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CHICAGO

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The University of Chicago Magazine (ISSN-0041-9508) is published quarterly (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) by the University of Chicago in cooperation with Alumni Relations and Development, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615, and sent to all University of Chicago alumni. Published continuously since 1907. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER Send address changes to *The University of Chicago Magazine*, Alumni Records, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615. © 2023 University of Chicago

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A POET WALKS INTO A BAR

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

What lines of poetry get stuck in your head? That's one of the questions we asked poet and English professor **Srikanth "Chicu" Reddy** in "Well Versed," page 28. Poetry lovers and likers will enjoy his answer, plus the whole Q&A—and will find a few grace notes in Alumni News and in "Jimmy's Woodlawn Tap: An Oral History" (page 36), about the Hyde Park watering hole that, over 75 illustrious years, has watered professors, plumbers, at least one president, and, yes, poets.


Some of the first poetry Reddy remembers loving is that of Shel Silverstein, whose *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (Harper and Row, 1974) was also a staple of my childhood library. The sheer clever silliness of Silverstein's rhymes (and drawings) acted as an irresistible invitation to a lifetime of poetry reading. A fifth-grade teacher raised the bar, assigning us to memorize and recite "Paul Revere's Ride," "Casey at the Bat," "The Walrus and the Carpenter," and more.

"The sun was shining on the sea, shining with all his might," my mind still talks back at me now at times when, some 45 years later, I look out at Lake Michigan. I returned to the habit in college, learning by heart the accommodatingly musical "Kubla Khan," and went from there. "Caverns measureless to man"; "season of mists"; "worlds of wanwood leafmeal lie"; "the state with the prettiest name"; "our almost-instinct almost true." A small solitary luxury, to burrow into and store away such indelible lines, like a squirrel with a particularly delicious nut, for when they're needed. Which is often.

And sometimes those nuts are where you happen upon them, such as in the unvarnished voices of 20 Jimmy's habitués recalling a place they love. No varnish wanted—here is pure poetry.

Such sweet sorrow

This spring we parted ways with two colleagues who are now off on their next adventures. **Maureen Searcy**, associate editor for science, joined the University's Physical Sciences Division, where she'll focus her talents squarely on her greatest interests. And after seven stellar years at the *Magazine*, senior associate editor **Susie Allen**, AB'09, migrated north to report on faculty research at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. This issue was the last for both. We look forward to soon introducing the editors who will pick up where Maureen and Susie left off. ♦



Vol. 115 / No. 4

SUMMER 2023

mag.uchicago.edu

On the cover

“Dad heard that the tavern down the street had become available,” remembers Jimmy Wilson’s daughter Carole Rich. “He knew the janitor, the guy who cleaned up. So they went in.” The rest is history—75 years and counting. See “Jimmy’s Woodlawn Tap: An Oral History,” page 36.

Photography by John Zich.

This page

One late Wednesday afternoon this June, the clientele, including some editors and friends of the *University of Chicago Magazine*, basked in a golden glow of sun and suds.

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Robert J. Zimmer | 1947–2023 *By Paul Alivisatos, AB'81*

The 13th president exemplified leadership and forged a stronger University of Chicago.

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Well versed *By Susie Allen, AB'09*

Chicu Reddy's life in poetry.

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Time after time *By Laura Demanski, AM'94*

In May Alumni Weekend—goers enjoyed lasting traditions and a few new twists.

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Jimmy's Woodlawn Tap: An Oral History

By Ben Ryder Howe, AB'94

Patrons, staff, and friends of the fabled neighborhood bar tell its story.



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thinking and doing

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.



Pic pick

Amazing cover for the Spring/23 issue. Kudos to photographer Jason Smith, and to anyone else involved in cropping, retouching, color correcting, etc. Outstanding.

Peter Leeds, AB'88
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

Bring in the folk

Brilliant issue. Loved the front cover. I was an undergraduate when the U of C Folk Festival started and have attended whenever I could since, including in 2023 ("Sounds Reborn," Spring/23). Hannah Edgar, AB'18, caught the thrill of discovery for me back then and the depth, energy, and fascination of subsequent years.

Jesse Auerbach, AB'62
CHICAGO

Collected works

I was fascinated to read the stirring story of Carla D. Hayden, AM'77, PhD'87, the 14th librarian of Congress ("Librarian for the People," Spring/23). Curiosity led me to check the catalog of the Library of Congress, and I

found, to my delight and honor, that seven of my nine published novels are available in the collections. What a thrill! I'm still writing (I'll soon be 93) and hoping to add future titles.

Leonard Lamensdorf, AB'48, JD'52
CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA

Wishing for fun

Seeing Oscar Hammerstein's draft of lyrics to "My Favorite Things" reminded me of a ditty I composed with others while I had a work-study job as a page in Special Collections at the Regenstein Library in the 1970s. Some remembered verses are:

Down on B level transcribing Cone folders,
Wondering if it could get any colder.
HPKCC, MoPo, Atkinson
[Da da da da] but wishing for fun.

When the lift breaks,
When it's hectic,
When Kristeller calls,
We simply remember the Friday to come,
When paychecks will cheer us all!

For the life of me, I can't remember the first part of the fourth line. If any former page does, please remind me!

I'm sure that all of the collections mentioned are still part of Special Collections' holdings. My recollection of Kristeller is that it was a bibliography and the pages were assigned the task of checking each entry to see if it was in the library holdings—something that was done with the card catalog. (Yes, cards in little drawers that took up lots of space when you first entered the library.) It was one of our least favorite tasks.

Having [the late Special Collections director] Bob Rosenthal, AM'55, as one of my first bosses was a wonderful way to help pay my way through

the College. I remain grateful for the experience.

Zarina (O'Hagin) Castro, AB'76, JD'84
WALDEN, VERMONT



Delightful drum

Chandler Calderon's description and the photos of Big Bertha's excursion to the Big Apple are delightfully clever ("Some Drum," Spring/23). Too bad the big gal was too big for Carnegie Hall, so her date with Arturo Toscanini was "all for naught." But so it goes.

I related Big Bertha's history in my book *Monsters of the Midway 1969*, but I was unaware of this chapter in her life. Thanks to the *Magazine* and Calderon for adding another piece to my knowledge about the wonderfully quirky history of things associated with UChicago football.

In response to "Coffee Break," UChicago Journal, Spring/23, my favorite coffee shop at UChicago was the Frog and Peach in Ida. I didn't develop a taste for joe until many years after graduation from the College, but I liked its peachy lemonade.

Jeff Rasley, AB'75
INDIANAPOLIS

During the celebration of the U of C's centenary, Big Bertha was on campus. I remember then University president

From left: Photography by Jason Smith; UChicago Photographic Archive; apf4-0704.
Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

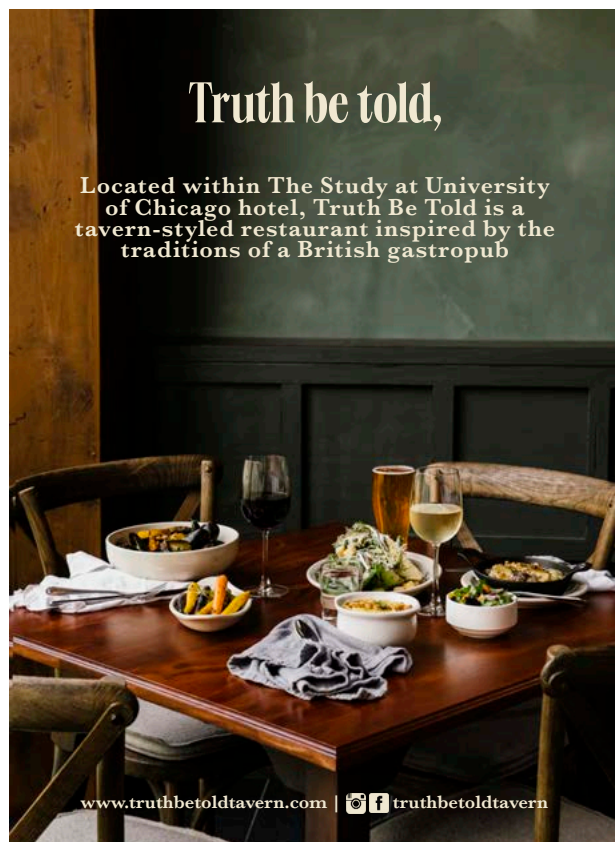
CHICAGO

NEW YORK CITY



BRIDGMAN, MICHIGAN

I read the article in the Spring/23 issue on the name change for the Oriental Institute. The director, Theo van den Hout, stated that with the new name of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, he hoped that the museum might attract more visitors. But where are these visitors going to park their cars? I visited the OI a few years ago and didn't see a parking lot, and one cannot park anywhere nearby on the street. I had to park illegally and took a chance that I would not be ticketed.



LETTERS

There needs to be some arrangement made for visitor parking.

Michael Lieberman, SB'66, PhD'69
HONOLULU

We're sorry you had difficulty parking and hope you didn't receive a ticket! To plan future visits, see isac.uchicago.edu/visit and, for campus parking options, maps.uchicago.edu.—Ed.

Feasts for the senses

You asked for sense memories of my UChicago days (“Stimulus Package,” Editor’s Notes, Spring/23). I was in B-school at Gleacher Center in downtown Chicago at the turn of the century (1998–2000). I worked in the Northwest suburbs and lived in Uptown. In my final three quarters I was pregnant with our twins. I was normally starving by the time I got to campus, and before I got pregnant I would tuck into a warm chocolate chip cookie and a frothy cup of tea. Oh yum.

Once I got pregnant, I quit caffeine—not for ice cream and pickles, but for lemonade and very salty potato chips. Double yum, as both I and the twins felt settled all through class.

I am not kidding when I tell you that lemonade and potato chips bring back memories of operations research, managerial accounting and technology strategy discussions, and my fond memories of UChicago Booth.

Amy Ambrose, MBA'00
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

When I reach for a sensory memory of my UChicago days, I am struck by a distinct smell when you walk into a room: someone recently ate Harold’s Chicken with hot sauce here, even though there is no visible evidence of the person and their meal.

Daria Lamb, AB'86
MILL NECK, NEW YORK

In October 1962, during my first quarter as an undergrad, I was living north of Ida Noyes in the New Dorms, which no longer exist. During that

month, possibly the worst episode of the Cold War occurred: the Cuban missile crisis. Even at the time I was acutely aware that this could develop into a nuclear war with the USSR. Then one night someone in the dorm played a recording of air raid sirens. I was terrified—until the recording turned to the sound of machine guns firing. I never learned who did it, but it was sort of a premonition of bad times to come—and bad actors.

Stephen B. Sontz, AB'65
(Class of 1966), SM'66
GUANAJUATO, MEXICO

I remember watching the first magical snowfalls of 1973–74 from my room in Hitchcock Hall, quite an experience for a boy who had so far spent his entire life in northwest Florida.

I also remember daring to blare electric blues music (e.g., “I’m Ready”) from my too-powerful stereo out of those same dorm windows on glorious spring days in later years. Not to the tastes of everyone and not for too long, but those sounds magnified the seasonal joy for some of us.

Wayne H. “Buzz” Smith, AB'78
PARIS

When I was a graduate student back in the 1960s, I did my research in the Barnes Laboratory building at 5630 South Ingleside Avenue. While I was waiting for an electrophoretic gel to finish its run, I often would take a break and walk into the ornamental greenhouse at the end of a row of experimental greenhouses that stretched to 57th Street. The ornamental greenhouse was home to a large collection of different cycad species that had been collected by Charles Joseph Chamberlain early in

There are few pleasures in life like sitting in a café, especially one with quiet light and a unique character, and simply thinking.

the 20th century. The greenhouse air was always humid, warm, and filled with the smell of lush vegetation. When there was snow outside, and the Chicago wind was blowing, it was an extraordinary feeling to be in that hothouse surrounded by plants that dated back to the Paleozoic.

Several decades ago, when the University of Chicago tore down Barnes Laboratory and the greenhouses, I read in the Biological Sciences Division and Pritzker School of Medicine’s *Medicine on the Midway* that the cycad collection had been shipped to a botanical garden in California. Since cycads are the most threatened major group of plants on the planet, I hope they are thriving.

Joan Wennstrom Bennett, SM'64, PhD'67
NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY



When I hear the sound of a wooden chair rumbling hollowly on a bare wood floor, I am returned to Classics Café.

During my time at the University of Chicago, I almost always went there for lunch: a lemon-poppysseed muffin and a cup of tea. The muffin was enormous and good, and the tea was always welcome. They made an adequate lunch inexpensively, about \$2 as I recall.

Busts of Shakespeare and Homer and gargoyles looked down from the shelf over the massive gray stone fireplace with the Tudor arch. I wish I could find a gargoyle like that today.

Depending on my mood and what I wanted to see, and on what tables were open, I would sit with my back to the window or at one of the small tables along the wall. If I wanted to watch people, I would sit under the window;

A distinct smell when you walk into a room: someone recently ate Harold's Chicken with hot sauce here, even though there is no visible evidence of the person and their meal.

if I wanted to think, I would sit at one of the other tables. There I could look through the leaded glass window with the vine growing to the left side, its leaves a translucent green in the light. I wonder today how many students used that window with its rectangles as a kind of mental graph paper. There are few pleasures in life like sitting in a café, especially one with quiet light and a unique character, and simply thinking.

In visits to Chicago over the years, I made it a point to visit the University and to always stop in at the Classics Café. What a delight it was to sit there again. Then in 2017, I when I came to the last Printers Row Lit Fest I will attend, I went to the Classics Café and found a note on the door saying the café had closed. I read the note a second time and even tried the door to make sure it was true. The door was locked. I had to go to the Starbucks in the bookstore—a cardboard, plastic, mass-produced experience. What a letdown.

E. J. Deal, EX'95

ST. LOUIS

You ask, "What sounds, sights, smells, textures, or tastes serve as your Proustian reminders of the University?" I can name three: (1) When I enjoy a cup of regular black coffee, I am reminded of the many cups and stimulating conversations I had in the Grounds of Being coffee shop in the Divinity School basement. (2) Each time I hear the harmonious sound of the carillon in the Chicago Botanic Garden, I think of the Rockefeller Chapel carillon. (3) When I hear the sounds of frogs and ducks while on a walk, I recall those sounds

coming from the pond at the 57th Street entrance to the University quadrangles.

Richard Kaeske, DB'66, AM'67, PhD'71

DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS

"Stimulus Package" moved my soul. It did bring back the memories. Hustle and bustle on the Midway. Running to classes at the medical school from International House ...

Now that I have retired from the Cleveland Clinic, I would love to come back to campus. In my free time I would like to attend the lectures from various departments given by brilliant minds. Just walking around on the grounds of a great university gives one a high that cannot be put into words.

I am absolutely a proud alumnus of my beloved University.

Nayan Shah, EX'73

MENTOR, OHIO

When I was seven years old, I had rheumatic fever and was transferred from La Rabida Children's Hospital to UChicago's Bobs Roberts Memorial Hospital. I just about died, but somehow the Lord saved me and I went on with life to get my MBA from the U of C on its campus at 190 East Delaware. I remember the winter walks from Randolph Street station down North Michigan to Delaware.

I remember, too, a unique group of buildings that made up the main campus. On the South Side of Chicago, this campus was memorable and unique. This, combined with Jackson Park, is permanently engraved in my mind.

Bernie Weidenaar, MBA'71

VILLA RICA, GEORGIA

Many good things I do remember from Chicago: walking in the quads (anytime); sleeping at Crerar Library; working in the Regenstein; feeling the work energy of all the people.

Martín Romero, PhD'03

SAN MIGUEL TOPILEJO, MEXICO

The fling lives on

The reunion fling is, happily, still alive in the memories of Fred Hoyt, AB'63, and Carolyn Hoyt, AB'64, though, admittedly, at 81, we might have lost a step ("We Get Groovin' When the

Sun Goes Down," Alumni News, Spring/23)!

Carolyn Hoyt, AB'64

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



Charles in charge

I have a vivid recollection of meeting the Prince of Wales in Hutchinson Court during his visit to UChicago in 1977 ("Whirlwind Visit," Alumni News, Spring/23). I was six years old. My mother, Bonnie Muirhead, AB'66, brought me to campus for what I thought was another afternoon disrupting humanities scholarship, running through the stacks in the Regenstein Library, or exploring Botany Pond. Instead, after informing Charles's entourage that I was a UK citizen (my father, Michael Perman, PhD'69, having been from London), I was lifted up by another onlooker and whisked to the front of the crowd. The group stopped so that Charles could stoop down and shake my hand. He was very friendly and seemed genuinely interested in a little dual citizen showing up unexpectedly at UChicago. The last thing I remember is hearing him say that he felt at home surrounded by the architecture on UChicago's campus, as it reminded him of his alma mater.

Ben Perman, SM'96, PhD'99

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Winter Quarter 1978 (my fourth year), I attended a PERL (Politics, Economics, Rhetoric, and Law) course in jurisprudence taught by Edward H. Levi, LAB'28, PhB'32, JD'35 (emeritus president and law professor upon his return to campus after serving as attorney general during the end of the

Ford administration). One afternoon Professor Levi requested we come on time to the next class, which was held in a seminar room in one of the Harper Library Towers. You would arrive via a small elevator. On the subsequent day, as we went into the classroom, we were greeted by what appeared to be Secret Service, who took our knapsacks and then admitted us to the room where former president Gerald Ford was seated at the head of the table. Professor Levi had invited him to our class. It was an amazing opportunity to have an open, free-flowing discussion with the former president. A very fond memory.

I also was at the luncheon with Prince Charles as a random selectee, and I recall he was presented with a glass-encased remnant from the atomic pile used in the Manhattan Project under Stagg Field by Fermi's team.

Larry Silberman, AB'78

NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS



I-House idyll

There was much to enjoy in your Spring/23 issue, but what caught my eye especially was the photo on page 72 of students at International House midcentury ("My Cuppa Runneth Over," Alumni News, Spring/23). It conjured up happy memories of my husband and me going to International House on Sunday evenings to go waltzing!

**Grace E. Moremen, AM'56, and
William Moremen, DB'53**

CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

My parents met at I-House in October 1944. My mother, Patricia Confrey Thevenet, MAT'45, had begun her graduate studies in September. My father, Ruben Thevenet, arrived at I-House in October from Montevideo, Uruguay, to pursue graduate studies in chemical engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology under the auspices of FDR's Good Neighbor Policy, which brought foreigners to the United States for graduate school.

My father was assigned to the cheapest room in I-House, which meant the tenant, who had been dating my mother, had to move. He did introduce my parents, though, and the rest is history!

My mother received her degree in June 1945. My parents married at year's end and went on to raise four children. My brother Rick Thevenet, MBA'82, received his degree from Chicago Booth. When my parents attended his graduation, it was their first visit to the campus since they'd left almost 40 years earlier.

My parents always spoke fondly of the many friends they made at I-House. When I was a child, our Sunday dinners were often served on plates showing several campus buildings, including I-House. I often asked them to point out their respective rooms' windows.

Susanne Thevenet

VOLUNTOWN, CONNECTICUT

I obtained my MBA from the Graduate School of Business at UChicago [now Chicago Booth] and lived at International House in the early 1960s. That was one of the most exciting and memorable experiences of my life. I met so many students from various parts of the globe and learned lots about their cultures, religions, and traditions. I also learned their views of my native country, India.

A major highlight of my stay at I-House was the founding of a theater troupe, International Players. A group of us theater-minded residents came up with the idea of staging plays with international actors. The aim was to show how students from different countries with different looks and accents could stage entertaining shows

in English. We were encouraged by Jack Kerridge, then director of International House. Our very first play was Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, followed by George Bernard Shaw's *Don Juan in Hell*.

Navin Parekh, MBA'62

TORONTO

Back when I was in the College—shortly after the dawn of time—I was walking to my room at International House when I heard harp-like music coming from a behind a door. Curious to learn more about the source of the notes, I knocked on the door and was invited in.

"What's that?" I asked the occupant, pointing to the unusual stringed instrument. "This is an autoharp," the young man replied, before playing some dulcet notes.

"Wait, hold on, I need to get my friend in here. He'll love this sound." I dashed upstairs to find ex-roomie Larry Weiss, AB'63, and bade him to follow me back down to the sounds-of-music room on my floor.

For the next several minutes, we two lucky Larrys were treated to a splendid concert of beloved tunes strummed and plucked out on the little instrument's 36 strings by the visiting performer, one Bob Seger.

Larry Lowenthal, AB'64 (Class of 1963)

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

Spergel remembered

Irving Spergel was chairman of my PhD dissertation committee at the University's School of Social Service Administration [now the Crown Family School] ("Urban Legend," Alumni News, Spring/23). He offered me various excellent suggestions on how to strengthen and improve my dissertation. He liked to read the articles that I wrote on racial and urban affairs for the monthly investigative magazine the *Chicago Reporter*. He praised my writing and investigative skills.

He was a well-respected professor, scholar, and individual. I completed my PhD in 1987 and published *Latinos in Chicago: Quest for a Political Voice* in November 2022.

Wilfredo Cruz, PhD'87

CHICAGO

Imagine my surprise to see my picture in the *Magazine*. Well, you see my back and the back of my head on page 64 (plaid shirt) [see photo at right].

I served as the field supervisor on the Crisis Intervention Services Project that Irving Spergel ran in 1983 and 1984. CRISP was an intervention that offered violence reduction and street mediation in Humboldt Park. Irv identified six former gang members (and leaders) who had come to believe that violence (not gangs) had to be eliminated. These community workers were paired with social work students; the social work students could cross boundaries that the community workers couldn't and could offer their expertise in assessment and referrals to needed services in the community.

