


THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE



WINTER 2023, VOLUME 115, NUMBER 2

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VOLUME 115, NUMBER 2, WINTER 2023

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ALUMNI NEWS EDITOR *Chandler A. Calderon*
COPY EDITOR *Katie Byrne*
GRAPHIC DESIGNER *Laura Lorenz*
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS *Jeanie Chung;*
Carrie Golus, AB'91, AM'93; Lucas
McGranahan

Editorial Office *The University of Chicago Magazine*, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615
TELEPHONE 773.702.2163
EMAIL uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu
University of Chicago Alumni Relations and Development has its offices at 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615
TELEPHONE 773.702.2150
ADDRESS CHANGES 800.955.0065 or alumni-support@uchicago.edu
WEB mag.uchicago.edu

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EDITOR'S NOTES

EVERYTHING BUT THE STATUETTE

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

From MacArthur season to Nobel season to the Golden Globes and Oscars, the awards cycle churns on and begins again—and sometimes that's great news for alumni magazine editors. This past October, you could feel a zip in the campus air when the news struck of Chicago Booth professor **Douglas Diamond's** economics Nobel Memorial Prize. "A Cut Above" (page 12) looks at Diamond's foundational work clarifying the role of banks in the economy, now recognized with the loftiest of honors.

One awards season commands this publication's UChicago-centric attention year in and year out. On pages 50–51, read about the individuals chosen to receive this year's UChicago Alumni Awards and Norman Maclean Faculty Awards.


Since the awards were launched in 1941, some world-famous alumni have added these laurels to long lists of them. There was Benjamin Mays, AM'25, PhD'35, in 1967 and 1978; Susan Sontag, SB'51, in 1981; **Lien Chan**, AM'61, PhD'65, in 1991; and Mildred Dresselhaus, PhD'59, in 2008. Household names or not, as a nominator said of one of this year's recipients, all of the honored Maroons bleed maroon.

As we were preparing the award notices, a handwritten card reached our mailbox. It contained news, too late to be included in this issue, from **Marjorie Sullivan Lee**, AB'43. She wanted to update readers on her longtime advocacy for Americans with disabilities and to hear from classmates.

Lee, we found in the *Magazine's* archives, received the UChicago Public Service Award in 1993 for the work she described in her note—work she remains deeply engaged with 30 years later. Read more about her in Alumni News in the Spring/23 issue. For now, appreciate, as we do, her demonstration of the uncommon passion driving alumni awardees from every era. Do you know someone just as driven? Nominations for 2024 awards are open at mag.uchicago.edu/alumniawardnomination.

Drumroll, please

In November we welcomed **Chandler A. Calderon** to the *Magazine* as the Alumni News editor. Chandler comes most recently from Yale University, where she interned for Yale's magazine while earning her PhD in French literature. As lead editor of the Peer Review section, she will work closely with the College class correspondents and all of you who have news to share, while also contributing to every part of the publication. We're impressed already by her editing and research chops and her eye for detail, reflected in this very issue. ♦



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WINTER 2023

mag.uchicago.edu

Huddle!

The men's soccer team prepares for its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division III championships. To learn the outcome of the game, turn to page 21.

On the cover

A star is born: Nobelist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar reshaped stellar astronomy. Read more about Chandra's life and work on page 42.

Illustration by
Zach Meyer.

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Complicating the narrative *By Elizabeth Station*

In her histories of globalism, migration, families, and children, **Tara Zahra** reveals the fine cracks in foundational stories.

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The collector *By Susie Allen, AB'09*

David Fulton, SB'64, has owned some of history's most treasured violins, violas, and cellos. Now he's telling their stories—and his own.

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Setting the scene *By Susie Allen, AB'09*

Rich Murray, AB'94, finds the stuff of life for beloved TV characters.

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It was written in the stars *By Maureen Searcy*

Astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar (1910–95) illuminated stellar evolution.



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UChicago Journal

Research and news
in brief



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Peer Review

What alumni are
thinking and doing

LETTERS



Forensic files

Your interesting article in the Fall/22 issue on Wilmer Souder's (PhD 1916) work in criminal forensics ("Notes on a Crime") points out that "critics claim some techniques lack rigorous empirical testing; some, while scientifically sound, have results that can be misinterpreted by unqualified experts," while not specifying the very significant criticism from the 2009 evaluation of forensic science by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). One upshot of the NAS evaluation was the establishment in 2013 of the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) "to enhance the practice and improve the reliability of forensic science."

The purpose of NCFS, that is, was to correct the problem pointed out by Souder: "Without proper metrics and consistently trained interpreters, forensic science is merely a matter of opinion." Although the NCFS had made some progress toward this worthy goal, in April 2017 former US attorney general Jeff Sessions unfortunately refused to extend the term of the NCFS.

It may be telling that one of the first actions of the Trump administration was to interfere with criminal investigations—even though the particular matters being analyzed by NCFS (bite mark analysis, microscopic hair analysis, shoe print comparisons, handwriting comparisons, fingerprint

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, and civility. To provide a range of views and voices, we encourage 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.

examination, and firearm and tool-mark examinations) are probably not much involved in the investigation of the crimes of Trump and his cronies.

Robert Michaelson, SB'66, AM'73

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Wake's anatomy

The *Magazine's* recent story on Neil Shubin's newest discovery of the small "fishapod" *Qikiqtania wakei* missed an important UChicago connection about the extinct species' namesake ("Sea Legs," Fall/22). The evolutionary biologist David B. Wake was briefly a professor in the Department of Anatomy (1964–68) before joining the University of California, Berkeley, where he remained for the rest of his career until his death in 2021. During his short time at UChicago, he mentored several graduate students who became important figures in amphibian evolutionary biology, including Richard Wassersug, PhD'73, and Eric Lombard, PhD'71.

Eric was one of my first biology professors at UChicago and gave me my first ever "reprint," a paper he wrote with David on salamander tongues. My introduction to David was via his seminar more than 20 years ago in the long-running Evolutionary Morphology (EvMorph) seminar series, of which I've been told David played a founding role. That seminar was the beginning of our many years of friendship and collaboration, made all the more special by our shared connection to UChicago.

Thanks for all the great work you do to bring the *Magazine* to all of us!

Dave Blackburn, AB'01

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

Crimson vs. Maroon

I want to comment on Bob Levey's (AB'66) letter in the Fall/22 issue. I have read that people who were born in

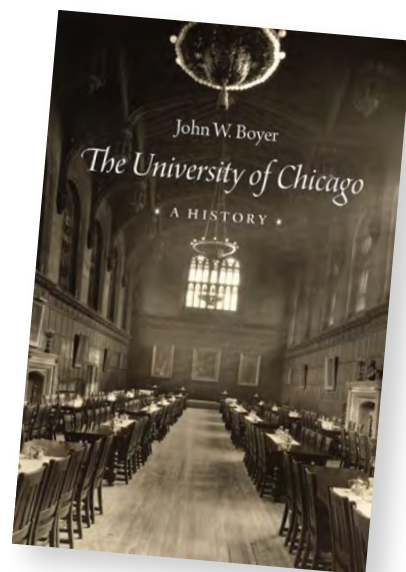
Texas or graduated from Harvard figure out how to mention that in the first 10 minutes when meeting someone.

When I was attending the business school my classmates and I commented on the difference between Harvard's use of case studies versus our learning theory. We used to say that one could get Harvard training or a University of Chicago education!

Sal Campagna, MBA'85

LAWRENCE, MICHIGAN

If you also enjoyed Levey's letter and would like to read more of his writing, turn to page 46 for this issue's Alumni Essay, "Called to the Game."—Ed.



Irreplaceable

Ten years ago I received a monograph authored by Dean John Boyer, AM'69, PhD'75, narrating a partial history of the University ("Pipe Dream," Alumni News, Fall/22). I did not know Dean Boyer, but I was so impressed by his work that I wrote him a letter complimenting him on its substance, quality, and style. Shortly thereafter, I received from Dean Boyer a collection of all 13

Top left: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA, RG167-N-10044-2). National Institute of Standards and Technology Digital Archives, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

of his historical monographs [*The series now contains 25 volumes.*—Ed.], accompanied by a letter informing me that he intended to amalgamate their contents into a unified chronological history of the University of Chicago.

That Dean Boyer extended himself to do that without any request on my part speaks volumes about what it means to be a dedicated scholar and teacher and a totally kind human being. I thereafter, of course, read his complete *The University of Chicago: A History* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), which is predictably superb and should be required reading for all U of C undergraduates, not only to clear away the mythology that pervaded the place while I was a student, but also to drive home the fact that none of what current students are privileged to experience was either predestined, inevitable, or even foreseeable, but rather was the product of an antagonism of influences addressing the ongoing (and perhaps unresolvable) debate over what being

a world-class university in an evolving reality should mean.

Dean Boyer contributed immeasurably to making the College what it has become today. His new role is well deserved but he will be missed, and filling his shoes will be a far from easy task.

Jack B. Jacobs, AB'64

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



My brilliant career

As a nonathlete in high school, I got a chance to fulfill my first-year physical

I would have been the first person cut from the team, if they could cut anyone. I got nosebleeds every time we practiced.

education requirement in five weeks rather than 10 by going out for the new football team (“Perambulate the Oblong Spheroid up the Turf!,” *Alumni News*, Fall/22). It was my first time in football pads. I would have been the first person cut from the team, if they could cut anyone. I got nosebleeds every time we practiced.

We played only one exhibition game, against North Central Junior College (I believe). The coaches played everyone. They put me in for two plays at my position of defensive end. After the first play, the other team noticed me and



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Truth be told,

Located within The Study at University of Chicago hotel, Truth Be Told is a tavern-styled restaurant inspired by the traditions of a British gastropub.

ran half the squad on an end-around sweep. I held my position to contain the run, but I don't think the blocker was even slowed up as he sent me flying. He probably weighed 50 pounds more than me. We were soundly shut out in North Central's only victory of the season. But I can proudly say that at 135 pounds, I played defensive end in college. The next year's team was ranked by *Playboy* magazine in the top 10 worst football teams in the country.

Steve Weston, AB'70

EAGAN, MINNESOTA



Laboratory tales

In the Fall/22 issue of the *Magazine* you asked for laboratory stories ("Nuclear Plant," Alumni News). I have a few short recollections from 1967 to 1973.

1. In my first year as a physics graduate student, maybe in early 1968, I was given a tour of the bubble chamber facilities at Argonne National Laboratory. There was only one restroom in the building, and apparently no one expected women experimental physicists, so there was a cardboard sign on the door that could be flipped to say "men" or "women."

2. I did my thesis work at Argonne. There was a collaboration of UChicago, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Toronto. At some point an argument arose about who was responsible for filling the helium bag that prevented excessive scattering of the particles on the way to the experiment. To save my thesis experiment, I snuck into the area in the night,

To save my thesis experiment, I snuck into the area in the night, changed the gas bottles, and adjusted the valves to fix the problem.

changed the gas bottles, and adjusted the valves to fix the problem. It was apparent that many people were not happy that the argument had been settled in such a way.

3. In some sense I burned through four thesis advisers. I started in a research group with a young professor, a postdoc, and two grad students. After the professor did not get tenure, the postdoc and one of the students went to two different universities. I was assigned a nominal UChicago adviser who was not involved in the same experiment, meaning my mentors were at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Toronto. The Toronto professor became disillusioned with the relations among people in the experiment, left physics, and became a dean. My nominal adviser/UChicago professor did not get tenure either.

4. The bubble chamber group at UChicago was at one time a large enterprise with some of the friendliest people I have known. There were around six students and postdocs, and around six part-time people helping scan the photographs that came from the bubble chamber at Argonne. Many students who were not in physics worked as scanners. I married one of them.

David Underwood, SM'68, PhD'73

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

In 1959 or 1960, as an undergrad physics student, I worked in the lab of professor of physics Mark Inghram, PhD'47, and assistant professor Bill Lichten, SM'53, PhD'56, in Ryerson. The subject was atomic physics and mass spectroscopy. Lichten wanted an oscilloscope, so I built one from a kit from either Heathkit or Allied

Radio (where I worked summers). It worked. Lichten wanted it on a cart. I got one but convinced him it had to be attached to the cart to avoid theft. He agreed but the bright gold-colored chain I attached was too gaudy for him.

Howard Zar, SB'61, SM'66

CHICAGO

When I was an undergraduate at UChicago I worked in a lab at La Rabida Children's Hospital, a pediatric rheumatic fever hospital and research institute, from 1963 to 1966. The institute was supported in part by Variety Club International, which was a charity involved with children's medical issues.

Great Britain's Prince Philip was in a leadership position with this charity, and he made it a point to personally visit institutions it supported. He scheduled a visit to La Rabida (I don't remember exactly when, but sometime in 1964 or 1965) to tour the facility. All of the lab workers were given a specific location along the long hallway that connected the labs. It just so happened that my assigned location was next to a beautiful young woman.

She became flustered and said something that wouldn't have made any sense to him. He said, "Oh, how nice, my dear!"

As the time approached for the tour, we were all lined up against the wall and Prince Philip and the director of research, Albert Dorfman, SB'36, PhD'39, MD'44, slowly walked side by side down the hallway talking to each other. They didn't pay any attention to those of us lined up along the wall. Suddenly, just as they were opposite my location, Prince Philip stopped talking in midsentence, made a sharp right turn, walked right up to this woman, and said, "And what do you do here, my dear?" She became flustered

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and said something that wouldn't have made any sense to him. He said, "Oh, how nice, my dear!" He then returned to his position alongside Dr. Dorfman and continued the tour. He didn't make any other stops and paid no attention to anyone else.

Michael Lieberman, SB'66, PhD'69
HONOLULU



City canvas

My favorite public art in Hyde Park: *Under City Stones*, a mural by Caryl Yasko painted in 1972 in the Metra 55th Street underpass ("Palimpsest," Alumni News, Fall/22).

I found all the people and the troubling tank evocative, and the flowing composition engaging, when walking alongside the wall. I took notice of the mural as I graduated from U-High in 1973. I later learned about Yasko, the Chicago Mural Group, and the significance of the mural movement in Chicago when I became a muralist in the San Francisco Bay Area at the end of the 1970s.

I was unaware of the historic movement while growing up and, rarely leaving the Hyde Park neighborhood, never knew I was surrounded by many important murals by Bill Walker and the Organization of Black American Culture artists, as well as those in Pilsen. Yasko's imagery and figures under the Metra continue to inspire me today. I visit Yasko's and Walker's murals every time I visit Hyde Park.

Eduardo Pineda, LAB'73
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA



Band campus

Back in the day there were many excellent concerts on campus ("Don't, Don't, Don't, Don't Believe the Hype," Alumni News, Summer/22). Here's my list, all of which occurred between 1978 and 1983.

- U2 at I-House, touring for their second album
- Ida Noyes gym (separate shows): the Ramones and the B-52's with James Chance
- Mandel Hall (separate shows): Tom Waits; Chuck Berry; and the incredible trio of John McLaughlin, Paco de Lucia, and Al Di Meola
- Outdoor concert on the quads with Miles Davis, who actually was having a nice time for once. He faced the audience and made some nice comments to us kids as we were watching on a beautiful spring day. That was part of the Festival of the Arts.

I'm almost 63 years old, but I still go to lots of shows!

Adam Spiegel, AB'83
FOREST PARK, ILLINOIS

Author's query

In Autumn Quarter 1991, I had a meeting with Ronald Inden, AB'61, AM'63, PhD'72, then the undergraduate adviser for UChicago's history department. I was trying to decide on a secondary research field to go with my primary field of modern Europe. I asked Professor Inden whether military history, an idea I'd been toying with since the sum-

mer, was a possibility. He suggested I read John Keegan's *The Face of Battle* (Viking Press, 1976), and if I was still interested, he would approve the choice. I found the book in the Regenstein Library and was instantly hooked.

That was the start of a 31-year fascination with the subject. It led me first to pursue a graduate degree in military history at Duke University and, in 2013, to embed with US troops in Afghanistan as a war correspondent.

Recently I read David Halberstam's account of the Korean War, *The Cold-est Winter: America and the Korean War* (Hyperion, 2007). I was particularly struck by Halberstam's description of the experiences of the US Army's 23rd Infantry Regiment, first in the Battle of the Pusan Perimeter, then in its advance north to the horrific Battle of the Chongchon River, its retreat under fire, and its victories in the Battle of the Twin Tunnels and Battle of Chipyong-ni.

I decided to make the experiences of the 23rd Infantry Regiment in 1950 and 1951 the subject of my first novel. I also decided to make my central character a recent graduate of the University of Chicago. As part of my research, I'd like to speak with Chicago alumni who served in the Korean War. Anyone willing to speak with me can reach me by email at chaim71@gmail.com or by regular mail at 2900 Hamilton Street, #32, Houston, TX 77004.

Andrew Schneider, AB'93
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Correcting the record

The name of Wilmer Souder's (PhD 1916) undergraduate alma mater, Indiana University, was misstated in "Notes on a Crime" (Fall/22). In "The Power of One" (Fall/22) we neglected to credit Ray Eames together with Charles Eames in the caption to an image showing their 1950 fiberglass rocker in a gallery from the Smart Museum's *Monochrome Multitudes* exhibition. In Kenneth W. Dam's (JD'57) obituary (Deaths, Fall/22) George P. Shultz's name was misspelled. We regret the errors.

Give the fellows what they want

Please ask the authors of the addresses and “contributions to knowledge,” who have been crowding the *Magazine* heretofore, to get their articles printed separately if they desire the alumni to have them. I believe all the fellows would like what I want in the *Magazine*—a sort of chatty, newsy write-up of what is going on at the University, as well as more of the personal paragraphs so we can know what other fellows are doing around the country. If you can line up this sort of thing for us we will rise up and call you blessed, and send in more subscriptions, and spread the glad tidings to the other fellows who think the *Magazine* is still running in the old rut. But if you do not, we shall likely take a run into Chicago and call you damned, and stop the paper.

I am just trying feebly to point out that what we fellows away from the U want is to know what you fellows at the U are talking about and laughing about and swearing about. We want a campus reporter who will tell us the “inside” news about who is the “goat” and who is the “Prominent Citizen” when the *Magazine* gets into print each month.

Sincerely,

Henry M. Adkinson, AM 1897

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UCHICAGO JOURNAL

RESEARCH AND NEWS IN BRIEF

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY

The words of Jeppe Hein's 2004 neon sculpture in the Charles M. Harper Center have become something of a motto among students at Chicago Booth, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

WHY ARE YOU HERE AND NOT SOMEWHERE ELSE

12

*Newest
Nobelists*

16

*Humanities
Day*

19

*Doc, in
digits*

23

*Going for
a stroll*



The man of the hour: Douglas W. Diamond (alongside University president Paul Alivisatos, AB'81, far right) surrounded by photographers at a press conference the day his Nobel win was announced.

ECONOMICS

A cut above

Douglas W. Diamond's banking research gave UChicago its 97th Nobel.

