arts major as opposed to business economics or economics. They can do that, then stay for a year and get the master's in management. It's a great way to let students major in whatever their passion is and then, in the fifth year, get a business degree on top of that.

What is a common misconception about Booth?

When you speak to people outside, everybody thinks of Booth as a finance school. That's because we've had so many alumni who've done so well in finance. I think that's wrong; what we've always been is a great data school.

What made us great in finance was that we were the first school to have a financial database, back in the 1960s. I think of Chicago as the school that is the best at allowing people to do innovative, risky projects involving data of all kinds to solve important problems. If you speak to alumni from

Everybody thinks of Booth as a finance school ... I think that's wrong; what we've always been is a great data school.

20 years ago, they don't think of Chicago as a marketing school. But the field of marketing has changed and become very quantitative. We've been able to disrupt that field and become the best in the world because we have the best marketing researchers who are experts at using data.

The world caught up to you.

That's literally the way I think about it. We realized the importance of data in the 1960s, and we've been using that as our North Star, if you will. The other cool tangent is if you

look at a field like behavioral science, we have the best faculty in the world, right? Why is that? Partly, it's a historical accident, because **Richard Thaler** [Charles R. Walgreen Distinguished Service Professor of Behavioral Science and Economics] came over here and was a great institution builder.

But behavioral science is just collecting another kind of data that you gather from experiments. We have faculty who are able to use these massive quantities of data to draw inferences about human behavior. It's been a huge source of pride for me that our behavioral science faculty is now as dominant as our finance faculty is.

How do you think about the evolution and continuity of Booth in this anniversary year?

In terms of being a discipline-based academic institution that wants to push the boundaries, that's always been true of UChicago as a whole and of Booth. The commitment to open inquiry and freedom of expression has always been here. What has changed is that we have really become a great MBA program also. I think that we didn't focus on

From left: Chicago Booth, photography by Jason Smith

Chicago Booth has a history of firsts. The first school with a financial database, Booth has used that early investment in data to become a leader in quantitative marketing and behavioral science research.

it as much in the past. We were viewed as a great academic institution with a great PhD program, and, yes, we also teach MBAs. We've done a lot in the last 20 years to become more engaged with our students, to foster a strong student community, and to engage with alumni and make them an integral part of the school.

Yesterday we did an event called Booth 20/20, where alumni talked to incoming MBA students about their experiences at Booth and after they left. That's the kind of event that has been really different in terms of connecting with alumni.

We've also realized that while it's important that we are great in the disciplines, a lot of work happens across disciplines. The way we have been doing that work now is through centers. The Polsky Center [for Entrepreneurship and Innovation] was set up because entrepreneurship cuts across so many fields. You don't do a PhD in entrepreneurship, but you need people to teach it, many of them practitioners. And we set up the Rustandy Center for Social Sector Innovation, the best of its kind in the country because it is faculty led with an advisory body of alumni. When I came in as dean, we had almost no electives in leadership. We now have a huge number of leadership classes taught through the Harry L. Davis Center [for Leadership].

Booth received a historic gift this year from Ross Stevens, PhD'96, to endow the doctoral program. What is the significance of that gift?

It's a very, very rare gift, unique in the sense that PhD graduates typically go on to academic careers and don't necessarily make those sorts of financial gains. Ross is somebody who was a great PhD student, a student of **Eugene Fama**, MBA'63, PhD'64 [the Robert R. McCormick Distinguished Service Professor of Finance], but then went straight to industry and had a very successful career as an investor.

We settled on the PhD program as something Ross might want to support because he credits so much of what he was able to achieve in his career directly to being a student here. We looked back, and in the last 102 years, we have graduated 968 PhD students. So it is a very small program. But Ross realized that it's a program that is important for the future of the profession and one of the programs that would be easiest to cut from a fiscal perspective. He wants financial considerations not to determine whether a student comes here. And he wants the gift to help make the PhD experience good for students by funding wellness resources, mental health support, and the creation of an alumni community that will help them. He has in mind supporting the whole PhD student.

What would you like Booth alumni reading this interview to know?

We are a great institution that believes in changing constantly. We've been innovating at a very rapid pace, but in a considered way. I'm proud that there are initiatives we have tried and killed, which is key to innovation. For example, during COVID we started a new program called Maroon Scholars, for College students to come straight into Booth for an MBA. We tried it for a year, but it became clear that having students with work experience was critical for the MBA program.

That led, in turn, to the new one-year master's and separating it from the MBA. I want our alumni to know we are constantly thinking about reaching new audiences, expanding the Booth brand, and changing the way we do things. That's something they can be very proud of. We've done very well by any metric you can think of—prizes in finance, in social psychology, and in economics. I always complain that UChicago people are too blasé about these things. You know, we have four Nobel Prize winners on our faculty right now.

What would you like readers who did not attend Booth to know?

Bob Zimmer actually put it in my offer letter. He said, I cannot verify this or monitor it, but I would like you to culturally think of Chicago Booth as part of the University of Chicago.

I think he'd be proud. I would say this is the most Booth has ever been connected to the University. We have a transformative partnership with the College. The joint degrees are hugely successful. I think there used to be an us versus them mentality that's just not there anymore.

Is there anything you wanted to say that I haven't asked you about?

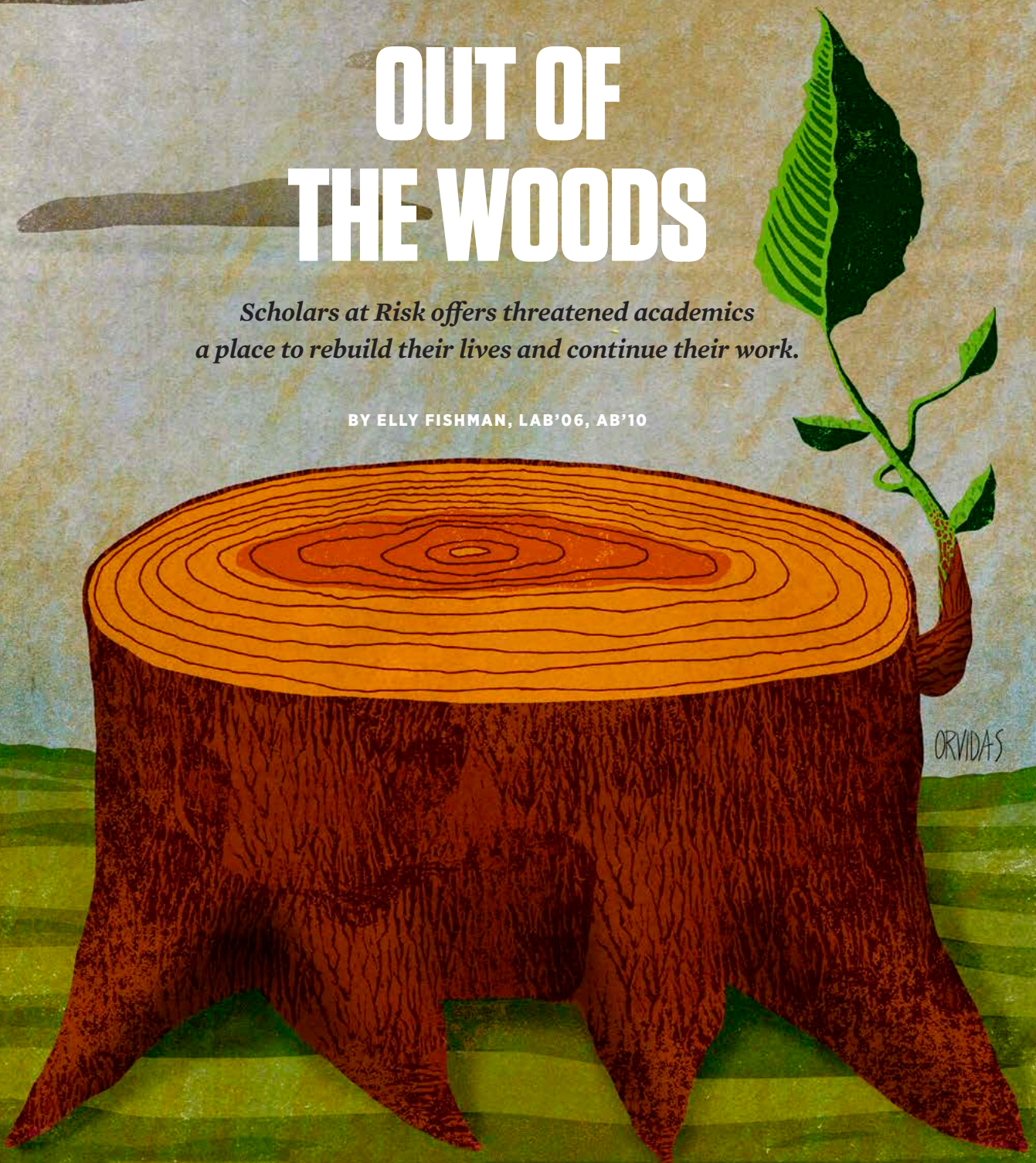
I think we have succeeded in communicating who we are to students. When I give speeches to incoming classes, I'm brutally transparent about who we are as an institution. I show them our financials. I tell them, I don't need you to like it. I need you to understand who we are. I do a few PowerPoints, but then it's open Q&A about the school's strategy. How do we compete with other institutions? What does tenure mean? Why do faculty get tenure? Are they the right criteria? We have a full discussion of all of those things. I figure that giving them the open, pure truth generally works best. ♦

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

OUT OF THE WOODS

*Scholars at Risk offers threatened academics
a place to rebuild their lives and continue their work.*

BY ELLY FISHMAN, LAB'06, AB'10





When the Taliban took control of Afghanistan's capital city on August 15, 2021, **Fazel Ahadi** was teaching a film class at Kabul University. Most of his 30 or so students were women, and the group sat nervously in their seats, fear flooding their faces. Phones pinged as students' parents called and texted, urging their children to come home. Ahadi, who had cofounded the university's film department more than a decade earlier, faced a window that looked out onto the campus. There he saw a chaotic scene: swarms of people running away and frantically speaking into their phones.

ON AUGUST 26, 2021, WHEN A SUICIDE BOMBER KILLED AROUND 170 AFGHANS AND 13 US SERVICE MEMBERS AT THE AIRPORT, AHADI DETERMINED THE FAMILY NEEDED ANOTHER WAY OUT.

Ahadi, a well-known screenwriter, poet, playwright, and scholar in Afghanistan who had openly criticized the Taliban, was frozen in disbelief. "We truly believed that Kabul would not fall because the US military was still in control," he says, speaking through a translator. "We could not believe the US would abandon us." When a fleeing student confirmed that the Taliban had arrived in the city, the professor understood that he and his family were no longer safe.