Paul Colson, AM'82, PhD'90

CHICAGO

I got my master's degree from the School of Social Service Administration in 1968 in the group work sequence. In those days the three sequences were casework, group work, and community organization (CO). Irving Spergel was a giant in the CO sequence, but I didn't have any courses with him.

Fast forward six or eight years. I was an unemployed, recently divorced, single parent who needed a job. Spergel had a big grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to study status offenders. I was hired. We spent a lot of time in the basement of juvenile court combing through records of kids who had committed offenses that would not have been offenses had they been committed by an adult (e.g., breaking curfew, drinking, skipping school).

We eventually emerged from the basement of juvenile court to analyze the data. One day when Irv was visiting Taft House, which housed the project, I fainted by the watercooler. He was very concerned and asked me if I had health insurance. My kids were covered by their father, but I was a healthy 30-something and did not think it was important. Irv Spergel made sure that I got health insurance. He was that kind of a guy.

Karen Culberg Rechtschaffen, AM'68

CHICAGO



When I recognized my husband's (Stephen Gillenwater, AB'77, AM'85) and my dear friend retired Col. David D. Rabb, AM'85 [see photo above, in the center], in a picture in the Spring/23 *Magazine*, I sent it to him, and this is what he said: "Nancy, wow! This photo captured me when I was just beginning my social work career. I was part of Dr. Spergel's Gang Intervention Program. I had scary and courageous moments during those days. Yet we pressed on in creating Chicago's first gang intervention and prevention program in 1985.

"Spergel provided me the opportunities to engage gang members and community and faith-based leaders in order to mobilize them to reduce violence and murders. Put simply, Spergel's aim was to change the rules surrounding gang murders using system theory and designs.

"Spergel was committed and had a lot of experiences, street smarts, and skills that he brought to the communities that he studied and helped."

Nancy Alexander, AB'80

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Spergel provided me the opportunities to engage gang members and community and faith-based leaders in order to mobilize them to reduce violence and murders.

Location, location, location

In a letter in the Spring/23 issue, Janet Gottlieb Sailian, LAB'70, writes that astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar lived in the same building as her parents during the mid-1970s—as did two others (Milton Friedman, AM'33, and Saul Bellow, EX'39) who won Nobel Prizes. I believe another Nobel, Robert S. Mulliken, a physicist and chemist who won the 1966 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, also lived at 5825 South Dorchester during that era. If I'm right about that—and, for that matter, even if I'm not—that was an amazing collection of brainpower at one address.

Erik M. Jensen, AM'72

CLEVELAND

Jensen worked with Catherine Uecker in the Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center to confirm that Mulliken did indeed live at 5825 South Dorchester in the 1970s.—Ed.

College comps

Replying to Edmund Becker's (SB'58, PhD'63) question (Letters, Spring/23): "Were comps just an aberration of the times, annual sweatshops dreamed up by sadistic faculty?" I have vivid memories of those six-hour exams—the long rows of chairs with arms in Bartlett gym and the fatigue mixed with elation at 4 p.m. when they ended.

I enrolled in the College in 1944, having seen a *Reader's Digest* article and pursuing admission. The comps were generally administered then by Milton Singer, PhD'40, and his staff, I believe. The Administration Building [now Levi Hall] did not exist then, and the University bookstore dominated the 58th and Ellis corner. As a commuter, I was assigned a locker in Cobb's basement—Cobb was then the center of University leadership.

Like everyone else, I complained about the six-hour comps—"an upset stomach could destroy a year's work!" But looking back, I see that they forced me to learn how to organize a year's work so that I could call it up on demand. Course and quarter exams and papers helped the process of organizing and gave me an idea of how

As Mr. Becker wrote, they were mostly multiple-choice questions, and therein lay the devil's handiwork. Sometimes more than one choice might be correct, but one was *more* correct than the others.

well I was doing, and that was valuable. But the comps were payoff time, and they called for heroic mastery.

That's probably why I got more Bs than As on comps—I learned a lot about organizing and retaining material, but the mastery factor was sometimes missing. Still, they taught me a lot.

Yes, those were the good old days—Robert Maynard Hutchins, Mortimer Adler, and all.

Edgar W. “Ted” Mills, PhB’47
(Class of 1948), DB’53
SCHERTZ, TEXAS

Edmund Becker asked if anyone remembered those sadistic comps of the 1940s and ’50s. I do. They were truly products of devious minds.

As Mr. Becker wrote, they were mostly multiple-choice questions, and therein lay the devil's handiwork. Sometimes more than one choice might be correct, but one was *more* correct than the others. Or you were given a quotation, and asked not who wrote it, but who might agree with it. For example, answer choices might be something like:

- A) Plato and Aristotle
- B) Plato but not Aristotle
- C) Aristotle but not Plato
- D) Neither Plato nor Aristotle

There were traps. Each comp was

in two parts, morning and afternoon, with precise time limits of, as I recall, three hours each. You could bring all the books you wanted, but no notes, and therein lay the snare: spend too much time looking for answers and you'd never finish on time.

In the 1940s you had to pass 13 of them to graduate. Nothing else counted. Class attendance was not required; you could study on your own and take the year-end exam. You could also sign up to take two years' exams in the same subject in the same week. English was my strong suit; I took English II and III in the same year, which is how I graduated in three years, with two Bs (in English) and 11 Cs, which I chose to believe reflected my ability to think for myself—as Robert Hutchins intended.

You were supposed to turn in the exam questions with your answer sheet. The statute of limitations having expired, I confess that I smuggled out the questions of the final comp, OII (Observation, Integration, and Interpretation), and over the years marveled that I had actually passed through that mental minefield before I was 18.

Norman Macht, PhB’47
RAMONA, CALIFORNIA

Step into the mental minefield for yourself in “So You Think You Can Comp?” on page 22.—Ed.



With the band

I am married to Raphael Leib, EX’99, who was the trumpet player in the Adjusters (“Jamb Session,” *Alumni News*, Spring/23). We have two kids,

who are 8 and 6, and we live in Los Angeles. We met in University Chorus, and the band used to practice a lot in the Shoreland dormitory basement, where I lived for the first three years of undergrad. So I’d see them from time to time as they were entering/exiting the basement for practice. I saw them socially at parties around Hyde Park too, since Raphael and I had overlapping circles of friends. As you probably know, they played on and off campus, but they eventually toured the country, opening for and playing with bands like the Skatalites, the Slackers, and many other ska bands from Moon Ska and Jump Up! Records. They had great energy on stage. I love their music, and we play it for the kids, who like it too. My favorite songs are “Armstrong” and “Our Town.” The band is a bit scattered across the United States at this point, all doing cool things professionally, but they keep in touch and see each other periodically. Raphael is currently a California State mediator after many years of union work with SEIU across the country.

Anne Bazile, AB’99
LOS ANGELES



In the eye of the beholder

The Winter/23 issue of the *Magazine* features a picture on the cover of a star being born. I am so intrigued by the picture, and I cannot help but tell you my wife's immediate comment (she is a medical doctor) when she saw the picture. She said, quite surprised, “The cover features a medical theme,” and when I asked what she meant she said, “The picture is clearly of the fundus

(the back interior part) of the eye.”

On hearing that, it immediately came to mind that the parallel between the eye and a star could have a number of philosophical and perhaps religious or even political lines of thought (perhaps in line with the title “It Was Written in the Stars”).

I note that Professor Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar spent some time at the University of Cambridge, as I have also. During my time at that university I was interested in, among other subjects, astronomy as well as philosophy.

Obviously the parallel of an eye and a star, based solely on the cover picture, is lacking all and every professional or logical element; nevertheless, it is—at least to me—intriguing, not least as a philosophical mind exercise.

Zacharias Sundström, MCL’63

EMSALÖ, FINLAND

Stringed wonders

I enjoyed reading “The Collector” by Susie Allen, AB’09, in the Winter/23 issue. I heard about Italian string instruments on loan to musicians from my teacher back in the 1960s when I was taking cello lessons. Happy to know someone affiliated with UChicago is involved.

Felix Cheong-Leen, UChicago Chief Mechanical Engineer

HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

TANSTAAFL grill

Stanley R. Pierce Hall had its virtues, but I suspect there would be near unanimous agreement among its residents that none of its “common spaces” were among them. Worst were the

lounges in each of the four houses—as pictured in the Winter/23 *Magazine* (“Knights of the Square Table,” Alumni News, Winter/23).

For those who never lived in Pierce, some description is necessary. By the end of the 1950s, a new residence hall had been a “pressing need” for a long time. The discovery of a hoard of gold coins buried in the perimeter of Stanley Pierce’s (AS 1913, PhB’14) home created an opportunity, and plans were swiftly drawn up. The project was envisioned as twin towers linked by a central entry, which led to a long lounge space with elevators to four houses (Tufts, Henderson, Thompson, and Shorey). Since only one tower was built, what architectural grace the pair might have had was never realized, and the lounge remained an uninviting space that required residents to walk a half block to the entry.

Over the entry, there was a meeting room reserved that never found use (until, in the mid-1970s, it was converted to an apartment for the resident master and family) and, below the reception desk, storage space later outfitted as a grill named TANSTAAFL.

The dining room was the most attractive space in the building, even though it had no notable features save a window wall along its south side. Each house had a two-story lounge with a fireplace and a small kitchen. Each floor had its own three common spaces: toilet and shower facilities, a study room, and a typing room.

My credential here? Fourteen years in residence, including time as an assistant resident head and a resident head.

It’s unfair, in a way, to focus so closely on the building’s unappealing structure. Despite its limits, creative students made it work for them.

Sid Huttner, AB’63, AM’69

IOWA CITY, IOWA

VIP encounters

I encountered Bernie Sanders, AB’64, although not known to me by name, circa 1961 (“Political Football,” Alumni News, Fall/22).

Responding to a flyer, I attended an evening meeting in the Ida Noyes Hall theater, chaired by the much younger, but no less intense, version of

Bernie later adopted my position, but I have since adopted his.

the iconic political figure. The agenda was a call to sit in, protesting the University’s complicity, even active role, in designing racist housing policies and practices, then known as “Negro removal.” Recognized to speak, I called for negotiation rather than confrontation. Sensing this position had no support, I left. Policy had already been decided in a previous private meeting. The purpose of the open meeting was to attract more adherents.

Bernie later adopted my position, but I have since adopted his. I would engage in direct action should the university that owns the housing complex where I live not be amenable to negotiation over rent increases.

Henry Etzkowitz, AB’62

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Seeking biographer

I am an alumnus of the University of Chicago, where I received my master’s and PhD. I am 79, and I strongly feel I would like to do my memoirs. I want my biography done by a University of Chicago alumna/alumnus, especially one from the social sciences, and preferably someone who has done biographies. I have been a scholar teaching at various universities throughout the world, and I have hitherto enjoyed a rich public service career in elective politics for the past 30 years.

Anyone who would want to undertake this project should get in touch with me directly at nyongoanyang@gmail.com.

Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o, AM’73, PhD’77

NAIROBI, KENYA

Correcting the record

In the Spring/23 Letters, the name of the bookstore that originally hosted the Medici was misstated. It was the Green Door Book Shop. We regret the error.

The discovery of a hoard of gold coins buried in the perimeter of Stanley Pierce’s home created an opportunity, and plans were swiftly drawn up.



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UChicago JOURNAL

RESEARCH AND NEWS IN BRIEF

ASTRAL BODIES

The Logan Center for the Arts celebrated its 10th birthday on May 21. A highlight of the day's program was University Professor Augusta Read Thomas's composition "Star Box," presented as a world premiere dance piece. The collaboration between Thomas and Chicago's Deeply Rooted Dance Theater featured an always-changing "quartet of quartets," with four blue-clad dancers and four percussionists playing five quartets of instrumentation (mallets, bells, shakers, and triangles).

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carbon*

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*Provost's
side hustle*

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*Comps
challenge*

25

*Athletics
leader*

ECONOMICS

By the ton

The Climate Vault banks on cap-and-trade markets to curtail carbon emissions.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

A decade ago, the idea of planting trees to compensate for greenhouse gas emissions was all the rage. The notion had intuitive appeal: companies and organizations seeking to offset their carbon emissions would pledge to plant trees, which sequester carbon. But, as always, the devil was in the details. It was difficult to verify that the promised trees actually got planted, and there was no guarantee they wouldn't be cut down later.

Michael Greenstone, LAB'87, began wondering if there was a better way to offset emissions. In particular, Greenstone—the Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, the College, and the Harris School of Public Policy—had his eye on government-regulated cap-and-trade carbon markets. Several countries and US states use these systems to establish both a limit and a price on CO₂ emissions. The details vary from place to place, but generally, large-scale industrial emitters are required to purchase CO₂ permits from a carefully monitored marketplace; the permits can also be bought and sold by other interested parties.

Greenstone saw an opening: “What if you just went into those markets [and] outbid polluters for the right to



The Climate Vault purchases carbon permits from multiple cap-and-trade markets to offset carbon emissions while searching for carbon dioxide removal technology.

pollute?” In other words, you could buy a permit and keep it, effectively preventing that metric ton of carbon from ever reaching the atmosphere.

With his friend Andrew Dailey, a cofounder and managing director of MGI Research, Greenstone decided in 2020 to make the long-simmering idea a reality. Together, they recruited two more cofounders—UChicago trustee **Donald R. Wilson Jr.**, AB'88, founder of the trading firm DRW, and **Bala Srinivasan**, SM'91, PhD'95, DRW's global head of business development—and dubbed their new nonprofit Climate Vault. The organization

works with a variety of institutions, including companies, universities, and other nonprofits, to offset their emissions; these partners make donations to Climate Vault, which uses them to purchase carbon permits from cap-and-trade markets.

In addition to squirreling away permits, Climate Vault is working to incentivize the development of carbon dioxide removal technology. The organization's eventual goal is to sell its vaulted permits and use the proceeds to fund the permanent removal of an equivalent amount of carbon. In time, as carbon dioxide removal technology

Viscous cycle

Between Earth's crust and its core lies the mantle. Although this rocky layer forms 84 percent of our planet's total volume, much about it—including its viscosity—is unknown. A February *Nature* study, led by geophysicist Sunyoung “Sunny” Park, tackles that mystery using measurements of deep earthquakes to infer the mantle's fluidity. These quakes, which occur hundreds of miles beneath Earth's surface, seldom affect people or property, but they do have subtle geologic effects; the 2018 event Park studied has been causing the island of Tonga to sink about one centimeter per year. The researchers used that information to develop a model of how viscous the mantle must be to cause the observed changes in data. They now believe there is a slow-flowing layer—about 50 miles thick—at the bottom of the upper mantle that extends around the globe. This sheds light on how heat and geological materials mix and move through Earth.—S. A. ♦

gets better and cheaper, selling a one-metric-ton carbon permit may even allow Climate Vault to pay for two metric tons of carbon removal.

Today, thanks to donations from partners including UChicago, Climate Vault has taken about 950,000 metric tons of carbon out of circulation. It's a number they watch closely. “As Michael likes to say, ‘We wake up in the morning [thinking], how do we get more tons?’” explains Jason Grant, president and COO. (Will they have a party when they hit one million? Grant says their sights are set much higher: “We have a celebration planned when we hit 10 million.”)

The partners that have donated to Climate Vault are attracted to both sides of its one-two punch approach, says head of development Chris Neufeld. In the short term, many hope to achieve significant emission reductions or even reach net zero. The easily measurable and verifiable nature of Climate Vault's work—one permit always equals one ton of carbon and, unlike a tree, can't be cut down—provides that reassurance and a meaningful solution. The opportunity to support carbon dioxide removal technology is an added bonus.

The Climate Vault approach also has its skeptics. Some have argued that the organization could skew the cap-and-trade markets by storing too much carbon, forcing regulators to issue more permits. That's certainly not an immediate problem, Greenstone says—Climate Vault is still a small player in large markets. Even so, the organization has been careful to spread its permit acquisition

across multiple markets to avoid any inadvertent effects.

Others question the focus on carbon dioxide removal, pointing out that reliable, cost-effective technology has yet to materialize. But Greenstone argues that dealing with the carbon already in the atmosphere is not just a nice-to-have—if we want to avoid a climate disaster, it's an imperative. And naysaying carbon dioxide removal could become a self-fulfilling prophecy. “If history has taught us anything, it's that price signals and market force are really powerful tools for delivering particular social goals,” he says. “We can't just sit and hope for that innovation to come with carbon dioxide

removal.” By signaling the existence of demand, Greenstone believes Climate Vault can “juice the innovation” and create more supply.

To that end, this year Climate Vault issued its second request for proposals from companies developing carbon dioxide removal technologies. Those ideas will be vetted by the organization's Tech Chamber, which includes science and policy experts. If any companies can achieve verifiable results at a reasonable cost, Climate Vault will sell its 950,000 permits to fund the purchase of 950,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide removal.

If not, they'll continue the search next year. “We're confident that we will find some CDR [carbon dioxide removal],” Grant says—but they're also willing to wait for a company with a technology that meets all their requirements. And while they do, they'll keep vaulting, ton by ton. ♦

What if you just went into those markets [and] outbid polluters for the right to pollute?



Provost Katherine Baicker's father taught her to solve the *New York Times* crossword when she was a kid, starting with the easier early week puzzles—in pen, of course—and working her way up.

PUZZLES

Cross training

UChicago's provost is proud to be a published author—of several crossword puzzles.

BY ELIZABETH STATION

When **Katherine Baicker** became the University of Chicago's 15th provost in March of this year, she brought a stellar résumé to the job.

An expert on the economic analysis of health care policy, Baicker has directed influential research projects and served on the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Her articles appear in top medical and policy journals, and she is often quoted in the national media on Medicaid expansion, universal health care, and more.

In 2017, after a distinguished decade at Harvard, she joined the UChicago faculty as the Emmett Dedmon Professor and dean of the Harris School of Public Policy.

Still, Baicker, a lifelong crossword puzzle enthusiast, may be proudest of the fact that the *New York Times* published two of her creations this past spring. Since she began constructing puzzles in January 2021, more than a dozen of her crosswords have graced the breakfast tables of readers of the *Boston Globe*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and other newspapers. (And, yes, she has added these prestigious new publications to her CV.)

Baicker remembers her dad teaching her to solve the *Times* crossword when she was a kid. Like most beginners, she started with the easier Monday and Tuesday puzzles and worked her way up to the tougher ones that appear later in the week. In adulthood,

crosswords have continued to be “a great evening wind-down activity for me when I’m ready to put work aside,” Baicker says.

The leap from puzzle solver to constructor came during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Baicker—then dean of Harris Public Policy—had more free time at home in the evenings. “I’d always thought that I would enjoy constructing puzzles, but I didn’t really know how to do it,” she says. “I thought, OK, now’s my moment.” To learn the ins and outs (downs and acrosses?) of puzzle making, Baicker reached out via email to potential coaches in the “crossworld” community.

One early mentor, crossword constructor Ross Trudeau, warned Baicker that the puzzle submission process would involve rigorous evaluation, revisions, and likely rejection. He encouraged her to aim high, send her first attempt to her first-choice newspaper,

Photography by John Zich

Crossword puzzles fit neatly in a predetermined grid, there are conventions that are almost never violated, and there's a certain elegance to the perfect interlocking of things that is not like life.

and prepare to wait six to 12 months to see it published—if it was accepted. “And I had to laugh and say, ‘Stop. This I understand,’” Baicker says. “It sounds exactly like academic publishing!”

Puzzle making is often collaborative, and Baicker has constructed several crosswords with more experienced cruciverbalists. Brainstorming on Zoom and sharing ideas in a Google doc, she and Scott Earl, a non-profit executive, have coconstructed three puzzles. Along with “fun and levity,” Earl says, Baicker brought creativity and leadership to the process: “She’s really good at email, so she helped me keep to some deadlines and make sure we were working toward a finished product.”

Baicker says that getting paid for the work added a thrill to making new friends and seeing her name above the grid. “I was so excited to be able to say, ‘I am a professional crossword puzzle constructor.’” Still, the Yale- and Harvard-educated economist won’t be quitting her day jobs anytime soon. Payment for a puzzle was barely more than the cost of crossword-creation software.

In the words of *Times* crossword editor Will Shortz, “good crosswords connect to everything in life,” and Baicker sees some commonalities between her vocation and her avocation. “I learn new things when I do the puzzle—new cultural references, new people, new facts, new connections between words,” she says. Serving as the University’s chief academic officer also requires intellectual curiosity. “It’s part of my job to learn about the fascinating work that people are doing, from astronomy to art history to zoology and everything in between.”

Baicker has dedicated her own re-

search career to leading large path-breaking projects that seek to solve some of the thorniest problems in health care economics. Her scholarship focuses on public and private health insurance, and as co-principal investigator of the Oregon Health Insurance Experiment—a randomized study of the effects of Medicaid coverage—she published findings that influenced national policy. This past February she coauthored an article in *JAMA Health Forum* that outlines a blueprint for redesigning the US health care system to create affordable universal coverage.

Given the complexity of such challenges, it’s no surprise that Baicker sees crosswords as a mental break. “Crossword puzzles fit neatly in a predetermined grid, there are conventions that are almost never violated, and there’s a certain elegance to the perfect interlocking of things that is not like life,” she says.