BY LOUISE LERNER

In October longtime faculty member **Douglas W. Diamond** was awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2022. He shared the prize with Ben Bernanke of the Brookings Institution and Philip Dybvig of Washington University in St. Louis.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences honored Diamond, the Merton H. Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance at the Univer-

sity of Chicago Booth School of Business, and the other economists for improving “our understanding of the role of banks in the economy, particularly during financial crises.” His pioneering research has changed the way people view banks and laid the groundwork for how central bankers, regulators, policy makers, and academics approach modern finance.

“Professor Diamond has made extraordinary contributions to the field of economics and our collective understanding of the role financial institutions play in society,” said University of Chicago president **Paul Alivisatos**, AB'81. “This is a well-deserved recognition of his groundbreaking scholarship.”

Diamond is the 97th scholar associated with the University to receive a Nobel Prize and the 33rd to receive the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics. In addition to Diamond, seven current UChicago faculty members are lau-

reates in economic sciences: **Michael Kremer** (who won in 2019); **Richard Thaler** (2017); **Eugene Fama**, MBA'63, PhD'64, and **Lars Peter Hansen** (2013); **Roger Myerson** (2007); **James Heckman** (2000); and **Robert E. Lucas Jr.**, AB'59, PhD'64 (1995).

Diamond learned the news of his Nobel Memorial Prize win in the early hours of October 10. Though the call from Sweden was a surprise, he was saved from wondering if it was a prank because he knew two of the prize committee members well and recognized their voices. “I thought it was probably legit, but you never know,” he said. “I have some friends with a good sense of humor.”

Considered a founder of modern banking theory, Diamond is known for his research into financial intermediaries, financial crises, and liquidity. His research agenda for the past 40 years has been to explain what banks do,

Photography by Jason Smith

why they do it, and the consequences of these arrangements.

Introducing Diamond at a news conference, Chicago Booth dean **Madhav Rajan** said, “His groundbreaking ideas literally created modern banking theory. His work and insights have had global impact and truly transformed the way we think about banking.”

Among his most influential work is the Diamond-Dybvig model, which he codeveloped with Dybvig in “Bank Runs, Deposit Insurance, and Liquidity” in the *Journal of Political Economy* in 1983. The model clearly and concisely lays out the fundamental paradox for banks: They are repositories for consumers’ cash, but when banks make investments with that cash, it tends to tie up money so that it can’t be immediately liquidated. In normal times, this is a good way to create wealth, but it can lead to a crisis if everyone panics and tries to withdraw all their funds at the same time.

“[The system] is very vulnerable to the fear of fear itself,” Diamond explained at the news conference. To keep bank runs from happening, it’s important to maintain government regulation and safety nets, such as providing deposit insurance, the theory says.

The Diamond-Dybvig model has since been used to understand other run-like phenomena in markets during financial crises. “Phil [Dybvig] and I

discussed how we should write this so that the average central banker who’s not an economic theorist can understand it,” Diamond said. “I think that’s one reason why that paper had more influence than it would otherwise.”

The Nobel Memorial Prize announcement also cited Diamond’s work on the function of banks as intermediaries between many savers and borrowers, examining their role

His groundbreaking ideas literally created modern banking theory. His work and insights have had global impact and truly transformed the way we think about banking.

in assessing borrowers’ creditworthiness and the likelihood of success of their investments, and in monitoring the health of current investments.

The majority of his career has been dedicated to financial stability, Diamond said. “So given that those issues of stability in the financial system are still very important, I’m very happy this was acknowledged.”

Diamond, who is also associated faculty in the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, joined Chicago Booth in 1979. “The University of Chicago has been an amazing place to keep trying to do one’s best research, year after year after year,” he said. Having his work subject to detailed comments by his colleagues, including those in other specializations, he said, “forced me to think clearly about what I was doing and whether it made any sense.” Feedback from his students, he added, has also helped him ensure his work, though theoretical, would be useful to policy makers.

Anil Kashyap, the Stevens Distinguished Service Professor of Economics and Finance at Chicago Booth and a longtime colleague, agreed. Diamond and Dybvig’s research, he said, “has significantly altered economic policy and the practical way in which the financial system is regulated.” He pointed out that “much of the regulatory response to the global financial crisis has been informed by their work.”

“This is really what the University, in so many ways, is all about,” Alvisatos said at the news conference. “We’re here, in countless ways, to address some of the greatest challenges that face society.”

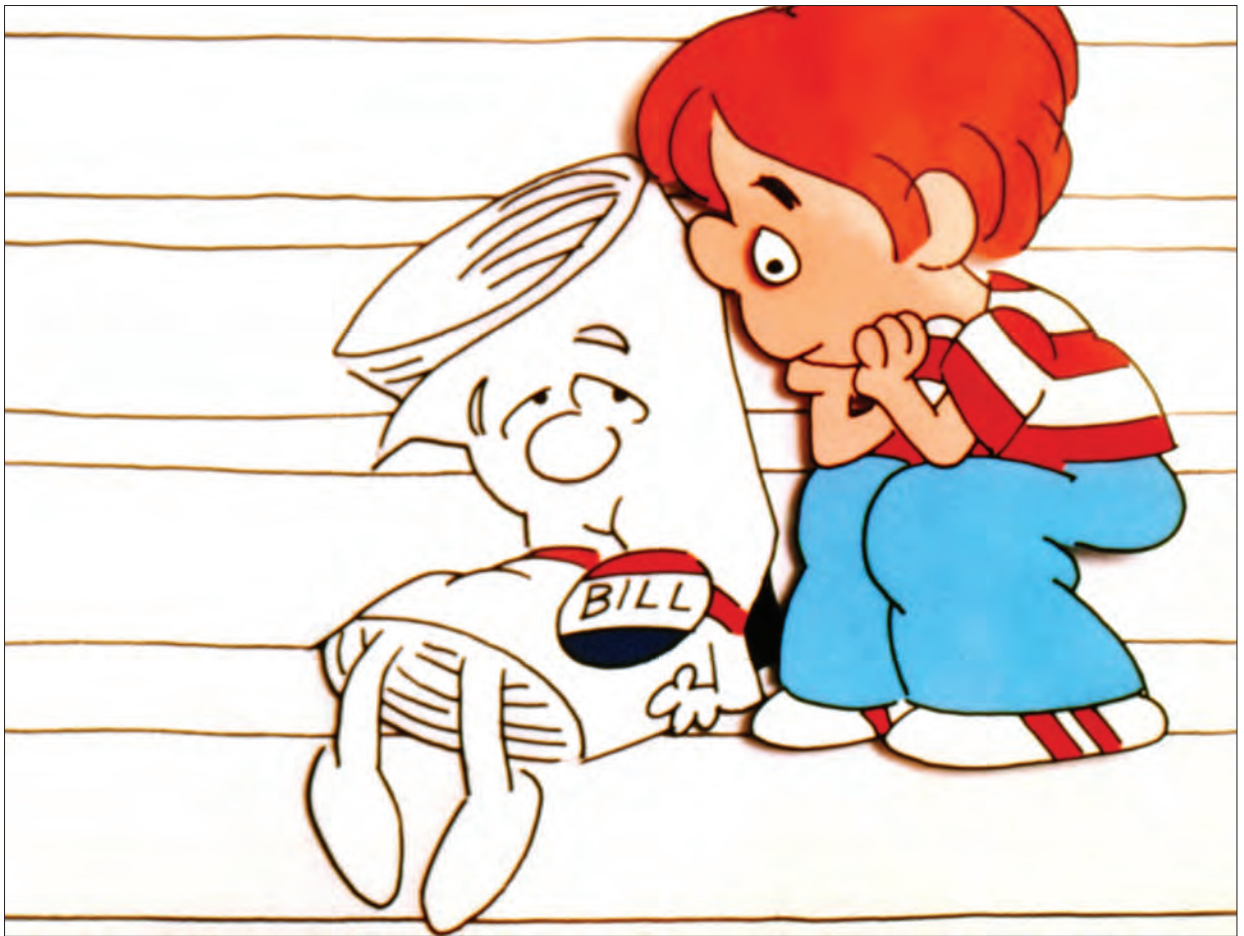
Asked whether he thought the work should have received a prize earlier, Diamond said no: “You don’t want to win it too young. It goes to your head.” ♦

GENETICS

Plague legacy

QUICK STUDY

The Black Death, a bubonic plague that killed up to 50 percent of the people across North Africa, Europe, and Asia in the mid-1300s, played an important role in the evolution of the human immune system. A collaboration including UChicago professor of genetic medicine **Luis Barreiro**, published online October 19 in *Nature*, examined DNA from people who died before, during, and after the plague. In looking for immune-related gene variants that appeared less frequently after the pandemic, the researchers identified some that likely increased susceptibility to the pathogen, and thus died out along with victims of the plague. Those variants appearing more frequently after the plague revealed protective attributes passed down by survivors. One variant of the gene *ERAP2* helps the immune system recognize infection, and medieval people with two copies would have been about 40 percent more likely to survive the plague. This gene, however, is associated with susceptibility to autoimmune diseases in modern populations, illustrating how pandemics can affect health for centuries.—*M. S.* ♦



"It's a long, long wait while I'm sitting in committee": Braden Hajer, College Class of 2025, watched what was once just a bill, only a bill, become the nation's first media literacy education law.

THE COLLEGE

Critical consumers

Illinois has a new media literacy law—by a high schooler, for high schoolers.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

In July 2021 Illinois governor J. B. Pritzker signed a law requiring high schools in the state to offer one unit of media literacy education. House Bill 234 became the first law of its kind in the nation, and it exists in no small part because, as a senior at Naperville

Central High School in Naperville, Illinois, **Braden Hajer** didn't want to take Advanced Placement Literature.

Hajer, College Class of 2025, learned he could fulfill the same requirement by taking something called Humanities Capstone, a semester-long course in which students study and take action on a socially relevant issue. That sounded interesting to Hajer—so it was goodbye AP Lit, hello Capstone.

Deciding on a research topic didn't take long. "I have seen firsthand what misinformation can do," Hajer says. Early in high school, he watched with dismay as a friend disappeared down a rabbit hole of disturbing online conspiracy theories. "Thankfully," Hajer says, "he pulled himself out, but that was a rough few years."

The experience made Hajer realize

that his own side of the street wasn't spotless either. "I've caught myself sharing articles without really reading much past the headline," he admits. Despite the perception that his generation knows everything there is to know about the internet, when it comes to the perils of misinformation, "nobody's immune, right?"

Initially Hajer's research project focused on the history of misinformation—which was, he discovered, a lengthy one. "We've had misinformation for a long time, ... and it sure isn't going anywhere," he says. How, he wondered, do you combat a problem that stubborn?

The crossroads at which Hajer found himself is common for Capstone students, says Naperville Central social studies teacher **Seth Brady**, AM'09,

Image courtesy Everett Collection

No school is going to respond to a “may” bill—so, first step, let’s turn that “may” into a “shall.”

who leads the class. Once students have understood a problem, there’s often “a realization that problems are systems,” he says. As a teacher, he encourages students to think pragmatically about how they might, with the time and resources available to them, work to dismantle or improve harmful systems. “What’s the most change you can hope to effect?” he asks.

To Hajer, improving media literacy education seemed like an achievable way to address online misinformation. So he and Brady started researching what other states had done (“not too much, it turned out”) and whether anyone in Illinois had made efforts to implement media literacy classes. He found a 2019 bill introduced by state representative Elizabeth Hernandez (D-Cicero) that had stalled; in January 2021, she’d introduced another media literacy bill.

With Brady’s guidance, Hajer began revising Hernandez’s proposed legislation. The original bill took a soft approach, stating that school districts “may” teach media literacy; Hajer wanted a mandate, on the theory that “no school is going to respond to a ‘may’ bill—so, first step, let’s turn that ‘may’ into a ‘shall.’” He also added more specific provisions about the goals of the media literacy unit, such as the ability to identify misinformation and evaluate the trustworthiness of news outlets and platforms.

Hajer emailed several subject matter experts to review the draft of his proposed legislation. Two—Bill Adair, the founder of PolitiFact, and **Peter Adams**, AM’04, of the News Literacy Project—responded with feedback.

Their input gave Hajer confidence in the bill, so he sent it along to Hernandez’s office, not sure what would happen next. In March 2021, the repre-

sentative introduced a slightly revised version of the text he’d sent—an exciting milestone, but, Hajer knew, just the beginning of a long road.

As it happened, his teacher had firsthand experience navigating the Illinois legislative process. Capstone is part of a program called Illinois Global Scholar; Brady had been instrumental in the passage of a law that created a Global Scholar Certification for state high schools.

He shared a few tips with his student. Don’t email legislators—call instead. Cast a wide net when looking for supporters. Craft a one-minute elevator pitch and a one-page document explaining the legislation.

Armed with Brady’s insights, Hajer met with legislators to build support for the bill and testified before the House Education Committee.

Ultimately, the bill passed in the flurry of legislation that typically comes at the end of the spring legislative session. (Like high school students, state legislators are deadline driven.) Pritzker signed the bill over the summer—no ceremonial pens here, just routine government work.

Hajer attributes the bill’s success to a few things, starting with a “healthy dose of luck, of course.” Timing also helped: the January 6 insurrection at the US Capitol took place two weeks before Hernandez introduced the legislation, highlighting the dangers of online radicalization. And he suspects his involvement didn’t hurt either: “The ‘high school student trying to pass a bill’ story is really good optics.”

Both teacher and student are proud of what they accomplished together. “It is so much more enjoyable to see a student succeed in this than to succeed yourself,” Brady says.

Hajer, who is planning to major in media arts and design at UChicago, continues to advocate for the young law. “The funniest criticism I heard was, do high school students even want this?”

Well, he says, “at least one high school student did. ... It’s about making baby steps to a healthier society.” ♦

QUICK STUDY

LAW

Facebook accounts

A study published November 2 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* reveals that law enforcement Facebook accounts disproportionately post about crimes involving Black suspects. The study, co-authored by UChicago law professor **John Rappaport**, gathered all posts from almost 14,000 Facebook pages maintained by US law enforcement agencies and found that Black suspects were described in 32 percent of posts about crime that included a suspect’s race but represented only 20 percent of local arrestees. Facebook users were overexposed to posts about Black suspects across different crime types and geographical regions, and the rate of overexposure increased with the proportion of Republican voters and non-Black residents in the area. The study highlights the risk that biased reporting may reinforce stereotypes and influence crime policy.

—M. S. ♦

Humanities Day, recapped

Did you miss this year's Humanities Day on October 15, 2022? Not to worry—we've got you covered. Here are capsules of three presentations from the Division of the Humanities' annual celebration of its discipline. Hungry for more? Videos from these and previous years' talks are available on YouTube.



THE AFTERLIFE OF THE WRITTEN WORD

"How do you guys dispose of books?" **Ahmed El Shamsy** asked the audience gathered in Stuart Hall. "Try not to," one attendee offered.

Trashing books feels uncomfortable, a sentiment shared by our premodern counterparts. The challenge was particularly acute for Jews and Muslims, who faced logistical and theological challenges when deciding how to get rid of written material that might contain the name of God, explained El Shamsy, a professor of Islamic thought in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, in his talk "How Muslims Disposed of Books."

Both traditions, he said, assign

"a particular value of sacredness to written material," perhaps because Arabic and Hebrew are scriptural languages. As a result, the simple question of what to do with unneeded documents, ranging from worn-out copies of religious texts to property records, prompted serious theological thought.

Jews found a solution in *genizot*, repositories for civil and sacred writings often held in synagogues. Among Muslims, the question provoked much debate but no resolution. In the early eighth century, some scholars proposed burning texts while others objected to the practice. Washing texts emerged as another option, with 14th-century handbooks citing the practice as preferable to burning. "But then of course you have jurists—and jurists always come up with a counterex-

ample," El Shamsy said. "Like, what do you do with water that flows off?"

In the 13th century, early Sunnis uncomfortable with burning written material proposed that it be buried instead. The document tombs that resulted bore a remarkable resemblance to *genizot*—hardly a coincidence. Jews and Muslims "lived side by side," El Shamsy said. "It is very likely that there was a cross-over in the attitudes towards these texts and preserving these texts."

Of course, El Shamsy noted during the postlecture Q&A, scholars don't know how scrupulously ordinary people followed any of this guidance. "The theoretical discussions we have access to are among elite thinkers," he said. "How far that trickled down is similar to our discussions today, like, how many people actually do recycling?"—S. A. ♦

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Pseudo-privacy

QUICK STUDY

Deidentification is a compromise between data science and privacy, but the most popular techniques are alarmingly easy to hack. When companies share data sets with researchers, for instance, the goal is to disguise identifying data—often just enough to satisfy legal requirements—while leaving enough information for analysis. The most common deidentification methods redact information that could be combined with other sources to reveal a person's identity. In a study that received a Distinguished Paper Award at the 31st USENIX Security Symposium in August 2022, UChicago computer scientist **Aloni Cohen** focused on "downcoding," a new kind of attack that reverse engineers deidentification and demonstrates the vulnerability of current methods. To demonstrate, Cohen combined data from LinkedIn and a massive open online course (MOOC) platform to identify students who had taken the class. This flaw could undermine the platform's claims of compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act—and shows that common forms of deidentification aren't sufficient for true anonymity.—M. S. ♦

Photo courtesy Ahmed El Shamsy



AMONG FRIENDS

Pressured to marry and work as housewives, some Caribbean working-class women in the 1920s and '30s turned instead to *friending*, a Caribbean English term **Kaneesha Parsard** defines as “casual romantic and sexual relationships with the expectation of support and sometimes explicitly for pay.” In her talk “The Friending Plot,” Parsard, an assistant professor of English, framed this rebellion against marriage as “a means of survival and not merely scandalous.”

What Parsard calls the “friending plot”—a nod to the Austenian “marriage plot”—appears in fiction by the Beacon Group, a collective of Trinidadian writers and social critics in the '20s and '30s. The friending plot is circular, Parsard explained: “It typically begins with seduction, is sustained by the exchange of sex for money, and ends, often temporarily, with a breach of contract, when the woman is suspected to be unfaithful.” Though friending exposes women to insecurity—even violence—they can choose partners who satisfy their immediate needs and desires.

As an example, Parsard offered the 1929 short story “Triumph” by writer and activist C. L. R. James, the Beacon Group’s most prominent member. Mamitz, the protagonist, initially destitute and abandoned by a friend, attracts the attention of two new men who pay her debts and provide food and gifts. Mamitz’s jealous neighbor Irene tells the men about one another, threatening to unravel everything. But Mamitz triumphs, reconciling with both men.

Parsard emphasized that the friending plot depends on friendship (in a traditional sense) among women: women offer one another stability that friending does not provide. Mamitz’s best friend, Celestine, supports her when her friend leaves her and advocates for her after Irene’s betrayal. Mamitz in turn shares gifts from her male friends with the other barrack-yard women (except for Irene). As Parsard explained, Mamitz’s “triumph is not only in [her] gain, but also that hers are wages for friends.”