Over the next several days Ahadi burned or buried his library of books that criticized the Taliban—including 200 copies of his own account of anti-Taliban fighters from his home province of Panjshir, a long-standing anti-Taliban stronghold. Abandoning most of their belongings, he, his wife, and their five children spent a few days at the Kabul airport, hoping to get on a plane that would evacuate them from the country. But on August 26, 2021, when a suicide bomber killed around 170 Afghans and 13 US service members at the airport, Ahadi determined the family needed another way out.



One source of hope came in a phone call from the Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf, whose award-winning films include *Kandahar* (2001) and *Marghe and Her Mother* (2019). The two had never met, but Ahadi had heard from colleagues that Makhmalbaf was helping scholars find ways to leave Afghanistan. Makhmalbaf offered to connect Ahadi with the Scholars at Risk program, an international network of academics who would help him get to a university in France or America.

Nearly seven thousand miles away, **Christine Mehring**, a University of Chicago art history professor, was preparing for Autumn Quarter.

In August 2021 Mehring was nearing the end of a research sabbatical and putting finishing touches on an essay about the land artist Walter De Maria when she received an email from an old friend and colleague at Harvard. The email detailed an ongoing effort by Scholars at Risk (SAR) to bring five Afghan filmmakers and cinema scholars to universities in the United States. It included short résumés for each person. All had created work that the Taliban would consider a threat to its reputation and power. The email ended: “And is there any way that the University of Chicago might be able to take one of them?”

“I looked at this email and was really stunned and overwhelmed,” recalls Mehring, the Mary L. Block Professor of Art History and in the College.

“I was trying to figure out how I could possibly help. I just started sending emails.”

In doing so, Mehring joined the SAR network of academics across 500 universities spread throughout 40 countries who work to create posts for threatened scholars. While its office has been housed at New York University since 2003, SAR was founded in 1999 at the University of Chicago.

The effort began with Katie Trumpener, then associate professor in the University’s Germanic studies department and now a professor of comparative literature and English at Yale. Concerned about the political unrest around the world at that time, especially in Algeria, Trumpener found herself thinking about the Emergency Rescue Committee, an evacuation operation during World War II that helped some 2,000 artists and writers—Hannah Arendt, Max Ernst, and Marc Chagall among them—escape from German-occupied France to Spain.

In a letter to Jacqueline Bhabha, then director of the University’s Human Rights Program (now the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights), Trumpener expressed regret that while Jewish and other refugee scholars were given a safe haven at the University of Chicago in the mid-20th century, “there is little chance today of equally brilliant professors from Algeria or Kenya or East Timor or Bosnia or any other part of the world under intellectual and political threat finding their way to Chicago.” But, Trumpener wrote,

Art history professor Christine Mehring spearheaded efforts to bring film scholar Fazel Ahadi and his family to Chicago.

“I wonder if the University couldn’t actually do more to increase the chances of this happening?”

As a result, Bhabha helped launch the first Scholars at Risk office. The founding core mission of the organization was to identify scholars facing threats where they lived and to find them temporary positions in places where they could continue their work in safety. Carrying out this mission would include providing scholars with support, including legal advice and referrals as well as career guidance.

Some two decades later, as Mehring began to explore how she might help facilitate a position for Ahadi at UChicago, more than 1,600 displaced

visa for him—but this was only the first hurdle. Funds were needed to cover Ahadi’s salary, plane tickets, and living expenses. Despite being an experienced fundraiser, Mehring was daunted.

The College and Humanities Division agreed to pay the bulk of Ahadi’s salary; Morgan secured funding for the family’s travel from the University’s Center in Delhi. Then Mehring had to figure out how to get things ready for the family to start their lives in Chicago. For a better sense of what they might need, she reached out to the Hyde Park Refugee Project, a volunteer-run organization that helps new refugees with the resettlement process. To Mehring’s relief and gratitude,

WE STAND LIKE NO OTHER INSTITUTION IN THIS COUNTRY FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ESPECIALLY FOR SCHOLARS. WE SHOULD BE LEADING THIS NATIONAL EFFORT.

scholars had found temporary refuge at universities across the globe thanks to SAR. “I was so in awe and humbled,” says Mehring, to find that this effort started at the University. “I kept thinking, This is the University of Chicago. We stand like no other institution in this country for freedom of expression, especially for scholars. We should be leading this national effort.”

Canvassing the UChicago community, Mehring reached out to the dean of the Humanities Division, faculty members at the Oriental Institute (now the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures) and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Mehring also sent a note to **Daniel Morgan**, PhD’07, then chair of the Department of Cinema and Media Studies. She hoped Morgan and his department might employ Ahadi as a visiting lecturer. Morgan, moved by Ahadi’s circumstances and by Makhmalbaf’s endorsement of his work, brought the request to the department’s faculty for a vote.

In a unanimous showing, the department decided to create a temporary lecturer position for Ahadi. The University could now sponsor a US

the organization identified an apartment for the Ahadis, negotiated the rent, and contacted local schools. She then got in touch with friends and acquaintances interested in film and, crucially, several art collectors and philanthropists she’d met during her years serving as chair of the art history department.

Within 48 hours, Mehring had raised the entire sum needed for the Ahadis’ living expenses. A particularly generous gift came from **Karla Scherer**, AM’99. “It sounded like a family that I’d really like to support,” says Scherer, remembering Mehring’s email. “And the fact that the University was bringing scholars from abroad was a wonderful thing. ... Every hand that can reach to those who need help ought to.”

Meanwhile, Ahadi and his family remained stuck in Afghanistan, in constant fear for their lives. Every day fewer flights left the Kabul airport, and every day Ahadi worried that their chances of leaving the country were diminishing.

To stay one step ahead of the Taliban, Ahadi moved his family several times. They stayed for



three weeks with his in-laws, then spent several weeks in hiding with about 60 other families in an abandoned hotel in Mazar-e-Sharif. Fearing he could be tracked, he replaced his phone's SIM card and used the new one only sparingly within the family, communicating with others through email and WhatsApp. As time passed, he heard that Kabul University had reopened but few people had returned to campus. He also heard rumors that some returnees were lured back by the Taliban, only to be killed when they arrived.

One night in Mazar-e-Sharif, Ahadi's wife and children slept while he lay awake worrying about "our unknown future." Checking his email, he found a new message from the German government. "Congratulations," it began. "The German government has accepted you and your family."

The email advised him to get to the German embassy in Pakistan as soon as they could. There

they would be safe while awaiting transport to Germany. "I thought I saw this situation in a dream," he recalls. "I was very happy." He continued sleepless that night, but for a new reason.

After taking two days to carefully confirm through the embassy that the email was legitimate, Ahadi and his family made their way to the Kabul airport one last time.

On February 24, 2022, they departed Kabul for Pakistan. Leaving was both difficult and a great relief, Ahadi says. "We called our family and said our goodbyes."

The Ahadis arrived in Germany among a wave of refugees that overwhelmed the German immigration system. Reaching Cologne in March 2022, they were housed in a converted shipping container where they shared a four-room space with another family of seven. For eight months they lived like that. Ahadi worked all the while,

After a series of moves since their departure from Afghanistan, the Ahadis have settled into their Chicago apartment.

with guidance from Mehring and others at the University, to secure US visas.

In November 2022 Ahadi traveled to the US embassy in Frankfurt and received the long-awaited visas. He was thrilled. The family flew to Chicago the next month. When they walked through the doors at O'Hare International Air-

“Our task was to be the center point,” says Cavanaugh, who has spoken to many faculty members hoping to help at-risk academics in both Afghanistan and Ukraine. “We began to more methodically review applications that were coming in and tried to set some of the same criteria that the national SAR [network] would require.”

IT WAS REALLY EMOTIONAL FOR ME. I WAS SO HAPPY, BUT I WAS ALSO SO WORRIED FOR THEM.

port, Mehring was waiting. “It was really emotional for me,” she recalls. “I was so happy, but I was also so worried for them. The people at the Hyde Park Refugee Project, they had always warned me, ‘This is just the start, Christine, this is just the beginning. There’s so much more to come.’”

Over the past eight months the whole family had learned German, Mehring’s native language, and the children were fluent. Mehring chatted with them as she led the family to her borrowed minivan. After they piled in, she asked what music they liked, and the children said, “German music! German music!” Mehring turned on German rocker Nena’s 1983 hit “99 Luftballons” and cranked up the sound. The whole car buzzed as the Ahadis took in the Chicago skyline, a view that grew bigger and smaller again as they wound their way home to Hyde Park.

In the time since Mehring first learned about the Scholars at Risk network and its history, the University’s SAR program has become more formalized. Spurred by a request from **Kathleen Cavanaugh**, the executive director of the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, and law professor **Aziz Huq**, who had experience helping Afghans evacuate after the fall of Kabul, then University provost **Ka Yee C. Lee** formed a University of Chicago SAR committee in March 2022. The committee also included Harris School of Public Policy professor **Chris Blattman** and vice provost for academic affairs and linguistics professor **Jason Merchant**.

Those criteria include providing the scholar with a visiting lectureship position, a dedicated workspace, and a faculty host, and ensuring the scholar is able to contribute to academic life on campus. Once an applicant is approved, the UChicago SAR committee brings the recommendation to the appropriate dean’s office, which then works with the provost’s office to create a temporary faculty appointment and secure any necessary visa documents. “We processed so many applications,” recalls Cavanaugh. “But not every one materialized. Some people simply decided to stay. Others found positions closer to home, and others faced complications with visas.”

Over the last year and a half, Cavanaugh says, the SAR committee has helped place eight scholars on campus. Among them is Ukrainian poet and translator **Oksana Maksymchuk**.

One humid day this past summer, Maksymchuk sits at the edge of a couch surrounded by philosophy books and Leonard Cohen records. The courtyard outside looks particularly lush after a recent rainfall. A deaf and blind cat occasionally plops herself down on the rug in the middle of the floor. Nothing here belongs to Maksymchuk, who recently arrived in Hyde Park, where she’ll spend the academic year pursuing her work and teaching at UChicago. Almost all of her own belongings remain in an apartment in the Ukrainian city of Lviv, her birthplace, where she was living with her husband and son in February 2022.

The whole family left Ukraine 10 days before Russia invaded. Maksymchuk's husband, Max Rosochinsky, is a Crimean poet and translator who frequently collaborates with her. They left at the urging of artist and writer friends who believed they would be at heightened risk in the event of a Russian occupation. Among the reasons: their professional expertise in and dedication to the Ukrainian language, and their connections to the United States.

Maksymchuk had previously spent many years of her life in this country, moving from Lviv to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, at 15 with her mother and staying until she graduated from college at Bryn Mawr. She returned to study ancient philosophy at Northwestern, getting her PhD in 2013, and then taught for six years at the University of Arkansas.

Maksymchuk also was the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant that supported her and her husband's 2017 collection of translated works by Ukrainian poets, *Words for War: New Poems from Ukraine* (Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University with the Borderlines Foundation for Academic Studies and Academic Studies Press). Having received money from the US government could label her a "foreign agent" under Russian rule, Maksymchuk's friends believed, and put her family at risk. "They said I would be a target if Russians ended up occupying the city," she recalls. Still, the decision to leave was agonizing.