Although as provost she has less time for research and crossword construction, Baicker still solves weekday puzzles on the *Times* app and does the Sunday puzzle on paper, “over coffee and breakfast,” she says, and “naturally, in ink.” After her first puzzles were published, she was delighted when several UChicago-connected constructors reached out to congratulate her. Time permitting, she says, “I hope that I will be able to collaborate with them in the coming years.”

Until then, Baicker’s side hustle gives her a simpler topic to talk about at family gatherings than health care economics or university administration. “Nobody knows what provost-ing is,” she says with a laugh. “But everyone knows about crossword puzzles.” ♦

W. R. HARPER'S INDEX

PRESSING ISSUES

Founding year of the
UChicago Press

1890

Journal titles published
in the first year

5

Journal titles published in 2022

91

Books published in the
first year

5

Books published in 2022

216

Books published since founding

15,609

Works of fiction published

253

Volumes of poetry published

256

Em dashes in books published
in 2022

88,733



The War Horse Symposium's keynote event was a conversation between comedian and veterans' advocate Jon Stewart and current US deputy secretary of defense Kathleen Hicks.

JOURNALISM

Lines of communication

Harris Public Policy hosted a day of conversations about the human side of serving our country.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

Veterans, military families, and journalists have more in common than people realize, Thomas Brennan told the audience gathered in the Logan Center auditorium on April 6. “We are largely misunderstood by the communities that we serve,” he said. “And while it may be in different ways, we all play a vital role in our democracy.”

Brennan has had two careers, the first as a service member and the second as a reporter. After nearly 10 years in the US Marine Corps, he began writing for the *Daily News* in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Today he's the founder and executive direc-

tor of the *War Horse*, a nonprofit news organization that covers the “human impact of military service” and offers writing seminars for veterans and military spouses.

The daylong War Horse Symposium aimed to bridge misunderstandings and highlight journalistic contributions to public policy and civic engagement. Speakers included military experts—veterans, military spouses, current and former leaders in the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and policymakers—and reporters. The symposium concluded with a conversation between comedian Jon Stewart, an advocate for veterans' issues, and deputy defense secretary Kathleen Hicks.

The first seeds of the symposium were planted when the *War Horse* conducted a survey of its readers, including military leadership and reporters who have covered the military. **David Chrisinger**, AM'10, who directs the writing program at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and leads the *War Horse*'s writing seminars, realized the data offered a rare glimpse into the re-

lationship between the military and the media. Along with then graduate students **Ellie Vorhaben**, MPP'22, and **Graham Harwood**, MPP'23, Chrisinger wrote a white paper outlining the survey's themes. They found a serious decline in military coverage, as well as deep mistrust of the media inside the military.

The divide wasn't always so stark. At the symposium, Associated Press vice president and Gulf War Marine veteran Ron Nixon remembered starting his journalism career at a newspaper where the publisher was also a Marine veteran and his editor was a World War II Navy veteran. Today, “what you've got ... is a general lack of knowledge about military veterans, the military itself, and the veteran community,” Nixon said—a gap that, in combination with the decimation of the news industry, has resulted in less coverage and lower-quality coverage.

In one discussion, former *Washington Post* correspondent Rajiv Chandrasekaran, who covered the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, admitted he started out as one of those inexperienced reporters. “I had never covered

Photography by MK Photo

major military operations before. In all honesty, I often confused an Army captain with an Army colonel,” he said, prompting knowing laughs from the audience. The wars brought about a short-lived but significant investment in military coverage, but now, “the resourcing has largely evaporated.”

The lack of attention has consequences; thoughtful coverage, Nixon noted, provides needed oversight of a \$1 trillion government line item. In 2017 the *War Horse* and the investigative podcast *Reveal* released a series of reports about a secret Facebook group in which male Marines shared nude photos of servicewomen, resulting in disciplinary actions and policy changes within the Department of Defense.

Such accountability is especially important at a time when the military is struggling with “a no-kidding recruitment crisis,” said Michèle Flournoy, former under secretary of defense for policy and current board chair of the Center for a New American Security. Addressing gender and race discrimination in the military today increases the likelihood that more women and people of color will serve in the future.

Investigative reporting also brought to light the problem of open-air burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2008 Kelly Kennedy, then a writer for the *Military Times*, first reported on the widespread use of burn pits to destroy waste on military bases—leading to serious health issues for service mem-

bers exposed to the toxic smoke. Iraqi and Afghan civilians, too, have suffered from the exposure.

Marine Corps and Air Force veteran Dan Clare, who brought Kennedy damning early evidence of the problem, told the audience her track record gave him confidence “she wasn’t going to let go of the story, either, and she hasn’t.” Kennedy’s work, along with the advocacy of supporters like Stewart, resulted in the 2022 passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, which expands Veterans Affairs health care for veterans exposed to toxic chemicals.

Secretary of veterans affairs Denis McDonough said he saw the new legislation as a central responsibility. “All of this is not extra credit, caring for people who were exposed to toxins in Iraq. It’s not an optional exercise,” he said. He also hopes the PACT Act will help veterans address other health needs: “The PACT Act might be the reason you come in, but your whole health, your wellness, hopefully will be the reason you stay.” To that end, McDonough said, the administration knows it needs to accelerate its hiring of mental health professionals—a critical area of need.

The psychological impact of military service on service members and their families is profound, said Valerie Suttee, whose husband spent

35 years in the Marines. Suttee attended a *War Horse* writing seminar for military spouses, and the article that came out of that experience, she said, allowed her to reflect on the common tropes and labels applied to families like hers. Portrayals of service members as heroes and their spouses as saints belie the complexity and trauma of their experiences. “The term ‘resilience’ gets tossed around a lot in these venues,” she said. “When you label someone as being resilient and they don’t feel like they’re resilient, it causes a real problem.”

Derek Moore, a captain in the Ohio Army National Guard, sought to explain this less-understood branch of the military. With both state and federal missions, the Guard is best known for mobilizations during domestic emergencies like natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, border security, and civil disturbances. Recalling the recent injury of nine National Guard soldiers in Syria, Moore said, “People don’t realize that those are Ohio soldiers, those are Michigan soldiers, those are South Carolina soldiers. ... Right now the majority of the people that are actually serving in the Middle East are National Guard soldiers.”

Much coverage of the military is negative, Moore observed, and many people—including journalists—have misconceptions about the lives of service members. His urging was simple but clear: “Please tell our story.” ♦

NEUROBIOLOGY

QUICK STUDY

Sleep on it

Millions of Americans experience obstructive sleep apnea—a condition characterized by interrupted breathing during sleep—and can awaken up to 30 times an hour. The crux of the problem is tongue position: sleep apnea sufferers’ tongues fall back in their mouths, whereas in people without the condition, the brain tells the tongue’s motor neurons to stay contracted and forward in the mouth to keep the airway open. But how does the brain know when to activate those motor neurons, and why does the system stop working for some people? New research from UChicago Medicine’s **Alfredo Garcia** and colleagues, published in *eLife* in January, shows that a system of gases acts as a signal in the region of the brain responsible for tongue position. When the system is unbalanced, the signal is interrupted and the tongue slides back, constricting the pharynx. By understanding the molecular underpinnings of sleep apnea, researchers hope to improve treatments and give patients the relief they need.—S.A. ♦

Three-minute eggheads

Doctoral students sum up years of work in 180 seconds.

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93

It all started with a drought in Australia.

To conserve water, residents of Queensland were encouraged to time their showers; many used a three-minute egg timer for this unhappy purpose. One day the dean of the University of Queensland's graduate school had a brain wave: Could doctoral candidates summarize their research under the same time constraint?

The first 3MT—Three Minute Thesis—competition was held at the University of Queensland in 2008 with 160

competitors. Since then it has spread to more than 900 universities in over 85 countries. 3MT came to UChicago in 2018, organized by UChicagoGRAD, a career advising and support service for graduate students and postdocs. For the second year in a row, alumni were invited to watch.

It's midday on May 19, the Friday of Alumni Weekend. Nearly every chair in UChicagoGRAD's headquarters—on the third floor of the campus bookstore building—is taken.

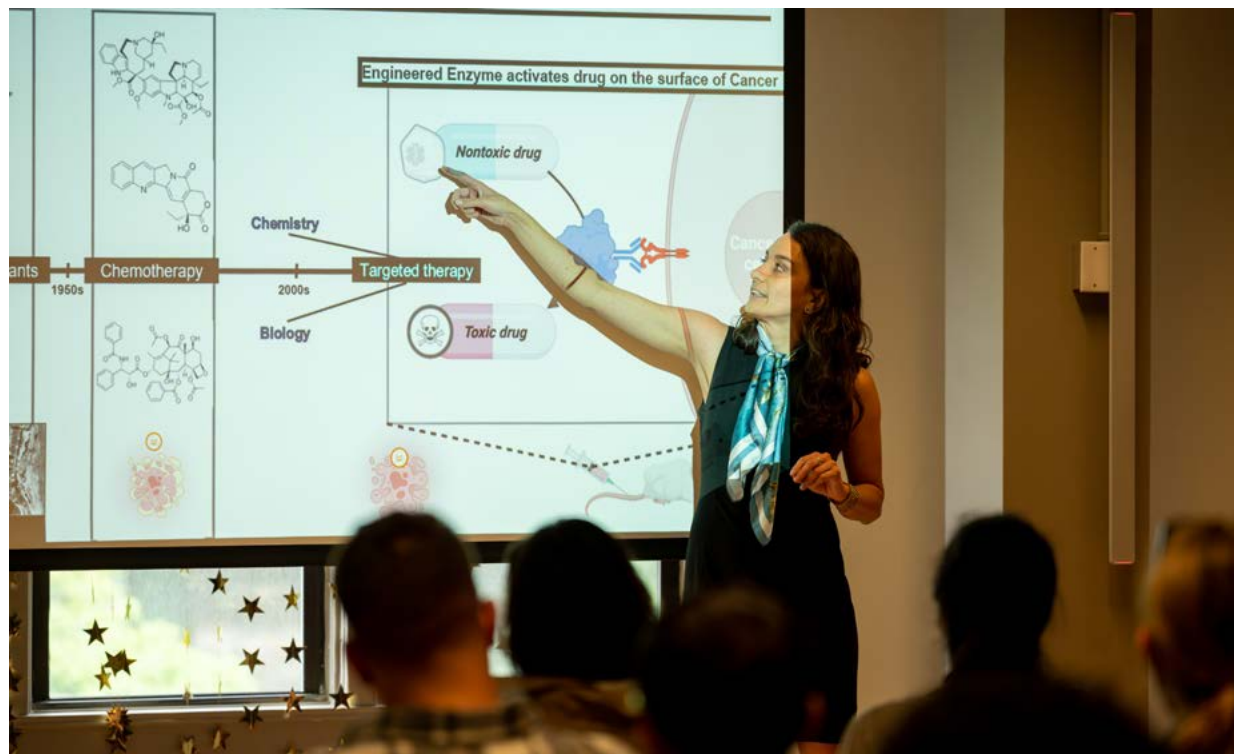
At the podium, **Kathrin Kranz**, director of experiential learning and outreach at UChicagoGRAD, explains the rules: in addition to the three-minute time limit, speakers may use just a single slide. A surprised “ohhhh” arises from the audience.

Off to the side is the table of judges: **Brooke Carrell**, assistant provost and executive director of UChicagoGRAD; **Vera Dragisich**, PhD'90, senior instructional professor of chemistry; and **Ella**

Karev, AM'18, PhD'22, postdoctoral teaching fellow in the humanities. Karev, an Egyptologist, won the 2022 competition with the presentation “Slavery in Ancient Egypt, c. 900 to 300 BC.”

Karev explains later by email: “Trying to condense my (600 page!) dissertation into one slide and three minutes forced me to think about not just the bigger picture but the biggest picture—why does this research matter to someone who isn't an ancient historian?” As a second-year graduate student, she was advised to consider “translatability” when choosing a thesis topic: “I went with something that interested me, filled a gap in scholarship, and yes, was interesting to non-Egyptologists.”

First up is **Giorgio Sarro** (geophysical sciences) with the presentation “Will Climate Change Bring More Extreme Weather Events?” (The answer, at the bottom of his slide: “Yes.”) Dressed in



Simplicity is the key to getting your message across within the three-minute time limit. Jelena Momirov sums up her research on cancer cells: “I added the drug, cells were alive. I added the drug with the enzyme, cells died.”

Photography by Jason Smith

Emissions control

Keeping a comfortable indoor temperature comes at a serious cost: the energy expended to heat and cool buildings is both expensive and a major contributor to climate change. In a study published online January 26 in *Nature Sustainability*, Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering's Po-Chun Hsu and colleagues developed a new smart building material that can address the problem by changing how much heat it absorbs or emits based on the outside temperature. The material includes a layer that, using a small amount of electricity, shifts between a heat-absorbing solid on cold days and a heat-emitting liquid on hot ones. According to the researchers' models, the electricity required to power the changes in the material would be less than 0.2 percent of that used for a typical commercial building—and the material could reduce the energy consumption of the building's climate control system by 8.4 percent each year.

—S. A. ♦

a plaid shirt, plaid pants, and sneakers, Sarro speaks calmly, with big hand gestures and no notes.

The second presenter, **Kelly Holob**, AM'16 (Divinity School), is equally calm and polished (competitors attended a preparatory workshop and had one-on-one advising appointments, Kranz explains later). The slide for her talk, on "saints and other criminals" executed in antiquity, displays a rather distressing medieval painting. The bodies of the two thieves crucified next to Jesus are twisted and broken; one even has missing limbs. In contrast, Jesus's body is "rational and beautiful." This convention persists even today, she concludes: the media chooses menacing images of "justly" executed criminals, while people killed "unjustly" might be shown in a graduation photo.

Jelena Momirov (chemical biology), in a black sleeveless dress and a turquoise scarf, would win the best-dressed award if there were one. "The Golden Era of Cancer Research," reads the title of her slide. Her presentation focuses on the development of targeted therapies. "I added the drug, cells were alive," she says, describing her research on cancer cells. "I added the drug with the enzyme, cells died." Her simple language and matter-of-fact delivery get a laugh out of a few audience members and one of the judges.

Over the next 30 years, Alzheimer's deaths are projected to triple, says **Nick Bayhi** (biophysical sciences), a bearded man with long curly hair. "Thankfully, there's an enzyme in your blood, that's Pac-Man-shaped, called insulin-degrading enzyme or IDE." He kindly offers to inject us all. "It would digest any amyloid beta in your brain, none of you would get Alzheimer's disease, and I would get to graduate early." Unfortunately, there's a catch: "I would give you all incurable diabetes and put you in a coma." His work focuses on developing a mutated version of the enzyme.

Next up is "Lighter and Stronger?" by **Adarsh Suresh** (molecular engineering). Many industries—construction,

packaging, automotive—want to cut the weight of their products without sacrificing performance. "We want lighter airplane parts," Suresh says, "but we don't want to plummet to our deaths." Could a material be as light as Styrofoam but as strong as metal? Yes: "Nature has been doing it for millennia," he says, showing a slide with photos of a honeycomb and a hollow bone.

In all there are 13 presentations on wildly diverse topics. **Isabella Scott**, SM'18, SM'20, and **Pallav Goyal**, SM'19, PhD'23, each gamely attempt to explain their mathematics research. **Rachel Chery**, AM'21 (music), speaks on the political importance of radios in Haiti: "Radios give us hope that democracy can prevail, one broadcast at a time."

The final presentation: "Uncovering How Planets Formed." Our solar system is full of dissimilar planets, says **Adina Feinstein**, SM'19, PhD'23 (astronomy and astrophysics); she's wearing slim jeans with blown-out knees and Vans. "Earth does not look anything like Jupiter. And Jupiter doesn't look anything like Uranus or Neptune. But all of these planets formed from the same material around the same star." For her thesis research, Feinstein "had the absolute privilege" of using "NASA's new \$10 billion space telescope, the James Webb Space Telescope" to study exoplanet WASP-39 b. Exoplanets might have formed like our own planets, or maybe completely differently: "I would be very grateful for that option because it means long-term job security," she concludes.

The judges confer as the audience loads up on wine, cheese, and other appetizers. Fifteen minutes later, the winners are announced: it's a science sweep. Suresh wins first prize (\$1,000) for light, strong materials. Bayhi wins second (\$500) for the Pac-Man Alzheimer's enzyme. Momirov comes in third (\$200) for targeted cancer therapies.

Now it's the audience's turn to vote for their favorite on their phones. Keeping the science sweep going, Feinstein wins. Her first step toward exoplanet job security: a prize of \$150. ♦

POP QUIZ

So you think you can comp?

From 1931 to the early 1960s, students in the College had to make the grade.

The year is 1937. You've just completed courses in the biological sciences, humanities, economics, and philosophy. You studied anatomy and botany; read the *Odyssey*, *Oedipus*, *Medea*, the Bible, Herodotus, Aristotle, Plato, and Lucretius; you sharpened your statistical skills and pondered the gold standard; you compared Enlightenment philosophies.

Now you're ready to take on the comprehensive examinations that will solely determine your grade in each class. Some tests might last up to eight hours. You might be asked to recall details from readings, discuss a quote, or defend a position (how are the mores related to the laws?).

From the rustling stacks of department records that the Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center has preserved, we bring you a selection of exam questions from 1937. And a reminder from your economics professor: "If you have lots of facts in your mind, confine yourself to the important ones; and do not exceed the time limit specified above."—C. C.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

In each of the following problems a condition and its result are stated. Below each "condition result" statement are five other statements describing physiological events which may or may not be involved in the mechanism by which the given condition leads to the given result. Write a plus sign (+) in front of each one of the five statements which is involved. Write a zero (0) in front of each which is not involved, even though, by itself, the statement may be true.

A man goes out into the cold He commences to shiver.

- ☐ Motor nerves are activated.
- ☐ Sensory nerves are stimulated.
- ☐ A warm-blooded animal shivers in the cold.
- ☐ A decreased temperature of the muscle fibers stimulates them to contract.
- ☐ Nerve impulses pass through special pathways and centers in the central nervous system.

A boy touches a hot stove The arm is quickly withdrawn.

- ☐ Nerve impulses are transmitted to the brain.
- ☐ Pain is experienced.
- ☐ Nerves of the motor cortex are stimulated.
- ☐ Severe injury is avoided.
- ☐ A spinal reflex occurs.

HUMANITIES GENERAL COURSE

Check those of the following who would have agreed with this statement of Socrates:

"And yet, I said, all these are as nothing ... in comparison with those other recompenses which await both just and unjust after death."
(*Republic*, p. 406.)

☐ Job ☐ Jesus ☐ Lucretius ☐ Paul

ECONOMICS

Place a plus sign (+) before each of the following pairs of statements which are consistent with one another and a zero (0) before those which are inconsistent. Explain your answer in one sentence in the indicated space.

1. Conditions in country A occasion a rise in interest rates and a contraction of credit.
2. Country A tends to become a buyer's market.

-
1. Country A has a high standard of living which is dependent on a high degree of specialization.
 2. A protective tariff would in general constitute an attack on, not a defence of, the standard of life.
-

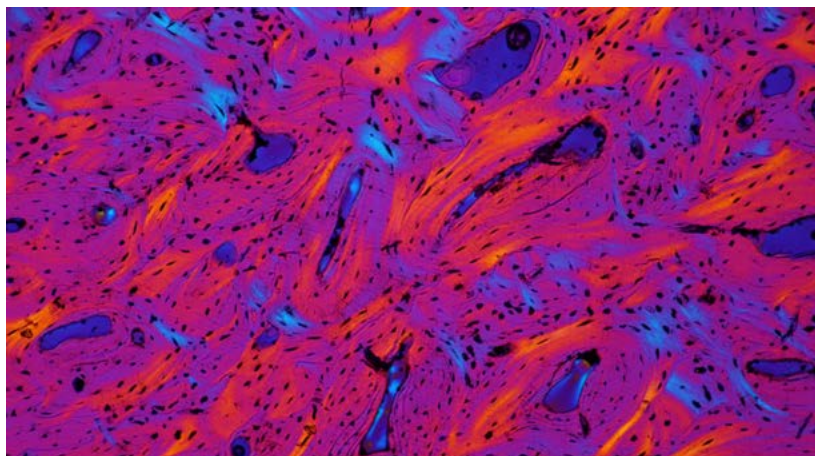
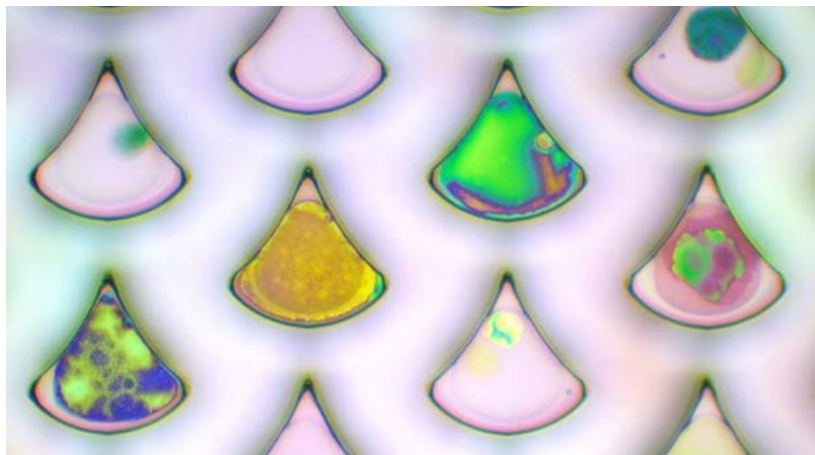
PHILOSOPHY

"There was a young man who said, 'God,
It's really exceedingly odd
That this tree which I see should continue to be
When there's no one about in the quad.'"