Working together, these women enjoy pleasure and freedom they cannot imagine finding in marriage. Concluding her talk, Parsard quoted Celestine’s reaction when asked whether she plans to marry: comparing marriage to slavery, Celestine affirms, “I all right as I be.” —C. C. ♦



THE GILDED PAGE

Calling the present a “new gilded age,” Humanities Day keynote speaker **Kenneth Warren**, the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor of English, examined how contemporary novels portray social relations under conditions of extreme inequality. In his talk “Wealth, Inequality, and the Novel,” Warren questioned whether our capitalist reality is subject to the techniques and ambitions of the classic novel.

Writers in the realist tradition, he said, have aspired to a “super vision” describing life at all levels of society and the connections between levels. But the books he discussed draw an “absolute disjuncture” between the experience of the ultrawealthy and that of the rest. In such a world, novelists have little hope of grasping the totality of society, even as success could transport them to the other side.

In Emily St. John Mandel’s *The Glass Hotel* (Knopf, 2020) and John Lanchester’s 2012 novel *Capital* (W. W. Norton), Warren showed, the lives of characters who reside outside “the country of money” are neither seen nor seeable by the very rich. Smitty, a wealthy artist in *Capital*, wishes he could call all his assistants “Nigel” to smooth out their pesky individuality. A newly rich character in *The Glass Hotel* stops seeing her bodyguards at all. For St. John Mandel, Warren added, “the barrier goes both ways”: the unrich understand the rich as “avatars of extreme wealth” rather than as people.

Warren, who studies American and African American literature from the 19th century on, is the author of *So Black and Blue: Ralph Ellison and the Occasion of Criticism* (University of Chicago Press, 2003). Comparing social invisibility in Ellison’s *Invisible Man* (Random House, 1952) with that in *The Glass Hotel* and *Capital*, he noted that the invisibility of Ellison’s unnamed narrator to the White world is based on the perceivers’ prejudices about the perceived—it “has an act of refusal at its core.” In the later novels, the fog envelops entire social positions. It’s arguably bleaker, a systematic unseeing of entire social positions, whether prejudice comes into it or not. In “a world fractured by a dramatic upward distribution of wealth,” Warren reflected, the novel form itself appears diminishingly able to offer “the possibility of a commonality of experience.” —L. D. ♦



Beginning in the 1970s, 9to5 worked to improve conditions for women in industries including banking, publishing, insurance, and law.

ACTIVISM

A cup of ambition

Before the movie and the song, Ellen Cassedy's (EX'72) organization 9to5 revolutionized the working lives of American women.

BY JASON KELLY

Ellen Cassedy, EX'72, received a horrifying introduction to the working conditions women faced in the early 1970s. There were few professional options for women when she graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. Her best friend, **Karen Nussbaum**, EX'72, was a clerk-typist at Harvard University, and Cassedy found a job in the same department. While she was there, a professor hired her to transcribe handwritten notes at his home. Those notes turned out to be detailed accounts of his sexual experiences.

"When I sat down at the typewriter, he took off his shirt and stood before me bare chested, waiting for ... what?" Cassedy writes in *Working 9 to 5: A Women's Movement, a Labor Union,*

and the Iconic Movie (Chicago Review Press, 2022). "I knew what was going on was wrong, and scary, but I had no vocabulary for it and didn't know what to do. Heart pounding, I started typing."

Working 9 to 5 includes litanies of abusive behavior and other indignities women faced on the job. The book recounts the work of Cassedy and many others in the women's labor organization 9to5 to root out such dehumanizing conduct and to end the relegation of women office workers to subservient roles without fair compensation or upward mobility. Her work would help transform American office culture—and inspire a popular song and movie—though such an impact seemed unimaginable at the beginning.

Shared enthusiasm for activism forged an instant bond between Cassedy and Nussbaum when they met in **James Redfield's** (LAB'50, AB'54, PhD'61) liberal arts seminar as first-year students. At UChicago Cassedy felt forced to choose between the life of the mind and engagement with the political issues of the day. Transferring to Berkeley, she embraced women's studies, an emerging field in which "serious scholarship and social activism came together," she says. "I wrote my senior thesis about the Women's Trade Union League, which I later came to think of as the grandmother of 9to5."

The 9to5 organization began with Nussbaum's idea to convene an informal group of 10 Boston-area women to commiserate about working conditions, harassment, low pay, and a lack of advancement opportunities. As the group grew and Cassedy tried to recruit more members in the early 1970s, some women were concerned about being labeled "feminists" or "women's libbers," despite general agreement with the group's mission. Others said they disputed 9to5's objectives altogether.

"Is it really wrong to pay women differently from men? After all, aren't women just working for 'pin money,' whatever that was?" Cassedy says. "We had arguments. There was a real debate during the '70s."

Cassedy herself was a hesitant organizer—not for lack of conviction but because she wasn't sure she was cut out for activist leadership. She was shy and anxious about the outreach required. For phone calls, she scripted everything down to a reminder to leave "space for the other person to say hello" after her own greeting.

At Nussbaum's urging, in 1973 Cassedy completed a six-week course for women organizers at the new Midwest Academy in Chicago, a training center for progressive political organizers founded by **Heather Booth**, AB'67, AM'70. The experience offered a framework for 9to5 to pursue change.

Within a year, the organization would hold a public hearing in Boston to unveil its Bill of Rights for Women Office Workers. More than 300 women filled the hall, government agencies sent representatives, and the Massachusetts legislature issued a commendation for the organization's efforts. Though the event generated news coverage and promises from elected officials, the proposed rights still faced powerful opposition. But 9to5 was growing into a worthy counterweight.

Lawsuits generated millions in back pay and raises for women office workers. A 9to5 report on the Boston publishing industry prompted the Massachusetts attorney general to file discrimination charges against three companies. And

Photography by Steve Cagan



Ellen Cassidy, EX'72, at a Washington, DC, event focused on women in banking.

lobbying convinced the state insurance commissioner to issue employment regulations. The standards reflected many of the tenets in 9to5's bill of rights: "Unisex job application forms, written job descriptions, job posting, posted pay scales guaranteeing equal pay for men and women in the same job, no more dead-end jobs, new bridge jobs to create career ladders, and equal benefit plans for men and women."

Through the 1970s, 9to5 attracted thousands of members and added two dozen national chapters. For National Secretaries Day, 9to5 chapters around the country held "Petty Office Procedures" contests that exposed demeaning tasks women were expected to do for their bosses. Entries included cleaning dentures, vacuuming nail clippings, sewing ripped pants (while still being worn), and cupping hands for a boss to use as an ashtray. The organization made a spectacle of executives who "won" the competitions, nudging office culture toward more professionalism, one public embarrassment at a time. "It became unacceptable to, for example, require your secretary to snip your nose hairs," Cassidy says.

Her wry humor echoes the tone of *9 to 5*, the chart-topping song and movie. The second-highest grossing film of 1980 after the *Star Wars* sequel *The Empire Strikes Back*—"another epic battle between good and evil," Cassidy writes—*9 to 5*'s popularity generated

support for the organization, which soon became a nationwide union.

Cassidy left a thriving organization in 1985. She became an author and translator, wrote a column about work for the *Philadelphia Daily News*, and was a speechwriter in the Clinton administration—in which Nussbaum also served, as director of the Department of Labor's women's bureau.

Together they helped expand professional opportunities for women and improve their working conditions. As the book notes, a persistent gender wage gap, insufficient representation of women of color in the workplace, and the #MeToo movement's revelations of sexual abuse and harassment illustrate the challenges faced by heirs to the 9to5 legacy. The successes of that earlier era still resonate—the documentary *9to5: The Story of a Movement* premiered on public television in 2021.

Cassidy likewise draws inspiration from today's activists. The 2017 Women's March stirred memories of the collective spirit she felt as a young woman, compelling her to write *Working 9 to 5* to chronicle a previous generation's enduring achievements and lingering frustrations. Although incomplete, their work made an indelible difference.

"We won raises, rights, and respect for millions of women," Cassidy writes. "The offices of America have not been the same since."

What a way to make a living. ♦

W. R. HARPER'S INDEX

DOC AT 90

Times Doc has screened its most-shown film, Stanley Donen's *Bedazzled* (1967)

23

Times it has shown runner-up *Metropolis* (Fritz Lang, 1927)

16

Number of Fritz Lang films shown 12 or more times

3

Films shown eight or more times

129

Latest release year of a movie shown at least eight times

(Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*)

1980

World, US, Midwest, and Chicago premieres held at Doc

61

Movie first shown at Doc April 5, 1968, in the series "Recent Italian Cinema"

8½

Years until Federico Fellini's classic was shown again, in "Masterpieces of Italian Cinema"

1½

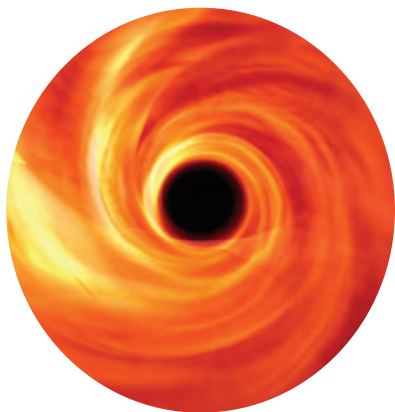
Tomorrowland

This past autumn, the University debuted a multimedia series delving into the histories behind UChicago ideas and discoveries that changed the world. The first three installments of *The Day Tomorrow Began*—on black holes, ancient civilizations, and quantum technology—highlight intellectual throughlines connecting yesterday, today, and tomorrow.—*L. D.*

Black holes

1930: Just 19 years old, future UChicago professor and physics Nobelist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar theorizes the existence of black holes while traveling by steamer from India to England.

1935: Chandrasekhar presents his idea at a Royal Astronomical Society meeting and is publicly ridiculed by a Cambridge mentor.



2019: After six decades of mounting evidence that black holes exist, the Event Horizon Telescope collaboration releases the first image of a black hole.

Today: Astrophysicists **Daniel Holz**, SM'94, PhD'98, and **Andrea Ghez**, LAB'83, are building on Chandrasekhar's discovery to answer fundamental questions about the universe: What is the universe really made of? What is the precise age of the universe? "These

THE DAY TOMORROW BEGAN

The genesis of world-changing ideas

are all things we think we'll be able to answer," Holz says. (Read a profile of Chandrasekhar on page 42.)

Ancient civilizations

1894: On his honeymoon, Oriental Institute (OI) founder James Henry Breasted first visits Egypt.

1905: UChicago president William Rainey Harper appoints Breasted the first US professor of Egyptology.



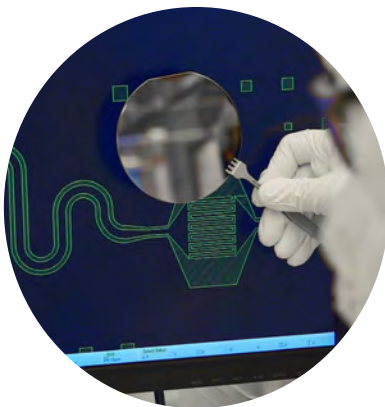
1914: In *Ancient Times*, his textbook for high school students, Breasted popularizes the term *Fertile Crescent*—and the idea that civilization began in the Middle East, not in Europe.

Today: Scholars including the OI's **Gil Stein** and **Augusta McMahon**, AM'86, PhD'93, are filling out our knowledge of ancient civilizations and our inheritance from them. For instance, we are now realizing, McMahon says, "that a lot of Mesopotamian cities didn't just grow from internal people getting together and doing their thing, but also through migration, much like now."

Quantum technology

1930s–40s: Arthur Holly Compton, Enrico Fermi, and other physicists make critical discoveries in quantum mechanics.

2011: As quantum science evolves, UChicago establishes the Institute for Molecular Engineering (today the Pritzker



School of Molecular Engineering or PME) with a unique problem-driven approach and a focus on science at the smallest scales, including quantum technology.

Today: PME, Argonne National Laboratory, and the Chicago Quantum Exchange are helping usher in a quantum tomorrow, with implications for the future of encryption, artificial intelligence, drug treatments, and far more. "The emergence of quantum technology," says PME professor **David Awschalom**, "is a little like moving from a digital world in black and white to a quantum world in color," and the world ahead is emerging in tantalizing glimpses.

Want to know more? Visit news.uchicago.edu/the-day-tomorrow-began.

MAKING A SPLASH



Ever shall her team be victors, indeed! Men's soccer coach **Julianne Sitch** grins (or grimaces) through the customary Powerade bath following the team's first-ever championship win on December 3. The national title was just one in a series of milestones for Sitch and the undefeated team this season. Earlier in the year, a matchup between UChicago and New York University garnered national headlines as the first NCAA men's soccer game in which both coaches were women. Then the championship victory over Williams College made Sitch the first woman to coach a men's soccer team to a national title. The 2-0 win was especially sweet for a program that had four previous semifinal appearances but had never advanced to the championship.

"The credit goes to the team—I mean, these guys have never had a female coach before, and they embraced me as one of their own," Sitch told UChicago News after the game. "Just to watch them play, I'm extremely proud."—S. A. ♦

Photography by Nancy Wong

QUICK STUDY

CHEMISTRY

Reshaping tech

Electronics rely on conductive materials, with metals composing the largest group. About 50 years ago, scientists figured out how to make organic materials conduct electricity by introducing impurities. These materials are more flexible but aren't very stable. What inorganic and organic conductors have in common is their orderly arrangement of atoms—that's how electrons flow so easily through them. In a study published online October 26 in *Nature*, associate professor of chemistry **John Anderson**, SB'08, SM'08, and **Jiaze Xie**, SM'17, PhD'22, describe a new material that breaks the rules. By stringing organic and inorganic atoms together, the team created a substance that conducts electricity extremely well; is stable through temperature, humidity, and pH changes; and, most striking, is disorderly at the molecular level. Anderson describes it as "conductive Play-Doh." The breakthrough can be used to design a new class of materials that are easy to shape, robust under everyday conditions—and could transform electronic technology.—M. S. ♦

For the record

NEW TRUSTEES NAMED

The University of Chicago Board of Trustees has elected four new members. **Katherine L. Adams**, JD'90, is Apple's general counsel and senior vice president of legal and global security. She has served on the Law School Council at UChicago since 2014. **Barry E. Fields**, JD'91, is a trial lawyer and partner at Kirkland & Ellis. A University of Chicago Medical Center trustee, he also serves on the Law School Council and the Division of the Biological Sciences and the Pritzker School of Medicine Council. **Valerie B. Jarrett**, who is the CEO of the Barack Obama Foundation, was the longest-serving senior adviser to the Obama administration. A former University trustee, Jarrett was the Board of Trustees vice chair from 2006 to 2009, and was a previous Medical Center trustee, Harris School Council member, and Social Sciences Division Council member. **Richard F. Wallman**, MBA'74, retired in 2003 as senior vice president and chief financial officer of Honeywell International. In honor of his philanthropic commitment to business education, Chicago Booth designates its graduating MBA students who earn high honors as Amy and Richard F. Wallman Scholars.

FIGHTING HEALTH DISPARITIES

Monica E. Peek, SM'15, the Ellen H. Block Professor for Health Justice in the Department of Medicine at the University of Chicago, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine. An internist and researcher at UChicago Medicine, Peek was selected for her international leadership in reducing health disparities. Her work illuminates how structural racism and social determinants of health perpetuate inequities in Black communities. She was one of 100 people elected to the organization's 2022 class, recognized for demonstrating outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service—one of the highest honors in the health and medical field.

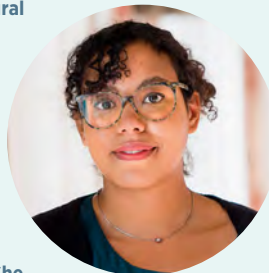


CHICAGO FED HEAD

Austan Goolsbee, the Robert P. Gwinn Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, became the 10th president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago on January 9. He previously served in Washington as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and a member of President Barack Obama's cabinet. Goolsbee will contribute to monetary policy making as a member of the Federal Open Market Committee while leading the Chicago Fed, which supports the formulation of monetary policy, supervises and regulates banking organizations, and provides financial services to banks and similar institutions, as well as to the US government.

ARTS LEADER

Adrienne Brown, associate professor in the Departments of English and Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity and in the College, has been appointed director of UChicago's Arts + Public Life initiative. APL provides residencies for Black and Brown artists and creative entrepreneurs, arts education for youth, and artist-led programming and exhibitions. Brown's scholarship focuses on American and African American cultural production in the 20th century, emphasizing the history of perception as shaped by the built environment. She had served as APL's interim director since 2021, during which time APL opened the LI Creative Business Accelerator and Retail Store.



DIVINITY SCHOOL DEAN

James T. Robinson was appointed dean of the UChicago Divinity School and started his term in December. Robinson, the Caroline E. Haskell Professor of the History of Judaism, Islamic Studies, and the History of Religions in the Divinity School and the College, conducts research on medieval Jewish intellectual history, philosophy, and biblical

exegesis in the Islamic world and Christian Europe. During his tenure as interim dean of the Divinity School since July 2021, the school hired two new faculty scholars, expanded its Teaching Fellows program for recent PhD graduates, and piloted the school's new undergraduate Core sequence.

IOP'S NEW DIRECTOR

Former US senator **Heidi Heitkamp**, whose decades of service have been characterized by efforts to bridge political divides, became the new director of UChicago's Institute of Politics. As a Pritzker Fellow at the IOP and a member of its senior advisory board, she has led discussions on the future of government institutions and the threat of hyperpolarization in American politics. The first woman elected to the US Senate in North Dakota's history, Heitkamp served from 2013 to 2019, during which time she advocated for affordable housing and sponsored initiatives aimed at addressing the health and safety of Native American tribal communities and indigenous peoples. Heitkamp succeeded inaugural director **David Axelrod**, AB'76, on January 3.



HONORABLE MATTER

Condensed matter physicist **Sidney Nagel**, the Stein-Freiler Distinguished Service Professor of Physics, has been awarded the 2023 American Physical Society Medal for Exceptional Achievement in Research. The society's greatest honor, the medal recognizes contributions of the highest level that advance knowledge and understanding of the physical universe. Nagel's research has led to insights about the nature of disorder. His work includes the study of macroscopic phenomena, like the movements of sand and the stains liquids leave behind when they evaporate, such as rings from a coffee mug. He also helped introduce the importance of "jamming," the phenomenon that turns loose grains into a rigid solid when squeezed together.

From left: UChicago Medicine; UChicago News; UChicago Institute of Politics



INTERVIEW

Moving memories

*Strollers carry children, Goldfish crackers,
and multiple meanings.*

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

At one time, **Amanda Parrish Morgan**, AB'04, owned five strollers, each with a different purpose. “Their accessories and condition,” she writes, “were markers of other things.” What these parenting essentials signify and enable, both personally and culturally, became the subject of Morgan’s new book *Stroller* (2022). It’s part of Bloomsbury’s Object Lessons series, about the stories behind ordinary things. Her comments have been edited and condensed.

What made you want to write about strollers?

Strollers were at the center of a brainstorming web—they related to culture, weight loss and exercise, anxiety in modern parenting. It’s not unique to parenting, but there’s an idea that if you buy the right thing, then you’ll have solved a much bigger problem. Strollers seemed like a very visible example of that.