Even before Russia invaded, when it was amassing troops at the border, Maksymchuk says, preparing or planning to flee the country "was, at the time, considered to be really shameful." She and her husband started buying supplies for a potential invasion, including tourniquets. But people were undertaking such preparations discreetly, lest they be perceived as showing panic and hopelessness. They were "making fun of each other for being overly cautious," with caution seen as being weak, and a betrayal.

Judgment was, however, softened for those with young children. "A lot of people decided that there was a simple heuristic," Maksymchuk says, "that if you have a child and you are a caregiver, then you have to make that decision"—to leave—"for another person."



Oksana Maksymchuk, a bilingual poet and a translator, is finishing a book of poems in English about the war in Ukraine.

Approximations

By Oksana Maksymchuk

This poem first appeared in *Plume*, Issue #139, March 2023. Reprinted with permission.

Waking up in a borrowed room, in a body
borrowed for a time, in a time
borrowed and hardly used

I remember how light
my head becomes when the boys overtaking us
in the alley tickle me with guns

running them down my spine, then my hip
How I levitate, the force of a scream suppressed
lifting me up and up!

And the way it gets dark when strange men
pound on my door at night
shouting “Open up, or we’ll break it in!”

Right before the war, I’d wake up in bed
dreaming of another bed, body in it exposed
bone by bone, like a radiograph

through a brilliance, an explosion
tearing at the membranes
that ensconce the sleeper

Close, yet not
an exact match, like a rhyme in a poem
you compose posthaste, lines
blurred by terror

One day that February Maksymchuk was writing in a shared workspace overlooking Brygidki Prison, where the Polish writer Stanislaw Lem had been held by the Germans as a young man and forced to remove bodies of executed prisoners. Against the backdrop of alarming reports from the border, she had been reading Lem's diaries of life under German occupation and thinking of "awful things potentially happening." On one hand, this seemed far-fetched. On the other, her country's—even her family's—history included many instances of terrible things actually coming to pass. At 6, her father survived the destruction of his family's entire village, a formative event that affects his children too.

Maksymchuk's surroundings that day seemed "so Edenic, and very far removed from anything that was happening on the news," she remembers. The contrast struck her as ominous, a "very uncanny situation where the two realities don't converge." She called her husband, and they made "a really quick decision that we were going to leave for 10 days and wait to see how things would turn out. We just left everything and took little backpacks with us."

They boarded a train for Budapest, Hungary. Having lived there before, they could find a place to stay for a few days without making arrange-

ing and a lot of time writing—in English. Having another language to process what's happening in Ukraine "gives you a sort of illusion of temporal distance," she says, with "the strangeness of the idiom," rather than the passage of time, lending a mediating factor to help make sense of the experiences. The poems in English that she has been writing since 2021 will be published next spring in a new book, *Still City* (Carcenet Press).

For Maksymchuk and Rosochinsky, poetry and war have long been intertwined. "For us this has been going on since 2014," when Rosochinsky's country of Crimea was occupied by Russia, she says. In the years following, they read thousands of Ukrainian poems about war to prepare their translated anthology *Words for War*.

Maksymchuk believes that poetry has an important role in unmooring and terrifying times. "A lot of suffering is exacerbated when a person cannot find meaning in it, when it's just this chaotic experience that they are facing," she says. "The poet's work is to make sense of the suffering, to make it bearable, and to develop language in which people can heal themselves."

Translation, in her view, also offers a powerful microphone to her country's poets. "For these Ukrainian authors, it's often this sensation of speak-

A LOT OF SUFFERING IS EXACERBATED WHEN A PERSON CANNOT FIND MEANING IN IT. ... THE POET'S WORK IS TO MAKE SENSE OF THE SUFFERING, TO MAKE IT BEARABLE, AND TO DEVELOP LANGUAGE IN WHICH PEOPLE CAN HEAL THEMSELVES.

ments ahead of time, a commitment they didn't feel prepared to make. Leaving from a near-empty station, they told a Ukrainian border guard on the train that they were going on vacation. This October marked 20 months since their departure.

During that time Maksymchuk has lived in Hungary, Poland, Austria, and the United States. She has spent a lot of time reflect-

ing into the void," says Maksymchuk, who in addition to her own collection will soon publish a fourth volume of translated Ukrainian poetry. "They don't know who is going to hear them, so having their work translated is really empowering."

Her presence on campus widens the audience for such works to include UChicago students and faculty. "Oksana's activities seem really crucial to get the word out about people's experiences of war," says **Rachel Galvin**, an associate profes-

sor of English, who nominated Maksymchuk for the SAR program. “She can speak about cultural life in conditions of war and what it means to document what is occurring, making poetry a kind of first draft of history.” In Chicago she can communicate this to people beyond Ukraine “in a way that no one else really can in the University community.”

Maksymchuk will teach an advanced work-

has given four lectures. Two, on the history of Afghan cinema and on women Afghan filmmakers, were given in English with a translator. The other two, on contemporary Afghan poets and Ahadi’s own poetry, in Farsi for an audience of faculty and students in the Persian Language Program. This year he hopes to begin building an archive at UChicago of Afghan films from the two decades between Taliban regimes, a body of

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HAS TRIED TO HELP SCHOLARS FLEEING WARS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF OUR TIME, AND BOTH FACULTY AND STUDENTS BENEFIT.

shop this winter on poetry and crisis. In June she will return to Europe, where her husband will have a fellowship in Stuttgart, Germany. Maksymchuk hopes they can return home eventually. There is still pressure on those who left to come back, to “stand together” and put money back into the economy. Her sister, who left around the same time, is back in Lviv. The call of home is strong—family, personal history, the apartment the couple had been renovating in hopes of being in Lviv for a long time. “We don’t know what it’s going to be like after the war,” she says, “but we are very excited to move back and rebuild” when that’s possible.

Ahadi, for his part, does not discuss plans to return to Afghanistan. It’s difficult for the film scholar to imagine such a future. Rather, he is seeking a lawyer to help with his application for asylum in the United States, a process that tens of thousands of Afghan refugees have weathered since the fall of Kabul. Mehring and members of the Hyde Park Refugee Project are helping him navigate the system, for which he is grateful: “People have been helping us without any expectation, only out of a sense of humanitarianism.”

He does, however, intend to bring the memory of his Afghanistan to UChicago. Still learning English, he cannot yet teach classes, but he

work that is little known in America. Morgan, who works closely with Ahadi on his University projects, says, “For many of us, it’s been our first real introduction to Afghan cinema. It’s been a wonderful opportunity to have a road map.”

For Ahadi, sharing Afghan films on campus is also an act of cultural and historical preservation. In Afghanistan under a pro-Western government, he was a leading voice in a thriving film industry; now, most of the films he championed have been destroyed by the Taliban regime. That makes sharing his story even more important. “I want people here to know what kinds of challenges filmmakers in Afghanistan face to make these films,” he says. “I believe the most powerful weapon against the Taliban is film.”

Welcoming scholars like Ahadi, says Merchant, is part of the University’s foundation and its future. “The University of Chicago has tried to help scholars fleeing wars since the beginning of our time, and both faculty and students benefit,” he says. “I don’t expect any lack of crises in the future, unfortunately, and that means that people who are great at doing scholarship are going to be at risk. We will be ready to help them when that happens.” ♦

Elly Fishman, LAB’06, AB’10, is a writer in Milwaukee. Her book *Refugee High: Coming of Age in America* (The New Press, 2021) comes out in paperback this fall.

MACHINE LEARNING

High school students in the Collegiate Scholars Program get to know robots.

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

On a hot morning in July, a sleepy John Crerar Library starts to rouse as students arrive for Introduction to Robot Programming and Design, a college-level summer course for Chicago Public Schools rising seniors. Since Crerar's renovation five years ago, the University Library's sciences collections, housed here since 1984, have shared the building with the Department of Computer Science. Hustling and bustling from September to June, Crerar is several notches quieter now.

On the first floor is the Computer Science Instructional Laboratory, with computer stations and classrooms. The lab doesn't officially open until 10, the same time that class begins, but early-arriving students cajole a building manager into unlocking the glass doors a few minutes before the hour.

The students have traveled to Crerar from all over the city. They're Collegiate Scholars, enrolled in a program started by the Office of Community Affairs (now the Office of Civic Engagement) in 2003 to help academically talented, intellectually curious Chicago Public Schools students pre-

pare for and succeed at selective four-year colleges. The Collegiate Scholars Program admits 50 rising sophomores each May. Over the next three years, they take summer courses like this one, many taught by UChicago faculty, and have access to dozens of workshops and activities during the school year—on academic subjects, college exploration and readiness, leadership, community service, and more.

The classroom for this course is organized into a three-by-three grid of tables,

each holding a ClicBot robot kit the size of a large shoebox. ClicBot, which retails for about \$450, is an educational coding robot. Its modular parts—"brain," joints, wheels, grasper, and so on—can be clicked together in hundreds of different configurations. ClicBot is the beating—sometimes talking, sometimes rolling—heart of Introduction to Robot Programming and Design, a course with little traditional instruction but much problem-solving in small groups.

That hands-on ethic, says instructor **Sarah Sebo**, is key to what the course wants to give students: their first exposure to programming and robotics plus the confidence, excitement, and sheer fun of seeing a ClicBot do what they programmed it to do. Sebo, an assistant professor of computer science who studies the psychology of human-robot interactions, is one of nine UChicago faculty members teaching Collegiate Scholars this summer. Three doctoral students from Sebo's lab group are coteaching the course with her.

This Thursday one of them, teaching assistant **Alex Wuqi Zhang**, in a navy-and-green checked hoodie, sweat shorts, socks, and slides, spends the first few minutes talking the class through a PowerPoint about end-user program-



Sarah Sebo.

Photography by Eddie Quinones; Illustration by Daniel Hertzberg

ming interfaces, a bit of context for the day's ClicBot programming challenges.

The soon-to-be seniors listening to Zhang have a lot on their minds this summer, says **Abel Ochoa**, executive director of college readiness and access in the Office of Civic Engagement, who leads the Collegiate Scholars Program. In addition to this class, each student is enrolled in a social sciences course and two college readiness courses: Writing for College and College Countdown. College application deadlines are coming up, and the Collegiate Scholars are honing lists of where to apply, drafting personal statements, and pondering who to ask for recommendation letters—all with the help of Ochoa and his staff.

But for these 90 minutes, the students, in teams of two or three, are fixed squarely on their bright white ClicBots—specifically on programming them to act according to the wishes of another small group they've been paired with. The groups have swapped forms indicating how they want the bot to behave: its rolling speed (1–10), whether it makes eye contact (Y/N), and its disposition (empathetic or sarcastic).