How would George Berkeley reassure the young man?

PRIZEWINNING PICTURES

SCIENCE MAKES ART



In April a trio of PhD students won the highest honors in the 2023 Science as Art contest. From the top: grand-prize winner “Origami in a Tube” by chemist **Di Wang**, SM’20; second-place winner “Exploring a Microcosm” by materials scientist **Pengju Li**; and audience favorite “Fuchsia Bone” by geophysical scientist **Rachel Laker**. Learn about the research behind the images at mag.uchicago.edu/scienceasart2023.—R. S. ♦

QUICK STUDY

PUBLIC HEALTH

Risk assessment

Between 2000 and 2020, suicide rates increased 30 percent, making suicide the 12th leading cause of death in the United States in 2020. Multiple studies have linked suicide rates to social and environmental factors such as exposure to violence, crime, and air pollution. A new study led by **Robert Gibbons**, PhD’81, and published April 26 in *JAMA Network Open*, has found stronger evidence for these links. The researchers measured the relationship between social vulnerability and suicide rates using the Social Vulnerability Metric. The SVM draws over 200 variables from 17 nationally representative databases focusing on factors such as age, education, employment, housing, transportation, and health insurance. The authors found that in 2016–20, the suicide rate in the most socially vulnerable communities was 82 percent higher than that in the least vulnerable communities. This suggests that interventions that decrease social vulnerability may also decrease suicide rates.—C. C. ♦

For the record

HUMANITIES DEAN

On July 1 **Deborah**

Nelson became the new dean of the Division of the Humanities.

Nelson, the Helen B. and Frank L. Sulzberger Professor in the

Department of English

and in the College, has taught at UChicago since 1996 and focuses her research on American literature, photography, and Cold War history. Nelson previously served as deputy provost for graduate education and director of the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. She succeeds **Anne Walters Robertson**, the Claire Dux Swift Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Music and in the College, who had been dean since 2016.



ISAC LEADER

On September 1 **Timothy P.**

Harrison, AM'91, PhD'95, becomes director of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, West Asia and North Africa (ISAC), with faculty appointments in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and in the College.

He succeeds **Theo van den Hout**, the Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor of Hittite and Anatolian Languages in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and in the College, who has served as interim director of ISAC since April 2021 and oversaw the institute's recent renaming.

WOODWARD'S SECOND TERM

Amanda Woodward, the William S. Gray Distinguished Service Professor of Psychology, has been reappointed dean of the Division of the Social Sciences. A scholar in the social development of infants and young children, Woodward was instrumental in establishing the Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity, along with the new PhD

program in political economy—a joint enterprise with Harris Public Policy—during her first term as dean. Under her leadership, the division expanded support for graduate students through dissertation completion fellowships, the First Year Scholars Program, the Peer Mentoring Program, and the Alumni-in-Residence program. She has served as SSD's dean since 2017.

BOOK OF DISTINCTION

Elisabeth S. Clemens,

AM'85, PhD'90, the William Rainey

Harper Distinguished

Service Professor of

Sociology and in the

College, received the

2023 Gordon J. Laing

Award for *Civic Gifts:*

Voluntarism and the Making

of the American Nation-State (2020). The

Laing Award is conferred annually by the

Board of University Publications upon the

faculty author, editor, or translator whose

book has brought the greatest distinction to

the list of the UChicago Press.



TRIO OF SCIENCE HONOREES

Three UChicago scholars are among this year's 120 new members elected to the National Academy of Sciences: **Jeffrey Hubbell**, the Eugene Bell Professor in Tissue Engineering in the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering; **Anthony A. Kossiakoff**, the Otho S. A. Sprague Distinguished Service Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; and **Eduardo A. Perozo**, a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology.

INTO THE ACADEMY

Five UChicago faculty members have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences: **Michael J. Franklin**, the Liew Family Chair of Computer Science; **Chang-Tai Hsieh**, the Phyllis and Irwin Winkelried Professor of Economics at Chicago Booth; **Magne Mogstad**, the Gary S. Becker Distinguished Service Professor in the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics and in the College; **Salikoko S. Mufwene**, PhD'79, the Edward Carson

Waller Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Linguistics, the Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity, and the College; and **Shigehiro Oishi**, the Marshall Field IV Professor of Psychology.

MATH PRIZE

Vladimir Drinfeld, the Harry Pratt Judson Distinguished Service Professor of Mathematics, is one of two recipients of the prestigious Shaw Prize in Mathematical Sciences for 2023. Since 2002 the prize has honored individuals who have achieved significant breakthroughs in academic and scientific research or applications and whose works have resulted in positive and profound impacts on humanity. Drinfeld shares the \$1.2 million award with Shing-Tung Yau of Tsinghua University for their "contributions related to mathematical physics, to arithmetic geometry, to differential geometry and to Kähler geometry."

QUANTRELLS AND MORE

The 2023 winners of the Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching are **Leora Auslander**, the Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor in the Departments of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity and History; **Michael Gladders**, professor of astronomy and astrophysics; **Robert L. Kendrick**, the Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor in the Departments of Music and Romance Languages and Literatures; **Phoebe Rice**, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; and **James Sparrow**, associate professor of history. Faculty Awards for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring went to **Elisabeth S. Clemens**, AM'85, PhD'90, the William Rainey Harper Distinguished Service Professor of Sociology and in the College; **Paola Iovene**, associate professor of East Asian languages and civilizations; **Katherine Kinzler**, professor of psychology; **Bozhi Tian**, professor of chemistry; and **David Wellbery**, the LeRoy T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson University Professor in the Department of Germanic Studies and the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought.

Clockwise from top left: UChicago News Office; photography by Jason Smith; UChicago News Office



Good sport

Angie Torain helps undergrads balance academics and athletics.

BY JILLIAN AMSLER, CLASS OF 2024

From her three-sport days in high school to balancing track and field with basketball at DePauw University, **Angie Torain** understands what it means to be both athlete and student. As UChicago's director of athletics and recreation, helping students master that same balance is her full-time job. Torain came to UChicago in 2021 from the University of Notre Dame, where she served as senior associate athletics director of culture, diversity, and engagement. Since she became athletics director at UChicago, the Maroons have brought home four conference championships and two national titles. This interview has been edited and condensed.

Did you always know you wanted to be an athletics director?

I went to college planning to pursue a degree in education and become a middle school teacher, but once I graduated, I decided to go to law school [at Indiana University Bloomington], thinking I might become a sports agent or work at a sports and entertainment law firm.

I ended up falling into collegiate athletics through a job in NCAA compliance. If you think about compliance, it's writing, interpreting, and applying rules,

which definitely correlates with my legal background. Since my first job in collegiate athletics, I never looked back.

What does a normal day look like for you?

There's no normal day. However, most of the time, I'm here in my office working on budgets, NCAA matters, and facility issues, or connecting with a campus partner, staff member, or coach. I also spend my days cheering on our wonderful athletes. If our athletes are competing on campus, I try to be there to support them.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love to watch our athletes compete and meet the goals they set, either as a team or as individuals. It's also great to see the pride they take in being athletes and students at the University of Chicago—the relationship building that I get to do with them is probably my favorite part.

What makes the Division III experience different for students and administrators?

Division III focuses on the student-athlete experience being the same as

that of their peers and integrated into the academic experience. For example, our seasons end earlier than Division I and Division II. Division III athletes have more opportunities to do internships and study abroad because of the shortened seasons.

Resources are different too. Everyone pitches in and helps in different areas. It's known across the division that aside from coaching, you might have an additional duty such as being the compliance coordinator, event manager, or a faculty member.

Staffing is different, rules are different, but I don't think the athletes are different. They all want to do well academically and compete at a high level.

Why did you want to work at a school like UChicago?

I knew that if I was going to be an athletics director, I wanted to be at an institution where the athletes were there for the academics, with sports as an added bonus—basically, a place where the athletes didn't feel like they had to choose between the two.

This year the UChicago athletics department had two women in positions typically held by men. How does it feel to be a female leader, and a Black female leader, in a very public role?

Hopefully I show other women that it is possible for them to lead in places where women are not normally seen—which reminds me of Nelson Mandela's quote, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

I feel blessed to be in this role, but more than anything, I hope that it opens doors, so that in the future, other women can step into these roles without questions. I hope it encourages women to stay in athletics, especially on the coaching side. Young girls and boys need to see more women and women of color as coaches and administrators.

What are you looking forward to most as you spend more time here?

I look forward to us winning more championships! ♦

ROBERT J. ZIMMER

1947–2023

*The 13th president exemplified leadership and
forged a stronger University of Chicago.*

**BY PAUL ALIVISATOS, AB'81
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

The inaugural president of the University of Chicago, William Rainey Harper, was a singular leader. In forming a university founded upon the dual principles of rigorous inquiry and open discourse, he sought to create a distinctive institution of higher learning. To this day, the culture that emerged from his fundamental vision suffuses all aspects of University life and continues to underpin every great effort and success of the University.

While the University has undergone many periods of transformation, each president since Harper has taken up the vital work of stewarding that culture, giving it new life and meaning for the successive generations that have followed.

From the earliest days of Robert J. Zimmer's presidency, he identified a number of critical areas where the University could leverage its considerable strengths and thus elevate the institution's eminence—and he worked tirelessly toward realizing success.

Thanks to his efforts, the University saw re-

markable growth in the College, which included a deepening of the quality of its offerings and an expansion of its accessibility; the establishment of the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering; and the strengthening of ties with the South Side and the world beyond—among many other important achievements that have honored and built upon our founding mandate.

Through his lasting contributions to the University, he shaped its intellectual life for the better. Like Harper, his vision was animated by his unwavering dedication to advancing free expression and inquiry, and he was widely recognized for his ardent championship of both. As an exemplar, he leaves indelible marks on not only the University but also the greater higher education landscape.

Throughout his time at the helm, Zimmer exemplified the notion that a university should never rest on its laurels, and that it should dedicate itself toward constantly pushing boundaries and embracing change for the betterment of the institution. The University was deeply fortunate to benefit from his leadership, and his legacy will resonate for generations to come. ♦

To read more about Robert J. Zimmer and his presidency, visit mag.uchicago.edu/defining-figure.



A photograph of Chicu Reddy, a man with a beard and mustache, smiling and standing in a library aisle. He is wearing a dark blue jacket over a light blue patterned shirt and is holding a small green book. The shelves on either side of him are filled with books.

GLIMPSES

WELL VERSED

Chicu Reddy's life in poetry.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

Srikanth “Chicu” Reddy wrote his first poem when he was 5 or 6: an acrostic about Abraham Lincoln. “I think I still have it,” says Reddy, a professor in the Department of English Language and Literature. “I drew a little picture of Abe in the corner.” From that auspicious start, Reddy has gone on to write several works of poetry and criticism, including, most recently, the book-length poem *Underworld Lit* (Wave Books, 2020). In 2022 he was named poetry editor of the *Paris Review*; he also edits the Phoenix Poets book series for the University of Chicago Press. His comments have been edited and condensed.

Where did your interest in poetry begin?

I remember liking Shel Silverstein and the kinds of poems that many kids in this country grow up reading and hearing in school. In high school I had an amazing English teacher who had us read Walt Whitman and Wallace Stevens, and there was one poem by Stevens called “Disillusionment of Ten O’Clock”—it felt like time stopped.

So high school is when it started to feel like the art was speaking to me. That’s partly because of great teachers who knew that the wilder a poem was, the more exciting it would be to young people. They weren’t afraid to give us strange work—experimental poetry, modernist poetry—that isn’t often taught to students, back then or ever.

In college I started to write poetry, because there were classes with amazing poets like Lucie Brock-Broido, Seamus Heaney, and Louise Glück. That was the first time I got to be around poets and see they were real people who put on their socks in the morning and look a little tired in class and need to be driven to the grocery store when they’re visiting campus.

You’re both a poet and a scholar of poetry. Do the two ever feel in tension?

I think every poet thinks critically about poetry, if only to say, “This poem I just wrote is a piece of trash.” And the way you think about your work critically is by reading other poets and thinking about them critically. It’s always been a part of the art since the beginning. Ancient poetry is full of poems that are mocking other poets, praising other poets, thinking about other poets.

But it’s also sometimes been in tension with making, because you get an internal critic or editor in your head who can be very hard on you. And a lot of the time that goes into formal study and critical work can take away from the time you need to get to a place where you can write.

What does a poetry editor do?

They read a lot of poems. That’s the first thing you notice when you enter into this little world. I was knocked off balance by how much work crosses my desk every day. It’s like a fire hose. And reading poetry is a different kind of reading. It takes time and attention and care. So you can’t just swipe right or left—it’s not Tinder. I did have to learn how to read poems more quickly, and frankly, you do start to develop little personal algorithms. If the phrase “my mother” appears in the first line of a poem, my finger starts to swipe left. But I give it a chance!

I try not to automatically make those decisions, but you do start to be guided by your sense of what feels like exciting subject matter, exciting voices, exciting forms.

What considerations go into deciding what to publish?

The culture of the magazine matters. *Poetry* magazine, which I edited for three issues a year ago, has a lot more pages, and

Photography by Jason Smith

it's devoted entirely to poetry, so we could take more risks on work that was interesting and weird. Whereas I'm finding now with *Paris Review*, we have maybe 20 pages of poetry an issue and still a huge number of submissions. I want to feel like every poem in the magazine stops me in my day, in my life, for a moment. It has to feel like something I haven't seen before, and it has to have some emotional claim on me.

You've been at UChicago since 2003, since before creative writing was even a major. How has the culture around creative writing changed in that time?

It's totally transformed. When I came here in 2003, I was a lecturer, not on the tenure line. My official title was the Moody Poet in Residence.

That feels pointed!

The lectureship was named after William Vaughn Moody, a poet who taught at the University in the 1890s. I wish I still had that title.

I thought I was here to hang out for a couple of years, teach a couple of courses, maybe write another book, and then move on. And now, creative writing is one of the largest majors in the humanities. We have more than a dozen writers teaching full time, we have a home in Taft House, an event series—all kinds of exciting things. Former students of mine are now creative writing professors all over the country.

Have you noticed changes in student writing?

When I arrived, UChicago was still the place where fun came to die. It was actually kind of a wonderful moment, because I had all of these punk nerds who geeked out on William Carlos Williams before they even walked into my classroom. They were making experimental films, they were all in bands, they were working at Cobb Café, they were pierced and angry about capitalism. They were such incredible writers—a lot of them have gone on to publish books of poetry and become real voices in the literary world.

As the College expanded, the character of the student body changed, and their work also changed. Students now are much more interested in social activism and how their work intersects with questions of social justice. I think the place of poetry and the work of poetry are viewed differently now, and that's been exciting and challenging as a teacher.

If you could decree that every schoolchild in America had to memorize one poem, what poem would you pick?

It might be that Wallace Stevens poem, "Disillusionment of Ten O'Clock." It's funny and it's colorful, and it's about social conformity and the possibility of keeping wonder alive.

What's your worst writing habit?

Lying down on the couch to write. I'm trying to write an adaptation of the ancient Indian epic the *Mahabharata*,

Disillusionment of Ten O'Clock

By Wallace Stevens

The houses are haunted
By white night-gowns.
None are green,
Or purple with green rings,
Or green with yellow rings,
Or yellow with blue rings.
None of them are strange,
With socks of lace
And beaded ceintures.
People are not going
To dream of baboons and periwinkles.
Only, here and there, an old sailor,
Drunk and asleep in his boots,
Catches tigers
In red weather.

which is one of the longest poems in existence. It's about 10 times longer than the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* put together. The only way I can deal with it is to lie flat on my back. I think it's hilarious that I'm writing this ancient war epic while just chilling on my couch.

I think writers make little motors out of their bad habits that all come together and allow them to get the writing done. You always hear about Ernest Hemingway having to sharpen 20 pencils before he sat down to write. It's compulsive but then, you know, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* happens. So.

What lines of poetry get stuck in your head?

There's a beautiful line from George Herbert's "Death." He's addressing death, who is, of course, a skeleton, and thinking about the resurrection, and he says, "And all thy bones with beautie shall be clad." There's something about that line that you just can't help feeling is addressed to you.

And then there's the opening of John Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn": "Thou still unravish'd bride of quietness."

That's why I still think it's important for students to read the poetry of the past, because it's a resource that will come back to you when you're on the Peloton or waiting on a canceled flight. There's something about hearing "thou still unravish'd bride of quietness" in your head while you're in Midway at Gate C, or whatever, that makes you feel like poetry is an art that is really mysterious and has a life across time that you would never imagine. ♦

ET CETERA

TIME AFTER TIME

In May Alumni Weekend—goers enjoyed lasting traditions and a few new twists.

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94 | ILLUSTRATIONS BY MATTHEW INSALATA

With apologies to Tolstoy, all Alumni Weekends are alike and each Alumni Weekend is different in its own ways. This year's celebration was surely the first where cries of "Welcome to Vienna!" rang out on the main quadrangle. In addition to setting the stage for all the expected joyful reunions, formal and informal, this Alumni Weekend was a chance for attendees to celebrate **John W. Boyer**, AM'69, PhD'75, on the eve of



his transition to a new role after more than 30 years leading the College as dean. And so, in the heart of Chicago's Hyde Park, the Habsburg Empire was just a short stroll away from all points on campus.

Modeled after a Viennese salon, the eponymous Dean Boyer Salon tent paid homage to the imperial era that Boyer, a historian, studies. Wine, tea, and coffee (Julius Meinl, naturally) flowed and strudel flaked, both in abundance. Servers in crisp white shirts and black ties lent elegance. China cups and saucers gently clinked, and visi-



“Welcome to Vienna!” Swarmed by alumni, the Dean Boyer Salon (opposite and above left) offered food, drink, and photo ops. Saturday’s Food Truck Festival (above right) fed the hungry almost everything but Weiner schnitzel.

Photography by Jason Smith, Anne Ryan, and John Zich

tors skied the Austrian Alps (with help from virtual reality headsets). Just across the way from these novel attractions, the Alumni Beer Garden—new 11 years ago, a timeless tradition today—abided, as festive and popular as ever.

Also time-tested: Saturday evening’s double feature of the 115-year-old Interfraternity Sing Competition at Reynolds Club and the UChicaGO Party in Ida Noyes Hall, this year with pinball and a flower cart in addition to dancing and dining.

Time to feast: The brand-new Food Truck Festival on University Avenue Saturday afternoon served up lobster rolls, empanadas, pizzas, Dutch mini pancakes, and more.

Strictly timed: The Three Minute Thesis competition, now in its second year, gave alumni a glimpse of graduate

students’ research achievements (see page 20 to find out which ideas prevailed).

Time-honored: The Alumni Awards recognized the achievements of yesterday’s students, with honors bestowed on composer **Philip Glass**, AB’56, and 14 other alumni and faculty in a ceremony for recipients and their families, friends, and nominators.

Time flies: Many current students took part for the first time, trying on their alumni hats a year or more before the designation becomes official.

Time and again: Many attendees, yours truly among them, had been there before, were there this year, and will inexorably be drawn back—see you May 16–19, 2024. ♦

“At the time it was the Hungarian Revolution. When I was growing up my mom would say, there are always two sides to every story. And when I grew up, I realized, sometimes there aren’t.”

“I want to visit the uppermost point of every significant structure on campus.”

University Avenue

“I’m not funny.
I’m a mathematician.”

57th Street

“There was a resale bookstore at the Reynolds Club. I spent my nickels on *Scientific merican*.”