And this is maybe more sentimental, but I have really good memories of having my kids in the stroller. Moving through the ordinary days of suburban existence started to feel a little bit magical when seeing it through my kids’ eyes.

At the end of the book, you write about strollers having made possible a life with kids that you hadn’t imagined. In what ways?

I had internalized what I realize now is a very misogynistic narrative—that whatever parts of myself were left over after tending to my children would be very diminished, that I would be a shell of my former self. When I got my first running stroller, and I realized I could run as fast as I did before, it felt like a stand-in for this bigger idea. The stroller offered a way to do a hobby that I knew didn’t matter to anyone but me. It also meant that I got to have these two people that I love so much with me doing things I love to do.

How did you balance writing about the hard and joyful parts of parenthood?

Many of the ways we talk about parenting didn’t really speak to my experience. I would see some glib stuff, like “Mommy needs a glass of wine” or “Isn’t parenting the worst?” and I didn’t feel that way. I wasn’t finding a

lot of writing that took parenting seriously as an intellectual pursuit too, and I wanted to bridge that gap.

I hope we can continue to move away from the idea that women’s worth can only come from being mothers, and that it’s the pinnacle of fulfillment—but there’s a flip side that I participated in when I was younger, of mocking women who take motherhood seriously. I feel glad that I tried to engage with the tension between glorifying motherhood and dismissing it or denigrating it.

What’s your relationship to strollers now?

We don’t have one anymore—our last one bit the dust last winter. My office faces a road that is popular for pedestrians and if I’m in a certain kind of mood, when someone walks by with a baby in a stroller, I get really teary and wistful about it. Strollers feel like a metaphor for that era when my biggest concern was keeping my children physically safe, and they were three feet from me at all times. Bittersweet, I guess, is the best word for it.

What do your kids think of the book?

They know they’re in it, and my daughter, who is 8, was like, “Oh, am I famous?” I went to talk to her third-grade class, and it was in some ways the best book event I’ve ever done. They asked the most amazing, honest questions, like “How many times did someone say your book was bad?” Really getting to the heart of how writing can be.

What do you think is the Cadillac of strollers?

I do have to say, those UPPAbaby VISTAs seem pretty nice. We’ve never owned one, because it would just be embarrassing—I’m so disorganized and there would be papers underneath it and Goldfish crumbs. It would be a waste to buy this \$1,000-plus item and use it as a Goldfish carrier. ♦

A portrait of Tara Zahra, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a blue long-sleeved sweater and a gold necklace with a circular pendant. The background is a dark wooden door on the left and a red textured wall on the right.

COMPLICATING THE NARRATIVE

In her histories of globalism, migration, families, and children, Tara Zahra reveals the fine cracks in foundational stories.

BY ELIZABETH STATION

In 2016 **Tara Zahra**, a historian of modern Europe, was diving into research for a book about anti-globalism between the world wars. She hoped to discover why, from 1918 to 1939, governments and ordinary people worldwide stepped back from international engagement, whether that meant calling for limits on migration, questioning treaties and trade deals, or growing food locally to cut reliance on imports.

As Zahra worked, the daily news headlines gave her a feeling of déjà vu. In 2016 British vot-

ers spurned integration and opted to leave the European Union. Donald Trump won the US presidency, vowing to rip up free trade agreements and build a wall along the border with Mexico. Right-wing nationalist movements gained ground in East Central Europe, where Zahra, the Homer J. Livingston Professor in the Department of History and the College, centers her research. On the left, critics in many countries denounced the social inequalities that globalization created and fed, as well as its negative environmental impacts.



Across countries and continents, nationalist leaders between the world wars pressed citizens to produce their own goods and shun imports. At left, a Benito Mussolini photo op at a 1933 grain harvest. At right, Mahatma Gandhi using a portable charkha, a form of peaceful protest against British goods.

Drawing lessons from current events, Zahra's newly published book *Against the World: Anti-Globalism and Mass Politics Between the World Wars* (W. W. Norton, 2023) builds its case from Zahra's archival research in seven countries. Using those materials, she shows how anxieties about the perceived and real consequences of globalization fueled wide-ranging efforts to change or slow cross-border flows of people, goods, and capital. The cast of characters includes Benito Mussolini, Mahatma Gandhi, and other famous nationalists, as well as people usually at the margins of power, including migrant women.

Across time and space, one of the most striking qualities of anti-globalism has been its "political promiscuity," Zahra writes. Although such movements are most often associated with European fascism, during the 1930s they grew around the world "on the right and the left, in the most resilient democracies, and in the parliaments of small states as well as those of great powers."

People with these concerns didn't use the term *globalization*, which first became a buzzword in the 1990s. Instead, they talked about freedom and sovereignty as better than dependency on foreign trade and fickle financial markets. Countries that lost the First World War saw the Covenant of the League of Nations and the Treaty of Versailles, both signed in 1919, as deeply unfair. Many saw national self-sufficiency, or autarky, as the way forward. Their arguments still resonate today.

Against the World shows how anti-global movements in divergent locations shared similar aims and strategies. During the Great Depression, Henry Ford required auto workers in Iron Mountain, Michigan, to cultivate vegetable gardens after putting in their hours on the factory floor. Around the same time, the Italian Fascist government created 160 "new towns" where rural settlers would grow wheat for pasta and bread to feed the nation. A continent away, the Swadeshi movement exhorted Indians—especially women—to boycott foreign goods and spin their own cloth rather than import it from England. And in Germany, a 1918 pamphlet called *Jedermann Selbstversorger!* (Everyone a Self-Provider!) urged citizens to trade their meat-based diet for fruits and vegetables grown in local gardens. Translated into several languages, the treatise influenced Austrian and Zionist settlement movements during the interwar period.

A belief in self-help and disdain for the dole motivated Henry Ford's gardening scheme. "The man too lazy to work in a garden during his leisure time does not deserve a job," he wrote in a 1931 directive to Ford employees. Meanwhile, Zahra found, the push for food self-sufficiency in Central Europe had its roots in the searing experience of hunger. On the eve of World War I, Germany relied on imports for about one-third of its food supply. The British exploited that vulnerability by launching a naval blockade that

Self-sufficiency and home production were the imperatives in marketing campaigns in Russia, Spain, and France during this period. Clockwise from top left: a 1930 poster for USSR Agriculture invites workers to join collective farms; a Spanish Civil War-era poster compares men's role on the battlefield to women's on the home front; a scene of patriotic plowing in a 1920 Crédit Lyonnais poster alludes to the Great War and its losses in the foreground.

kept food and weapons from reaching the Central powers—and by the war's end, hundreds of thousands of civilians had died of starvation.

Many Central Europeans blamed a reliance on imports for these deaths and for their countries' devastating military defeat. "Dwindling food supplies corroded citizens' faith in the fairness and reliability of markets and the global economy," Zahra writes. In the decades that followed, people of diverse political persuasions would continue to mobilize against global economic arrangements they deemed unfair. By the 1980s and '90s, striking miners in Margaret Thatcher's Britain, street protesters in Seattle, and others worldwide would call attention to the fact that, as Zahra concludes, "tensions between globalization, equality, and democracy remained painfully unresolved."

Against the World, Zahra's fifth book, draws on her skill as a transnational and comparative historian. That quality, among others, has earned her the admiration of colleagues including **Leora Auslander**, the Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor in Western Civilization in the College and professor of European social history. "It's very unusual for a historian to simultaneously range across continents, languages, and historiographies, while at the same time getting her hands dirty, so to speak, in the archives," Auslander says. When Zahra was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2014, the foundation praised her first two books for combining "broad sociohistorical analysis with extensive archival work across a wide range of locales" and "painting a more integrative picture of twentieth-century European history."

Zahra, 38 at the time, said winning the no-strings-attached fellowship "felt like being struck by lightning, but a particularly good kind of lightning."

Zahra has logged countless hours in archives abroad and uses German, Czech, French, Italian, and Polish in her research. Yet, early on, she did not expect to have an international aca-

demic career. Zahra grew up in rural Pennsylvania, where her parents run a mom-and-pop butcher shop in the Poconos. Until her teens, she hoped and trained to become a professional ballet dancer, but after weighing her prospects, she chose instead to attend Swarthmore College. The first-generation student took a German history course freshman year with a professor named Pieter Judson, who scrawled the words "Please be a history major" on her first paper.

By senior year, fired up by Judson's seminar on fascism, Zahra decided to go to graduate school and study Central European history. "I felt passionate about history in a way that I hadn't loved anything since dance," she says. The summer after college, she traveled to Vienna to study German and help Judson with a research project about nationalism in the Habsburg Empire. It was her first trip to the region. She also worked briefly as a journalist with the *American Prospect*, a progressive policy magazine, before heading to the University of Michigan to begin her graduate work.

History as an academic discipline values originality and rewards scholars who ask and answer compelling questions, especially when they dig

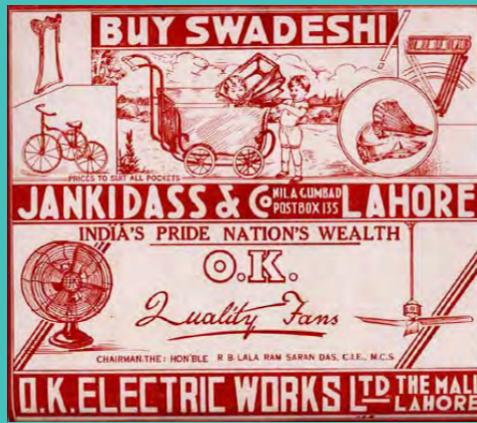
up new or neglected sources and use them to challenge conventional wisdom. Those qualities in Zahra's work have propelled her "meteoric" career, says Auslander. "She has an extremely good eye for the questions that matter, that are answerable with

historical sources and methodology, and fit into conversations that historians have," adds Auslander. "That's been true of all of her books, in different ways."

Based on her dissertation, Zahra's award-winning first book, *Kidnapped Souls: National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the*

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THE EMPIRE CHRISTMAS PUDDING

according to the recipe supplied by the King's Chef
Mr. CEDARD, with Their Majesties' Gracious Consent

1 lb	Currants	~~~~~	Australia
1 lb	Sultanas	~~~~~	Australia or South Africa
1 lb	Stoned Raisins	~~~~~	Australia or South Africa
5 ozs	Minced Apple	~~~~~	United Kingdom or Canada
1 lb	Bread Crumbs	~~~~~	United Kingdom
1 lb	Beef Suet	~~~~~	United Kingdom
6½ ozs	Cut Candied Peel	~~~~~	South Africa
8 ozs	Flour	~~~~~	United Kingdom
8 ozs	Demerara Sugar	~~~~~	British West Indies or British Guiana
5	Eggs	~~~~~	United Kingdom or Irish Free State
½ oz	Ground Cinnamon	~~~~~	India or Ceylon
¼ oz	Ground Cloves	~~~~~	Zanzibar
¼ oz	Ground Nutmegs	~~~~~	British West Indies
¼ teaspoon	Pudding Spice	~~~~~	India or British West Indies
¼ gill	Brandy	~~~~~	Australia · S. Africa Cyprus or Palestine
¼ gill	Rum	~~~~~	Jamaica or British Guiana
1 pint	Beer	~~~~~	England · Wales · Scotland or Ireland

WRITE TO THE EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD, WESTMINSTER, FOR A FREE BOOKLET
ON EMPIRE CHRISTMAS FARE GIVING THIS AND OTHER RECIPES.



Varieties of nationalist and imperialist messaging, clockwise from top left: A 1920s poster encourages Swadeshi, buying traditionally crafted, Indian-made goods; a poster from War II-era Germany emphasizes land and motherhood; in the late 1920s, the king's chef ("with their majesties' gracious consent") provides a recipe for Christmas pudding made with goods produced in the British Empire.

Bohemian Lands, 1900–1948 (Cornell University Press, 2008), was published the year after she joined the UChicago faculty. It focuses on competing efforts by German and Czech nationalists to establish schools and educate children in the former Austrian Empire. As the region's political boundaries shifted, both sides fought bitterly to recruit children and parents who would identify as future members of the Czech or German national community.

But the twist, Zahra found, "is that a lot of ordinary people were quite indifferent to nationalism. Many people in the region were bilingual. They changed nationalities, they intermarried, they were very pragmatic. There was a gap, and in a way, the indifference of ordinary people to nationalism radicalized nationalism further."

That novel interpretation "calls into question everything we know about Eastern Europe," says Judson, who is now a professor of history at the European University Institute near Florence. Zahra does not take anything for granted, "and that's completely annoying when you're her professor," he says, laughing—but it's one of her greatest strengths. "The thing that makes her distinctive as a historian is that she takes categories we are all quite comfortable with and shows us why we should be uncomfortable with them. ... And if we explore these contradictions more, we'll see what's actually going on in the real world."

In *The Lost Children: Reconstructing Europe's Families After World War II* (Harvard University Press, 2011), Zahra movingly dissects the complicated categories of family and nation. "During and after the Second World War," she writes, "an unprecedented number of children were separated from their parents due to

emigration, deportation, forced labor, ethnic cleansing, or murder." In Europe some 13 million children lost one or both of their parents. Believing that separation caused psychic trauma, humanitarian agencies and governments worked

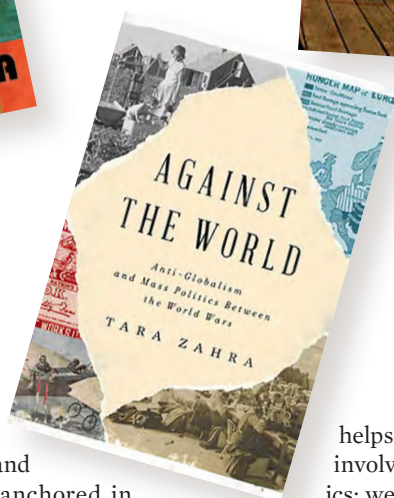
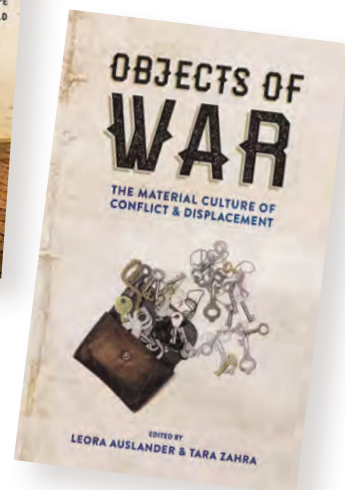
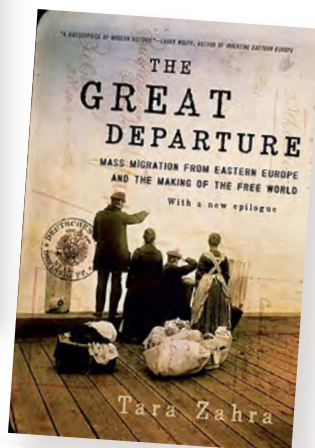
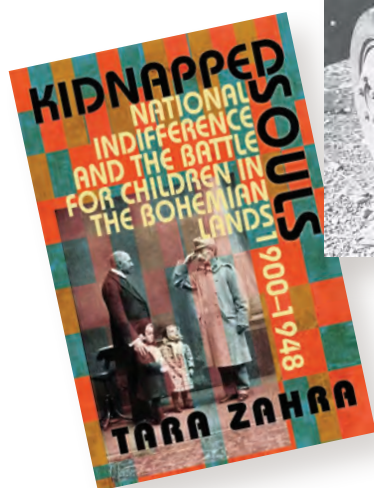
to repatriate "lost" children in the postwar years and, when possible, to reunite them with their parents. Many such parties viewed Nazism and Soviet Communism as evil ideologies that sought to undermine family sovereignty and the private sphere. By reconstructing families, Zahra argues, policy makers hoped to strengthen democracy.

Yet Zahra also finds stories that complicate this narrative.

"The golden formula of return to nation and family posed serious problems for surviving Jewish youth," she writes in *The Lost Children*. Orphaned by the Holocaust, many Jewish children endured the war in hiding or exile. Those who had been sheltered by religious institutions or adopted by non-Jewish families could not easily be reunited with surviving members of their birth families. Jews of any age who attempted to return home often encountered persistent anti-Semitism.

And, as Zahra notes, anti-Semitism was not confined to Nazi Germany or Eastern Europe. In liberated France, for example, the postwar government issued a memo in October 1945 calling for the deportation of German-Jewish refugees who remained on French soil, since such individuals were "of no economic or demographic interest." War-ravaged countries such as France and Czechoslovakia wanted to rebuild, but they saw a young and nationally homogenous (or at least "assimilable") population as the most desirable asset to this process.

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These days Zahra's work and life keep her anchored in Chicago, but with an outward gaze. In 2022 she was appointed the Roman Family Director of the University's Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society. Established in 2012, the Collegium supports humanistic research by faculty-led teams, a visiting fellows program, and an art gallery. Its assets include a full-time professional staff and a generous budget to fund collaborative projects involving scholars from every corner of the University, Zahra says.

Housed in a graciously renovated neo-Gothic building at the corner of 57th Street and Woodlawn (the former home of the Meadville Theological School), the Collegium offers space for offices, meetings, and events.

Seated by a window in the Collegium's light-filled library, Zahra talks about how her research and her goals as director align. "I write histories that try to speak to broader audiences, even though that's easier said than done in practice," she says. The Collegium can play a similar role, she believes, by expanding programming and collaborations in the arts, building links with institutions in the city of Chicago, and funding research that informs contemporary debates and

helps solve real-world problems. "The people involved in our projects are not only academics; we have practitioners, artists, policy makers," Zahra says. "I'm really excited, particularly at this phase of my career, to have this chance to help the research that is produced on this campus to have an effect in the world."

For years Zahra has sought to connect her scholarship to issues and people beyond the academy, a practice that coincides with her winning the MacArthur award. "More important than the money was the feeling that I had a suit of armor, a little bit," she says. "I think it changed my relationship to my work [and] gave me the courage to do more risky things, to venture a bit, and to believe in myself."

Zahra's third book, *The Great Departure: Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World* (W. W. Norton, 2016), focuses on the period from 1846 to 1940 when more than 50 million Europeans immigrated to the Americas. The research gave Zahra a jumping-off point to discuss the complicated history of immigration in the media. She wrote pieces for *Foreign Affairs* and the *Daily Beast* and published a 2015 *New York Times* op-ed that challenged the myth of America as the promised land.

Noting that 30 to 40 percent of European immigrants before the First World War ultimately

Tara Zahra's books range widely over the first half of the 20th century in Europe but take a special interest in Eastern Europe and people's displacement and migration spurred by the cataclysmic events of that period.

returned home, Zahra argued that "today's migrants are not so different from their predecessors." Many hope to return to their countries of origin someday, she wrote, "if only they could do so securely. But in a world in which visas are lottery prizes, and refugees die in trucks or find themselves trapped in stateless purgatory, it is not so easy to come and go freely."