At table 1, Scott, Logan, and Anaya decide on a speed of 4. They emphatically reject eye contact (“too freaky”) and just as decisively opt for a sarcastic robot. They hand their form to

table 2 behind them and get to work, first constructing their ClicBot according to Zhang's instructions on a hand-out. “There we go,” Logan says. “We made a robot.” It looks like a long-tailed dachshund on wheels. “Does anyone want to program it?”

All three take turns, using tablets and a visual coding language called Blockly, which allows them to drag and drop robot commands. Blockly simplifies their task but still immerses them in programming problems and logic. They're working through the program when from behind them comes a whirl and a voice: “How's your day, Logan?”

All turn in shocked laughter: “You did *not* make it say that!” Table 2's ClicBot has rolled toward table 1, stopped, and asked the question with the help of the voice recorder in its “brain.” ClicBot's brain component also has a light that gives the effect of eyes, and true to table 1's specifications, this bot is dark—no eye contact desired, none given.

Scott moves the robot to his group's table for the full demonstration. When it asks about his day, he's supposed to touch the top of the brain if it's going well and touch the side if it's not. At first nothing happens when he touches the top, so he rubs it for a few seconds. The ClicBot responds with a sad sound—the sarcastic opposite of what you'd expect. The day's challenge met, both

groups clap. Applause and laughter ripple across the whole room as robots wheel around and interact with their delighted users.

Programming challenges like this one occupy the course's first four weeks. In the last two weeks, the established groups team up on a final project: programming a ClicBot, in any way they choose, to address a societal problem. Several groups program their bots to check in on their users' mental health—an issue that's front and center for the high schoolers and their friends. One group makes theirs perform as a guide dog for the visually impaired, sensing obstacles and alerting the user. On presentation day it doesn't work flawlessly, but the ambition and execution are still impressive.

For those students who go on to pursue a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education in college next fall, Introduction to Robot Programming and Design will give them valuable experience. For those who go another way, Sebo believes, their ClicBot experience still stands to pay off. “We'll only have more artificial intelligence systems and robots in our lives moving forward,” she says. “AI can seem scary or unknown.” Having “even a tiny taste” of how robots really work will better equip the students to be informed citizens of that future world. ♦

BEHIND COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS

Collegiate Scholars was launched in part as a response to studies by the University's Consortium on Chicago School Research showing that many Chicago Public Schools students were not applying to colleges that matched their ability and potential. The program aims to build confidence and ambition, and has had striking results. For the Class of 2023, all Collegiate Scholars who

completed the program were admitted to a four-year college or university; 57 percent were admitted to highly selective institutions, including Stanford, Yale, and UChicago. The scholars collectively were granted \$7.1 million in financial aid.

Students apply to be Collegiate Scholars during their freshman year of high school. On average, 300 students complete applications for each year's

50 available spots. Admitted students “have begun to demonstrate academic curiosity,” Ochoa says; they are typically in the top 15 to 20 percent of their classes but can do better with the resources the program offers, including college-level courses like Sebo's.

The program looks for students who are underrepresented, which can mean any of several things: no parent or guardian has a four-year

college degree; students come from a single-parent household; their background is Latino or African American; or they come from a low-income household.

Some Collegiate Scholars don't fit those criteria, Ochoa adds, “because another value that we try to provide students with is diversity”—the opportunity to be with students from backgrounds different from their own.—*L. D.*





PHOTOGRAPHY

ASKING TO BE SEEN

As Patric McCoy, AB'69, cycled to work, men called out to him to take their picture. So he did.

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRIC MCCOY, AB'69

Patric McCoy, AB'69, strikes a pose on Chicago's lakefront bike path. Terry Smith, seen in "Terry Tummy" (page 46, top left), shot the photo.



n 1984, on his birthday, **Patric McCoy**, AB'69, "wrote out a commitment," he says. He wanted to teach himself photography. So he resolved to carry a 35mm camera with him everywhere—hanging around his neck, where it was very visible—and to take photographs every day. And if anyone asked him to take his picture, he would. "Why I wrote that, I have no idea," he says. He did include "a little clause that if it was a dangerous situation, I could possibly pass on it. Otherwise, I had to stop."

McCoy, who had majored in chemistry, was working at the Chicago office of the Environmental Protection Agency; even in the early 1980s, he was well aware that "we have to save the planet," he says. So he gave up his car and commuted by bicycle from his South Shore home to the Loop. He used the lakefront bike path at first, but he "got tired of looking at the same trees." He preferred to ride through the neighborhoods, varying his route depending on his mood.

All along the way, people—almost always men—would shout at him, "Hey! Take my picture!" McCoy would stop, get off his bike, and take a photograph. He never directed his subjects to pose or smile or do anything in particular. "I just took the picture," he says. "My intent was to take the best picture, given what they present."

McCoy's father, a self-taught artist, had built a darkroom in his basement; every night McCoy would go there and develop the photographs he had taken. He would make two

black-and-white, five-by-seven copies: one for himself, one for the subject. He carried the stack of prints around in his backpack, and if he saw someone he had photographed, he would give them a print—to their astonishment. The film stock of the time did not capture darker skin tones well, he says, "so most of these people, if they had any photographs of themselves, did not look very good." And yet here was a stranger giving them "a good photograph of themselves."

McCoy also frequently took pictures of men he knew from the Rialto Tap, a South Loop bar that stood near State and Van Buren, where Pritzker Park is today. The bar—just around the corner from the EPA—served a motley crowd, including professionals like McCoy and unhoused men who stayed at the nearby Pacific Garden Mission. "It was a very, very friendly place," says McCoy, who calls it "the Black Cheers. Everybody knew everybody."

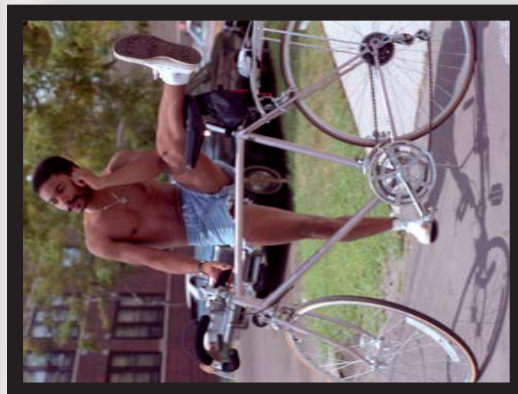
This past summer, a sampling of the thousands of images McCoy shot during the 1980s was shown in the exhibition *Take My Picture* at the North Side gallery Wrightwood 659. "McCoy and his camera fulfilled an unspoken need for Black men to be seen," according to curator Juarez Hawkins—"seen by someone who did not objectify them as 'Other,' but an insider who allowed them, paraphrasing Langston Hughes, to be their 'beautiful black selves.'" After the exhibition closed, a smaller version was staged at the Hyde Park Historical Society. McCoy is also working on a related book. ♦

**IT WAS A VERY, VERY
FRIENDLY PLACE ...
THE BLACK CHEERS,
EVERYBODY KNEW
EVERYBODY.**





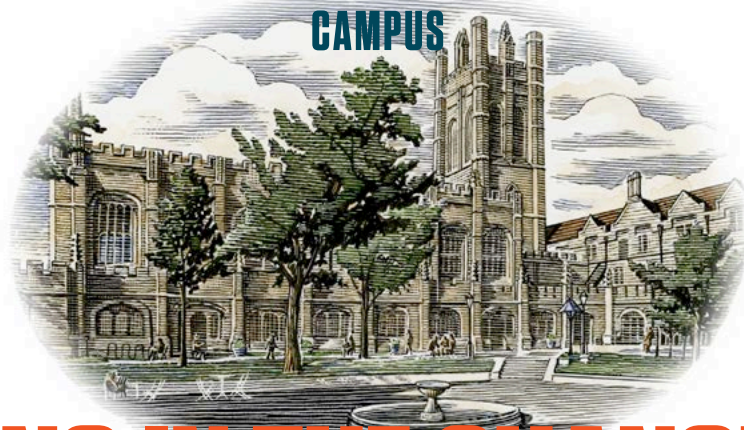
McCoy did not direct his subjects. They posed in the way they wanted to be seen, and “I just took the picture,” he says.



“McCoy revels in the beauty of the Black male physique,” according to the wall copy for the Wrightwood 659 show. But by allowing each man to choose how he was photographed, McCoy “elevates the subject’s humanity.”



CAMPUS



RING IN THE CHANGES

After more than a century, Mitchell Tower gets a new set of bells.

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93
ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRUCE HUTCHISON

Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the heavyweight, comes in at 2,042 pounds. Meanwhile Georgiana Rose Simpson, AB 1911, AM'20, PhD'21, weighs 513 pounds, Jane Addams a mere 499.

The 10 giant bronze bells, dedicated in August, were named in honor of notable people with ties to the University, to the city of Chicago, or to bell ringing. Cast in Loughborough, at England's only remaining major bell foundry, the bells were installed in the Reynolds Club's Mitchell Tower this past summer.

The bells were a gift from **Christian J. Haller**, AM'72, and Helen D. Haller, who also donated funds for their upkeep and for a change ringing program for students (see mag.uchicago.edu/haller). At the Hutchinson Court ceremony, Chris Haller said he fell in love with change ringing as a UChicago student in the early '70s: "Bell ringing is great for the mind." Since then the Hallers have rung bells in thousands of towers worldwide.

Change ringing is most common in England, where it's been practiced for centuries. Bell towers typically have six to 10 large bells, each rung by one person pulling a rope. Change ringing produces patterns of sound, rather than recognizable melodies (think of news coverage of weddings and births in the British royal family). It's called change ringing because the bells are rung in different sequences, and those sequences change.

The Guild of Change Ringers at UChicago, which includes students, alumni, and community members, meets twice a week to practice. Bell ringing requires training and can be dangerous: "The worst-case scenario," says Tom Farthing, tower captain, is that "the rope could wrap around a limb and pull you up to the ceiling." (Farthing's Dickensian-sounding name is so perfect for his hobby, he's sometimes asked if it's a pseudonym.)

Bell ringers can't actually see the bells; in Mitchell Tower, as elsewhere, the bells hang above a ceiling. Instead, the ringers look at each other, so they can work together as a group. **Natalie Nitsch**, AB'23, a Divinity School master's student and guild member, says when she's ringing, she enters a "numerical flow state."

During practices, the bells are silenced. The bells ring "open" (audible to the neighborhood) for an hour each month. They are also rung open on special occasions, such as the coronation of Britain's King Charles III this past May. During the dedication ceremony for the new bells, guild member and mathematics PhD candidate **Isabella Scott**, SM'18, SM'20, fondly recalled participating in the celebratory bell ringing after their own graduation.

Change ringing is a fairly esoteric pursuit in the United States. There are just 42 bell towers in the entire country. Illinois has one other bell tower, in the Chicago suburb of Riverside. The next-closest tower is in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Farthing says; after that, it's Pittsburgh.