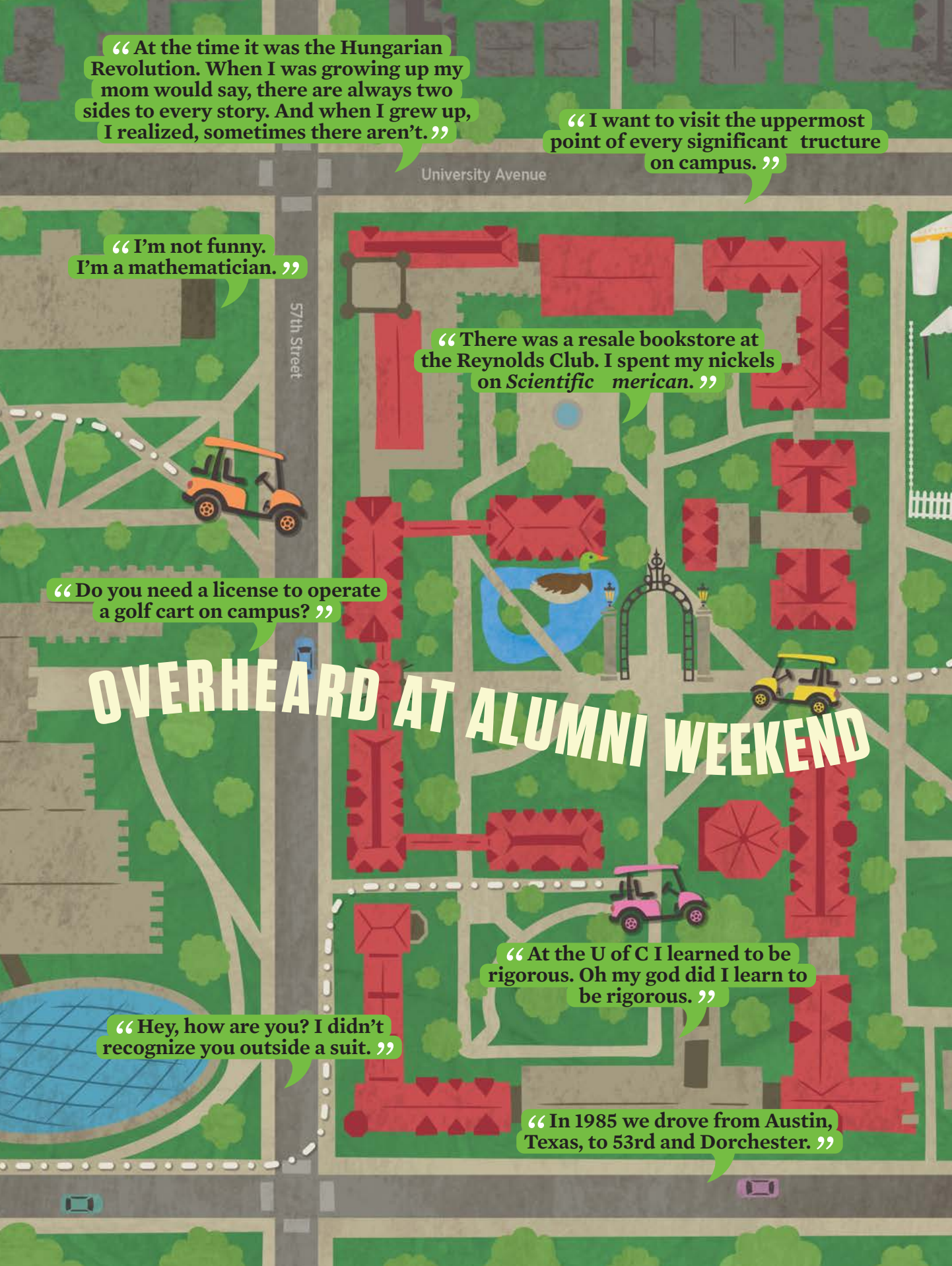
“Do you need a license to operate a golf cart on campus?”


OVERHEARD AT ALUMNI WEEKEND

“Hey, how are you? I didn’t recognize you outside a suit.”

“At the U of C I learned to be rigorous. Oh my god did I learn to be rigorous.”

“In 1985 we drove from Austin, Texas, to 53rd and Dorchester.”





“I took my first anatomy class in the lab I manage now!”

“Welcome to Vienna!”

“I went to Harold’s Chicken—I’ve never said this before but it was a little overdone.”

“What we got from the University was truly a second family.”

“Before the night is over I want to get a selfie with Philip Glas.”

“Apparently his name is Hutch.”

“We have a packed day of shenanigans.”

“Cobb Café—I waited there between classes. Everyone there was really cool.”

59th Street

Ellis Avenue



Opposite, clockwise from top left: The Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts celebrated 10 years with a birthday bash; Professional Achievement Award recipient Ken Ono, AB'89, with Alumni Medal recipient Philip Glass, AB'56; Interfraternity Sing; International House's annual wine tasting; Alumni Scavenger Hunt; getting down at a reunion after-party. This page, from top: UChicaGO Party people; sunny vibes at the Alumni Beer Garden.



Photography by Jason Smith and John Zich



HYDE PARK

JIMMY'S WOODLAWN TAP

An oral history.

BY BEN RYDER HOWE, AB'94



When is a bar more than a bar? Jimmy's Woodlawn Tap turned 75 this year. During its lifespan it has had only three owners: Jimmy Wilson, brothers Bill and Jim Callahan, and **Matt Martell**, AB'95, who bought it in 2021. And little else has changed much: the decor, the amount of sunlight filtering through the windows facing 55th Street season to season, the cost of a hamburger, the clientele. In a neighborhood that has seen significant change, Jimmy's is a remarkably stable presence. Some of that is intentional—for instance, Jimmy's continues to open every morning before lunchtime, unlike many bars—but outside forces have steadied it as well. Jimmy's serves a larger function in the community. It's not just a place to blow off steam, meet friends, and escape the pressures of school or work, but a place to celebrate the values of Hyde Park and the University—which include a certain aversion to hype or grandness. For those lucky enough to be in the know, Jimmy's has always simply been, as Saul Bellow, EX'39, once explained to an interviewer, “our local haunt ... a joint I had known in earlier times.”

Speakers, in order of appearance

Carole Rich is one of Jimmy Wilson's daughters.

John Davey, LAB'57, AB'61, JD'62, is on the board of directors at Lakeside Bank.

Bill Callahan owned Jimmy's from 1999 to 2021.

Matt Martell, AB'95, is the current owner of Jimmy's.

David Axelrod, AB'76, is the former chief strategist and senior advisor to former President Barack Obama and founding director and current senior fellow of UChicago's Institute of Politics.

David G. Booth, MBA'71, is the founder of Dimensional Fund Advisors and the namesake of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Jack Snapper, AM'69, PhD'74, is associate professor emeritus at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

David Brooks, AB'83, is a columnist for the *New York Times*.

Sarah Koenig, AB'90, is the executive producer of Serial Productions.

Jack Spicer is preservation chair of the Hyde Park Historical Society.

Vyto Baltrukenas, AB'74, has worked at Jimmy's since the 1970s.

Hanna Holborn Gray is the Harry Pratt Judson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of History and former president of the University.

Stephen Anderson is a retired options and commodities trader.

Janet Coleman is the author of *The Compass: The Improvisational Theatre That Revolutionized American Comedy* (Knopf, 1990).

Curtis Black, EX'79, is a writer, editor, and musician.

John W. Boyer, AM'69, PhD'75, is the Martin A. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of History and senior advisor to the president. He was previously dean of the College.

June Skinner Sawyers is the author of *Chicago Beer: A History of Brewing, Public Drinking and the Corner Bar* (American Palate, 2022).

Joseph G. Peterson, AB'88, works at the University of Chicago Press. He is the author of nine books of fiction and poetry.

Sudhir Venkatesh, AM'92, PhD'97, is the William B. Ransford Professor of Sociology at Columbia University.

Nina Helstein, LAB'60, AB'64, AM'75, PhD'95, is a clinical social worker.



I

Carole Rich: My father was James Rowan Wilson. He went to Englewood High School and played basketball. High school is as far as he got. He couldn't be in the service because he couldn't hear, so when the war started, he went to work at a nut and bolt factory called United Screw, or something like that. And he worked as a teller at Drexel National Bank. At night he would tend bar at a tavern on 55th Street called the University Tap.

John Davey: Fifty-fifth Street was a line of bars, probably one a block all the way down to Stony Island on both sides.

Carole Rich: My mother lived at 60th off Halsted, and Dad lived at 43rd and Cottage Grove. His dad owned a hardware store that was in business for one hundred years.

Bill Callahan: There were, I think, 35 liquor licenses between Cottage and the lake. And some hotels. It was after the war. Guys were coming back without jobs or anything.

Carole Rich: Dad heard that the tavern down the street had become available. He knew the janitor, the guy who cleaned up. So they went in.

Matt Martell: In the 1940s the bar was called Little Tom's Place. It became known as Jimmy's after Jimmy Wilson bought it in 1948.

Officially, it was called the Woodlawn Tap, one of at least six neighborhood bars that flourished on or around Fifty-fifth Street. There, particularly, and at Steinway's Drugstore ("the morning place"), discussion groups or "cadres" formed and specialists in various intellectual obsessions held forth at separate tables. The Kant table, the Hegel table, the quantum physics table, the Communist table, and the science fiction table persist in many student memories. But even those passions were upstaged by that of the theatre table.

—Janet Coleman, *The Compass: The Improvisational Theatre That Revolutionized American Comedy*

Photography by John Zich (Framed photo: Photography by Ben Ryder-Howe, AB'94. Copyright 2023. The Chicago Maroon. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)



Opposite: A photo of Jimmy Wilson taken by the writer in 1994 hangs in the west room today. Above: Reference books are on hand to settle bar bets. Right: Chess as bar pastime and spectator sport.



II

Carole Rich: It was dark, very dark. You needed a match to find your hamburger.

David Axelrod: It was kind of scuzzy. I always felt like my elbows stuck to the tables. I don't know if they ever changed the oil in which they cooked the fries.

David G. Booth: They served a standard kind of hamburger. You know, a little greasy.

Jack Snapper: The hamburgers were just a pile of grease in a bun.

David Brooks: The floors were sticky. It wasn't that nice, which was good.

Sarah Koenig: It was disgusting. I loved it.

Jack Snapper: Everybody was worried about falling through the floor and ending up in the basement, particularly when rolling kegs. You had to be very careful where you stepped when carrying a 50-pound barrel of beer.

Carole Rich: It always seemed crowded. And some of the people would be sitting there reading. They had dictionaries and stuff.

David Brooks: There was an encyclopedia in case you needed to settle a question. And there were long tables where you could get 12 or 16 people together. In retrospect, that was an important piece of the architecture.

Carole Rich: A lot of people met their sweethearts there.

Jack Snapper: There were three different types of clientele. At noon you got blue-collar workers coming in for a light lunch and a beer. Then around four or five the bankers came in, the white-collar people getting off work. The students would hit the place after around nine or ten and then it would really get busy.

Sarah Koenig: It felt like a proper grown-up

place, a safe space to practice being an adult. And apparently what adults do is they go to bars, talk a lot, and drink beer.

Jack Spicer: It always had a peculiar culture. All kinds of people felt comfortable there—White, Black, young, old. Not a lot of bars are like that.

Vyto Baltrukenas: When I'd go to other places, I was amazed if they weren't like Jimmy's. At Jimmy's you would pull up and have a conversation with a professor or a plumber. I'd go to other places and, you know, everybody looks the same.

Hanna Holborn Gray: It was kind of a mythical place. There were many people whose days were not complete if they had not paid a visit to Jimmy's.

Stephen Anderson: People knew the bar as Jimmy's. But if you said the Woodlawn Tap, they'd say, Do you mean the bar at 55th and Woodlawn?

Vyto Baltrukenas: If you called information and asked for the number, you got some lounge on the North Side. To get 1172 East 55th Street, you had to be in the know.

Hanna Holborn Gray: I was quite empathetic toward it, but I never went there myself.

David G. Booth: Jimmy's was a place where normal people would have interesting conversations. Normal for University of Chicago students.

Jack Snapper: Somebody called the bar once and asked, "Do you know the source of the line, 'And malt does more than Milton can to justify God's ways to man'?" And I said, "Yes, that's *A Shropshire Lad* by A. E. Housman. Would you like me to recite it for you?" Apparently I helped someone win a bet.



Look at 55th Street. There used to be 35 bars between Lake Park and Cottage on 55th. The street was one of the main places in the city to hear music—making it one of the major centers of music in the nation. Any given night you could hear performers like Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Muddy Waters, Sonny Stitt in a saxophone duel with Gene Ammons, Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young, Clifford Brown, and on and on.

—Curtis Black, “Condemn and Destroy,” *The Grey City Journal*, September 24, 1982

III

Janet Coleman: Robert Maynard Hutchins wasn’t interested in frivolous activities. He wanted people reading the great books. So the students went to the bar—where else would they go? And because people have an urge to perform, especially young people, they started doing improvisational theater.

Carole Rich: When I was 18 I would go there and listen to jazz. It was always a mixed crowd. There was no segregation.

Janet Coleman: The Compass was the first improvisational theater in America. A lot of the Compass Players hung out at Jimmy’s. Some were students like Paul Sills [AB’51], who went on to create the Second City. Some were dropouts, like Mike Nichols [EX’53]. Elaine May was sort of a sitter-in-on-classes type. She was a drop-in.

Curtis Black: The last place Charlie Parker played in Chicago was at the Beehive on 55th and Harper. That was the really famous club. It had superstars—Clifford Brown, Max Roach, Gene Ammons. And it was gone in urban renewal.

John W. Boyer: For some people these were the glory days of Hyde Park. The other side is that this was a street filled with gambling, prostitution, and crime.

June Skinner Sawyers: Sometimes the neighborhood tavern could be a bit of a place of disorder.

Jack Spicer: I have always wondered how Jimmy’s survived.

Jack Snapper: Jimmy had a good relationship with the University. This was the sort of bar they wanted. We were in their good graces.

John W. Boyer: The whole block survived. It’s almost a museum piece from the 1920s.

Jack Snapper: To some extent it was luck. Jimmy was a nice guy. They could have picked somebody else.

IV

Jack Snapper: I always wanted to know what would happen if you yelled Fire! in a crowded bar. One time we had a fire in the kitchen. I yelled “Fire!” Everybody laughed.

Joseph G. Peterson: People always used to say, As a writer, you’re lucky to work in a place like this. And I was like, Are you nuts? There’s not a story here I want to remember. When I write my books, it ain’t gonna be about this place. Since

JOHN W. BOYER ON HYDE PARK URBAN RENEWAL



Beginning in the early 1940s, signs of serious deterioration in the neighborhood around the University were evident. As a result of the Depression and the war, many buildings had not been maintained for 15 years, and there

had been little new investment in the area. In Hyde Park in 1945, 53 percent of the buildings were 40 or more years old; in Woodlawn, 82 percent. Facing serious population shifts and dislocations and rising crime rates in the early 1950s, the University tried

to stabilize and rehabilitate the area between 55th Street and 61st Street, from Cottage Grove to Stony Island, and to do so on the basis of economic prosperity and school stability, while seeking to avoid being cast in a racially exclusivist portrait. These plans resulted in the decades between 1960 and 1990 in what **Rebecca Janowitz**, LAB'70, AM'08, has fairly characterized as a "racially balanced community," but also a community based on substantial wealth, affluence, and privilege. In doing so, the University engaged in urban renewal involving the lives of several thousand lower-income and (as a

majority) African American residents. Under the massive 1958 renewal plan, buildings containing 4,371 families were demolished, clearing approximately 15 percent of the buildings in the plan area, in an effort to de-densify the neighborhood by razing sub-standard properties. Of these families, 1,837 were White, and 2,534 were Black, making the latter about 58 percent of the total. The social turmoil manifested in these years was bound to elicit strident criticisms about the University's policies and about its motives that cast a long shadow into the decades ahead.

then I've published nine books, and every single one has been about it.

Sudhir Venkatesh: I used to stop at Jimmy's on my way home from doing fieldwork. As a researcher I was trying to observe life—like, how do you watch and record and process but not judge? And the folks behind the bar, I felt like they were my teachers. I was learning to be a professional stranger, and they ran a master class.

Jack Snapper: You know, there are people who go to school to learn to be bartenders. I think that means you're unqualified.

John Davey: They have to mix drinks and do some cooking, but they also have to have conversations.

Vyto Baltrukenas: Jimmy would brag that he put people through college.

Jack Snapper: I was teaching, then bartending until two in the morning and getting to the office at nine.

Matt Martell: I tended bar at the Quadrangle Club in college, and then Bill Callahan hired me. I usually worked nights until 2 a.m. I met the most interesting people.

Joseph G. Peterson: I was at Jimmy's one night with friends. We were going into the holidays.

And I was thinking, god, I just need money. So I said to Bill Callahan, "Excuse me, I'd love to work here part time, if there's any way I could do that." And Bill put me in. I must have been 25 years old.

Vyto Baltrukenas: When you were a new hire, you had the talk with Jimmy. He would tell you, I'm paying you this much, don't drink my imported beers, don't drink my fancy liquor, and otherwise just try to show up on time. As far as I could tell, it was very difficult to get fired.

Joseph G. Peterson: One day Bill said to me, "Joe, you work behind the bar. Your job is to serve drinks to our customers, who are here for whatever reason brings them here. One thing I would advise is do not judge your customers."

Matt Martell: As a new hire, Jimmy would take you around the place and show you where things were. A lot of unforeseen situations can happen in a tavern, but he trusted people to figure it out.

Curtis Black: Jimmy was just a straight, regular guy. He took you as you were.

Vyto Baltrukenas: Everybody was welcome, and that came straight from him. He told me: "You treat everybody the same."

In March 1950, Dylan Thomas signed the guestbook, joined by poets and faculty members Reuel Denney, J. V. Cunningham, and Henry Rago.

V

Joseph G. Peterson: A successful bar cannot run without regulars. They are the bread and butter of the business.

David Brooks: I was definitely an Old Style guy.

David Axelrod: “Give me a beer” was my approach. I wasn’t a connoisseur.

Sarah Koenig: I remember being at Jimmy’s a lot. Many important things happened at Jimmy’s.

David Axelrod: I spent way too much time there. It was just the place to go. My wife and I met in a coed basketball game. After the games, we would go over there. I have memories at Jimmy’s that run into the core fiber of my life.

David Brooks: I was a big participant in Doc Films. I would go to the movies at seven, and I’d be done at nine thirty, and then I’d meet people at Jimmy’s. My main memory is sitting at a long table with pitchers of beer, sometimes meeting grad students, or there was an Irish professor who was hanging out there.

Vyto Baltrukenas: Frank Kinahan was a professor in the English department specializing in Irish literature. Popular teacher. He kind of made a home at Jimmy’s.

Joseph G. Peterson: Frank had a drink called a Golden Cadillac. What is a Golden Cadillac? A Golden Cadillac is a beer, probably Miller Genuine Draft, poured into a Tom Collins glass and served on a coaster.

Curtis Black: Frank was a sweetheart, the kind of guy you’d love to run into in a bar.

Joseph G. Peterson: Frank loved Seamus Heaney’s poetry. I remember him reciting one poem about a man and a wife hanging a bedsheet. They would pull it off the clothesline and fold it, the two of them, and as they folded it, they’d get closer and closer. It was a sort of dance. And that’s what the poem was trying to evoke, the dance around this domestic chore.

Vyto Baltrukenas: I’m working one afternoon, and Frank and three or four other people are sitting in one of the booths. The phone rang and I picked it up: “Is Frank Kinahan there?” I handed the phone to Frank, and he talked for a few minutes, came back and said, “I’d like to buy

the bar a drink. I just got my tenure decision.”

Bill Callahan: David Grene used to sit in the middle room and drink Tanqueray martinis with Saul Bellow.

Joseph G. Peterson: You’d serve him his hamburger and his martini: Here you go, Mr. Grene. He’d sit down at the table with his graduate students. And if there weren’t any students, he’d just read a book. I’d say, What are you reading? It was always the same thing: the plays of J. M. Synge. He just sat there and read J. M. Synge.

Matt Martell: I served afternoon martinis to David Grene. He usually sat in the front middle room. He never signed Jimmy’s guest book, as far as I know. Jimmy started having customers sign a leather-bound guest book in the early ’50s. Dylan Thomas, Mike Royko, Jimmy Breslin.

Joseph G. Peterson: Jimmy told me that Dylan Thomas stayed at the Quad Club once, and he came in at lunchtime and ordered a drink, after which he put the glass down. Then he ordered another drink and put the glass on top of the previous one. Then he did it again. And again. Jimmy said he just stacked glasses throughout the afternoon and into the night.

There were a few people who were acolytes of Norman Maclean [PhD’40], who I think lived across the street. I never saw the guy come in, but they would always talk about him. You know, Will he come today? Kind of like *The Ice-man Cometh*.

David Axelrod: There are other saloons that can claim celebrity patronage, but unless they’re in Oslo, probably not as many Nobel Prize winners. Including Barack Obama, for crying out loud.

Bill Callahan: He used to go in the middle room, when that was the only smoking room. You had a certain amount of space there.

David Axelrod: It was a place to let your hair down.

Jack Spicer: I was a landscape contractor in Hyde Park for 45 years. When my day was over, I might walk into Jimmy’s looking filthy, sit down and have a beer. Never bothered anybody.

Sudhir Venkatesh: There’s this line in Nelson Algren’s *The Man with the Golden Arm*: He was

a man like any man, with a bit less luck than most. And I feel funny saying it, because it's the University of Chicago, but Jimmy's allowed you to just drop the pretense and just kind of bond over your frailties. You didn't have to try. You didn't have to worry about what you could have been. You walk into Jimmy's and it's like everyone's in their underwear in the waiting room at the doctor's office.

Stephen Anderson: That's the main thing: it didn't matter where you came from or your pedigree. You could come in and get into some interesting conversations.

Jack Spicer: Everybody feels welcome, which is actually a hard thing for a community to accomplish.

Nina Helstein: Jimmy's is a community and a home. I wasn't much of a drinker, but that wasn't why I came to Jimmy's.

Jack Snapper: I kept trying to tell Jimmy, You've got four rooms here. Take one and make it non-smoking. You'll get more people. And Jimmy would say, No, people smoke in bars.

Joseph G. Peterson: Even smokers would go outside. You'd leave work stinking so much that I'd actually strip out of my clothes, put them in my trunk, and drive home.

Jack Spicer: If I stopped for a beer after work, I would go home and my wife would say, Oh, you've been to Jimmy's?

David Axelrod: Air quality was not a thing. And if it was your thing, they'd sort of shrug and tell you to go somewhere else.

Joseph G. Peterson: There was a big cigar craze in the 1990s. All the B-school guys would come into the west room and light up cigars. We found out later that the air ducts were clogged. It was an OSHA nightmare.

Matt Martell: Since the indoor smoking ban in 2008, visibility in the bar is much improved.

Vyto Baltrukenas: Jimmy had been having some issues and had slowed down. But nobody thought he was near.

Jack Snapper: You know, the Callahan brothers, pretty much one or the other of them was always there. The Callahans were smart, and they kept the place. Jimmy didn't have to be around.