Objects of War: The Material Culture of Conflict and Displacement (Cornell, 2018), which Zahra and Auslander coedited, grew out of two Collegium-funded workshops. The book examines personal possessions that people carried with them as they fled war and persecution in 19th- and 20th-century Europe, drawing a parallel to the mobile phones and toys carried by Syrian refugees in 2015 as they escaped conflict in their homeland. Abandoned suitcases, shoes, and eyeglasses are a poignant fixture in Holocaust museums around the world. The goal of such displays, Zahra and Auslander write, is to "remind us of how people in desperate circumstances rely on familiar things in their efforts to retain memories and maintain a sense of self."

Scholarly histories like *The Great Departure* and *Against the World* are unlikely to become bestsellers, but Alane Salierno Mason, vice president and executive editor at W. W. Norton, bets they will find an audience among "smart readers who want to be smarter." She lauds Zahra's ability to combine "an extraordinary analytical mind" with narrative sensibility, and sees her as part of a growing generation of respected women historians whom Norton publishes that includes Mary Beard, Jill Lepore, Mae Ngai, and others.

Even so, history remains a field dominated by men. Beard, a renowned scholar of Ancient Rome, has complained that "big books by blokes about battles" still top the bestseller lists in Britain because readers place greater trust in male authors to tackle weighty topics like war and economic policy. This is despite the fact that universities place more value than ever before on fields such as the history of gender, sexuality, race, diaspora, and indigeneity. "There's also been a huge increase in the number of women writing about all topics of history," Zahra says. But "I would say we still have quite a bit of progress to make." Just six of the 24

full professors in UChicago's history department are women, she notes, and "women and minorities are still dramatically underrepresented at the highest ranks of academic institutions."

"I think we still have the perception of intellectuals—and public intellectuals—as male," says Zahra, who is the first woman to lead the Collegium since its 2012 founding. "I was surprised to be asked to take this role, but I'm also really happy to have the opportunity to affect people's own ideas of what intellectuals look like."

For Zahra, life as an intellectual includes continuing to dance, teach, write, and recharge. She takes twice-weekly ballet classes and will coteach a class on dance as history next fall through the University's Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry. She and Judson have coauthored *The Great War and the Transformation of Habsburg Central Europe* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming), a social history that shows how ordinary people in Austria-Hungary both suffered and exerted agency during World War I. Zahra and her husband, UChicago physics professor **William Irvine**, like to rock climb and hike with their four-year-old daughter, Eloisa. The mountain town of L'Aquila in central Italy, where Irvine grew up, has become a favorite summer destination.

Zahra dedicated *Against the World* to her daughter with "love and hope for a better future." But as the book went to press, Russia's war with Ukraine raged on, the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic tested international relations, and a political party with fascist and anti-immigrant roots elected Italy's first woman prime minister—proof that the world's anti-global moment is not over yet.

Still, Zahra is cautiously optimistic. "One of the lessons of history is that nothing that seems forever actually is," she says. "My greatest hope would be that this is a transformative moment in which a vision of globalization that is more responsive to democratic politics might come into being." Global interconnections won't stop, but they can be reorganized "in ways that don't continue to exacerbate extreme inequality domestically or internationally," Zahra says.

"Moments of huge discontent can also produce change." ♦

Elizabeth Station is a writer in Evanston, Illinois.



MUSIC

THE COLLECTOR

David Fulton, SB'64, has owned some of history's most treasured violins, violas, and cellos. Now he's telling their stories—and his own.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

BEGINNING IN 2017, HAVING OWNED NEARLY EVERY INSTRUMENT HE EVER ASPIRED TO, FULTON DID SOMETHING SURPRISING: HE SOLD ALL BUT FOUR OF THEM.

When a 15-year-old **David Fulton** arrived at the University of Chicago, his ambitions were clear. “I was going to be a great mathematician,” he says. It didn’t take long for that dream to end: “I found out very soon I was not going to be a great mathematician, and I’d be lucky to get through the program—which I did.”

Amid that trying process, Fulton, SB’64, who’d been playing violin since the fourth grade, found refuge in the University Symphony Orchestra. He spent nearly three years as concertmaster—the first chair violinist, who tunes the orchestra and sits in a place of honor next to the conductor. The position brought with it two perks: a \$100 quarterly stipend and access to an 18th-century violin made by the Italian luthier Carlo Antonio Testore. It was, Fulton writes in his book *The Fulton Collection: A Guided Tour* (Peter Biddulph, 2021), “the first really fine instrument I had ever had in my hands.”

It would not be the last. Alongside his career as a computer science professor and database software company founder, Fulton spent two decades amassing what was regarded by many as the world’s greatest collection of stringed instruments. In total he has owned 18 violins, six violas, and four cellos by makers including Antonio Stradivari; Andrea Guarneri; Guarneri’s grandson Bartolomeo Giuseppe Guarneri, known as del Gesù; and Giovanni Battista Guadagnini. These 17th- and 18th-century Italians are regarded as history’s finest luthiers, and their wares sell for millions, whether at auction or in private transactions facilitated by violin dealers.

Fulton’s collection had a dual purpose. He could lend out some of his instruments for concerts, competitions, and recordings, and he could protect the rest for the next generation. Of the roughly 600 Strads and 150 del Gesù still in existence, Fulton believes the majority can and should be played—with care, of course. “They’ve been around the track,” he says, “but there are some that are kind of pristine, and those should be preserved so that you can see, in 100 years, why people admired Stradivari.”

Beginning in 2017, having owned nearly every instrument he ever aspired to, Fulton did something surprising: he sold all but four of them. “You certainly can’t take ’em with you, right?” he says of his decision to dismantle what he had so carefully built. By parting with the instruments now, he reasoned, he could use the proceeds to support his philanthropy.

As he gathered instruments, he gathered stories too—of luthiers and dealers, musicians past and present, fellow collectors. Those have remained with him, even though the instruments haven’t, and form the backbone of *The Fulton Collection*, a memoir of what he describes as his “ecstatic madness.” Alongside photographs and historical information about the violins, violas, and cellos he owned, the book includes Fulton’s lively reflections on how he acquired them, why he loves them, and how they sound. He presents the instruments not in chronological order but rather in the order he purchased them.

Fulton suspects his collection may turn out to be one of the last of its kind. The monetary value of 17th- and 18th-century Italian violins increased sharply beginning in the 1980s; many have also been entrusted to governments and cultural institutions, taking them off the market. His book is a tribute to the confluence of circumstances that allowed him to be the guardian of so many important instruments at one time.

But, he says, one never knows when a new golden era for violins will dawn. Stradivarii were not universally admired in their own time; their true potential wasn’t recognized until a few decades later, after concert halls got bigger—a shift that better suited their rich sound. Violin experts estimate that it can take anywhere from 80 to 100 years for an instrument’s tone to stabilize. “Point being,” Fulton says, “you don’t know what modern instruments ... are going to be as revered as Stradivarii.” And when they are, some lucky collector will be waiting. ♦

STRING STORIES

“MARSICK” VIOLIN ANTONIO STRADIVARI, 1715

In the late 1990s, up-and-coming violinist James Ehnes had a problem. He had been playing various loaned violins, and he knew his career could not advance without access to a top-flight instrument. He found a beautiful violin for sale, a 1715 Strad named for its onetime owner, the 19th-century Belgian violinist and composer Martin Pierre Joseph Marsick (1847–1924).

Ehnes thought he'd found sponsors who could buy it for his use—a common ownership model in the classical music world—but the deal fell apart, and he feared the instrument would be snapped up by another buyer.

Fulton had known Ehnes since the violinist was a teenager and had watched his career with interest. Understanding the predicament, Fulton purchased the “Marsick” and gave it to Ehnes on an indefinite loan. It was the only time he bought an instrument for someone else; he knew Ehnes had a rare talent and wanted to help.

The “Marsick” transformed Ehnes's career. “I can't tell you how important that violin is to me,” he told the *Seattle Times* in 2004. “It allows me to do everything that I want to do, both in terms of technique and sound. There's another aspect, too: People hear that I am playing a Golden Period Strad, and they think, ‘He must be pretty good.’”

After a roughly 11-year loan, Ehnes purchased the “Marsick” from Fulton. The two remain friends, and Fulton feels proud of the role he played in advancing an important artist's career. “As you can tell,” he writes, “I am a total fan.”

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James Ehnes
(far left)
performing at
Carnegie Hall
in 2016.

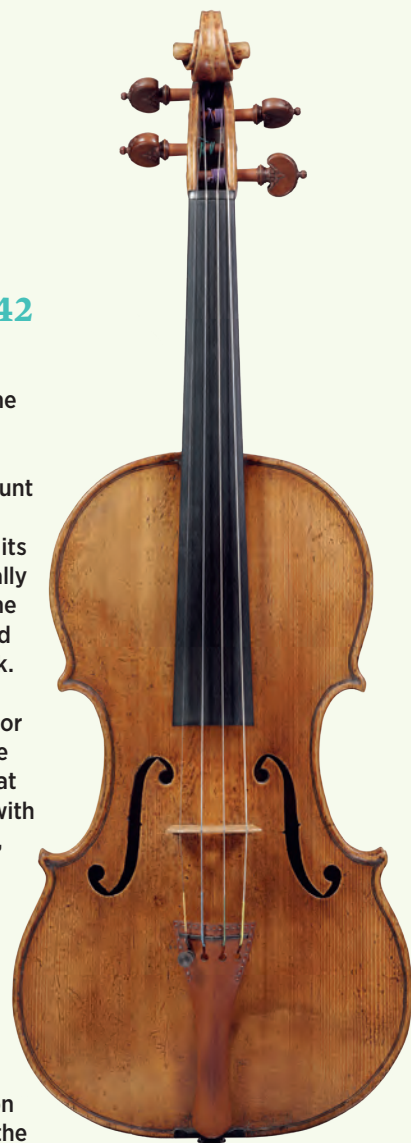
“LORD WILTON” VIOLIN **GIUSEPPE GUARNERI DEL GESÙ, 1742**

In his book Fulton describes the “Lord Wilton,” which he owned for almost 20 years, as “the Apollo of violins.” The instrument is named for its first documented owner, the fourth Earl of Wilton, Seymour John Grey “Sim” Egerton (1839–1898).

Lord Wilton was something of a celebrity in his time, as conductor and resident composer of the Wandering Minstrels, a group of aristocratic musicians who performed concerts to raise money for charity. As Fulton writes, it’s believed that the Gilbert and Sullivan song “A Wandering Minstrel I” from *The Mikado* is a nod to Lord Wilton and his compatriots.

Fulton purchased the “Lord Wilton” in 1999 for \$6 million—at that time, the highest amount ever paid for a violin. Despite the beauty of its sound, Fulton eventually discovered a flaw in the instrument: a so-called worm track on its back. When wood-boring beetles attack a dead or dying tree, their larvae leave small tunnels that luthiers would patch with wood or another filler, leaving a small scar.

The worm track in the “Lord Wilton” was hinted at in an old paper record from a violin dealer and revealed conclusively in a 2019 CT scan, as Fulton was preparing to sell the instrument. (CT scans are increasingly a standard component of high-end violin sales.) This flaw reduced the ultimate sale price by \$2 million—that’s an expensive beetle—but not Fulton’s affection for the instrument.





“CONTE VITALE, EX LANDAU” VIOLA **ANDREA GUARNERI, 1676**

For Fulton, the decision to expand his collection from violins to violas and cellos was a natural one. After all, he says, “you can’t play a string quartet with just violins.” The “Landau” viola—the third-oldest instrument Fulton has ever owned—is one of about five known Guarneri violas still in existence.

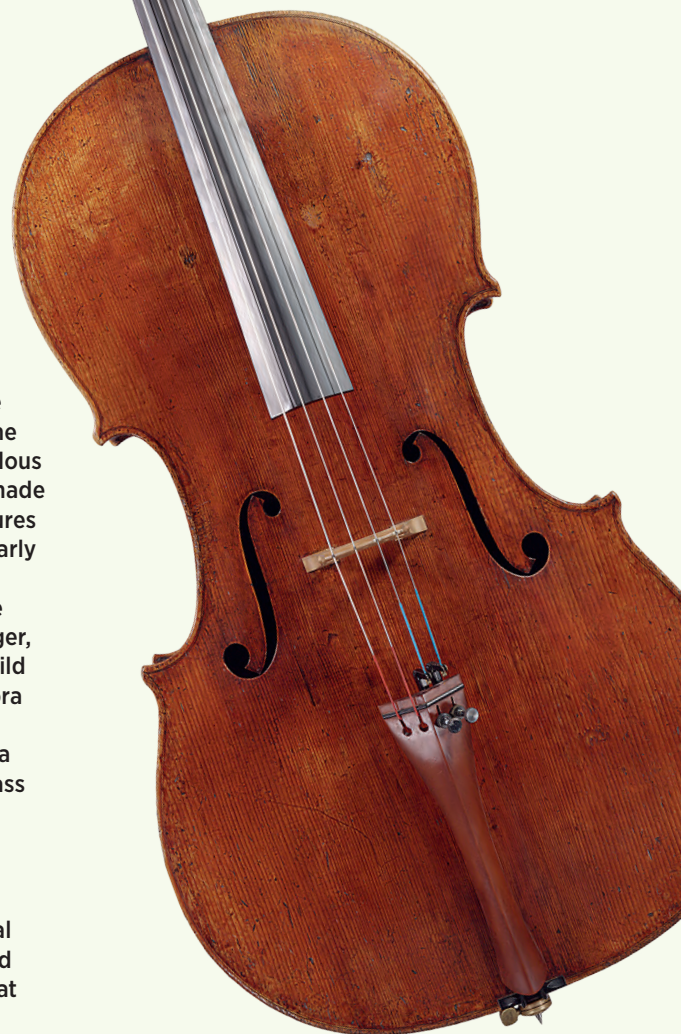
Although the instrument is officially attributed to Andrea Guarneri, some suspect it may be the work of his son (and del Gesù’s uncle) Pietro Guarneri of Mantua. Whoever made it, the instrument is exquisite; Fulton considers it the best-sounding viola he has ever heard.

While it’s often called the “Conte Vitale,” Fulton prefers to think of it as the “Landau,” a tribute to its later owner, the German Jewish lawyer and violinist Felix Landau (1855–1935). Fulton has purchased three instruments formerly owned by Landau, including a 1735 violin by Carlo Bergonzi and a 1743 del Gesù.

In the 1930s, Landau sent several of his instruments to England—ostensibly for repair, though in reality he hoped to prevent them from being confiscated by the Nazis. The instruments, including the viola, were saved, but Landau was not so fortunate. He died in what was reported to be a car accident in April 1935.

The “Landau” viola is now owned by the Dextra Musica Foundation, which lends instruments to gifted Norwegian musicians—a legacy made possible by Landau.





“BASS OF SPAIN” CELLO **ANTONIO STRADIVARI, 1713**

Fulton is confident the “Bass of Spain” (cellos were sometimes referred to as basses in the 19th century) has the most colorful history of any piece in his collection. In the 1830s, the Spanish family who owned the instrument sent it out for repair. The luthier, with what Fulton describes as “overweening arrogance,” decided to remove the top and replace it with one he’d made.

Not long after, the original top was bought by a French violin maker. He, in turn, sold it to an Italian dealer who became intent on reuniting it with the cello—which he finally did, although the instrument was very nearly destroyed on a rough sea voyage soon after.

The cello’s strange life story did not end there. The “Bass of Spain” eventually found its way into the Singer sewing machine family, whose scandalous divorces and affairs made them newspaper fixtures during the 19th and early 20th centuries. (The last Singer to own the instrument, Paris Singer, had an affair and a child with the dancer Isadora Duncan, one of many boldface names with a connection to the “Bass of Spain.”)

But what is most extraordinary about the “Bass of Spain” is its sound. Professional cellists have described it as an instrument that offers “total freedom to express the widest possible range of emotions,” “the love of [my] life,” and “the voice of God ... the greatest cello I’ve ever played.”



*Rich Murray, AB'94, finds the stuff of life
for beloved TV characters.*

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

Growing up in Kankakee, Illinois, **Rich Murray** was a *Star Wars* fan—and not just a casual one. He knew the movies beginning to end. He bought the books. And he especially loved the action figures, which he collected diligently and still owns today.

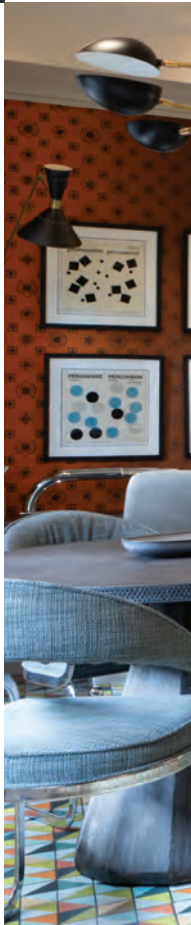
But there was a problem. “Loved the figures,” says Murray, “disliked the play sets”—the plastic backdrops that accompanied the toys. To his exacting eye, they were never quite right and often didn’t function as advertised. So Murray, AB’94, took matters into his own hands, rebuilding the play sets out of cardboard so he could create the perfect scenery for Luke, Leia, and Han’s adventures.

It was, in retrospect, Murray’s very first gig in set design (unpaid, non-union). In the years since, he’s swapped scissors and cardboard for paint and furniture, but he’s still chasing the same goal: scenery that makes a story feel real.

Since the early 2000s, Murray has worked in theater, film, and television both as a set designer, creating the overall look and feel of a production, and a set decorator, selecting and sourcing the furniture and other elements of decor.

If you delighted in Oliver’s Broadway show posters or Mabel’s boho chic couch in the Hulu mystery series *Only Murders in the Building*, you’re an admirer of Murray’s work. If you didn’t, well, that’s OK. “Lighting designers often say, you only notice our work when it’s wrong,” says Murray. It’s the same

From left: Amy Sussman/Getty Images; Entertainment via Getty Images; Craig Blenheim/Hulu



From left: Production designer Curt Beech, art director Jordan Jacobs, and Rich Murray, AB'94, with their Emmys for *Only Murders in the Building*.

for set decorators: “You may not even notice it when it’s right.”

Emmy voters did take notice of the work, and of sets done right. In September Murray, along with *Only Murders* production designer Curt Beech and art director Jordan Jacobs, received the award for Outstanding Production Design for a Narrative Program (Half-Hour)—his first nomination and win.

Only Murders, Murray says, was a dream job from the start and the award simply an added bonus: “There’s a magic about being on the right team in the right place at the right time.” His Emmy statue now sits on a bookshelf alongside his LEGOs and books. “It’s a place of honor,” he says, “if you consider all the LEGOs honorable.”

Murray’s first formal exposure to set design came as a UChicago undergraduate in a course taught by Linda Buchanan, a veteran of the Chicago theater scene. He was instantly hooked. “It was a different way of reading scripts. It wasn’t as an actor, it wasn’t as a director,” he says—a virtue “because I’m really horrible, I think, at acting and directing, and I took all those classes as well.” Sets, by contrast, felt like “a real way of bringing something to life onstage, almost like the set design is another character.”

At the time, he had been considering careers in architecture and design or in law; set design turned out to be “a weirdly perfect marriage of both worlds,” he says. “You’re telling stories

and trying to convince an audience that something is real and true.”