Mitchell Tower's original bells were dedicated in 1908 in honor of Alice Freeman Palmer, the first dean of women in the graduate schools. Each of the 10 bells is inscribed with a biblical phrase said to befit her, such as "A gracious woman retaining honor," "Rooted and grounded in love," and, remarkably, "Making the lame to walk, the blind to see."

This past August the Palmer bells were temporarily taken out of the tower (the bell inscribed "In God's law meditating day and night" sat in the middle of 57th Street for days) and then reinstalled above the new ones. According to Farthing, the Palmer bells will no longer be hand rung in the traditional way. Instead, they will be controlled by a computer. ♦



JEAN BAPTISTE POINT du SABLE

2023

ARTHUR H. NICHOLS

STEVE GOODMAN & STUDS TERKEL, PhD '32, JD '34

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER • JANE ADDAMS

BARACK OBAMA • CARL SANDBURG

BRUCE & EILEEN BUTLER • TIMUEL BLACK, AM '54

GEORGINA ROSE SIMPSON, AB 1911, PhD 1921

GREETINGS, MAROONS!

Again taking a page from the New Yorker and its year-end tradition, we offer season's greetings in light verse to all of you, our cherished readers. These lines may be silly (they're definitely silly), but our wishes for your good health and happiness in 2024 are sincere.—L. D.

Themistocles, Thucydides,
The Peloponnesian—whoa, not these!
Behold fresh lines of air-light verse
To cheer the path to Jan the first.
Greetings! We're back dispensing more
Rhymed merriment for '24:
Happy year, Deans Miles and Hale,
Provost Baicker, Leila Sales,
Waldo E. Johnson, David Pickett,
Roopa Gandhi, Thomas Ricketts!
From 61st to 53rd,
May these ovations reach all nerds.
From Cottage Grove to Great Lake Mich,
Echo our sincerest wish
For contentment, peace, for secret sauce;
For latke and for hamantash,
To staff in Pick, Cobb, Levi Halls;
Bens Lorch and Howe, Rae Gray, Ray Ball,
Joalda Morancy, Sarah Langs,
David Grubbs, and Dali Yang.
Nobel props, Mounji Bawendi,
Whose quantum dots transcend the trendy.
To Deans Nelson and Olinto,
Debra Hammond, Jesse Scinto,

Ellen Cassedy, Heather Booth,
Tony Grafton, Anthony Ruth:
May mugs of Kona or peaberry
Warm the endless _____uary.
To Dana Suskind and John List,
Thirty million words of bliss.
To language whisperers near and global:
Salikoko Mufwene, Lenore Grenoble,
Orin Hargraves, Erin McKean,
Ben Zimmer, linguist on the scene:
Our shouts to you surpass a whisper—
Same to those making CRISPR crisper,
Editors of a different stripe
Who precision-tune the stuff of life:
To Marcus Kronforst, Phoebe Rice,
Weixin Tang et al., all things nice.
Magnified cheers to nanofab
That forms small wonders in the lab;
From depths of Eckhardt—low vibration—
Materials flout expectations
While bigger objects, up on high,
Preen for their close-ups in the sky.
Thanks, Ken Sembach, for what Webb weaves
And all resulting joie de vivre.
Earthly shutterbugs, too, give joy:
H. Horenstein and P. McCoy,

Whether SLR or point-and-shoot,
 Your pictures speak of multitudes.
 Laura Letinsky, Adam Nadel,
 Lyon scions Rebecca and Gabrielle—
All fams who bleed Maroon together,
 Who flock as Phoenixes of a feather,
 Glad be your tidings, long your runs:
 Lester Munsons, dad and son;
 Mattie Szydagis, brother Matt;
 Sam, Miriam, and Leon Kass;
 Dami and Tomi, Obaro twins;
 First, second, 99th cousins.
 Hey, Patti Gibbons, Torsten Reimer,
 What did you think of *Barbenheimer*?
 Barbie Army, salutes to you,
 Black Limo, and the Farmers too.
 Thomas Sowell, Harvey Choldin,
 Nobel laureate Claudia Goldin—
 Whom we'd been waiting to see tapped
 For unriddling the gender gap—
 Susie Allen, Jeanie-not-Connie:
 Blithest be you all and bonny.
 Andre Castro, Graeme Bell,
 Sara Paretsky, Josh Scodel;
 Samira Ahmed, Sidney Nagel,
 Socrates and Friedrich Hegel—

Or rather, those who parse their tomes
 In classrooms, carrels, and at home
 To meet assignments and directives
 Of Philosophical Perspectives.
 To Satya Nadella, Charlie Newell,
 Marilu Henner, William Sewell,
 Andy Kim, and Peggy Mason,
 Pleasures in concatenation.
 Rina Foygel Barber, amen—
 Even though we stretch, as laymen,
 To fathom what you do with stats—
 Amen to your MacArthur grant
 (Fellowship, more rightly named;
 A genius's laurel, just the same.)
 And so farewell 'til our next meeting,
 You citizens and human beings
 In London, Paris, Beijing, Hong Kong,
 Delhi, Chicago, and precincts beyond.
 The season turns and so it goes:
 Life more enriched as knowledge grows.

Illustration by Annick Poirier



News and Learning

UCHICAGO REVIEW

Inquiry + Insight

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PEER REVIEW

WHAT ALUMNI ARE THINKING AND DOING

SUCH GREAT HEIGHTS

Astronomer Sherburne W. Burnham, who cataloged 13,665 star systems, works at the Yerkes Observatory's 40-inch Great Refractor telescope around the time of the observatory's 1897 dedication.

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NOTES

A SELECTION OF ALUMNI WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE NEWS

ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEN

In August **Ed Siskel**, JD'00, was named White House counsel by President Joe Biden. Siskel worked in the Office of White House Counsel for nearly four years during the Obama administration, where he helped manage the White House's response to the Solyndra and Benghazi investigations while also working on congressional oversight and the Affordable Care Act rollout. Most recently he served as chief legal officer for a Chicago-based investment firm. In his new position, Siskel will lead a team that advises President Biden on legal matters affecting the White House and public policy.

PHYSICS ADVISER

Kenneth Bloom, AB'92, was appointed to a three-year term on the US Department of Energy's High Energy Physics Advisory Panel. Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bloom focuses on top-quark physics, weak interactions, and the Higgs boson. Since 2021 he has served as deputy manager of operations for the US Compact Muon Solenoid Operations Program, which includes stewardship of a \$51 million National Science Foundation grant that goes through 2026. As one of 19 members on the panel, Bloom will review the nation's high energy physics programs and offer recommendations on priorities, long-term strategies, and funding.

PERFORMANCE ARTIST

As part of the UCLA Hammer Museum's biennial exhibition *Made in LA 2023: Acts of Living*, **Young Joon Kwak**, AM'10, took part in two October events: the variety show "Weirdo Night with Dynasty Handbag" and the panel "The Feminine Absurd: The Queer Body." Kwak is a Los Angeles-based multidisciplinary artist who works in performance, sculpture, video, sound, and community-based collaborations. They founded Mutant Salon—a roving beauty salon and platform for performances with Kwak's queer-trans-femme-BIPOC community—



TOPP OF HER LEAGUE

Sarah Langs, AB'15, is featured in this year's Topps Allen & Ginter set of collectible trading cards. The set includes Major League Baseball players and staff, athletes from other leagues, and pop culture figures. A reporter and producer at MLB Advanced Media who is known for her encyclopedic knowledge of baseball history and statistics, Langs publicly announced in October 2022 that she has been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease). Since then Langs has advocated for ALS awareness and research. She and six other women in baseball with ALS were honored at Yankee Stadium on July 4, 2023, the 84th anniversary of Lou Gehrig's "luckiest man on the face of the earth" speech.

and perform in the drag-electronic-dance-noise band Xina Xurner. Kwak teaches at California Institute of the Arts and serves on the boards of both the Feminist Center for Creative Work and Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions.

STUDY ABROAD

College grads **Amala Karri**, AB'23, AM'23; **Isabelle Russo**, AB'23; and **Donna Son**, AB'23, form the second class of Arley D. Cathey International Graduate Study Fellows. Established with a gift from Arley D. Cathey, PhD'50, in honor of his father, the fellowships provide financial assistance to pursue a research-focused master's degree abroad. Karri headed to the University of Oxford this fall to undertake refugee and forced migration studies; she plans to work as an asylum lawyer. Russo studies environmental policy at the University of Cambridge, focusing on how safeguards and policies might be applied to the extraction and storage of natural resources. Son, who

plans to pursue a PhD in French history, is studying history at the Paris Institute of Political Studies.

COSMIC COLLECTION

Physics professor and Nobel laureate James Cronin's (SM'53, PhD'55) papers are now available for study at the Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center. Cronin, who died in 2016, is best known for his 1964 discovery of the charge-parity violation phenomenon (known as CP violation). It helped physicists understand a long-standing mystery—why there is more matter than antimatter in the universe. For this discovery he and collaborator Val Fitch were awarded the 1980 Nobel Prize in Physics. Papers in the collection focus on Cronin's discovery of the CP violation, his research on cosmic rays, and his work building the Pierre Auger Observatory in Argentina to further the study of cosmic rays.

—Chandler A. Calderon

RELEASES

ALUMNI BOOKS, FILMS, AND RECORDINGS



THE CHASE AND RUINS: ZORA NEALE HURSTON IN HONDURAS

By Sharony Green, AM'08; Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023

Facing a decline in her career as well as political and artistic tensions with her peers, Zora Neale Hurston traveled south, spending nearly 10 months in Honduras in 1947–48, hoping to find the ruins of a lost Mayan city. Though she did not find any ruins, Hurston wrote to her editor that in Honduras she rediscovered herself. **Sharony Green** meticulously reconstructs this overlooked time in Hurston's career, complicating our understanding of her life and work. Throughout, Green offers a portrait of postwar politics, literary and cinematic culture, and the complex dynamics between the United States and Central America.

WE ARE TOO MANY: A MEMOIR [KIND OF]

By Hannah Pittard, AB'01; Henry Holt, 2023

We Are Too Many opens with a conversation in which **Hannah Pittard** learns that her husband has been having an affair with her best friend. In a tone by turns ironic and earnest, Pittard recounts a decade of conversations around the dissolution of her marriage. Yet the book defies the constraints of a traditional memoir: these remembered encounters

are accompanied by short essays and speculative dialogues that read like film scripts. Pittard also sheds light on more universal experiences that are difficult to talk about: outgrowing relationships, eating disorders, and female rage.

FOSTER DADE EXPLORES THE COSMOS

By Nash Jenkins, AM'19; The Overlook Press, 2023

Nash Jenkins immerses readers in a New Jersey boarding school in 2008, where transfer student Foster Dade falls in with the popular crowd but struggles to cope with the new environment. He becomes the center of a tragic scandal and is expelled. The following school year, the novel's unnamed narrator inherits Foster's former dorm room. The traces Foster left behind compel the narrator to investigate his story. He spends years interviewing Foster's classmates and poring over blog posts recovered through the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine. As the narrator lays bare the school's secrets, he uncovers terrible pain in his schoolmates' lives, but also moments of joy and tenderness.