Carole Rich: My dad had had a couple of operations. His hearing was always bad, but he man-



aged. A lot of times he was reading lips.

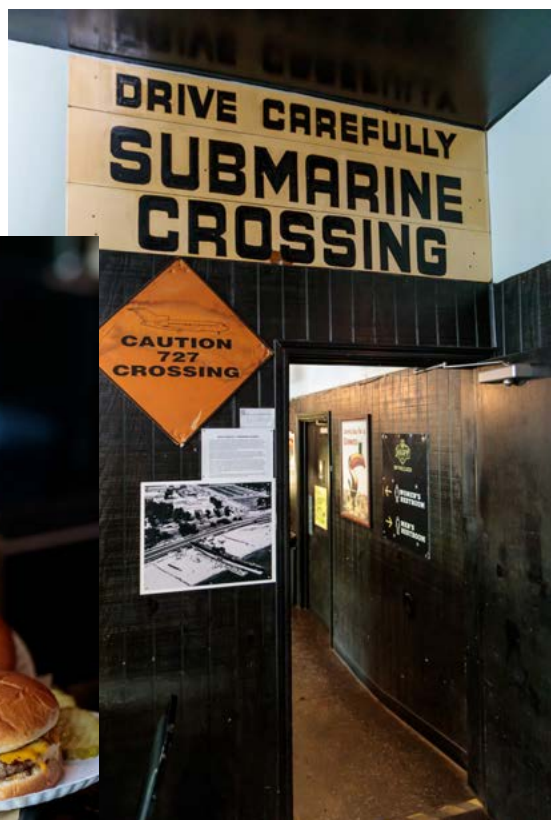
Vyto Baltrukenas: He went through health issues. The man had, what, four or five cornea transplants? He always appreciated his hearing aid. I can turn this off if I don't want to listen to you anymore, he would say.

Carole Rich: My mother passed away in 1992. When she died ... broken heart. Fifty-eight years, you know. That's a long time.

Vyto Baltrukenas: We had the bar's 50th anniversary in 1998. Jimmy put himself at table 1 at the north end and kind of stood there as people wandered in. And pretty soon the place filled up. Everybody just had to come by and say hi.

Matt Martell: Jimmy loved being in the bar and talking with customers, but he didn't come in as often in his last few years.

Vyto Baltrukenas: I walked into the bar one morning and the crew told me they had just gotten a call and Jimmy had passed away. Totally unexpected.



Matt Martell: A few months after Jimmy died, the bar's liquor license was supposed to expire. So Bill and Jim applied for a new license and waited.

Vyto Baltrukenas: One day I opened the mail and said, Oh, a letter from the City. "Your application has been denied," it read. In those days there was kind of an anti-liquor-license movement in the city. Many places, particularly smaller places, lost their license or didn't have it renewed. The commissioner came to Jimmy's and discovered we were too close to the school.

Matt Martell: The bar also needed renovations to bring it up to code. New walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchen, electrical, plumbing—basically everything.

Vyto Baltrukenas: We spent the summer tearing the place out. Only the ceiling in the west room was left over. And the bar, which is from the '20s, we think.

Matt Martell: But after all the renovations, the

City denied the application again because of the bar's proximity to St. Thomas the Apostle School across Woodlawn Avenue.


Vyto Baltrukenas: We had heard that something was amiss.

Jack Spicer: The bar was probably in more jeopardy than we realized.

Vyto Baltrukenas: We had an appeal hearing on March 17, St. Patrick's Day. We rode the train downtown. There were all kinds of people at the hearing. The University, neighborhood groups, significant folks in the state government. Religious institutions.

David Axelrod: There are a lot of old Irish priests who probably would smile knowing that the church saved Jimmy's.

Vyto Baltrukenas: We didn't organize anything. People just came down. I looked around and said, My god, I've been here for 20 years, and I don't know all these people. We were flabbergasted. A few weeks later we got a decision.

A close-up photograph of two tall glasses filled with golden beer, topped with a thick layer of white foam. A hand is visible holding the glass on the right. In the background, a blurred bar scene with warm lights and a person's arm is visible.

Well run taverns operated by good neighbors can enrich a community greatly. It is apparent that Jimmy's has been enriching this neighborhood as a meeting place for the community since the middle of the last century. It strikes us as a place where hard hat and lunch pail share the same bar with briefcase and *Wall Street Journal*, where a shot and a beer is as at home as a glass of Cabernet. It also seems to be a place that fosters good times and fond memories for people who may subsequently leave this community behind to pursue a career but will never leave behind the collegiate experience that this tavern is itself a part of.

License Appeal Commission Order (March 22, 2000)

VI

Bill Callahan: The busiest day we ever had was the last day we were open in 1999. And a busier day than that was when we reopened. I'd come in at seven and work till three or four in the morning. It was insane.

Vyto Baltrukenas: The joy that you saw. People flew in just to be here. We're talking about 50 years' worth of Jimmy's ownership. The number of people who considered themselves regulars, even if they weren't there every day. People who met their wives, girlfriends, husbands, boyfriends, whatever. Births, deaths.

Hanna Holborn Gray: I spend a lot of time meeting with alumni, sometimes quite by accident. I never go to an airport or a restaurant without meeting graduates of the University of Chicago, and so many of them mention their time at the University. And Jimmy's crops up. They want to know how it's doing.

Joseph G. Peterson: When I left Jimmy's, for many years my habit for falling asleep at night would be to walk behind the bar in my mind and remember, you know, where to pop open the

beer bottles, how to empty those things out, just walking through the bar, remembering all the little details.

Vyto Baltrukenas: If I hadn't gotten that job, maybe I'd have gone out and made a million bucks. But I'm willing to look on the bright side and say, I got to know Jimmy instead.

Joseph G. Peterson: There's a perfect moment to the day in a bar, in my opinion. It might be just after lunch or something, the way the light comes in. It's still a little quiet. You'd have your lunch crowd, mostly construction workers, a handful of regulars, some professors. Friday evening if you open the west room, maybe five or six in the evening, was perfect. It was quiet, mellow. You'd have a person here or a person there. And then by six all the workers are coming in and everybody's just talking, you know, talk, talk, talk. And it's still quite nice. But once you serve five or six pitchers, the volume, and before you know it everybody's shouting. ♦

Ben Ryder Howe, AB'94, is a writer in New York City.

PEER REVIEW

WHAT ALUMNI ARE THINKING AND DOING

AVANT-GARDEN

Visitors enjoy a sunny day at Mill Road Farm in 1941. Advertising executive and University trustee Albert D. Lasker donated the Lake Forest, IL, estate to UChicago in 1940, but the University owned it for only a few years, soon dividing and selling the property.

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NOTES

A SELECTION OF ALUMNI WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE NEWS



FASHION FORWARD

Erika Dalya Massaquoi, AB'94, AM'94, was awarded a grant from the Fearless Foundation, in partnership with Amazon, to grow her fashion brand, the OULA Company. Influenced by the Black is Beautiful movement, experimental film, and Massaquoi's own vintage clothing collection, OULA's vibrant retro designs feature globally sourced Ankara fabrics (African wax prints). The company's mission highlights inclusivity, sustainability, and fair labor standards. In addition to receiving monetary support, the 75 Black women entrepreneurs awarded this grant are enrolled in Amazon's Black Business Accelerator program.

YEARS IN THE MAKING

Peter Smagorinsky, MAT'77, PhD'89, received a 2023 American Educational Research Association Lifetime Contribution to Cultural-Historical Research Award in recognition of his contributions to the field through publications, presentations, outreach, and service. In scores of books and journal articles, Smagorinsky has taken a sociocultural approach to English, writing, and literacy education and related social issues. The recipient of national and international awards for his teaching, he is professor emeritus in the Department of Language and Literacy Education at the University of Georgia, where he has been on the faculty since 1998.

DOCTOR WITHOUT BORDERS

In April **Robert J. Dempsey, MD'77**, was honored with the Dr. Thomas A. Dooley Award from the Notre Dame Alumni Association for outstanding service to humankind. The Manucher Javid Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Wisconsin and codirector of the UW Stroke Program, Dempsey specializes in cranial neurosurgery and works to combat health disparities by training, equipping, and mentoring physicians in areas of need around the world. His research focuses on brain injury, vascular cognitive decline, education, and global health.

ALUMNI INNOVATORS

In May the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation announced the results of its 2023 Alumni New Venture Challenge. The first-place team (and recipient of \$50,000) is the artificial intelligence software company Lambda Function, led by founder and CEO **Tanmay Aggarwal, MBA'15**. The company creates software that augments computer numerical control (CNC) machining with artificial intelligence. Its goal is to enable CNC machines to make decisions without human guidance or intervention. Other winning teams were Archer Career (led by **Pam Schilling, MBA'00**), Pyaari Weddings (led by **Manali Kamaria, MBA'20**), and Laxis (led by **Eric Xiao, MBA'15**).

WITH THE TIMES

Starting this summer, two recent alumnae—**Katrina Miller, SM'18, PhD'23**, and **Yiwen Lu, AB'23**—joined the *New York Times* as 2023–24 fellows. Miller studied physics at UChicago and is a freelance journalist and essayist. Her work has appeared in *Scientific American* and *Wired*, and she will write about science for the *Times*. Lu studied economics and political science in the College and was managing editor of the *Chicago Maroon*. Most recently, she was a *ProPublica* emerging reporter. She will cover the *Times'* technology beat.

FORBES FEATURES FINTECH FOUNDER

Sean Harper's (AB'03, MBA'09) company Kin Insurance was featured on *Forbes'* Fintech 50, the publication's annual list of the most innovative private fintech start-ups, chosen from hundreds of candidates. Kin Insurance is a digital-first, direct-to-consumer home insurer. It is structured as a co-op owned by policyholders and is committed to providing affordable insurance in areas most affected by climate change. Launched in 2016, Kin now has 100,000 policyholders. In 2019 the University of Chicago invested in the young company through its Startup Investment Program.

—Chandler A. Calderon

Photo courtesy the OULA Company

RELEASES

ALUMNI BOOKS, FILMS, AND RECORDINGS



BEING DEAD OTHERWISE

By Anne Allison, AM'80, PhD'86; Duke University Press, 2023

In recent decades, Japan has experienced economic depression, urbanization, an aging population, declining marriage and childbirth rates, and a rise in single households. As a result, more people live and die alone, and traditional practices of caring for the deceased often are no longer possible. Cultural anthropologist **Anne Allison** explores these changes and the new mortuary businesses and initiatives—such as interment of commingled ashes in collective burial sites, one-stop mortuary complexes, and even robotic priests—that have appeared in Japan to provide alternatives to ancestral graves and familial caregiving. Allison's analysis of this evolving ecology of death provides insight into the forces shaping Japanese identity, society, and traditions.

1000% ME: GROWING UP MIXED

By W. Kamau Bell, LAB'90; Get Lifted Film Company and HBO Documentary Films, 2023

Through conversations with Bay Area mixed-race children aged 7 to 16 and their families, filmmaker and comedian **W. Kamau Bell** asks how young people today navigate questions of identity in a country still deeply divided by race. By turns playful and serious, Bell's interviews highlight the joys and challenges of a multiracial upbringing and explore how these children's experiences differ

from those of previous generations. The children talk about all the things that make them who they are: language, religion, and appearance as well as their favorite music, foods, and animals. The documentary shows that children have important contributions to make to our understanding of race and identity.

IMPERMANENT BLACKNESS: THE MAKING AND UNMAKING OF INTERRACIAL LITERARY CULTURE IN MODERN AMERICA

By Korey Garibaldi, AM'10, PhD'16; Princeton University Press, 2023

Viewed by many as a means to publishing success, artistic innovation, and racial pluralism in the first half of the 20th century, literary partnerships across racial lines came under fire in the 1960s. With the rise of the civil rights and Black power movements, authors, critics, publishers, and agents once celebrated for pushing the boundaries of Black literature through interracial collaborations were condemned as too White. **Korey Garibaldi** studies archival sources to recall this complex interracial era in American publishing and asks what its architects can teach us about building an inclusive society today.

LET'S GO LET'S GO LET'S GO

By Cleo Qian, AB'15; Tin House, 2023

In her debut short story collection, **Cleo Qian** probes the technology-mediated lives of Asian and Asian American women. The unsettling, often surreal

stories feature restless, desirous, compulsive women who challenge gendered expectations and stereotypes of docility. These characters form and break relationships in a contemporary society where lives are fragmented by screens and the pressures of consumer culture are relentless. Throughout the collection, Qian asks what place tenderness has in this modern world—and how one can hold on to it.

THE SOLDIER'S TRUTH: ERNIE PYLE AND THE STORY OF WORLD WAR II

By David Chrisinger, AM'10; Penguin Press, 2023

Ernie Pyle's empathetic dispatches from the WWII front lines invited millions of Americans into the day-to-day experiences of ordinary soldiers: fingers numb from the Algerian winter, constant dust clouds, the aches of "battlefield fever," the dullness of routine. **David Chrisinger** draws on Pyle's columns and personal correspondence to reconstruct Pyle's perspective on the war and to offer a glimpse of his and his wife's mental health struggles during and after the war. Along the way Chrisinger shares his research process, which took him around the globe to the landmarks of Pyle's writing. With this biography, Chrisinger brings to light the impact of Pyle's work and raises questions about how we perceive and make sense of war. Chrisinger is the executive director of the writing workshop at the Harris School of Public Policy.

—Chandler A. Calderon

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

MONOCHROMATIC BLUES

Why there's nothing neutral about gray.

BY CAROLYN PURNELL, AM'07, PHD'13

If I were to ask for your favorite color, you might say blue, green, or yellow. If you're a person who marches to the beat of a slightly different drum, you may go for orange or purple. But unless you're a true radical, I doubt you would say gray.

On a gut-reaction level, gray gets a bad rap. It's gloomy and dull. The color of concrete and elephant hide. A melancholy reminder of Soviet-era architecture or dreary winter days. It's such an ambivalent word that the English-speaking world can't even agree on how to spell it.

Gray doesn't seem to have much going for it, but somehow it has crept into our lives with impressive stealth, pollinating our homes, closets, and offices at an alarming rate. In 2020 the UK-based Science Museum Group analyzed more than 7,000 photographs of everyday objects from its holdings. This motley collection, consisting of everything from cameras and clocks to telephones and board games, revealed a surprising trend: since 1800 the variety of colors in everyday objects has sharply declined, and gray has come to reign supreme. The plummet has been steepest between the years 2000 and 2020. Where warm golds, reds, and browns used to sing, now gunmetal gray, charcoal, and silver announce their "sleek" glory.

Industries such as interior design and automotive sales have witnessed similar shifts. According to the *Drive* magazine, more than 70 percent of cars today are produced in white, silver, gray, or black, whereas in 1996, that

number hovered around 40 percent.

As a historian who studies color in Europe and the United States, I wanted to explore this surging neutrality and understand what's fueling the gray wave. Why has vibrant color seen such a striking decline in recent decades, and why has Technicolor's promise faded into a notably dull palette?

For starters, that promise itself might be partially to blame. Nineteenth-century industrialization created a magical fairyland of color. For millennia, pigments and colorants came from natural sources: insects, minerals, and plants. They were bound to the times and tides of geography, and access to the brightest colors was often limited to those with fat pocketbooks or aristocratic blood. But the 19th century brought the rise of new technologies, including the petrochemical industry and its progeny: synthetic colors. For a few pennies, even the most down-and-out could afford trinkets dyed with vibrant arsenic-based and coal-tar-based colors. Magenta ribbons, violet stockings, electric-blue paper flowers with wickedly green stems—colorful items flooded the world with wonder and delight.

Over time, though, that wonder faded to a casual familiarity. Mass

production had a devaluing effect on color, and in 1956, the writer Aldous Huxley succinctly explained the widespread apathy for vibrant palettes: "We have seen too much pure, bright color at Woolworth's to find it intrinsically transporting." Today's gravitational pull toward gray, beige, ivory, and white signals disillusionment with the modern, hypersaturated world.

At the dawn of the 20th century, hypersaturation went hand in hand with hyperstimulation, and social theorists such as Georg Simmel and Walter Benjamin described modernity as a constant barrage of sensory shocks. Cities surged with traffic, chemical dyes drenched textiles and walls, and lurid advertisements cried for attention at every turn. The 19th-century writer Pierre de Lano warned, "Color ... is a modern taste, born certainly of the nervousness that torments our imagination." Some of his contemporaries likewise described modern palettes as "anarchic," "piercing," "insane," "vulgar," and "bewildering."

Nevertheless, the so-called modern taste continued apace, and over the following century, we added electronic colors to the visual roster. Screens blast radiant wavelengths throughout the day, entrancing and exhausting us by turns. Our schedules and brains are such hotbeds of disorder, people long for an environment that reads as a blank slate. In large part, the hunger for white walls and sleek, minimal interiors has emerged as a response to overstimulation.

Neutral colors offer a possible antidote

**Neutral colors
offer a possible
antidote to mass
exhaustion.**



to mass exhaustion. Humans may not be able to control the wildness of the world, but we can exercise restraint on our surroundings. An uncluttered space can lead to an uncluttered mind, the thinking goes, and there seems to be a collective assumption that gray offers the eye a chance to rest. In the minimal interiors of today, neutral colors have become a kind of shorthand for absence: this room is clear of disorder, uncertainty, stress, and the messiness of life.

Yet it's worth asking why other colors have become synonymous with clutter. What do gray walls offer that sunshine yellow or royal blue cannot? Likewise, why do we so readily view colors like oatmeal or ash as "neutral" in the first place? As the art theorist David Batchelor wrote in 2000, the aversion to color runs deep: "In the West ... color has been systematically marginalized, reviled, diminished, and degraded."

Over time this marginalization of color has led to collective chromophobia, or fear of color. In such a worldview, a pop of color is acceptable, but bright swaths seem "loud," "garish," or "tacky." Chromophobia appears in full force when it comes to home resale values. A 2018 Zillow report reveals that homes with a charcoal-colored door sell for \$6,721 more than expected, and houses with a greige (light gray/beige) exterior can boost a home's value by \$3,500.

Scholars like Batchelor and anthropologist Michael Taussig have compellingly argued that chromophobia can be linked to deep-seated economic and racial fears. After the initial excitement of the chromatic turn, many elite Europeans associated the new, vibrant colors with otherness, degeneracy, and intellectual inferiority. By the end of the 19th century, the middle and upper classes often treated abundant bright colors as a mark of disgrace, suitable only for unsophisticated people who couldn't appreciate subtler shades.

The satirical British publication *Punch* drove the point home in an 1877 cartoon where a hostess wishes to introduce a stylishly lispy gentleman to an eligible young lady. The gentleman declines, because "I weally couldn't go down to suppah with a young lady who wears mauve twimmings in her skirt, and magenta wibbons in her hair!" As outlandish as *Punch* made such prejudices seem, they were prevalent enough to provoke cultural comment, and these stereotypes had remarkable staying power. Increasingly, good taste became linked to "quiet colors." For example, gentlemen adopted dark suits, and demure women never wore red.

Over time neutrals became an indicator of social and moral superiority, and vestiges of these ideas still exist today. Google "expensive interiors,"

"luxury interior design," "high-end aesthetic," "chic clothing," or "classy fashion," and you'll be greeted by a desaturated palette. If you want to witness an exercise in true restraint, check out Kim Kardashian's \$60 million mansion, swathed in ivory, white, and natural wood. The new opulence is decidedly abstemious.

Given that color preferences lie at a complex juncture between personal preference, cultural symbolism, collective psychology, historical developments, and economic imperatives, it's unsurprising that many people have an ambivalent relationship with color. Nevertheless, shouldn't we be at least somewhat enthusiastic about the colors in our lives? Our homes, workplaces, and hangouts are more than just backdrops—they're the environments in which we grow, love, thrive, fail, and challenge ourselves. Rather than minimizing the influence of colors on our lives, we should start thinking about how they can amplify our feelings or bring ornamentation to the dull daily routines that, arguably, already add enough grayness to life. ♦

Carolyn Purnell, AM'07, PhD'13, is the author of *Blue Jeans* (Bloomsbury, 2023) and *The Sensational Past: How the Enlightenment Changed the Way We Use Our Senses* (W. W. Norton, 2017).

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

*A film professor reappraises
his childhood approach to performing magic.*

BY PAUL D. YOUNG, AM'92, PHD'98

Three years ago, I was all fired up to teach a new freshman writing seminar called Special Effects in Cinema History. Then came the inevitable questions: How to structure it? Where to start? How to begin the course without falling back on a chronological list of special effects through the decades? Simply promising how-they-did-it explanations for each new technological advance wouldn't speak to the *idea* of special effects—how they create a coherent, concrete visual world and yet never convince us that it's real. Special effects, and those who study them, have wrestled with this question at least since 1896, when French illusionist Georges Méliès morphed from stage magician to cinematic conjuror.

After a few weeks of second-guessing and a lot of coffee, I began the class with something simple: a magic trick. I used a gimmicked (altered) deck of playing cards to create the illusion that, no matter which card students chose or where they cut it into the deck, it instantly reappeared on top. After a few variations on this effect, I flipped through the whole deck to show it suddenly contained nothing but multiples of a single card, the eight of hearts. Then I squared up the deck and riffled it one more time ... and every card was different once again.

This effect has been a staple of kids' magic sets for decades. Magicians

call it a self-working trick, meaning it requires no sleight of hand skills (an imperative for me because I had no such skills to contribute). But it can be startling to those who haven't seen it before. Luckily for the course, my students were indeed startled, or at least inclined to humor me.