Murray got a chance to put his newfound interest into practice with University Theater. Mark Lohman, UT’s technical director at the time, “was instrumental in teaching me the magic of what we do,” Murray says. The atmosphere was informal. There was no theater school and, at the time, not even a theater major; Lohman “just let us play, and that was glorious.” Murray got to design, build, and paint his own sets for UT productions—with help when he needed it but little direct oversight. “There was never a voice,” he recalls, “that said ‘no.’”

After graduating with a General Studies in the Humanities degree,

Welcome to the Arconia

Get comfortable in Murray’s Emmy-winning sets for *Only Murders in the Building*.

The design and decor of Charles Haden-Savage’s elegant bachelor pad was shaped, in part, by Steve Martin’s real-life tastes. *Nice Hot Vegetables* is a pastel by Ed Ruscha, whose work Martin has collected since the 1960s. (The actor’s involvement, Murray says, eased the process of getting Ruscha’s permission to reproduce the piece—often a challenge when using real works of art.) To re-create it, the production team printed a copy on watercolor paper, then sent it to painters in the scenic department, who colored over it with pastels to give the print authentic tones and textures. “What they do is wizardry,” Murray says.



Murray spent seven years working for an accounting firm to make a dent in his student loans. For a day job that wasn't his passion, it turned out to be unexpectedly useful. The corporate world taught "a lot about how to manage spreadsheets and budgets and deadlines and teams of people in a way that has only helped me on this side now," he says.

When he told his colleagues he was resigning to go to grad school, they assumed he was off to business school. Not quite, he explained. In the fall of 2001, he enrolled at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

The first day of classes was September 11; Murray and the 20 other students in his set design program watched together as the two towers fell. "That informed our artistic choices for the next three years," he reflects. He remembers classmates designing sets for the Greek tragedies

and *Death of a Salesman* that were "just piles of rubble," he says. "That's how we processed it."

Murray emerged from Tisch with a portfolio and, not long after, his first job offer, as a set designer on the Fox TV series *Point Pleasant*. More jobs followed—"once you get a couple of people who can vouch for you, it's all word of mouth," he says—such as the film *Little Miss Sunshine* and TV shows including *The Nate Berkus Show*, *Madam Secretary*, and *All My Children*.

When Murray signed on for *Only Murders in the Building*, he didn't yet know it would become both beloved and critically acclaimed. It was obvious, however, that the show was a plum job for a set decorator.

Only Murders in the Building is set in a fictional Renaissance Revival-style

New York City apartment building called the Arconia. (The real-life Belnord on the Upper West Side stands in for the Arconia in exterior shots.) As the show's title implies, the setting is central to the story. Murray was tasked with enlivening the apartments of the three protagonists: the extravagant theater director Oliver Putnam (Martin Short), the neurotic actor Charles Haden-Savage (Steve Martin), and the mysterious Mabel Mora (Selena Gomez). In the second season, new characters and spaces were filled out; Murray particularly enjoyed decorating the apartment of longtime Arconia resident and busybody Bunny Folger (Jayne Houdyshell). (One assumes the third season, currently in production, might reveal still more of the Arconia, but Murray can't divulge any details.)

The first season of *Only Murders in the Building* was filmed from December 2020 to April

As a lifelong Arconia resident, Bunny Folger would have wallpaper in her apartment, Murray and his colleagues decided. They found a pattern by William Morris, the famed 19th-century Arts and Crafts designer, that happened to feature rabbits. Then they found a rabbit-adorned tile pattern. Before long, the room had become a veritable hutch, filled with every conceivable form of rabbit decor. The tchotchkes became the setup for a subtle visual gag in the first episode of the second season, in which the camera cuts from a porcelain rabbit figurine to a cast-iron rabbit holding a magnifying glass to a photo of the character. "The camera is saying, here's bunny, bunny, Bunny," says Murray. "We have a lot of fun doing things like that."



Craig Blankenhorn/Hulu (this spread)

KNOWING THAT PEOPLE ARE PAYING SUCH CLOSE ATTENTION ADDS A NEW LAYER OF FUN TO A JOB ALREADY THICK WITH IT.

2021. For Murray and much of the cast and crew, it was their first project since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Protocols were strict, with masks and face shields required on set, and schedules in flux to accommodate time off for exposure or illness. “It was really, really a tough time,” Murray says, but simultaneously “the most joyous experience I’ve had shooting a show.”

The careful work that went into the production was rewarded by the show’s fans. Murray was especially excited to discover that the sets were being pored over by watchful viewers. “‘Is this a clue?’ is all we hear on the websites and fan groups,” Murray says. Knowing that people are paying such close attention adds a new layer of fun to a job already thick with it. “I could retire now knowing my career has been fulfilled,” he says.

Between seasons one and two of *Only Murders in the Building*, Murray was offered a

job on *And Just Like That ...*, the *Sex and the City* spin-off. It was an easy decision. He’d long been a fan, faithfully watching *Sex and the City* every Sunday night with his now husband, and relished the thought of working on it. “I’d be stupid,” he says, “to turn down the job where I get to do Carrie Bradshaw’s apartment.”

Reboots and sequels come with their own production challenges—in this

case, painstaking reconstruction of sets from the original *Sex and the City* series and the two films that followed it. Some of the furniture had been saved and put in storage, but other elements had to be rebuilt from scratch. To recreate Carrie and Big’s apartment, Murray tracked down a binder with receipts from the first movie, found the company that made the custom tile for the kitchen, and ordered a fresh batch. No detail was too small.

After a season of *American Horror Story*, Murray is now back on *Only Murders in the Building*. He’s decorated apartments in the Arconia. He’s decorated Carrie Bradshaw’s closet. He has an Emmy. Is there anything left to conquer?

Of course there is: “*Star Wars. Star Wars.*” Murray says. It could happen, with all the new shows and films in production. He’s got hope. “I put it out there,” he says, “in the universe.” ♦

For theater director Oliver Putnam’s apartment, “I literally emptied out my storage unit of theater books,” Murray says. “I have a whole collection of Stephen Sondheim LPs that all ended up in Oliver’s set.” The set also features posters from some of Putnam’s doomed Broadway productions; Murray came up with 30 titles, about 10 of which were brought to life as posters in the apartment. *Newark! Newark!*—production designer Curt Beech’s favorite—enjoys a place of prominence in the living room. It started as a joke but may not remain so: “I’ve written the lyrics to one song,” Murray says. “We’ll see what happens.”



LEGACY

IT WAS WRITTEN IN THE STARS

*Astrophysicist
Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar
(1910–95)
illuminated stellar evolution.*

BY MAUREEN SEARCY



Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar—child prodigy, predictor of black holes, Nobelist, and UChicago professor for nearly 60 years—often distilled his life into two sentences: “I left India and went to England in 1930. I returned to India in 1936 and married a girl who had been waiting for six years, came to Chicago, and lived happily thereafter.”

Chandrasekhar is best known for the earliest part of his career, when he determined the fate of massive stars and was betrayed by a mentor. Yet he spent the next six decades making equally influential breakthroughs in stellar structure and dynamics, and training a new generation of astrophysicists. He also faced discrimination and alienation, elided from the fairy-tale ending he liked to recount.

Chandra, as he was known, was born in 1910 in Lahore—then British India, now Pakistan—the third of 10 children. In *Chandra: A Biography of S. Chandrasekhar* (University of Chicago Press, 1990) his biographer Kameshwar C. Wali, a UChicago physicist in the late '60s, describes him as a mischievous child with an early aptitude for math.

Chandra didn't attend traditional school until he was 11; prior to that he was taught by tutors and allowed to follow his intellectual interests. Regarded as a mathematics prodigy, he entered Presidency College in Madras at 15, where he gravitated toward physics. His precociousness recalled that of his uncle C. V. Raman, who went on to win the 1930 Nobel Prize in Physics for demonstrating quantum effects in the scattering of light.

At 17 Chandra spent the summer working in his uncle's lab, where early on he broke a crucial piece of equipment. Experimental physics was not in his future. But he befriended one of Raman's colleagues, who introduced him to the work of Arnold Sommerfeld, one of several theorists transforming physics through quantum mechanics. This group included Ralph H. Fowler, who helped Chandra publish a paper in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, the first of about 400 articles—and numerous books—in his lifetime.

Near the end of his undergraduate studies, Chandra was offered a special Government of India scholarship to study in England. In 1930 he set out for the University of Cambridge. While at sea on one leg of the voyage, reading physics publications to pass the time, the 19-year-old Chandra famously arrived at his Nobel-winning insight.

Sixty-eight years earlier, astronomers had first observed a white dwarf: the small, hot, extremely dense remnant left after a star burns through its fuel. But it didn't make sense—such an object shouldn't be able to resist its own gravity and should have collapsed. Fowler, Chandra's soon-to-be PhD adviser at Cambridge, solved the puzzle using quantum theory to explain the phenomenon.

Chandra's maritime math took Fowler's explanation a step further, calculating that the physics stabilizing ultra-dense white dwarfs worked only up to a point. Over a certain mass, a dying star in fact could not overcome gravity

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar spent 27 years working and living on the grounds of Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wisconsin.

and would collapse into some incomprehensibly dense object (what we now call a neutron star) or maybe even an infinitely dense point (a black hole). That upper boundary, later named the Chandrasekhar limit, is about 1.4 times the mass of our sun.

His work built on Fowler's research and that of Cambridge astronomer Arthur Eddington, who believed all stars were destined to become white dwarfs. As Chandra refined his calculations over four years in England, Eddington regularly dropped by to see how the work was progressing. When Chandra was ready to present his findings at the Royal Astronomical Society meeting in 1935, Eddington arranged for Chandra to have double the customary 15 minutes and scheduled his own presentation to immediately follow. When Chandra finished, Eddington ridiculed the young astrophysicist's conclusion, publicly humiliating him.

In private, some colleagues reassured Chandra, but it would be more than 20 years before his limit was widely accepted. In one of his final interviews, he reflected on the incident: "Suppose Eddington, instead of finding that I was wrong, had instead said, 'What you have done is very important.' ... Given Eddington's reputation, he could have made me instantly a very well-known person." But enjoying such early prominence, he said, could have diverted his research. "You lose your motivation to continue doing science."

"The Eddington factor had the effect of closing the doors in England," writes Eugene Parker, Chandra's UChicago colleague and the discoverer of solar wind. (Parker wrote a biography for the National Academy of Sciences after Chandra's death from heart failure in 1995.) His father suggested returning home, but Chandra "found himself increasingly out of sympathy with the political nature of academia in India."

Chandra was invited to lecture for a few months at Harvard in early 1936. While he was there, the director of UChicago's Yerkes Observatory, Otto Struve, PhD'23, offered him a position as research associate, with the promise of a tenure-track appointment at the University after a year. Harvard also offered a faculty position, but Struve was doing something new. He was recruiting "theoretical astrophysicists, a very rare breed in the United States" in those years, writes one of Chandra's graduate students, Donald Osterbrock, PhD'48, SB'48, SM'49, PhD'52, in a brief history of Chandra's time at Yerkes. Struve was merging theory and observational astronomy; he was also recruiting two of Chandra's friends.

Against his father's wishes, Chandra agreed to settle across the pond. But first he returned to India to see about a girl.

Chandra had been corresponding with his future wife for six years. They had been immediately drawn to one another, but their long-distance courtship was filled with uncertainty.

Chandra first met Lalitha in an honors physics course at Presidency College. Born Doraiswamy Lalithambal, she came from a family of educated women—uncommon in India at the time. Early marriage was out of the question for Lalitha and her female siblings and cousins. She would earn her master's in physics first. In an autobiographical essay, she describes her love of physics as stemming from her interest in Marie Curie and the excitement in India over C. V. Raman's Nobel Prize.

Lalitha had "noticed with interest the young man with a crew cut, always sitting behind her in the second row," writes Wali. She asked him if she could see his laboratory record book, and he readily agreed. They shared the notebook from then on; at a party, Chandra gave her a rose. Days before he left for England, Chandra visited Lalitha's home with books she'd requested; they sat in awkward silence until her family joined them.

At Cambridge he ventured an apprehensive letter: "Dear Miss Lalitha, I was for a long time hesitating whether I should allow myself the liberty of writing to you particularly as I am anxious not to displease you in any manner possible." Encouraged by her swift reply, he wrote back without delay. Formalities turned to "sweet darling," talk of physics turned to love, and soon they were engaged.

But in the spring of 1935, amid the dilemma of whether to move to America, Chandra told his father that he "realized that my relation with Lalitha was purely illusionary and that I really had not known her at all." He had broken off the engagement.

A year later, before moving to Yerkes, Chandra visited India. He met with Lalitha to talk things over, and his decision to indefinitely postpone marriage "wilted away rather suddenly," writes Wali. "She was more than a dream, she was quite real."

They wed within a month—entering into a "love marriage," unusual in their time—and soon moved to Williams Bay, Wisconsin, where Yerkes is located. Lalitha attended lectures at the observatory, and Chandra urged her to resume her physics research. "But I made the decision not to continue," she told Wali, because she couldn't devote all of her time. "Chandra had to give most of his time to his science. That is the way a scientist is made."

Formalities turned to "sweet darling," talk of physics turned to love, and soon they were engaged.



Subrahmanyan and Lalitha Chandrasekhar attend the 1939 dedication celebration of McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains of West Texas.

associate and been reappointed the next year as an assistant professor—with no salary increase—and remained thus for four years. The others had received funds and resources denied to him.

He had found it curious that his research associate offer came directly from Robert Maynard Hutchins. “Such an appointment,” said Chandra, “does not normally need the intervention of the president of the university.” Wali notes that in the early 1960s—long past his presidency—Hutchins gave a lecture about racial strife at UChicago that explained why. He described how the appointment of a leading theoretical astronomer had been opposed “because he was an Indian, and black.” (Hutchins often claimed the best thing he did for the University was appoint Chandra.)

The young astrophysicist had also been unaware that Henry Gale, AB 1896, PhD 1899, dean of the physical sciences, attempted to block him from lecturing on campus in 1938; once again, Hutchins intervened. Chandra and Lalitha had both faced racism in their personal lives, but he later admitted to naivete about its effects on his professional life. “I was not even aware that something impolite, something improper had been done to me,” he told Wali.

Shortly after the astronomy department “repudiated” Chandra, as Vandervoort described it, Enrico Fermi invited him to join the physics department. From that point on, Chandra taught physics almost exclusively. But he didn’t abandon astrophysics altogether; that same year he became managing editor of the *Astrophysical Journal*, and over the next 20 years almost single-handedly developed it into the field’s leading international publication.

During his career, Chandra advised at least 46 doctoral students and presided over 1,000 colloquia. He received 20 honorary degrees, was elected to 21 learned societies, and won several prominent awards, including the National Medal of Science and, in 1983, the Nobel Prize in Physics for the work he’d conducted 53 years before, as a young man at the very start of his journey.

When Chandra first proposed black holes, the idea was deemed absurd, UChicago astrophysicist **Daniel Holz**, SM’94, PhD’98, told the University podcast *Big Brains*. Even Albert Einstein—whose work seeded the idea of black holes—had doubts. But Chandra’s math was sound.

Over the decades, evidence of their existence emerged. In 2015 the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, of which Holz is a member, detected waves created by black holes colliding. **Andrea Ghez**, LAB’83, shared the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics for discovering a supermassive black hole by studying the movement of nearby stars. And the Event Horizon Telescope has released two pictures of black holes—Chandra’s unimaginable abstraction now plain to see. ♦

Chandra and Lalitha lived at Yerkes for 27 years. “If you were in Williams Bay,” said UChicago astrophysicist and Chandra’s graduate student Peter Vandervoort, AB’54, SB’55, SM’56, PhD’60, in a 2017 interview, “you might as well be at the South Pole. Small towns in southern Wisconsin are not exactly the natural homes of academicians.” But nearly all of UChicago’s astronomy department worked there and lived in University-owned houses on the observatory’s grounds.

When Chandra was recruited, Struve was restructuring the astronomy graduate program to include more physics. He increased the coursework at the observatory, and Chandra did the bulk of his teaching there. His lectures followed his research: stellar interiors and atmospheres, stellar dynamics, and molecular spectroscopy.

The lectures were “formal and highly mathematical,” writes Osterbrock—organized, logical, eloquent. “There was a kind of cadence, a rhythm and music, to his lectures,” said Vandervoort. At the same time, Chandra was known to have little patience: “Frivolous questions from people who did not appear to have studied the material thoroughly,” said Carl Sagan, AB’54, SB’55, SM’56, PhD’60, “were dealt with in the manner of a summary execution.”

Chandra taught astrophysics for 15 years, but in 1952, the astronomy department revised its curriculum—which he had largely designed—effectively removing him. For the second time in his career, Wali notes, Chandra felt humiliated. “Most astronomers did not have very much appreciation for theoretical work of the type that Chandra did,” said Vandervoort. He “had a sense of being largely rejected by the astronomical community.”

The disaffection between Chandra and his colleagues grew, and he reexamined his early residency at Yerkes from a new perspective. His fellow recruits had been appointed assistant professors immediately and promoted the following year with tenure. Yet Chandra had started as a research

PEER REVIEW

WHAT ALUMNI ARE THINKING AND DOING

METALHEADS

This 1953 photo shows Charles S. Barrett, PhD'28, in his laboratory at the UChicago Institute for the Study of Metals (now the James Franck Institute). A research professor of metallurgy at the University for 25 years, Barrett was a pioneer in using X-ray diffraction and electron microscopy to analyze the structure of metals.

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CALLED TO THE GAME

Lessons from a life of bridge.

BY BOB LEVEY, AB'66

The University of Chicago has given me many things. A degree that makes people go, “Ooooooh.” A grade point average that makes people go, “That bad?” Deep respect for ideas, rigor, and black coffee, not necessarily in that order.

And ... bridge.

No, not the kind that carries roads over gullies. The famous card game. Which I learned to play in the late lamented Pierce Tower in 1963.

On a cold winter's night, the clock was about to strike midnight. I was trying (and mostly failing) to read a textbook in my room.

From down the hall, a voice belled: “We need a fourth for bridge!”

That sounded like more fun than studying (it still does). I had never played before. I pulled up a piece of mattress alongside a shipping trunk and unfurled the 13 cards I had been dealt. I've been unfurling ever since.

After 60 years of bidding slams and finessing for queens, these are my credentials: National champion. Thirty-one-time regional champion. Holder of nearly 10,000 master points (only a few hundred players have ever amassed more).

I write about bridge, teach it, sometimes play it professionally. At 3 a.m., when she feels me stir, my wife is likely to say: “Stop thinking about the hand you blew and go back to sleep.”

“Yes, dear,” I will reply, dutifully. But I won't reenter dreamland until I reconstruct and replay the horror hand from memory, card by card. Sometimes twice.

So many nonplayers think that success at bridge is all about math. Learn the odds and you'll soar. In fact, this truism needs to be turned upside down. Yes, fail to master the math piece and you will certainly fail. But overall success depends just as heavily on a spry memory and that elusive quality called table feel.