TOGETHER, SOMEHOW: MUSIC, AFFECT, AND INTIMACY ON THE DANCEFLOOR

By Luis Manuel Garcia-Mispireta, PhD'11; Duke University Press, 2023

Contemporary electronic dance music

parties can be inclusive spaces where strangers find intimacy through shared sensory experiences. Ethnomusicologist **Luis Manuel Garcia-Mispireta** studies the house and techno music scenes of late-aughts Chicago, Paris, and Berlin to explore how music, gesture, and touch create a sense of excitement and belonging. These parties, the author argues, are utopian projects, seeking to embody an ideal community. But exclusionary practices often hide behind efforts to ensure a party will "attract the 'right' crowd" for getting the desired "vibe." Garcia-Mispireta explores new ways of thinking about intimacy and its limits.

AT MIDNIGHT: POEMS

By David Ray, AB'52, AM'57; Whirlybird Press, 2023

"Have we lost the chance to live in the light?" writes **David Ray** in "Planning the Decade That's Past," one of 56 poems in *At Midnight*. In simple, straightforward language, Ray writes about the environment, social inequities, religion, aging, and grief. Meditations on visual art form a thread throughout, and the book's final section includes a sequence of reflections on the life and work of Edward Hopper. Amid the challenges of human experience, Ray uncovers glimpses of beauty and levity.

—Chandler A. Calderon

For additional alumni book releases, use the link to the *Magazine's* Goodreads bookshelf at mag.uchicago.edu/alumni-books.

TO UKRAINE AND BACK AGAIN

The loss of her grandmother compelled an alumna to understand her heritage.

BY MEGAN BUSKEY, AB'04

Ukraine, it is commonly observed, means “borderland” in the Ukrainian and Russian languages. This meaning is often invoked to explain that Ukrainian territory has long served as a buffer between cultures, whether between Christendom and the Islamic world in the Middle Ages, or Europe and Russia more recently.

I came to think of Ukraine as representing a borderland of my own, a psychic one. Before I had gone to Ukraine, my view of the world was fixed. I had assumed that certain things were immutable: People greeted each other with care. Certain boundaries—time, space, independence—were respected. If you were sick, you could get help. Your apartment building was whole; your lights burned at your command; water flowed freely from faucets.

Now I possessed personal experience that had proved that assumption false. I had crossed into a new understanding of how the world worked; Ukraine had revealed to me a glimmer of the unjust suffering it could hold. With this new awareness, I tightened inside. Mild acts of subversion—party-ing, culling a hip wardrobe from thrift store bins, sarcasm—lost their allure. I became kinder as I understood in a new way that people could not help the circumstances they were born into. I now understood that circumstances alone could be crushing. Perhaps one way of accounting for this change was simply to say that I was becoming

an adult. But I also felt that visiting Ukraine had been crucial to this understanding, and that there was still more for me to learn.

After I graduated from college in 2004, I returned to Ukraine and stayed for a year on a Fulbright fellowship. My time there coincided with the Orange Revolution, a heady moment in Ukrainian history when massive public protests helped overturn a rigged presidential election. Witnessing the event was my first real political education. It opened my mind to fresh ways of thinking about all kinds of social problems: the woes of post-Soviet economies, the selective application of the rule of law, the unequal access to quality health care. Armed with these new perspectives, I started to think about how these wrongs could be righted, and how I could take part.

When I came back to the United States, I took a series of jobs that eventually led me to a policy position at a development-focused foundation in the nation’s capital, where, using the imperfect tools of briefing books and strategic plans, I sought to leverage my passion into something useful.

**I became kinder
as I understood
in a new way
that people could
not help the
circumstances they
were born into.**

Sometimes, though, when I looked at my Outlook inbox for long stretches, an inner voice whispered to me that I wasn’t doing much of anything at all.

My grandmother died in the first weeks of the spring of 2013. She was eighty-eight, so it feels strange to call her death unexpected, but its cause—a heart attack or stroke that struck in the middle of the night, causing her to collapse in the bathroom—came on without warning. [Her third husband,] Mr. Sorochak, whom she had outlived by eight years, had died at ninety-seven, and we had all expected her to follow the model of his long decline, growing slower and feebler by the year, collapsing into herself so much that she finally became still, like a stone. She did not. To the end of her days, my grandmother was vibrant; she kept her agency and her spirit until, all at once, they left her.

Her death struck me like a thunderbolt. How could this beloved person, this seemingly permanent feature of life, suddenly be gone? How could her vitality be extinguished? How could her story be over? How?

My grandmother had arranged and paid for her own funeral many years earlier, so my mom, [my aunt] Olga, and I didn’t have those logistics to distract us in the days after her death. To keep busy, we threw ourselves into going through her belongings; the modest brick ranch house in Parma [Ohio] she had so carefully tended would have to be sold eventually. While my grandmother was tidy, she had lived



The author's family in Siberia, where they lived in exile for nearly two decades in the mid-20th century. Megan Buskey's (AB'04) grandmother stands in the back, holding Megan's mother.

in the house for decades and inherited the belongings of her parents, so we had quite a task before us.

My grandmother had a habit of storing papers in used mailing envelopes, on which she would scrawl descriptions of their contents in Ukrainian. The envelopes suggested she was interested in maintaining some kind of order, but in truth they were just vessels for her clutter—receipts for packages she sent to Ukraine, a bewildering number of icon cards from funerals (what was it like to lose so many friends?), bills from Medicare, a Ukrainian newspaper from the nineties. Once my mother opened a used envelope to find a thousand dollars still wrapped in a tie from the bank.

The envelopes that thrilled me the most contained old photographs. We marveled that there were so many of them that we hadn't seen, the oldest ones crimped along their white borders, as photos once commonly were. When I found a photo of her, I felt a tingle of pleasure and studied it closely.

My opportunities to have new experiences with her were dwindling. This was a way to stay close.

When I had exhausted the photos, I found myself pursuing that closeness in other ways. I finagled reading privileges at a nearby university library so I could read specialized books about my grandmother's time and region that were too costly to buy. I wrote archives in Poland and Ukraine to request documents pertaining to my family. During meetings at work, I positioned my laptop so I could scroll unnoticed through passenger lists from Ellis Island. I dusted off recordings of the interviews I had done with my grandmother over the years, and had them transcribed and translated into English so I could understand all of their nuances.

A few months after I started down this path, I visited the ivy-clad Freud Museum in London. I stopped short at a quote on one of the walls from Virginia Woolf in which she explained that her novel *To the Lighthouse* had been fueled

by her fixation with her mother, who died when the author was thirteen:

When it was written, I ceased to be obsessed by my mother. I no longer hear her voice; I do not see her. ... I suppose that I did for myself what psychoanalysts do for their patients. I expressed some very long and deeply felt emotion. And in expressing it I explained it and then laid it to rest.

I didn't recognize the feeling of resolution, but the compulsive need to describe I knew. In my previous forays into my grandmother's life, I had not gone far enough. I needed to know more. ♦

Megan Buskey, AB'04, writes about Ukrainian history, politics, and culture. She is based in New York City. From *Ukraine Is Not Dead Yet: A Family Story of Exile and Return*. Copyright © 2023 by Megan Buskey. Reprinted with permission of ibidem Press.

ALUMNI NEWS

FROM THE CLASSES, SCHOOLS, AND DIVISIONS

To protect the privacy of our alumni, we have removed the class notes from this section. If you are an alumnus of the University and would like class notes from our archives, please email uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.



Brought to light: This 1916 gathering of staff members at Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, WI, includes three UChicago alumnae. Though their contributions are often eclipsed, women were at the heart of astronomy and astrophysics advancements at Yerkes Observatory in the early 20th century. An exhibition of materials from the Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center highlights their voices and research. *Capturing the Stars: The Untold History of Women at Yerkes Observatory* is on view until December 15 and online at mag.uchicago.edu/womenatyerkes. Back row from left: Helen N. Davis, Max Petersen, Clifford Crump, and Frances Allen. Front row from left: Evelyn (Wickham) Hale, SM 1917; Harriet (Parsons) Hall, SM 1916, PhD'21; Anne S. Young; Alice Hall Farnsworth, PhD 1920; and Inez Wendell. (UChicago Photographic Archive, apf6-00399, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

What's new? We are always eager to receive your news, care of the Alumni News Editor, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615, or by email: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. No engagements, please. Items may be edited for space, clarity, civility, and style. As news is published in the order in which it arrives, it may not appear immediately. We list news from all former undergraduates (including those with UChicago graduate degrees) by the year of their undergraduate affiliation. All former students who received only graduate degrees are listed in the advanced degrees section.

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New Cobb smell: A College seminar takes place in a remodeled Cobb Hall classroom in 1956. The oldest building on campus, Cobb (built in 1892) was a priority in a larger midcentury campus construction and renovation project that coincided with the beginning of the University's urban renewal project along 55th Street and its expansion south of the Midway. The year after this photo was taken, construction began on the Law School's new building. (Photography by William M. Rittase, UChicago Photographic Archive, apf4-01931, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)



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End zone play: Fans (or detractors?) tear down the goalposts in 1969 after the varsity football team's first Division III home game since the program's dissolution 30 years before. The Maroons beat North Central College 12-0. The downed goalposts were deposited on University president Edward Levi's (LAB'28, PhB'32, JD'35) front lawn. Did you witness the revival of the football program? What reading material did you bring to games? Give us something good to peruse: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Photography by David Travis, AB'71; Copyright 2023, The Chicago Maroon. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)



Opera renaissance: In the early 1970s James H. Moore, on the music faculty at UChicago from 1976 to 1984, plays viola da gamba for a recording of Marco da Gagliano's *La Dafne* (1608). Moore published a critical edition of the early Italian opera in 1972. In 1975 ABC Records released a recording of the opera on its Command label based on Moore's edition; Moore received a Grammy nomination for best album notes for this record. (UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-00929, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)



Laser focus: Barbara Schubert, EX'79, leads the University Symphony Orchestra, circa 1980. Now senior lecturer in music and director of the performance program, Schubert has been the group's conductor since 1976. She received a Janel M. Mueller Award for Excellence in Pedagogy in 2016. Did you play with the University Symphony Orchestra or study with Schubert? Share your symphonic stories with us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Photography by Dan Coyro; Copyright 2023, The Chicago Maroon. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)



Archival image: Special Collections staff members pose for a group portrait in 1990. From left standing: Dan Galligan; Kim Coventry; Roger Bertschausen, MDiv'90; Stephen Duffy, AM'76; Richard L. Popp, AM'81; and Kevin Schilbrack, AM'89, PhD'95. From left seated: Dan Meyer, AM'75, PhD'94; Samantha Reynolds, EX'92; Catherine MacCormack, AB'92; Debra Henning, AM'96; Valarie Brocato; and George Reisch, SM'90, PhD'95. Did you plumb the archives during your University days? Let us know what pages you pored over at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-05514, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)



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Cheers to Greer: In Professor Lothar Meyer's low-temperature physics lab in the James Franck Institute's basement, Sandra Greer, SM'68, PhD'69, celebrates the successful defense of her dissertation, "Binary Phase Diagrams of Van Der Waals' Solids." Read our interview with Greer, "If You Can't Stand the Heat ...," on page 25, and tell us how you recovered after your dissertation defense at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Photography by William L. Greer, PhD'69)

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DEATHS

FACULTY AND STAFF

Terence “Terry” Edwin Martin, professor emeritus in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology and the Committee on Immunology, died April 12 in Chicago. He was 81. Martin attended the University of Adelaide and the University of Cambridge before joining the UChicago faculty. With a focus on nuclear structure and RNA synthesis and processing, Martin studied the basic mechanisms of gene expression. An author, critic, and collector, he was involved with the Jazz Institute of Chicago, the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, and the Chicago Jazz Festival. He also served as chair of the Don DeMicheal Archives Committee, which helped create the Chicago Jazz Archive at the University of Chicago Library. The Jazz Institute of Chicago Terry Martin Papers are housed in the Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center. Survivors include his partner, **Ursula Storb**, professor emerita in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology; sons **Gavin Martin**, LAB’82, and **Darrell Martin**, LAB’84; a grandchild; and his ex-spouse, Anne Martin.