Then came the *really* fun part, for a film history nerd anyway. I asked the class: What does this trick have in common with a filmic special effect like a star destroyer overtaking a tiny ship in outer space, an emaciated humanoid running on all fours, or a giant ape punching a giant lizard into New York Harbor? Compared to such effects, what does my gimmicked deck make you think you see? What means could its inventor have employed to alter the way that decks of playing cards normally behave? Does anyone believe the deck truly changed, and if not, why are we still surprised when it suddenly contains only duplicates of the same card? And if we know that King Kong is really an animated 18-inch puppet covered in rabbit fur (in 1933) or a digitally rendered chimera (in 2021)

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but never a living creature, why do we feel suspense over whether Godzilla or Kong will win the skirmish?

The magic trick was a gamble—I worried that the students would find it corny—but it paid off. Everyone had responses and concrete examples from films to support their opinions. As the conversation shifted to the hidden mechanics of both cinematic visual effects and magic, I went so far as to reveal the secret of the trick, thus breaking the magician's oath (though the pedagogical payoff was worth it). I have another secret, however, one that I didn't reveal to the freshmen that day: Performing the trick also scratched a decades-old itch of mine. For I was a grade-school magician. At least, I thought I was.

My magic career began in 1976, when I tore a prepaid postcard out of an advertisement in a kids' magazine. The card, plus a check for a few dollars per month, was my ticket to the Young Magician's Club—not a real club but a subscription service that shipped one magical effect every 30 days. Each white box contained a gimmick (magicians' general term for a trick's hidden apparatus) and a booklet containing instructions and patter, the verbal accompaniment meant to ensure that, even though he might fumble the trick, a third grader would sound witty while doing it.

I still have every one of those gimmicks and nearly every booklet, and even remembering them now gobbles me with a memory of a botched



Paul Young, AM'92, PhD'98, began his magic career in 1976 with a membership to the Young Magician's Club. He still has every gimmick from the monthly subscription service.

performance so embarrassing that no amount of wistfulness could varnish it.

That Halloween party has since become a family punchline. It ended—and I mean ended—with my magic act. Lacking even rudimentary foresight, I invited a classmate named Eric to the party—my frenemy before frenemies were a thing—who loudly reported that he knew every trick in my routine. My intense self-consciousness (coupled with an equally unendearing petulance) brought the act to a screeching halt, followed by a shouting match consisting mostly of “Do not!” followed by “Do so!” for several rounds. How this battle of wits ended I don’t recall, but it surely brought an end to the party.

As I look back now, after reading up on magic history and theory to prepare the special effects seminar, the cause of the fiasco seems obvious: I misunderstood magic’s function as an entertainment. To me at age eight, magic represented something I knew but others didn’t, something I could

feel superior about despite being an unathletic A student—read, a nerd. All I cared about was impressing, and possibly intimidating, kids like Eric.

What I couldn’t have understood then was that to “fool” an onlooker with a magic effect (as the title of Penn and Teller’s reality series *Fool Us* would have it) is not synonymous with making the onlooker look foolish. According to Eugene Burger, Jamy Ian Swiss, Juan Tamariz, and other thoughtful magician-theorists, to raise magic to the level of art, the performer must engage the audience, not as targets of a con game, but as witnesses with the magician to the wonder of an event that can’t happen in reality as we know it. Rather than lording their skills over spectators, magicians can present themselves as *sharing* in the spectators’ surprise and wonder.

There’s a generosity about this approach to magic as something done for and with an audience, not to it. When my card trick arrives at its big reveal, our certainty that buried playing cards

can’t jump to the top of a deck has to confront the sight of a buried card doing just that. Even a trick this simple is an opportunity to engage spectators in an experiment in utopian thinking, during which we entertain the *possibility* of occurrences deemed impossible by our rational selves.

A well-defined, well-practiced, and well-performed magic effect can simulate a rearrangement of physical reality that defies natural limitations. It could even prompt us to consider how human-made limitations we encounter in our reality might be rearranged, discarded, or replaced. At least, that’s the ideal.

I’d like to think I was faithful to this ideal when I used the gimmicked deck to introduce freshman writers to special effects in film. I hope the trick nudged them to regard special effects not as add-ons to fantasy or science fiction films but as a phenomenon fundamental to the experience of cinema. Special effects are a concept, one that uniquely illuminates a defining tension that cinema and magic share: the tension between the inflexibility of reality and the power of each medium to transform it.

As a personal bonus, I now have a side hustle in common with one of my cinematic heroes, Orson Welles. Some months ago, after as much practicing as I could squeeze in, I put on a magic routine for the kind and patient patrons of a local senior center. If they invite me back, perhaps I’ll bring my all-eights trick deck and strike up a discussion about cinematic special effects too. Magic is magic, after all. ♦

Paul Young, AM’92, PhD’98, is associate professor of film and media studies at Dartmouth College. The author of *The Cinema Dreams Its Rivals: Media Fantasy Films from Radio to the Internet* (University of Minnesota Press, 2006) and *Frank Miller’s “Daredevil” and the Ends of Heroism* (Rutgers University Press, 2016), he is at work on a book about women filmmakers of the 1910s and ’20s and their roles in the development of the feature-length fiction film.

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.

UChicago Photographic Archive, apf2-04495, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library



Mildly and soft the western breeze just kissed the lake, just stirred the trees: Visitors to Jackson Park enjoy the view over Lake Michigan at the turn of the 20th century. Originally called Lake Park, the area was transformed into the “White City” for the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition, filled as it was with whitewashed plaster beaux arts-style buildings. Though most of the fair’s original structures burned down, the buildings that now house the Museum of Science and Industry and the Art Institute of Chicago remain.

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. 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.



From the steep promontory gazed the stranger, raptured and amazed: A midcentury crowd enjoys the lakefront between 57th Street Beach and Promontory Point. What did you pack for a day at the Point? Share your picnic essentials with us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

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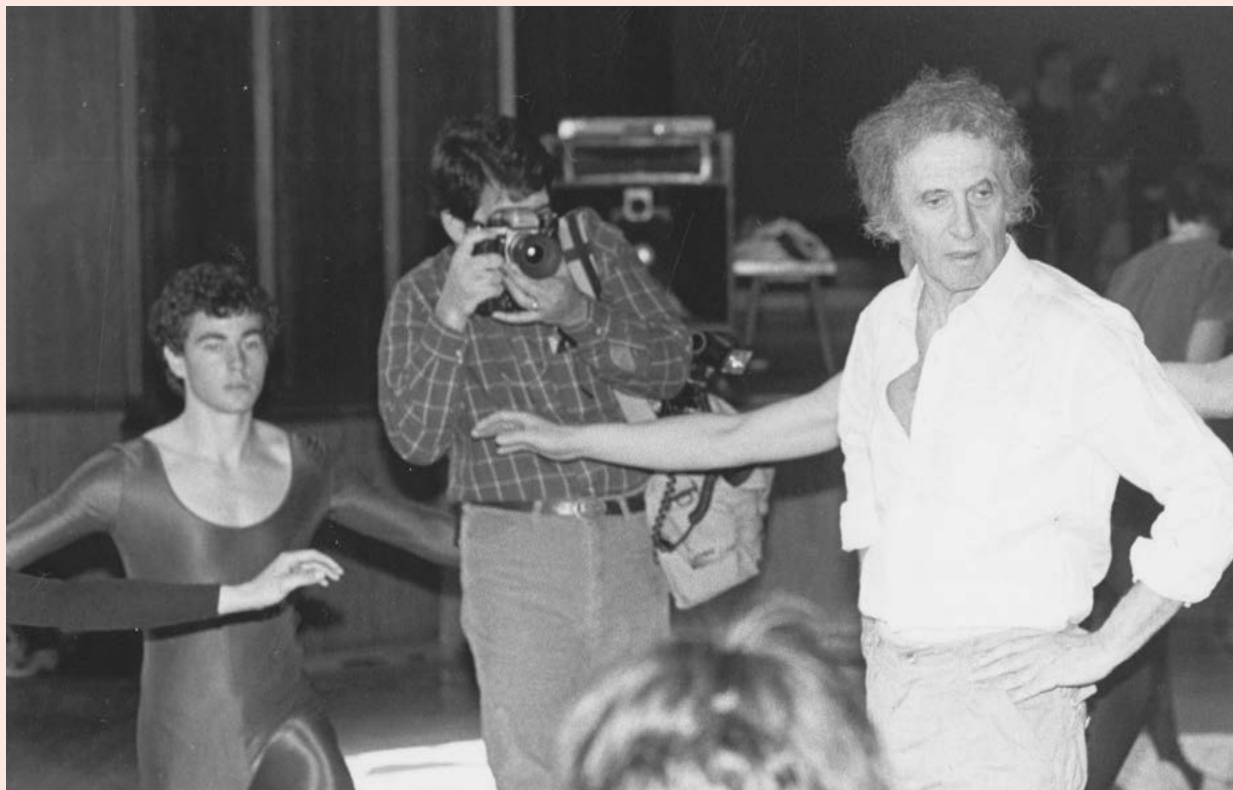


Rubbernecking: Alumni return to Hyde Park for the 1968 reunion weekend. The program included a bus tour of the neighborhood, with a stop at Harper Court, a recent addition (completed in 1965) to the Hyde Park neighborhood. Built to house art studios and artisans' shops relocated from the 57th Street Art Colony after its 1962 demolition, Harper Court expanded to include cultural institutions, shops, and restaurants. The bus returned everyone to campus for a reception, hosted by the outgoing president, George W. Beadle, at the newly renovated Cobb Hall. Did you visit the 57th Street Art Colony or the old Harper Court shops? Let us know at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

Photography by Iosif Juodvalkis, EX'68, UChicago Photographic Archive, ap'3-02048, Hanna Hoborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library



Oars of yore: Crew team alumni march in the 1976 reunion parade. Though there was no parade this year, Alumni Weekend 2023 featured a Viennese salon tent in honor of College dean John W. Boyer, AM'69, PhD'75; an expansive beer garden; a food truck fes-tival; pub trivia; and a mini Scav. Read all about it in "Time after Time," on page 30, and share your stories of reunion reconnections with your class correspondents or with us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.



Show; don't tell: Mime Marcel Marceau was a busy man. Performing an average of 200 shows per year, in addition to appearing on talk shows (where, yes, he talked) and in films (*Barbarella*, *Silent Movie*, and others), Marceau rarely had the chance to interact with students at the Marcel Marceau International School of Mimodrama in Paris. Noticing that Marceau was scheduled to be in Chicago for a three-week stint in May 1984, the French government subsidized travel for 65 of the school's students and teachers to join him and put them up at International House. Here students learn from the master in a workshop. Shhh ... Say, what was the quietest thing you did on campus? We're all ears: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.



Making the rounds: On a rainy day in April 1991, members of the University of Chicago Vélo Club participate in the first annual Monsters of the Midway Criterium. Nearly 150 collegiate and amateur cyclists competed in races ranging from 10 to 30 laps around the Midway. Though the Big Ten schools were hard to beat, UChicago first-year Renee Richer, AB'94, won bronze in the 15-lap women's race, and staff member Craig Gartland took first in the 20-lap US Cycling Federation amateur race. Did you ever ride with the cycling club? Did you set a personal best pedaling around the Midway? Share your cycling stories at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

Photography by Kris Patton, AB'91, Copyright 2023. The Chicago Maroon. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.



A deal with the devil: Students at the Graduate School of Business (now Chicago Booth) Nils Ahbel, MBA'82; Shipley Munson, MBA'82; and Laurie Dunn, MBA'83, rehearse for their upcoming performance of GSB Follies, *Life in the Faust Lane*. Fifty students and six professors were involved in writing, performing, and, of course, financing and marketing the May 1982 production. (The show was funded through an interest-free loan from student government combined with the sale of stock in the Follies.) Those involved hoped to show the University community that they were more than just conservative suits and white button-downs. Did you attend the GSB Follies? Or were you busy living out your own Faustian drama? We'll make you a deal: if you give us a good story, we'll give you a great Fall/23 issue. Write us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.



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HONOR ROLL

Phoenix Society members lead the way in supporting the University's students, faculty, programs, and facilities. The names below represent new members welcomed into the society from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Anonymous (8)	Margaret Deirdre Hawthorne, LAB'74, AM'80	Scott Patterson, MBA'96
Margaret Mary Barron, MD'78	Christopher D. Johnson, MBA'95, and Denise Johnson	Cheryl Peek, AM'73, and Robert Peek
Mary Aldwin Bisson, AB'70, and Terrence Paul Bisson, AB'70	Jennifer Joos, AB'95, and Michael Kozuh, PhD'06	Peter Pompei, MD'77, and Jana Powell
Deborah Bloom, AB'77	Bonnie Kaplan, AM'72, PhD'83	John Ruser, AM'80, PhD'83, and Vera Ruser
Marianne Bohlmann	Suzanne Kinney, AM'98, and David Kinney	Robert Scales, MLA'12, AM'18, and Mary Keefe
Danielle Broadwater and Brian Broadwater	Anne Lawrence, AB'71	Thomas D. Scott II, AM'75, and Peggy A. Stewart
Raymond Capek	Stephen Lebowitz, MD'72, and Lynn Rapaport	Robert Seymour, MBA'81, and Pauline Nolte
Sherman Chao, MBA'79, and Vivian Chen	Karen Leonard	Mary Ellen Sheridan
Charles Chuman, AB'03	Jack K. Levin, JD'74	Robert Shields, MBA'81, and Kathy Shields
Debra Cohen	Christine M. Luzzie, AB'73, JD'75, and Patrick B. Bauer, JD'75	John Smetanka, AB'71
John Cooney, JD'73	John Lyon, AB'55, and Melinda Lyon	Carl Eugene Smith, MBA'82, CER'22
Laura Janine Ehrke, MLA'12	Elizabeth Macken, AB'86, MBA'92	David Lisle Smith, AM'77, and JoAnn Urofsky
Jon Emanuel, JD'67	Audra Mallow, MBA'98, and Michael Mallow	Cheryl Sweeney, AM'72
John Engel, IMBA'98	Terry Morris and Malcolm Morris	Gail Yanowitch, MD'80
James Fisher, AM'67, PhD'72	William Mulligan, MBA'79, and Harriet Mulligan	Joseph Zehnder, PhD'86, and Lynn Zehnder
Alexandra Freedman, MBA'21	Patricia John Northcott, AB'81, MBA'89	Xiaolian Zhang, MBA'03, and Ming Wan
Irene Glasner-Sjaastad, AM'91	Christopher Nybo, JD'02, and Faye Nybo	
Carl Greppin, MBA'91		
Donald Haslam Jr., AB'86		

DEATHS

TRUSTEES

James S. Crown, LL'D'11, died June 25 following an accident in Woody Creek, CO. He was 70. A member of the University of Chicago Board of Trustees since 1988, Crown led the board as chair from 2003 to 2009, playing a critical role in UChicago's completion of a \$2.4 billion capital campaign—the largest in its history at the time. Crown previously served as chair of the Medical Center Board and vice chair of the University Board. In 2021 he and his family made a landmark gift to the School of Social Service Administration, which was renamed the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice in recognition of their support. Crown's philanthropy benefited many areas across the University, including College scholarships, the Urban Education Institute, the Humanities Division, and UChicago Medicine—part of the Crowns' philanthropic legacy throughout the city of Chicago. After earning his JD from Stanford University, Crown pursued a successful career in business, holding leadership positions at General Dynamics Corporation, Sara Lee, JPMorgan Chase, and Henry Crown and Company. He received an honorary degree from the University of Chicago in 2011. He is survived by his wife, Paula; four children; his parents; six siblings; and two grandchildren.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Robert E. Lucas Jr., AB'59, PhD'64, the John Dewey Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in Economics and the College, died May 15 in Chicago. He was 85. A 1995 Nobel laureate in economic sciences, Lucas was best known for his hypothesis of rational expectations, which maintains that consumers and businesses base their actions on past experiences—with the result, he argued, that the outcomes of government interventions in fiscal policy may not be as predictable as was long assumed. Lucas earned a bachelor's degree in history, pivoting to economics after receiving financial support to complete doctoral work under Milton Friedman, AM'33. He taught for more than a decade at what is today Carnegie Mellon University before returning to UChicago as a professor in 1975. Survivors include his partner, **Nancy L. Stokey**, the Frederick Henry Prince Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and the College; sons **Stephen Lucas**, LAB'78, MBA'94, and **Joseph Lucas**, LAB'84; a sister; a brother; and five grandchildren. **Roman L. Weil**, the V. Duane Rath Professor Emeritus of Accounting, died February 1 in Chicago. He was 82. In 1965 Weil joined the Graduate School of Business (now Chicago Booth) faculty after undergraduate studies at Yale and doctoral studies in economics

at Carnegie Mellon University. Known for his challenging introductory accounting class, Weil authored and coauthored numerous textbooks, including *Accounting: The Language of Business* (1974), now in its 11th edition. He developed the Fisher-Weil duration, a complex measure of bond duration, and taught and advocated for financial literacy for members of corporate boards. Cofounder of the Directors' Consortium, an executive education program for corporate directors, he was a consultant to the US Securities and Exchange Commission, US Treasury, and Financial Accounting Standards Board. He is survived by three children and eight grandchildren, including **Charlie Weil** (Class of 2026).

Robert J. Zimmer, chancellor emeritus and 13th president of the University of Chicago, died May 23 in Chicago. He was 75. During his presidency from 2006 to 2021, Zimmer led the University in making strategic investments to increase its eminence and impact, including establishing what is now the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering; opening global centers in Beijing, Delhi, and Hong Kong; and expanding the College and its accessibility, opportunities in the arts, and civic engagement initiatives. Appointing the University's Committee on Freedom of Expression in 2014, Zimmer gained an international reputation for his powerful advocacy of free expression in the pursuit of higher learning and inspired other institutions to adopt the Committee's Chicago Principles. Born in New York City, he earned degrees in mathematics from Brandeis and Harvard Universities. Following two years on the faculty of the US Naval Academy, he became an L. E. Dickson Instructor of Mathematics at UChicago, where he would spend the rest of his career, with the exception of four years as provost at Brown University (2002–06). Alongside his groundbreaking work in ergodic theory and other areas of geometry, he served as chair of the Department of Mathematics, deputy provost, and vice president for research and for Argonne National Laboratory. In 2021 Zimmer underwent surgery to remove a malignant brain tumor and transitioned to the role of chancellor, becoming chancellor emeritus the following year. Survivors include his wife, **Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer**, director of the Institute on the Formation of Knowledge and the Helen A. Regenstein Distinguished Service Professor in Classics, and his sons **David Zimmer**, LAB'00; **Benjamin Zimmer**, LAB'03; and **Alex Zimmer**, LAB'09, from his previous marriage to Terese Schwartzman. (See also page 26.)

Claudia “Muggs” Traudt, AM'81, instructor in the Graham School's Basic Program of Liberal Education, died February 11 in Chicago. She was 72. With a BFA from Saint Mary's College in Notre

Dame, IN, Traudt earned a master's degree from the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought and conducted dissertation research on Shakespeare, Joyce, and Yeats. Joining the Graham School faculty in 1982, Traudt taught there for the next four decades, leading courses on writers and thinkers including Plato, Virginia Woolf, and Toni Morrison. She received the Excellence in Teaching Award for the Basic Program in 2006. She also taught in the arts and humanities at Columbia College Chicago and led discussions at the Chicago Humanities Festival. In her free time, she enjoyed making art and sailing. Survivors include her two brothers.

Cornell H. Fleischer, the Kanuni Süleyman Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies in the Departments of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and History, died April 21 in Chicago. He was 72. A scholar of Ottoman history and the greater Islamic world, Fleischer earned his PhD in Near Eastern studies from Princeton. In 1986 he published *Bureaucrat and Intellectual in the Ottoman Empire: The Historian Mustafa Âli (1541–1600)*, a book credited with revolutionizing the field. Fleischer received a MacArthur Fellowship in 1988 and joined the UChicago faculty in 1993. Known for the cultural context he brought to his scholarship and for his exceptional command of the Ottoman language, modern Turkish, Arabic, and Persian, he was recognized with the 2010 Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. Survivors include his daughter.

1940s

Harry M. Markowitz, PhB'47, AM'50, PhD'55, died June 22 in San Diego. He was 95. In his doctoral dissertation, Markowitz developed what would become modern portfolio theory, applying mathematical models to investment strategy to quantify the benefits of diversification—work recognized with the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1990. He went on to do pioneering work in behavioral finance, studying how people make choices in the real world, and he developed the Simscript language, which supports computer simulations of factory, transportation, and communication systems. Markowitz's career included positions at the RAND Corporation; General Electric; IBM; Rutgers University; Baruch College; and the University of California, San Diego. He is survived by four children, one stepchild, 13 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

Alice Werder Bares, AB'49, died September 21 in Ellicottville, NY. She was 93. After college Bares returned to the Cleveland area, where she became a silk-screen artist and later ran a small hand tool business. She and her husband relocated to Ellicottville

in 2002 after years of spending weekends there with family. Bares traveled widely, often on horseback riding trips, and rode almost daily until she was 92. She is survived by four children and eight grandchildren.