Your opponents often sprout inadvertent tics—a curl of the eyebrow, a nervous lick of the lips—when the pressure is on. To experienced players,

**From down
the hall,
a voice bellowed:
“We need a fourth
for bridge!”**

these tells are as comprehensive as the textbook I once lugged to Humanities I.

Recognizing tells is also famously part of a poker player's arsenal. But the similarity between the two games ends there.

There's no betting in tournament bridge. Uttering so much as a sound is forbidden. To kibitz a table at a serious

tournament is to wonder whether the four players are drawing breath—that's how stone-faced and locked-in they are.

Bridge has produced some of the more epic, antic true stories I've ever heard.

Story one: At a large tournament in Pennsylvania, a top-line player failed in a contract he could have made. He punched a wall. His hand crumpled into a bloody mess. He was driven to a nearby emergency room.

The doctor asked what happened. “Well, I had five spades to the king, three clubs to the ten ...,” the man began.

Story two: A very accomplished—and very bridge-obsessed—couple retired to their hotel room after an evening bridge session in New York. “Darling,” said the man, “do you want to make love first or discuss the hands first?” (Both people verify the story—for those who care, bridge discussion went first.)

Story three: At a home match in the 1930s between two couples, one husband was ragging on his wife unmercifully. Nothing she could do was right. He kept it up for more than an hour.

Finally, she excused herself, went to her bedroom, fetched a pistol, and shot her husband dead.

The jury acquitted!

Why bridge and not hearts or canasta? Because bridge demands (and rewards) total attention and total stamina. Luck is very much secondary.

National events have been lost in the 16th hour when a player blanked briefly and couldn't remember whether his



era players began to die off. Younger people have not replaced them, especially Gen Zers, partly because they clog their heads with video games, partly because they are busy with school, sports, and so much else. Meanwhile, the pandemic has driven a stake through in-person bridge. Attendance has not returned to anywhere near previous levels. It may never.

Then there's the length of the bridge runway. As a fellow teacher says when he opens yet another beginner's class: "You will all be bad at bridge for a long time."

But then ...

A newbie bids a grand slam (all 13 tricks) for the first time and brings it home. Nice!

He doubles the opponents and defeats their contract, collecting a hefty 800 points. Cool!

Meanwhile, a grizzled vet lounges around the scorer's table after the final session of a national tournament, sensing that he has a chance. Suddenly, one of his pals calls out: "Hey, you won!"

That happened to me in Reno, Nevada, in 2010. A national title! My beaming partner—also an apparent adult—grabbed me by the shoulders. I grabbed him by his. We proceeded to bunny-hop around the hotel ballroom like deranged pop-up toys. No one who saw us had to ask why.

Yes, I could have been curing cancer all these years. I could have written more books, volunteered more often, helped more old ladies cross the street.

But something inside me bubbles up with pleasure when a fellow player asks if I have a second, and begins: "Tell me what you'd bid. You hold four spades to the ace-jack, three hearts to the king ..." ♦

Bob Levey, AB'66, is a retired columnist for the *Washington Post*. He had prize-winning parallel careers as a radio and television personality. He has taught journalism at six universities. President of the University of Chicago Alumni Association (now the Alumni Board) from 1998 to 2000, he currently serves as a trustee at Montgomery (MD) College.

partner had played the five of spades or the six. As we bridgies get older—I promise you, we all have, do, and will—the ability to summon maximum brainpower is a comfort and a touchstone.

Also, a medical plus: bridge literature is stuffed with articles by doctors who have detected relatively lower rates of dementia and Alzheimer's among those who play.

At late-night post-tournament sessions around the bar, bridge players love to debate the deeper meaning of the game. What lessons does it teach? What, if anything, makes a bridge player a better person?

The answer, for this addict, is easy. Bridge is always played with a partner. How you treat that humanoid across

the table, and how he treats you, is central to success. Building collaborations is a life skill, for sure.

When constructing a serious partnership, two people will often spend hours agreeing on a system of special-coded bids. My favorite partner and I play 47 "conventions"—bids that are legal but often artificial and that describe something very specific.

For instance, if one of us opens the bidding with four diamonds, we're not saying anything about diamonds. We're indicating a hand with at least seven good hearts and an ace in one of the three other suits. It's not cheating. It's just better preparation.

Alas, bridge has suffered a decline in recent years. Committed World War II-

NOTES

A SELECTION OF ALUMNI WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE NEWS

AMA GOES MAROON

In June anesthesiologist and Navy combat veteran **Jesse Ehrenfeld**, MD'04, was voted president-elect of the American Medical Association. Ehrenfeld is a practicing anesthesiologist, senior associate dean, and tenured professor of anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he leads the largest statewide health philanthropy, the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment. Ehrenfeld has coauthored 18 textbooks and is the editor in chief of the *Journal of Medical Systems*. Elected to the AMA Board of Trustees in 2014, Ehrenfeld served as chair from 2019 to 2020; he will become AMA president in June 2023—the first openly gay person to hold the office.

GLOBAL GROWTH

Krishnamurthy Subramanian, MBA'05, PhD'05, was appointed by the government of India as the executive director for India on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)—a United Nations agency with 190 member countries that promotes international financial stability and monetary cooperation. A professor of finance at the Indian School of Business, Subramanian previously served as the chief economic adviser to the government of India from 2018 to 2021. Before earning his PhD, which focused on financial economics, Subramanian worked as a consultant with JPMorgan Chase in Chicago. His three-year term at IMF began in November.

EIGHT UNDER 40

UChicago and Laboratory Schools alumni make up a fifth of the *Crain's Chicago Business* 40 Under 40 Class of 2022, honored for being “wildly accomplished and poised to do even bigger things.” This year's cohort includes: **Drew Louis Beres**, MPP'07; **Pranav Gokhale**, SM'19, PhD'20; **Daniel K. Hertz**, MPP'15; **Michael N. LaVitola**, MBA'14; **John Oxtoby**, LAB'03; **Cristina Rohr**, MBA'13; **Chad N. Strader**, MBA'15; and **Sameer S. Vohra**, AM'15.

MAKING A (PRINTER'S) MARK

In September publishing veteran **Gretchen Young**, AB'84, AM'84,



A PODCAST OF THEIR OWN

Majel Connery, AM'04, PhD'13, coproduced and hosted a new interview podcast called *A Music of Their Own*. In the NPR Network podcast, Connery—a vocalist, composer, and former musicologist—explores the resolve required for women to succeed in the male-dominated music industry. Through stories and discussions with female-identifying composers, artists, and creators, the series highlights the need for gender parity in music. Connery, who makes “electro-art-dream-pop with repressed Classical influences,” recently finished a 42-city tour as the singer in art-rock band Sky Creature. All six episodes of the first season, which focuses on classical music, were released in December.

launched a stand-alone imprint of Post Hill Press called Regalo Press. The imprint, distributed by Simon and Schuster, will feature a range of genres, including memoir, pop culture, sports, social justice, humor, female empowerment, and fiction. What the titles have in common: each will directly benefit a charity or cause important to the author. (*Regalo* means “gift” in Spanish and Italian, explains Young, who holds degrees in Romance languages and literatures.) Young spent the past 10 years as vice president and executive editor at Grand Central Publishing; before that, she launched the ESPN imprint at Hyperion Books.

HAIL! TO THE ONO VALIANT

Santa Ono, AB'84, a biomedical researcher and former president and vice chancellor of the University of British Columbia, became the 15th president of the University of Michigan in October. Ono, whose research focuses on the immune system and eye disease, is the first Asian American to lead the University of Michigan. He has held higher education leadership positions in the United States and Canada, where he prioritized sustainability; accessibility and affordability; strong advocacy for mental health; and an open communication style.

—Maureen Searcy

Photography by Boris Harss

RELEASES

ALUMNI BOOKS, FILMS, AND RECORDINGS



COLLABORATIVE CRISIS MANAGEMENT: PREPARE, EXECUTE, RECOVER, REPEAT

By Thomas A. Cole, JD'75, and Paul Verbinnen; University of Chicago Press, 2022

Crises happen. To deal with the inevitable, lawyer and UChicago trustee **Thomas A. Cole** and communications consultant Paul Verbinnen have teamed up to produce a primer on managing crises successfully—from anticipation to resolution. Drawing on real-world examples of corporate disasters, the authors share lessons from crises that they witnessed up close or observed from afar.

THE TOMORROW GAME: RIVAL TEENAGERS, THEIR RACE FOR A GUN, AND A COMMUNITY UNITED TO SAVE THEM

By Sudhir Venkatesh, AM'92, PhD'97; Simon and Schuster, 2022

Columbia University sociologist **Sudhir Venkatesh** chronicles how members of a South Side Chicago community united to protect a group of teenagers from gun violence. The true story follows young people from rival crews who reach for

guns as a conflict escalates. Venkatesh gives voice to the teens and other players—parents, gun dealers, clergy, and police—to reveal intersections between poverty and gun violence and how both upend lives and communities.

WHAT WOMAN THAT WAS: POEMS FOR MARY DYER

By Anne Myles, AM'86, PhD'93; Final Thursday Press, 2022

In 1660 Mary Dyer was hanged in Puritan Boston for her Quaker religious beliefs and missionary zeal. She speaks again in this debut poetry collection by **Anne Myles**, an emeritus professor of English at the University of Northern Iowa. Bringing together history and imagination, the 28 poems move between Dyer's voice and Myles's and explore timely themes including gender, power, faith, and courage in the face of persecution.

BLUE JEANS

By Carolyn Purnell, AM'07, PhD'13; Bloomsbury Academic, 2023

Blue jeans, historian **Carolyn Purnell** argues, are both simple and contradictory. Levi Strauss & Co. released the

denim work pants for miners in the 1870s, but today they're a fashion staple. At once an American symbol and a global consumer product, jeans come in styles to fit toddlers, moms, and presidents. Purnell's history is a new installment of *Object Lessons*, a series about the hidden lives of ordinary things.

UNRAVELING TIME: THIRTY YEARS OF ETHNOGRAPHY IN CUENCA, ECUADOR

By Ann Miles, AB'81; University of Texas Press, 2022

For more than 30 years, Western Michigan University sociology professor **Ann Miles** has documented life in Cuenca, Ecuador, a rapidly changing regional capital. Rural migrants and tourists have arrived while longtime residents have moved abroad for work. New roads and cell phones connect people, the city center has gentrified, and remittances from overseas have had both positive and negative effects. In what she calls an "ethnography of accrual," Miles reveals the complex dynamics that transformed a city.

—Elizabeth Station

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

UCHICAGO ALUMNI AWARDS

The *Magazine* is delighted to present the 2023 Alumni Award recipients. A celebration of their achievements is planned for Alumni Weekend, May 18–21, 2023.

ALUMNI MEDAL

For achievement of an exceptional nature in any field, vocational or voluntary, covering an entire career



PHILIP GLASS, AB'56

Composer

"You know Philip Glass's work even if you don't realize it. Once you listen to his music, you'll always recognize it, even when he tries something new—that's the brilliance of Philip Glass. His career is as multifaceted as the College's Core Curriculum: a blend of humanities and math, an artistic approach that embraces critical inquiry, debate, and analytical thinking."

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For outstanding achievement in any professional field



LESLIE BLUHM, JD'89

Social entrepreneur and cofounder of Chicago Cares, the city's leading volunteer service organization

"Leslie has dedicated her life to public service—pausing her own career to become

a social entrepreneur who empowers people, nonprofit organizations, and communities to tackle complex challenges through service. Her influence and impact have stretched the globe from her hometown of Chicago all the way to Kenya."



EUGENE NARMOUR, PHD'74

Edmund J. Kahn

Distinguished Professor

Emeritus of Music at the University of Pennsylvania

"His work has touched on every corner of musical experience—melody, rhythm, meter, harmony, orchestration and timbre, dissonance, emotion, and so on—as well as how our understanding of music might inform studies of other phenomena such as visual art. His rigorous intellect and demanding yet loving presence have helped shape some of the most prominent scholars in music theory and music cognition."



KEN ONO, AB'89

STEM advisor to the provost and Marvin Rosenblum Professor of Mathematics at the University of Virginia

"Ken is deeply passionate about promoting unknown or unsung heroes in math, particularly underrepresented minorities and women. He also uses his expertise to help the US swim team train its athletes. Ken embodies the University of Chicago's passion for learning, for diving deep, and for making previously unseen connections obvious to others. He reminds me of Carl Sagan, AB'54, SB'55, SM'56, PhD'60, in that he is making very complex concepts in math accessible to broader audiences."



AMANDA WILLIAMS, LAB'92

Visual artist and architect

"Amanda is a pioneering artist and leading voice at the intersection of art and design in the public realm. Her practice of exploring the communal and social implications of art and architecture has led to a reconsideration of the centrality of identity to how space is organized. Amanda is using her art to draw attention to the lack of investment in African American communities around Chicago and to invite viewers to consider the social, political, and racial narratives that support their devaluation."

EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For professional achievement or creative leadership by alumni who have graduated within the last 20 years



NAFTALI HARRIS, AB'12

Cofounder and CEO of SentiLink, an identity verification technology company

"Naftali's company SentiLink solved the growing problem of synthetic identity fraud, which costs financial institutions \$6 billion a year. He and his team developed the vision and platform to solve this fraud from the ground up."



ARNAV DALMIA, AB'13, and SHIVANI JAIN, AB'13
Cofounders of Cubii, a health and wellness company

"Cubii is UChicago through and through. It was born from the life of the mind while Arnav and Shivani were students. In the early days they were rejected time and time again from traditional means of funding, but like true UChicago students, they embraced the challenge. Cubii is of course something that would

be founded by a UChicago student—it's a workout someone can do while sitting at their desk or a table in the Reg!"



ZEBHA KHAN, AB'03, AM'03

Deputy editorial page editor at the San Francisco Chronicle

"I don't think I have ever met anyone with Zeba's enthusiasm and passion for justice, combined with the savvy to follow through with purposeful action. She has been and continues to be a leader in the Muslim American community, a writer whose viral work captures the attention of politicians and policy makers, and an inspirational facilitator with those finding their voice."

ALUMNI SERVICE MEDAL

For extended, extraordinary service to the University



DOUG JACKMAN, AB'89, MBA'95

Former Alumni Board officer, College reunion cochair, and 2005 Alumni Service Award recipient with 34 years of volunteer service to UChicago
"Doug's service to the University began in our senior year when he spearheaded the effort to raise money for our class gift. He has chaired our reunion committees and served on the Alumni Board, and he and his wife have established an Odyssey Scholarship. Doug bleeds maroon! He is always thinking of the University of Chicago and works tirelessly on the University's behalf."

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

For outstanding service to the University



EDDIE LAU, AB'02

President of the Alumni Club of Hong Kong with 18 years of volunteer service to UChicago

"Eddie was elected as the president of the Alumni Club of Hong Kong to rejuvenate the local alumni community. He was proactive in engaging University staff to ensure the University and local communities are better connected. He also organized, sponsored, and participated in alumni and University events, including alumni engagement, admission, and career advancement, as well as academic exchange."



DON PHILLIPS, AM'86, CER'17

Managing director for Morningstar

"Don was energized by his experience in the Graham School's Basic Program in the Liberal Arts and, upon completing the program in 2017, he began serving as an active volunteer to bring the certificate program to more learners. His first step was bringing this opportunity to his own company, Morningstar. Don worked closely with Graham School instructors to adapt core elements of the program to offer a distinctive liberal arts education to Morningstar employees. That partnership continues to this day."

YOUNG ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

For service to the University by alumni who have graduated within the last 15 years



ELIZABETH MILLER, AB'16

President of the Chicago Women's Alliance and UChicago Magazine correspondent for the Class of 2016

"Elizabeth is engaged, critical, kind, and downright fun to collaborate with. Common across all her volunteer areas is the ability to be a partner and bridge builder: among staff, fellow peer volunteers, and current students whom she mentors, and across generations, experiences, and interests. In such a short amount of time, she has already trailblazed and served as a model for others in the UChicago community."

NORMAN MACLEAN FACULTY AWARD

For extraordinary contributions to teaching and student life by emeritus or very senior faculty



FREDERICK A. DE ARMAS

Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor in Romance Languages and Comparative Literature

"Professor de Armas is one of the most committed, knowledgeable, and inspirational professors I know. He is probably the most celebrated active scholar in the field of Golden

Age Spanish literature. That said, I am confident that his greatest impact in academia lies in his enduring mentoring of generations of alumni. Some even speak of an intellectual school of de Armas: a strong, intergenerational network of scholars influenced by his mentoring and characterized by a particular approach to literature and culture and the ability to build bridges between the American and the European academies."



DAVID STRAUSS

Gerald Ratner Distinguished Service Professor of Law and faculty director of the Supreme Court and Appellate Clinic

"What makes David really remarkable is his extraordinary teaching, mentoring, and support of students. His teaching is second to none. A master of the Socratic method, he artfully leads students through classroom dialogues in a uniquely David way that is subtle, affirming, and confidence building. He is thoughtful and generous in his feedback, and through all of this, his students grow into rigorous thinkers and top-notch advocates."



These excerpts from the awardees' nominations have been lightly edited. Find awardees' complete biographies and nominate someone for a future award at mag.uchicago.edu/alumniawards.

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.



Women of letters: Residents of Phoenix House, a women's housing community in the 1940s, eagerly collect their mail in 1944. All University housing was single sex until the opening of New Dorm (later Woodward Court) in 1958, where women and men lived on separate floors, but under very different rules. Unlike their male classmates, female residents were subject to curfews (called "women's hours") and required to clean their own rooms (male students' rooms were professionally cleaned each week). Restrictions such as curfews and limited coed visiting hours remained until the 1970s. Since 2011 the first undergraduate housing community in International House has borne the name "Phoenix House." (UChicago Photographic Archive, apf4-02895, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

What's new? We are always eager to receive your news, care of the Alumni News Editor, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615, or by email: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. No engagements, please. Items may be edited for space. 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.