1940s

Del Nord, AB’42, of Brookline, MA, died March 11. She was 101. Trained at Case Western Reserve University and what is today the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute, Nord maintained a private practice from 1953 to 2020 as a psychotherapist with adolescents and adults. She also completed some doctoral work in Egyptology at UChicago during the 1960s, focusing her research on the status of women in Old Kingdom Egypt. She is survived by her husband, **Edward Brovarski**, PhD’89; two sons; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. **Miriam Abbell Rosenblum**, LAB’45, PhB’49, AM’53, died May 1 in Jerusalem. She was 93. She and her husband, Paul Rosenblum, AB’47, JD’51, moved to Israel in the late 1990s. He died in 2006. She is survived by four children, including **Jonathan Rosenblum**, AB’73, and **Maxwell Rosenblum**, MBA’86; 32 grandchildren; and 87 great-grandchildren. **Herbert Karl Tjossem**, AM’45, of Appleton, WI, died May 27. He was 100. Following doctoral studies at Yale, Tjossem taught at Missouri Military Academy and at what was then Iowa State Teachers College; he also studied in Heidelberg, Germany, as a Fulbright Scholar. In 1956 he joined the faculty at Lawrence University in Appleton, teaching English literature and linguistics and helping establish and lead Lawrence’s

London Centre before retiring in 1993. Survivors include four children, five grandchildren, and special friend Lynn Hagee.

Michael Weinberg Jr., LAB’41, AB’47, died July 10 in Palm Desert, CA. He was 98. A Chicago native and longtime Highland Park, IL, resident, Weinberg owned, published, and edited the *Hyde Park Herald* in the 1950s; served as executive director of the Lincoln Park Zoological Society in the 1960s; and worked as vice president of Weinberg Brothers and Company commodity futures brokerage firm starting in the 1970s. Also in the 1970s, he served as board chair of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Later he became president of American Futures Corporation. Weinberg was a devoted alumnus whose 83 consecutive years of giving to the University of Chicago add up to the longest in the school’s history. He was a founding member of Congregation Solel in Highland Park (now Congregation Makom Solel Lakeside) and cared deeply about his faith. He is survived by three children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Logan Jordan Fox, AM’47, died March 24 in Mount Vernon, WA. He was 100. Born in Tokyo to missionary parents, Fox moved to the United States as a teen and soon became a preacher. At UChicago he studied under psychologist Carl Rogers and then traveled to Japan to promote Rogerian psychology and help launch Ibaraki Christian College (now University). Fox served as dean and president there before teaching at Pepperdine University, El Camino College, and the University of Southern California, where he obtained his PhD in 1967. He also maintained a private clinical psychology practice. Survivors include three children, seven grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren.

Olga Glassman Parker, AB’49, died June 19 in Rapid City, SD. She was 93. Parker pursued a liberal studies degree and met her husband, Watson Parker, AB’48, at the College. They lived in South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin before retiring to the Black Hills. A stay-at-home mother who held occasional secretarial and bookkeeping positions, she was a library volunteer and active in local clubs. Her husband died in 2013. She is survived by three children, including **David Parker**, MBA’80; six grandchildren, including **Jennifer Truong**, AB’06; and nine great-grandchildren.

George A. Behling Jr., PhB’46, JD’49, of Burbank, IL, died May 7. He was 98. During World War II, Behling was a US Air Force pilot and prisoner of war in Germany. In his later career as an attorney, he focused on real estate and estate planning. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn;

four children; four stepchildren; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Jack Joseph, AB’49, JD’52, of Chicago, died December 17, 2022. He was 95. An Army veteran, Joseph worked as a litigator and trusts and estates counselor in Chicago for nearly 70 years. Early in his career he represented American Indian tribes in claims against the US government, winning a case for the Peoria Tribe before the Supreme Court. Active in the Chicago Bar Association, Joseph helped craft the 1970 Illinois Constitution and many state laws and rules of practice. He is survived by a son, **James Joseph**, JD’94; a daughter, and three grandchildren.

1950s

John Henry Kultgen, AM’47, PhD’52, of Columbia, MO, died April 20. He was 97. For 40 years Kultgen was a philosophy professor at the University of Missouri, focusing on ancient philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. The author of five books and more than 50 articles, he received two major teaching awards and three National Science Foundation fellowships for his work in engineering ethics. He was also a US Navy veteran and longtime activist in peace and justice organizations. Survivors include his wife, Aline; seven children; 18 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Phyllis (McRae) Lusher, AB’54, died July 14 in New York. She was 88. Lusher earned her statistics degree in three years and met her husband, Robert F. Lusher, AB’57, AB’58, JD’59, in Chicago. The couple lived in San Diego; New York; Dakar, Senegal; London; and Hong Kong, where they spent 40 years building a successful construction business. After her husband’s death in 1999, Lusher continued to travel the world. She supported global performing arts organizations and scholarships for Hong Kong students to attend UChicago. She is survived by four children, including **Anne Blair McMillen**, JD’82; seven grandchildren, including **Gus Falloon**, Class of 2025; and three great-grandchildren.

Beata (Kitsikis) Panagopoulos, AM’56, of San Francisco, died April 27. She was 97. An art historian focusing on the medieval period, Panagopoulos received her PhD from the Sorbonne in 1970 and taught at San Jose State University until 1988. In the 1980s she was also a professor and the director of the Gennadius Library at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens in Greece, and she received the 1982 Academy of Athens annual award for the humanities. Her husband, Epaminondas Peter

To request an obituary for a faculty member, staff member, or former student, please send a previously published obituary or a note that includes their accomplishments, surviving family members, and significant facts care of the Alumni News Editor, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615, or by email: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

Panagopoulos, PhD'52, died in 1997. She is survived by a daughter; a son; a sister; a grandson, **Thanos Panagopoulos**, AB'00; and two great-grandchildren.

Gerda J. Schell, AM'56, died April 10 in Chicago. She was 89. A clinical social worker, Schell had a multifaceted 68-year career in the Chicago area. As a therapist, she worked with individuals and families in private practice and at various institutions. She held administrative positions at hospitals for children and adolescents, and public sector appointments as a child specialist. In 2017 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Survivors include extended family.

Robert Bloom, SB'58, of Highland Park, IL, died August 9. He was 87. Bloom earned a master's degree from Northeastern Illinois University and a PhD in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, from which he received a distinguished alumni award in 2010. After a series of roles working to integrate families into the education of children with disabilities, Bloom served as executive director of Chicago Jewish Child and Family Services (formerly Jewish Children's Bureau of Chicago). President Jimmy Carter appointed him as a consultant to the 1980 White House Conference on Families. The Illinois State Assembly honored Bloom in 2009 for his lifetime of service to the state as a member of the Illinois Community and Residential Services Agency. Bloom was also an assistant professor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and a consultant to child welfare agencies in the United States, Ukraine, and Israel. In his 12 years as the *Magazine's* Class of 1958 correspondent, Bloom brought classmates together through his Alumni News columns. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; four children; a sister; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Robert D. Carswell, JD'58, died May 4. He was 88. Born in Northern Ireland, Carswell was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution; graduated from Pembroke College, Oxford, in law and classics; and received a Fulbright Award to attend the Law School. Returning to Belfast, he worked as a barrister and later became a high court judge, appeal court judge, lord chief justice of Northern Ireland, and law lord. In those roles he presided over high-profile terrorist trials. He is survived by his wife, Romaine, and two daughters.

Joette Knapik Trofimuk, AB'59, AM'61, of Santa Fe, NM, died July 28. She was 84. Trofimuk studied political science in the College and as a graduate student. After working at the United Nations for the Taiwanese Delegation, she became a history teacher and guidance counselor in New Jersey and then ran her husband's medical practice for 25 years. In 1987 the couple moved to New Mexico, where for 35 years she was the owner and director of Photogenesis Gallery in Santa Fe, which featured classic and modern photographers. Since 2006

she served this publication and her classmates as the Class of 1959 correspondent. She is survived by her husband, Nicholas, and a daughter, **Christy O'Connor**, AB'90.

Peter Solyom Jr., EX'59, of Katy, TX, died April 13. He was 96. After serving in the US Army, Solyom graduated in 1951 from the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy. He worked as a pharmacist at the University of Chicago, Stanford, and the Kaiser Foundation, where he was a founding member and president of the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists. He was also active in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; a son; five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1960s

Jerome H. Long, DB'60, AM'62, PhD'73, of Cromwell, CT, died May 8. He was 91. A graduate of Knox College and the UChicago Divinity School, Long was an ordained American Baptist minister and Army veteran who turned to teaching. Over a nearly 30-year career in the religion department at Wesleyan University, he coordinated the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program, helped establish the Center for African American Studies, and chaired the African Studies Committee. He remained active in retirement, researching race relations and the role of Black service members in the military, as well as volunteering at the YMCA and teaching Sunday school classes. Survivors include his wife, Pat; a daughter; a son; and five grandchildren.

James B. Zagel, AB'62, AM'62, of Chicago, died July 15. He was 82. A philosophy student and Harvard Law School graduate, Zagel joined the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in 1965. Early in his career he ran the criminal division of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General and led the Illinois Departments of Revenue and Law Enforcement/State Police. As a US district court judge, Zagel presided over the 2011 corruption trial of former governor Rod Blagojevich and the 2007 "Family Secrets" mob trial. In 2011 he received the UChicago Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award. In addition to supporting jazz in Chicago, he also penned a heist novel, *Money to Burn* (2002), and acted in two movies. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Maxwell Zagel.