Robert Owen Johnston, AM'49, died April 13 in Richmond, VA. He was 103. After getting his master's degree in political science at UChicago, he earned degrees at the US War College and the Virginia Theological Seminary. A veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, Johnston retired from the US Air Force in 1968. In 1971 Johnston was ordained as an Episcopal priest and served parishes in Virginia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. He is survived by six children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1950s

John B. Goodenough, SM'50, PhD'52, died June 25 in Austin, TX. He was 100. A WWII veteran, Goodenough entered UChicago determined to create something that would help people. In his 24 years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory, he laid the groundwork for random-access memory in digital computers. In 1976 Goodenough joined the University of Oxford as a professor and the head of the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory. There, he developed the lithium-ion battery, which would make mobile electronics and electric vehicles possible. He joined the University of Texas at Austin in 1986. Goodenough received the National Medal of Science in 2011 and a Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2019. His wife, Irene Wiseman Goodenough, EX'49, died in 2016. He is survived by a half-sister and a half-brother.

Edwin Masanori Uyeki, SM'51, PhD'53, of McKinleyville, CA, died October 15. He was 94. As an adolescent during World War II, Uyeki was incarcerated with his family in internment camps in Washington State and Idaho. Excelling in his studies, he attended Kenyon College on a scholarship after leaving the camp. With a doctorate in pharmacology from UChicago, Uyeki worked as a cellular research scientist, first at General Electric Company and then as a professor of pharmacology at the University of Kansas Medical Center. For decades he spearheaded work on drug toxicity and the effects of insecticides on embryo development. Uyeki was a dedicated sports fan and was active in the Unitarian Fellowship in McKinleyville. He is survived by his wife, **Aiko Harada Uyeki**, AB'50; three children; and four grandchildren.

Sanford B. Krantz, AB'54, SB'56, MD'59, of Nashville, TN, died April 13. He was 89. An emeritus professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University, Krantz was an internationally recognized authority on hematology and erythropoietin. He began his professional career at the University of Chicago medical center and joined the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in

1970 as an associate professor and chief of hematology at the Nashville Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Krantz authored more than 200 publications and received numerous awards, honors, and federal research grants. He is survived by his wife, **Sandra R. Krantz**, AB'59; a daughter; two sons; a sister; and two grandsons.

Glenda E. McNeill, AM'56, of Columbia, MD, died October 7. She was 94. After completing her undergraduate studies in economics at Howard University, McNeill earned a master's degree in social work from what is today the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. She became an associate professor of social work at Catholic University and Hood College and maintained a private practice in Columbia until retiring in 1994. She is survived by two daughters, a sister, a brother, and four grandchildren.

Joseph Gorsic, PhD'57, of Elmhurst, IL, died September 13. He was 98. Born on a family farm in Slovenia, Gorsic escaped the oppressive Communist regime after World War II and made his way to Vienna, where he studied agricultural engineering. Immigrating to the Chicago area, he worked on a dairy farm for a candy company before resuming his studies in botany and genetics, first at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and later at UChicago. During his 31-year career at Elmhurst College (now Elmhurst University), Gorsic studied plant genetics. He returned often to Slovenia with family. He is survived by his wife, Franciska; six children; a brother; and 10 grandchildren.

Herbert Patrick Sullivan, DB'57, died June 6, 2022, in Austin, TX. He was 90. After his divinity studies, Sullivan completed a PhD at Durham University in England and was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. He taught at Duke University and Vassar College—also serving as dean at the latter—focusing on India and its religious history and rites. After receiving two honorary doctorates and retiring from academia, Sullivan worked in the Texas Attorney General's Office and wrote child protection and personal privacy legislation that became state law. Survivors include his husband, James Cowden; two children; and two sisters.

Carl Edward Krog, AB'58, AM'60, of Marinette, WI, died February 13. He was 86. Krog was a lifelong educator who taught history and geography at the secondary and college levels. He spent most of his career at the Marinette campus of the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, retiring as associate professor emeritus of history in 1995. He researched and wrote on a variety of topics, including Upper Great Lakes history, the Herbert Hoover era, and the French defeat in Vietnam. Survivors include his wife, Marianne; three children; a sister; and eight grandchildren.

Katherine Radosh, AB'58, died March 11, 2022, in Jacksonville, FL. She was 84. Before joining the State Department, where she wrote essential programs for State

mainframe computers, Radosh held positions with the Navy and the Defense Intelligence Agency. She later earned a master's degree from American University and worked for the Foreign Service in Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Haiti, and Japan, advancing to the service's senior ranks. Radosh served in the Florida Coast Guard Auxiliary for 15 years, and she and her husband enjoyed sailing their catamaran up and down the East Coast and to the Bahamas. Survivors include her husband, **Burnett Radosh**, AB'53; two sons; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Dena Rose Fox Yver, EX'59, of New Orleans, died August 31, 2022. She was 84. A native of New York City, she attended the Walden School before pursuing studies in the College. With her husband, Raúl Enrique Yver, AM'67, PhD'71, Yver spent time in Cuba, Argentina, and Chile. After her husband's death in 1972, she worked in a research lab at the University of Maryland, and then for 33 years at the National Institutes of Health in a diabetes research lab. Yver played oboe in a Washington, DC, community orchestra and, later in life, took up the viola. Receiving a black belt in Tae Kwon Do at age 60, she practiced Tai Chi and yoga and was a tireless supporter of voter registration. She is survived by her daughter.

Marianna Tax Choldin, LAB'59, AB'62, AM'67, PhD'79, of Evanston, IL, died July 1. She was 81. The Mortenson Distinguished Professor Emerita at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Choldin focused her research on censorship in imperial and Soviet Russia and the post-Soviet states. Having joined the UIUC faculty in 1969 as a professor of library administration, in 1991 Choldin became founding director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, a position she held until her retirement in 2002. She received a Pushkin Medal from the Russian government in 2000 for her contributions to Russian culture and education, and in 2001 she was the first recipient of the University of Illinois's Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement. In 2011 she received the Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award from the UIUC School of Information Sciences as well as the Public Service Award from the UChicago Alumni Association. She is survived by her husband, **Harvey Choldin**, AB'60, AM'63, PhD'65; two daughters, **Kate Tax Choldin**, AB'86, and **Mary Tax Choldin**, AB'86; her sister, **Susan Tax Freeman**, LAB'54, AB'58; and four grandchildren.

1960s

Lee (Parsons) Brozen, AB'61, MBA'62, died March 1 in Nice, France. She was 85. While raising her family in Chicago, Brozen was active in the Arts Club and the Quadrangle Players. She spent summers and, later, winters in France for 55 years and throughout her life was committed to the libertarian movement. Her husband, Yale

Brozen, AB'39, PhD'42, a professor of business economics at UChicago, died in 1998. She is survived by two sons, **Yale Brozen II**, LAB'81, and **Reed Brozen**, LAB'84, MD'92, and one granddaughter.

Richard "Dick" Lee Wheeden, SM'62, PhD'65, died April 9, 2020, in St. Michaels, MD. He was 79. A harmonic analyst, he completed doctoral work on hypersingular integrals under Antoni Zygmund. Wheeden joined the faculty of Rutgers University in 1967, where he did foundational work on weighted norm inequalities and degenerate elliptic equations. He retired in 2016 as distinguished professor emeritus, moving to the Eastern Shore of his native Maryland. He enjoyed his membership with the Wye Fellows of the Aspen Institute, volunteered on several projects for his homeowners' association, and loved being outdoors. Survivors include his wife, Sharon; a daughter; a son; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Gerald S. Witherspoon, JD'62, died February 1, 2022, in San Francisco. He was 88. Witherspoon's early career included serving, at 31, as Vermont's youngest tax commissioner and later as president of Goddard College. He became a visiting professor at Dartmouth and taught at Hastings School of Law and the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. Moving to private practice at a law firm he cofounded, Witherspoon dedicated much of his time to pro bono work, especially during the AIDS crisis. Survivors include four children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Francis J. Lumia, AB'63, MD'67, of Allentown, NJ, died September 20. He was 81. From 1977 to 2006, Lumia was a cardiologist at Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Burlington County, NJ, where he codirected the nuclear medicine department and served as assistant chair of cardiology. He held leadership positions in the Medical Society of New Jersey and Burlington County Medicine Society, and he was an art enthusiast and painter. Lumia is survived by his wife, Carolyn; a daughter; and a son.

George H. Thomson, PhD'63, died March 1 in Fort Collins, CO. He was 87. Following his graduate studies in physical chemistry, Thomson taught in the chemistry department at General Motors Institute (now Kettering Institute) before becoming a senior engineering analyst for Phillips Petroleum Company in Oklahoma. He went on to serve as technical director of one of the design groups of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) before retiring to Santa Fe, NM, and, later, to Fort Collins. Thomson was active in the American Chemical Society and the AIChE. Survivors include his wife, Jane, and two daughters.

Mary Ellen Doughty Tambini, AB'64, AM'70, died March 21 in Ferrara, Italy. She was 80. Originally from Iowa, she met her late husband, Luigi Tambini, PhD'67, at UChicago. The couple later moved to Italy, where she earned a master's degree at the University of Ferrara. Living

in that town for 57 years, Tambini was involved in women's rights movements and enjoyed politics, reading, and travel. She is survived by two daughters, including **Anna Tambini**, EX'91; six siblings; and three grandchildren.

Maurice "Jerry" Frank, SB'65, died February 13 in Evanston, IL. He was 80. Frank studied mathematics in the College and at Illinois Institute of Technology, where he earned his PhD. He taught at the Universities of Massachusetts and Wisconsin and later returned to IIT to join the mathematics faculty and serve as department chair. With his wife, **Patricia Frank**, EX'64, he loved classical music and supported emerging performers at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. He is survived by his wife, two children, and three grandchildren.

Rolf Otto Stadheim, JD'66, died April 29 in Scottsdale, AZ. He was 82. A lifelong Chicago-area resident, Stadheim graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After law school he built a successful patent law practice, Stadheim & Grear, with offices in Chicago's Wrigley Building. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; four daughters; two stepchildren; three siblings; 11 grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

Albert M. Tannler, DB'66, died February 24, 2022, in Pittsburgh. He was 81. While studying at the Divinity School, Tannler worked as an archive research specialist in the University Library and later in the marketing department at Sargent & Lundy, a Chicago architecture and engineering services firm. Moving to Pittsburgh in 1991, he became director of historical collections at the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Over 28 years, he oversaw the foundation's two libraries and authored books, guidebooks, and essays on the city's architectural heritage.

Hans G. Spalteholz, AM'69, died April 21 in Lake Oswego, OR. He was 92. Spalteholz was a professor emeritus of English and theology at Concordia University in Portland, OR, where he taught from 1957 to 1998 and received an honorary doctorate. He also completed degrees at Concordia College, Concordia Seminary, and Columbia University. In Portland he served as assistant pastor of St. Michael's Lutheran Church and as the German-speaking pastor at Zion Lutheran Church. He taught high school, edited books, and served on the board of Holden Village, a Lutheran-based wilderness community. Survivors include his wife, Christa, and two sisters.

1970s

Mary "Jeanne" Kenna, MFA'71, of Pleasant Prairie, WI, died November 21. She was 89. As a young mother of five, Kenna earned her BFA at the Art Institute of Chicago, studying under Ray Yoshida. Her work was featured in one-woman shows and at galleries in Chicago and New York. Later she served in Malawi and Liberia as a Peace

Corps volunteer and worked as a real estate agent, community college English instructor, graphic designer, AIDS care volunteer, and registered nurse. In retirement Kenna returned to her passion for art. She is survived by five children, a brother, 13 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Frank P. Jasek IV, MBA'72, of Willowbrook, IL, died April 27. He was 77. After studying chemical engineering at Purdue University and business at UChicago, Jasek became a certified public accountant and certified financial planner. His professional career included roles at Corn Products (now Ingredion), Acme Resin, and IBM before retirement in 2009. Jasek was an active member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Darien, IL, for 44 years. He is survived by his wife, Cheska; two children; four siblings; and seven grandchildren.

Uzi Yaari, PhD'72, died December 18 in Bala Cynwyd, PA. He was 83. Born on a kibbutz in British Mandate Palestine, Yaari studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem before pursuing his PhD in corporate finance and public policy at Chicago Booth. He dedicated himself to research and teaching over a 40-year academic career, ultimately as a professor of finance at Rutgers University. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn; four children; two sisters; three brothers; and seven grandchildren.

Millicent Marr Watkins Conley, MST'73, PhD'05, died February 7 in Chicago. She was 80. Conley had a lifelong commitment to education. Graduating from Chicago Teachers College in 1963, she taught third grade in the Chicago Public Schools (CPS). She held positions at Governors State, Northwestern, and DePaul Universities and retired from CPS as a reading and literacy specialist in 2012. A dedicated member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, she also served as president of the education honor society Pi Lambda Theta. Survivors include extended family.

Deborah Morrow Vaughan, AM'73, died January 20 in Evanston, IL. She was 75. Vaughan's 40-year career in librarianship began at the Municipal Reference Library in Chicago City Hall. From 1984 to 2000, she directed the library of the Chicago-based advertising agency Leo Burnett Worldwide. After posts at the Northwestern University Library and the Skokie Public Library, she served as director of the Chicago History Museum's Research Center from 2004 until retiring in 2012. Vaughan is survived by her husband, James, who worked for more than three decades on the UChicago Library staff, and their son, **Will Vaughan**, SB'11.

Mark Walsh, MBA'73, died June 20, 2021, in Toronto. He was 73. Walsh grew up in England and studied at the London School of Economics. He attended Chicago Booth before moving to Canada, where he was assistant controller at Imperial Oil, the Canadian arm of Exxon Mobil. He had a second career at CPA Canada, a professional organization for accountants, and volunteered with organizations such as Jewish Family

and Child Service and Kerry's Place, an Ontario charity serving people with autism. He is survived by his wife, Sue; two children; a sister; and seven grandchildren. **George Washington Jones Jr.**, AB'75, died March 30 in Olney, MD, of complications from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He was 69. A Yale Law School graduate, Jones practiced at the Washington, DC, office of O'Melveny and Myers before joining the US Department of Justice as an assistant to the solicitor general, where he argued cases before the US Supreme Court. Joining Sidley Austin in 1983, Jones became a partner and remained at the firm until retiring in 2018. He held leadership roles with the DC Bar, ultimately serving as its president, and was on the American Bar Association Legal Ethics Committee. He is survived by his wife, Loretta; four children; and five grandchildren.

Staughton Lynd, JD'76, died November 17 in Warren, OH. He was 92. Educated at Harvard and Columbia Universities, Lynd became a historian and an activist. In the 1960s, while teaching at Spelman College and later Yale University, he organized Freedom Summer education programs in Mississippi; led antiwar protests in Washington, DC; and traveled with other American radicals to meet with Communist leaders in North Vietnam. Thereafter blacklisted from academic jobs, Lynd earned a law degree and worked as a labor organizer in the industrial Midwest. He wrote more than 20 books and pamphlets, mostly on labor organizing and prison reform. Survivors include his wife, Alice; two daughters; one son; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

John E. Duslack, AB'78, of Willow Springs, IL, died April 28. He was 74. A longtime employee of Commonwealth Edison/Exelon, he served as president of the Data Processing Management Association (today the Association of Information Technology Professionals). At UChicago, he was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. Survivors include two brothers.

Nancy A. Lieberman, JD'79, died April 12 in New York City of complications from pneumonia. She was 66. The valedictorian of her University of Rochester class, Lieberman entered law school at age 19, clerked for a federal judge in New Orleans, and earned an LLM in tax law at New York University. She practiced for more than 40 years at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, where she was a mergers and acquisitions specialist and the youngest partner in the firm's history. When a 2007 skiing accident left her a quadriplegic, she cofounded New Yorkers to Cure Paralysis and, in retirement, taught at Columbia Law School. Survivors include her husband, Mark Ellman; a son; a sister; and a brother.

1980s

Samuel Curtis Batsell III, JD'80, AM'80, of Arlington, VA, died November 28. He was 68.

Batsell earned a joint degree in law and public policy following undergraduate studies at Loyola University Chicago. He practiced law at Isham, Lincoln & Beale in Chicago before moving to California, where first he taught legal writing at the University of California, Berkeley, Law School and later developed a specialty in bankruptcy law. In Washington, DC, he worked as a bankruptcy attorney for the federal government at the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, retiring in 2018. He was active in the Republican Party. He is survived by two brothers.

Samuel Adam Abrash, AB'81, of Richmond, VA, died February 15. He was 65. With a PhD in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, Abrash taught and mentored students for more than 30 years at the University of Richmond. Learning acoustic guitar later in life, he played folk songs for residents at local assisted living facilities. He is survived by his wife, Katherine Whitney; a daughter; a son; a sister; and a brother.

Andy Rothman, AB'82, died March 13 in New York City, of cancer. He was 62. Rothman studied political science in the College and worked for the student radio station WHPK. With his encyclopedic sports knowledge, he became UChicago's sports information director. During his 40-year journalism career at CBS News and CNBC, he won Emmy and Gracie Awards as a producer for the *CBS Early Show*. Outside of work, Rothman was an athlete, world traveler, March Madness enthusiast, and Bruce Springsteen fan. He is survived by his wife, Amanda Ingersoll-Rothman, and a brother.

Mark Elliott Furlane, MBA'82, died April 27 in Baltimore. He was 73. After graduating from Central College in 1971, Furlane served in the US Marine Corps for over a decade; while serving, he also graduated from George Washington University Law School. In Chicago he became a partner at Gardner Carton & Douglas and ran the firm's pro bono program for 20 years. He worked with local nonprofits—Erie Neighborhood House, the Center for Disability and Elder Law, and Thresholds—and, at the time of his death, served as counsel at Berger, Newmark & Fenchel PC. Survivors include his wife, Susan Keegan; two children; four siblings; and two grandchildren.

Michael Joseph Kotze, AB'86, of Frankfort, IL, died February 1. He was 59. For more than 20 years, Kotze was the business manager at Music Theater Works on Chicago's North Shore. He wrote, directed, and performed in musicals, operas, and plays in Chicagoland and throughout the Midwest. Immersed in the arts, film, and literature, Kotze was also an accomplished home cook. Survivors include his wife, Ann; two sons; a sister; and a brother.

J. Lee Kreader, PhD'88, died February 26 in Los Angeles. He was 77. Kreader earned degrees from the College of Wooster and the University of Pennsylvania, focusing his doctoral studies on the history of social

reform. He became an administrator with the Illinois Department of Human Services, developing and coordinating child-care programs. In 1998 Kreader joined the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, where he helped lead a hub for childcare research before retiring in 2014. Survivors include his life partner, Kay Hendon; a daughter; a son; five siblings; a granddaughter; and his former wife, **Barbara Skalinder**, CER'11.

1990s

Donna (Bost) Graham, AM'90, of Chicago, died November 28. She was 92. Residing in Chicago for much of her life, Graham earned a degree in social work from the Crown Family School. A Francophile and cyclist, she traveled the world on her bicycle, leading trips in Spain and France and—by way of a three-week ride down the Eastern Seaboard—fundraising for audiological research. Her husband, Harold Graham, EX'39, died in 2001. She is survived by three children and four grandchildren.

Christopher Wayne Workman, AM'98, died April 28 in Normal, IL. He was 55. With his master's in social work, Workman was involved with Project Oz, supporting youth in McLean County, IL, as well as the Illinois Teen Institute. Working in child and family services for the State of Kentucky, he was honored as a Kentucky Colonel, a title bestowed by the state's governor. Most recently Workman served as chief executive officer of the PATH Crisis Center in Bloomington, IL, overseeing the expansion of crisis services in partnership with the State of Illinois. Survivors include his mother, a sister, and a brother.

2000s

John Henricksen, MBA'02, died February 2 in Scottsdale, AZ. He was 48. After undergraduate studies at the University of Iowa, Henricksen pursued a finance career in Chicago. He and his wife, Lisa, also lived in London before settling in the Phoenix area, where most recently he was chief financial officer of Easy Ice. An athlete who competed in 25 marathons and three Ironman triathlons, he is survived by his wife, two sons, his mother, and two brothers.

2010s

Eric Donald Mortenson, PhD'12, of Minneapolis, died January 31. He was 44. After studying biology at Westmont College, Mortenson moved to Seattle and cofounded Bellevue Healthcare. With his doctorate in immunology, he worked as an executive medical science liaison with Bristol Myers Squibb, enjoying travel, photography, music, and the outdoors in his free time. Survivors include his parents, two sisters, and a brother.



THE UCHICAGOAN
Patrick Jagoda

*Questions for the English professor,
digital media theorist, and
game designer.*

What surprising job have you had in the past?

In high school I worked as a knife salesman. Around the same time, even though I've never played a round of golf in my life, I also worked as a caddy for a summer.

What do you hate that everyone else loves?

The frustrating answer is soup. I know I'm on the wrong side of this one, but I struggle to overcome my aversion.

What was the last book you finished?

One of the last books I read for fun was *When We Cease to Understand the World* by Benjamin Labatut.

What book changed your life?

Books saved my life in so many ways. It would feel like a betrayal to choose just one. I'd be more willing to answer that for video games.

What video game changed your life?

This is an unanswerable question for me ... kidding. I retain a special place in my heart for the 1994 role-playing game *EarthBound* (*Mother 2* in Japan).

What person, alive or dead, would you want to write your life story?

I'm not a fan of biography as a form. If I wanted my life story to be mostly fiction though, which might be preferable, I would go with circa 2023 ChatGPT.

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

Try to fail while you can. I don't want bad failure or precarity for anyone. But college, in particular, is a time when you can learn by taking risks and failing, at least in some areas. I encourage my students to fail in the most interesting and wildest ways possible. Invent new ways to fail that no one has known before.



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