Mary "Meg" Gerken, AB'64, AM'67, died June 11 in Chicago. She was 80. With a bachelor's in literature and philosophy and a master's in Russian literature and history, Gerken earned an MFA in photography at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She taught photography and humanities courses at what is now Wilbur Wright College for over 30 years and exhibited her photography in Chicago and abroad. Her work—often in black and white, documenting people's daily lives—is in several museum collections. She is survived by her husband, **Gordon Quinn**, AB'65 (Class of 1964).

David I. Kopf, PhD'64, of Seattle, died April 8.

He was 93. A first-generation college student and son of Polish Orthodox Jewish immigrants, Kopf received his doctorate in comparative and South Asian history. His knowledge of Sanskrit, German, Yiddish, and English led to his service in the US Army Intelligence linguistics unit. After teaching at the University of Missouri, Kopf joined the University of Minnesota history faculty, focusing on Indian history and South Asian civilizations. He lived in Kolkata, India, for extended periods and published historical works, poetry, and novels. Survivors include two children and four grandchildren.

Gloria Valentine, AM'64, died April 16 in San Francisco. She was 87. With an undergraduate degree from DePaul University and her graduate degree in Spanish language and literature, Valentine worked as an administrative assistant in the UChicago Divinity School. She then served for decades as an administrative assistant to Nobel laureate Milton Friedman, AM'33, in the UChicago economics department and, from 1977 to 2006, at Stanford's Hoover Institution, from which she retired in 2008.

Joseph R. Vojacek, AM'64, of Oak Park, IL, died April 24, 2022. He was 81. Following his graduate studies in English, Vojacek embarked on a long teaching career at Chicago's Malcolm X College. As a professor of English, he taught interdisciplinary humanities courses that blended literature, film, music, and graphic arts. He retired in 2000 and dedicated many hours to antiquing, video, and photography. Survivors include three stepdaughters and two step-grandchildren.

Linda Handelman, AB'65, died September 11, 2022, in Pasadena, CA. Handelman, who studied education at UChicago, taught for a year in the city school system before moving to California. With her master's degree in philosophy and PhD in higher education from Claremont Graduate University, she became an associate professor of philosophy at Pasadena City College, teaching for 15 years until her retirement in 2015. Survivors include her extended family.

Jo-Ann (Kling) Murdach, AM'65, died May 18 in Castro Valley, CA. She was 85. A former Sister of St. Benedict, Murdach graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College of St. Catherine in Minnesota. She taught humanities and philosophy at Chabot College in Hayward, CA, from 1969 to 2002 and English as a second language at Milpitas High School for 11 years. She is survived by her husband, **Allison "Al" Murdach**, AM'66; two sons; and four grandchildren.

Ronald Wayne Miller, MBA'66, died recently. He is survived by a daughter and two sons.

Anne C. (Rosenzweig) Singer, SB'66, of Cherry Hill, NJ, died September 26, 2022. She was 77. After earning her master's in biology from the University of Alabama in 1969 and her law degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1973, Singer worked first in New Jersey's Office of the Public Defender and then as an assistant US attorney in Newark. She fought for fair legal representation for indigent and mentally ill defendants and

championed high ethical standards for attorneys. She also worked in several large firms, founded her own practice, and spoke and wrote on legal issues. Survivors include her husband, David Berengut; two daughters; two stepchildren; one brother; three grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

Alan M. Strout, AM'55, PhD'67, died May 17 in Needham, MA. He was 96. Strout enrolled at Cornell in 1944 for Navy training and undergraduate studies in mechanical engineering. After graduate work in economics and planning at UChicago, he took on assignments with the United Nations, the US Agency for International Development, and the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. Later he moved with his family to Jakarta, Indonesia, where he taught and consulted with several Southeast Asian governments and universities. Strout published in economic journals and lectured, ultimately serving as executive director of MIT's Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies. He is survived by his wife, Caroline; two sons; and four grandchildren.

Joseph J. Madden, MBA'68, of Lincolnshire, IL, died May 7. He was 93. With an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from Northwestern, Madden spent most of his career at Kelso-Burnett, a provider of electrical services, where he served as vice president. Outside of work he was a handyman, supporter of the arts, choir member at Sacred Heart Parish, and golfer. He is survived by his wife, Katherine; two children; and two grandchildren.

Roger Evans Allen, MBA'69, of Evanston, IL, died February 9. He was 77. While studying mathematics at the University of Colorado, Allen traveled east to participate in the 1963 March on Washington. Later, having earned his MBA, he worked at the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, the Black Economic Union, and the State of New York Mortgage Agency. As CEO at Allen Studios, he directed the design, production, and installation of public art projects worldwide. A competitive tennis player, Allen served on the board of the Evanston Community Tennis Association. He is survived by his wife, Colette; two daughters; a son; two stepsons; and five grandchildren.

1970s

Robert L. Dixon, MBA'70, of Hobe Sound, FL, died June 21. He was 92. A graduate of Colorado College, Dixon served in the Navy Air Corps during the Korean War. His career included sales and marketing roles at American Motors and at Clark Equipment Company. For 10 years he had his own business as a manufacturers' representative in Chicago and later taught marketing at Purdue University's Calumet and North Central campuses. He is survived by his daughter and by his partner, Roberta Durant.

Peter K. Machamer, PhD'72, of Pittsburgh, died May 31. He was 80. With degrees from Columbia University and the University of Cambridge, Machamer studied philosophy

at UChicago. Several years' teaching at Ohio State University led to over four decades at the University of Pittsburgh as a professor and chair of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. His scholarship and publications focused on the 17th century, especially the works of Descartes and Galileo; he was also a longtime wine columnist for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Survivors include his wife, Barbara; five children; two sisters; and six grandchildren.

Bruce Stephen Cooper, AM'72, PhD'74, of New York, died April 26. He was 80. Cooper became a teacher after studying English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His graduate work in educational administration launched a 40-year career in the field. As a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania, Dartmouth, the University of London, and Fordham University's Graduate School of Education, he taught and mentored hundreds of future school leaders. He also authored, coauthored, and edited more than 150 education-focused books and articles. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; three children, including **Phoebe Cooper**, AB'90; and six grandchildren, including **Daphne Maeglin**, AB'18.

1980s

Grafton Sharpe Harper, AB'86, of Santa Monica, CA, died May 14. He was 58. Harper studied geophysics in the College and was active in Doc Films. He built his 36-year career around his interest in the film industry, starting on the creative side with his master's from the University of Southern California, and ending up on the commercial side with his MBA from UCLA. He worked at Capgemini, Ernst & Young, and Parson Consulting before becoming controller at Blue Skies Consulting. He also was a suicide crisis line supervisor and served on the boards of Girls & Gangs and the Jonathan Art Foundation. He is survived by his partner, Elizabeth Van Denburgh; his mother; and his brother.

Daniel Beach Dix, SM'84, PhD'88, died July 3 in Chapin, SC. He was 64. Dix was a math professor at the University of South Carolina for 30 years. Before moving to Chapin, he and his family lived in Minneapolis; State College, PA; and Irmo, SC. He loved his church, the world of mathematics, and the natural world; with his family, he enjoyed hiking, camping, and travel. He is survived by his wife, Jean Sveum Dix; two children, including **Amy Dix**, AB'08, AM'11; three siblings; and a grandson.

1990s

Kimberly Werninghaus Blair, LAB'72, MBA'90, died June 20 in San Leandro, CA, of cancer. She was 67. A graduate of Wheaton College in Massachusetts, Blair worked at the University of Chicago medical center and completed her executive MBA at Chicago Booth. She worked in health care administration at Albert Einstein Medical

Center in Philadelphia and Kaiser Permanente in Northern California. She was a community and school volunteer. She is survived by her husband, Raymond; a son; her mother; and her sister, **Karla Werninghaus**, LAB'75.

Valerie Toney Parker, MBA'92, of Chicago, died May 13 of colon cancer. She was 57. Toney Parker served as a human resources executive in the private and nonprofit sectors, including at the Chicago Food Depository and Chicago Public Media. Active in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, she earned her doctorate in ministry from the McCormick Theological Seminary. She created the Consciousness Bar, an organization that engaged young people in learning about social justice, advocacy, and African heritage. She is survived by two sons, including **Kyle Parker**, LAB'13; and a granddaughter.

Rachel Lee Blake, AB'97, of Philadelphia, died June 25 of cancer. She was 47. Blake, who studied sociology in the College, went on to earn a JD/MA in law and urban planning at the University of Iowa. After five years in corporate law, she switched to legal advocacy and earned her MBA at Carnegie Mellon University, working in Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Philadelphia and receiving several awards for her service. She spent 15 years at Regional Housing Legal Services in Philadelphia, most recently as director of strategic initiatives, and was active in the UChicago Pittsburgh Alumni Club. She is survived by her husband, Robert Jefferson; a daughter; her parents; and three siblings.

2000s

Elizabeth Schiller Friedman, AM'93, PhD'00, of Chicago, died June 23 of pancreatic cancer. She was 64. In addition to her graduate studies in Near Eastern languages and civilizations, Friedman received a master's in maritime civilizations from the University of Haifa. She directed professional master's programs and taught anthropology at the Illinois Institute of Technology; she also cofounded and later led the National Professional Science Master's Association. Most recently she facilitated faculty engagement in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) educational initiatives at the University of Illinois Chicago. Survivors include her husband, Alon; a daughter; her mother; two sisters, including **Wendy J. Schiller**, AB'86; and two brothers.

2020s

Bhikkhu Cetovimutti "Ceto" Cong, AM'22, of Yantai, China, died June 20 as the result of a November 2022 bicycle accident. He was 34. Born and raised in China, Cong was ordained as a Theravada Buddhist monastic in Sri Lanka in 2014. At UChicago he was a Disciples Divinity House scholar. Enthusiastic about historical and contemporary religious traditions, Cong had just started a PhD in Buddhist studies at the University of California, Berkeley, when the accident happened. He is survived by his mother.



THE UCHICAGOAN

Martha C. Nussbaum

Questions for the legal scholar, philosopher, and public intellectual.

What surprising job have you had in the past?

Actress in a repertory theater.

What was the last book you finished?

Nora Nickum's *Superpod: Saving the Endangered Orcas of the Pacific Northwest*.

What book changed your life?

There are so many, but perhaps I'll say the tragedies of Euripides.

Tell us the best piece of advice you've received—or the worst.

Best: Don't become a professional actress, use your intellectual gifts instead. But I had to find out for myself.

What advice would you give to a brand-new Maroon?

Try out many things and pursue what you love. Don't worry about jobs. Your four years are groundwork for your entire life, so the humanities should play a large role.

What UChicago classroom moment will you never forget?

A seminar two years ago in which a group of gifted law and philosophy students gave me the most amazing critical comments on a book on animal rights, now published with much thanks to them.



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