Smooth operator: In this 1950 photo, an audio engineer with the “music for surgery” program (introduced in 1947) prepares the day’s selections in the duonetic recorder room that served the UChicago hospital system’s six major operating rooms and six preparation rooms. Music provided a soothing supplement to spinal, local, or regional anesthesia. The innovation had the added benefit of shielding patients from surgeons’ conversations during operations. Patients listened to their choice of “classical, semi-classical, or popular music.” (Children’s songs and stories were available for younger patients.) Would you rather listen to “Rag Mop” or “If I Knew You Were Comin’ I’d’ve Baked a Cake” during your appendectomy? (You don’t really need to share your answer with us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.) (Photography by Town & Country Photographers, UChicago Photographic Archive, apf3-01138, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

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Knights of the square table: Students play chess in a common room of what was first dubbed the new men's residence hall ("New Dorm" was already taken) in 1960, the year it opened. Officially named Pierce Hall in the spring of 1961, the residence hall was a home away from home for more than five decades of students until its demolition in 2013. In its place today stands Campus North, designed by innovative Chicago architect Jeanne Gang. What were common spaces in Pierce all about when you lived there? Write us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Photography by Albert C. Flores, EX'62; UChicago Photographic Archive, apf4-03440, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

We write histories of families

Contact Matt Nickerson '88
through
PrivateHistorian.net



Beyond Barbarella: Jane Fonda spoke at UChicago in 1971 in protest of the Vietnam War. Students crowded into Cobb Hall's Quantrell Auditorium for the event. The auditorium housed Doc Films at the time, and the chalkboards behind Fonda displayed upcoming screenings, one of which was *Barbarella* (1968). As Paul Preston, AB'72, AM'73, recalled in a letter to the *Magazine*, Fonda was not pleased to give this talk surrounded by reminders of the sexy sci-fi film she'd starred in three years before. When a student challenged her on her continued Hollywood career, Fonda responded that she was "only ripping off Hollywood for every penny I can get"—pennies needed to fund causes she supported. (Photography by Bruce Rabe, AB'74; Copyright 2023, The Chicago Maroon. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)



Through rose-colored glass: In this 1982 class, students learned about making stained glass from UChicago electrical engineer Harry Bostrom. With his wife, Doris, Bostrom repaired stained glass windows and doors around campus, including those of Robie House and Judd Hall. Other courses in the “Eclectic Ed” series, sponsored by the Student Activities Office, included doll making, vegetarian cooking, playing the Irish tin whistle, belly dancing, yoga, and, of course, aerobics. Did you take any nontraditional classes at UChicago? Share your memories with us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (The more eclectic the better!) (Photograph by Anna Yamada, EX'84; Copyright 2023, *The Chicago Maroon*. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)




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Delicious debate: An excited crowd sets aside their differences after the 1994 Latke-Hamantash debate in Ida Noyes Hall. This past November, the debate returned in-person for the first time since 2019, filling Mandel Hall with merriment, ironclad arguments, and lots of noshes. What is the most memorable argument you heard in potato versus pastry debates of years past? What argument would you contribute to the debate? And, c'mon, you can tell us: What side are you on? Send your memories and opinions to uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. In the meantime, take a peek at Benjamin Lorch's (AB'93, AM'04) film project on the debate at latkevshamantash.com. (Photography by Richard Kornylak, AB'95; Copyright 2023, *The Chicago Maroon*. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)



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Rye2K: Time? The year 2000. Place? The sidewalk scene in front of Medici and University Market. A couple of years after this photo was taken, Medici opened its bakery; it's still there to this day. We hunger to know your usual Medici order: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Photography by Wes Pope. Hyde Park/Kenwood, image 112, 38198100122249_06. Comer Archive of Chicago in the Year 2000 (University of Illinois at Chicago).)

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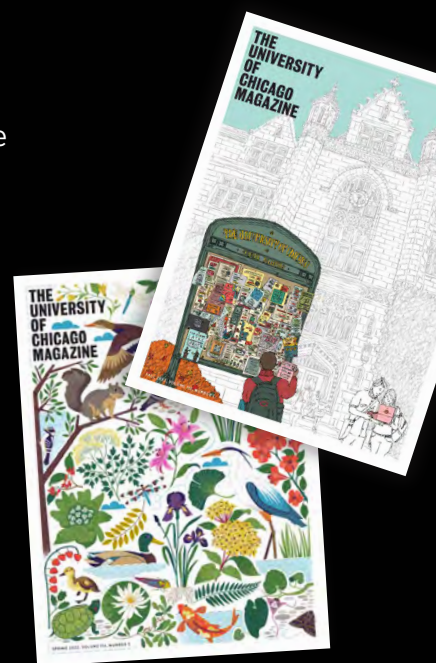


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DEATHS

FACULTY AND STAFF

Lester G. Telser, AM'53, PhD'56, professor emeritus in economics and the College, died September 3 in Chicago. He was 91. Telser grew up in Chicago during the Great Depression, a period that influenced his decision to study economics. After completing his dissertation under Milton Friedman, AM'33, he joined the UChicago faculty in 1958. Telser is best known for his pioneering work on core theory—a variant of game theory that involves groups of people, as opposed to individuals, working cooperatively to maximize their advantage. He also studied futures and forward markets as well as industrial organization. A generous teacher, Telser supervised more than 150 dissertation projects. He lived most of life in Hyde Park and was a classical music lover. He is survived by a daughter, **Tamar Schwartz**, LAB'79; a son, **Joshua Telser**, LAB'75; a brother, **Alvin Telser**, SB'61, PhD'68; and two grandchildren.

Janel M. Mueller, the William Rainey Harper Professor Emerita in English Language and Literature and former dean of the Humanities Division, died October 21 in Chicago. She was 83. Mueller joined the UChicago faculty in 1967. Over nearly four decades, she made her mark as a respected scholar, mentor, and administrator who became the first woman to serve as dean of a University division. Mueller's research focused on 16th-century English vernacular and translation, the poetry of John Donne and John Milton, and a range of English Reformation texts and topics. She edited or co-edited landmark editions of the writings of Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Katherine Parr, and John Donne. Among her many honors, Mueller won a 1982 Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and a 1998 Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring. Two eponymous UChicago awards recognize her contributions: the Humanities Division's Janel M. Mueller Award for Excellence in Pedagogy and the English department's Janel Mueller Thesis Prize. Mueller's husband, Ian B. Mueller, professor emeritus in philosophy, died in 2010. She is survived by her partner, Kenneth Johnston; two daughters, **Maria Mueller**, LAB'80, and **Monica West**, LAB'83; and two grandchildren.

1940s

Ruth Park Berkowitz, PhB'45, of Utica, NY, died November 3. She was 99. For many years, Berkowitz was a primary school teacher in the Utica City School District. A lover of the fine arts, theater, literature, and cinema, she served as a docent at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Art Institute. She is survived by two daughters, two sons, 10 grandchildren, and 31 great-grandchildren.

Mary Hortatsos, AB'45, of Chicago, died October 28. She was 96. Hortatsos was a passionate artist and musician, lifelong student, and devoted volunteer at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Architecture Center. She had a successful career in public relations and was listed in *Who's Who of American Women*. Survivors include a sister.

Everett E. Gendler, AB'48, died April 1 in Sarasota, FL. He was 93. A lifelong advocate of nonviolence and Jewish environmentalism, as a rabbi Gendler was known for encouraging American Jews to participate in the civil rights movement. He also wrote and lectured extensively on the Jewish duty to preserve the earth. Gendler studied philosophy and social work as a first-generation student in the College. Following his ordination in 1957, he served congregations in Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, and Princeton, NJ. As his commitment to activism grew, Gendler marched with Martin Luther King Jr. and members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Albany, Georgia, in 1962, where he, King, and 10 other rabbis were jailed for “public prayer without a license.” In 1971 he became rabbi at Temple Emanuel of the Merrimack Valley in Lowell, MA, and in 1976 started work as the first Jewish chaplain at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA, roles he held until his retirement in 1995. Relocating to Sarasota, he and his wife, Mary, traveled frequently to Dharamshala, India, where they helped establish a center that supports education on strategic nonviolent struggle for Tibetan exiles. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a sister, and five grandchildren, including **Alida Camper**, Class of 2026.

Lee C. Teng, SM'48, PhD'51, of Elmhurst, IL, died June 24. He was 95. A theoretical physicist, Teng contributed to particle accelerator-based projects around the globe. Born in Beijing, he studied physics at what is now Fu Jen Catholic University before immigrating to the United States in 1947. After completing his doctorate in physics—with a dissertation committee that included Enrico Fermi—Teng held academic positions at the University of Minnesota and Wichita State University. He was soon recruited to Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab, where he led an array of scientific projects. Teng served as the inaugural director of Taiwan's National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center; he also contributed to the design and operation of the zero-gradient synchrotron and Advanced Photon Source at Argonne, the entire accelerator complex at Fermilab, and the world's first hospital-based proton therapy machine at Loma Linda University. A fellow of the American Physical Society, Teng received the society's Robert Wilson Prize in 2007. An undergraduate internship program at Fermilab and Argonne named for Teng honors his contributions

to accelerator science and engineering. Survivors include his wife, **Nancy Lai-Shen Teng**, AM'64; a son; and a grandchild.

Charles C. Norcross Jr., AB'49, MBA'52, of Oakland, CA, died June 30. He was 93. After attending Chicago public schools and the University, Norcross served on active duty in the Marine Corps. For 28 years, including four years in Asia and two in Europe, he worked as an auditor for the US Department of the Navy and was later an auditor and accountant for the East Bay Regional Park District. Norcross and his wife, Mary, were fans of Oakland A's baseball, opera, and travel; he was also a weight lifter and gardener who studied French and German into his 80s. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, a stepdaughter, a stepson, and two grandchildren.

Juanita Benson, AB'49, of Livermore, CA, died April 16. She was 91. After earning a master's degree in mathematics from Hayward State College, Benson worked as a computer programmer at Sandia Laboratories for 27 years. In retirement she took pleasure in reading, being active outdoors, spending time with family, and participating in her church. She is survived by three daughters, one son, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

John Lee Westrate, AM'49, PhD'63, of Wayne, PA, died October 22. He was 100. During World War II, Westrate was an officer in the US Army Air Corps; he later worked in security and intelligence for the US Naval Air Forces. With his doctorate in political science—and dissertation on Herbert Hoover—he taught at four universities. Westrate served as a White House science adviser to five presidents and as a CEO and chair for the National Housing Corporation. He and his late wife, Judith, were active in the National Presbyterian Church. He is survived by two stepsons, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1950s

Helen Bloch Birenbaum, AB'50, died September 16 in Brooklyn Heights, NY. She was 91. Birenbaum dedicated her academic career to studying the use of computer technology in education, especially as a means of achieving economic parity. In 1988 she founded and directed the Stanton/Heiskell Center for Public Policy in Telecommunications and Information Systems, City University of New York Graduate Center. For many years she served on the board of the Women's City Club of New York/Women Creating Change and as a consultant to the New York City Partnership (Higher Education). She established a collection at the Library for the College of Staten Island, City University of New York, to document the career of her husband, William M. Birenbaum, JD'49, a former dean of students at UChicago who died in 2010. She is survived

by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Doris Jane Sommer-Rotenberg, AM'50, of Toronto, died April 21, 2020. She was 93. A graduate of the history of culture program in the Humanities Division, Sommer-Rotenberg was a writer, poet, and jewelry designer. In 1997 she initiated a campaign to establish an endowed research chair in suicide studies at the University of Toronto, the first of its kind in North America. The position honored her son, Arthur Sommer-Rotenberg, a physician who died by suicide after struggling with bipolar disorder. The Canadian government recognized her with a meritorious service medal in 2016. Survivors include three daughters and four grandchildren.

Leon "Lee" Warshay, AM'51, died September 18 in Royal Oak, MI. He was 94. The son of two Hebrew school-teachers, Warshay was 5 when his father, an ardent Zionist, moved the family from Cleveland to Israel. After his father died unexpectedly, the family settled in New York, where Warshay attended the Yeshiva of Flatbush and Brooklyn College. With graduate degrees in sociology from UChicago and the University of Minnesota, he taught for 45 years at Wayne State University. Warshay published two books and many articles, served as president of the Detroit Zionist Federation, and loved baseball, corny puns, and old-time Jewish jokes. He is survived by his wife, Diana; two sons; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Erl Dordal, AB'52, MD'56, of Mars, PA, died May 11. He was 94. Dordal was the valedictorian of his high school class in Larimore, ND. He came to the University to study physics and ended up attending medical school. A gastroenterologist, Dordal served on the faculty at UChicago and Northwestern University before becoming chief of the medical service at Chicago's Columbus-Cabrini Medical Center in 1976. In retirement he studied Egyptology, worked as a docent at the Oriental Institute Museum, and tutored in a Hyde Park adult literacy program. His first wife, Mildred Reinke Dordal, AM'53, died in 2001, and his second wife, Dorothy Powers, SM'52, died in 2021. He is survived by two daughters; two sons, including **Peter Dordal**, SM'78; a stepdaughter; a stepson; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Herbert F. Wass, AM'56, died October 24 in Oak Bluffs, MA. He was 90. Born in Indiana and educated at Earlham College, Wass worked as a journalist before studying economics at UChicago. He taught economics at what is now Muskingum University, the City College of New York, and the University of Vermont. From 1968 until his retirement in 1995, he served as vice president and secretary of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Wass was active in Topsfield, MA, civic life and in the arts community on Martha's Vineyard, the site of his family's cottage. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; two daughters; a sister; and four grandchildren.

Irving C. Carrig, AM'58, of Chicago, died August 31. He was 89. Carrig earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Notre Dame before studying political science at UChicago. He taught political philosophy and political science at several colleges, then learned computer programming in the 1970s. Working at the Illinois Department of Employment Security until his retirement, he developed the first automated unemployment benefits system. A longtime Hyde Park resident, Carrig enjoyed hiking, bird-watching, theater, and travel. He is survived by his wife, **Camille J. Carrig**, AM'71; three daughters, including **Therese Kristensen**, AB'84; two sons; 10 grandchildren, including **Kathleen R. Kristensen**, AB'18, and **Tom C. Kristensen**, AB'21; and two great-grandchildren.

Charles Moser Donaho, AM'59, of San Antonio, died October 13. She was 86. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Donaho taught English at several community colleges, including San Antonio College. Her great loves in life included her family, friends, literature, and traveling, especially in England. An active member of Alamo Heights United Methodist Church, Donaho served as a Stephen Minister and Bible study teacher. She is survived by her stepdaughter, nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

Sara Horne Harrington, AM'59, of Homewood, IL, died October 25. She was 92. Born in Georgia, Harrington graduated from Emory University as a registered nurse. Relocating to Chicago to study in the Social Sciences Division and teach pediatric nursing, she then settled with her family in Homewood in the mid-1960s. Her husband, Edward L. Harrington, SM'51, died in 2004. She is survived by four sons and six grandchildren.

1960s

Carl Dolnick, SB'60, SM'62, PhD'70, of Chicago, died August 28. He was 83. With three degrees in physics, Dolnick devoted much of his professional life to the field, working first at Fermilab and then at Argonne National Laboratory. His experience with computers led him to serve as an information technology consultant for several financial institutions. A lifelong learner in the sciences, Dolnick was also an artist whose paintings delighted friends and family. Survivors include his wife, Patricia Fay, and a brother.

Harlan R. Gephart, MD'61, of Woodinville, WA, died May 15. He was 86. A pediatrician, Gephart was an early proponent of providing mental health services in pediatric primary care. He pioneered the specialty of treating children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, authoring a book on the subject. Active with the American Board of Pediatrics, he served on its board of directors from 1996 to 2002 and was emeritus clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington Medical School. Survivors include his wife, Kathy.

Anthony Gottlieb, MD'61, died June 23 in Denver. He was 86. After attending what is now the Pritzker School of Medicine and completing his internship at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Gottlieb served for two years as a medical officer in the US Army, stationed in Japan. He then completed his residency in psychiatry and moved to Denver, where he practiced for more than 45 years. He is survived by his wife, Katy Dealy; three children; a brother, **Paul Gottlieb**, MBA'73; and four grandchildren.

Evelyn Marsh, LAB'61, AB'66, of Chicago, died August 1. She was 78. The daughter of refugees from Nazi Germany, Marsh grew up in Hyde Park and attended the Laboratory Schools, where she met her future husband, **Gerald Marsh**, SB'62, SM'65. With her philosophy degree, she worked as a systems analyst in the nascent computing industry. She also played the violin in chamber groups. In her 50s—after helping build a database for war crimes in Bosnia at DePaul University's International Human Rights Law Institute—Marsh decided to go to law school. She successfully represented many asylum seekers as an immigration lawyer and was admitted to the Bar of the US Supreme Court in 2013. She is survived by her husband; sons **Adam Marsh**, LAB'85, and **Loren Marsh**, LAB'87; a sister; and three grandchildren.

Charles G. Staples, AM'61, died August 16 in Chicago. He was 92. A resident of Hyde Park for six decades and longtime member of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago, Staples was active in several civic organizations. After studying fine arts at Marlboro College and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, he completed a master's degree in social work and embarked on a 25-year career with the Chicago Public Schools. In the 1960s and '70s, Staples led a successful campaign to save the city's historic central library building—now the home of the Chicago Cultural Center—from demolition. He later served as a volunteer greeter and tour docent in the preserved building, and in 2017 he was recognized for his preservation efforts by Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs as well as Landmarks Illinois. Staples also volunteered with the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization and enjoyed classical music, hiking, and travel. Survivors include his wife, Joan.

Ira J. Fistell, LAB'58, AB'62, JD'64, died September 26 in Bala Cynwyd, PA. He was 81. Fistell pursued a successful career in radio broadcasting, working as an on-air personality in Madison, WI, and then at KABC in Los Angeles for more than two decades. He also worked for three years at the national Talk America Radio Network and edited the *LA Jewish News* for a year. In addition to educating his listeners, he taught at the University of Phoenix and Concord Prep High School in Santa Monica, CA. Survivors include his partner, **Rachel Berg**, LAB'58, AB'62, AM'63, PhD'72, and a daughter.

George A. Drake, DB'62, AM'63, PhD'65, died October 15 in Grinnell, IA. He was 88.

A graduate of Grinnell College, Drake was the school's first alumnus president, serving from 1979 to 1991. After studying in Paris and Oxford during the late 1950s as a Fulbright and Rhodes Scholar, respectively, Drake came to Chicago to pursue a seminary degree and ended up getting a doctorate in church history at UChicago. He taught at Colorado College before returning to Grinnell as a trustee, president, and professor. He and his wife, Sue, joined the Peace Corps in Lesotho after his presidency, and in 1993, Drake returned to Grinnell and taught history for a decade. In retirement he taught in the school's Liberal Arts in Prison Program at Newton Correctional Facility and volunteered with local community organizations. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.

Richard L. Hoard, MBA'63, of Madison, WI, died October 24. He was 86. After earning an undergraduate degree in engineering, Hoard pursued a career in business and lived in Illinois, Kansas, and New Jersey with his family. Retiring first to Charlotte, NC, he volunteered for 20 years at Roof Above, an organization focused on ending homelessness. Hoard and his wife, Sandy, moved to Wisconsin in 2020. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, a son, a brother, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

George F. Voris III, MBA'63, died in New Canaan, CT, on October 15. He was 83. Born on the South Side of Chicago, Voris studied the great books as an undergraduate at the University of Notre Dame. He attended Chicago Booth before serving in South Korea as a US Army intelligence officer. A political appointment brought him to Washington, DC, where he worked in government and later launched a career in commercial real estate. A lover of books, art, geography, and maps, Voris also enjoyed sports. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; a daughter; a son; a sister; three brothers; and five grandchildren.

Margaret Gallwey Farrell, JD'64, of Washington, DC, died October 10. She was 83. With her BA in government from Cornell, Farrell began law school at Yale University before graduating from the UChicago Law School. She was a member of the Washington, DC, Bar Association for 53 years and was active in the community of Somerset, MD. She lived, worked, and traveled in more than 50 countries around the world. Highlights of Farrell's legal career included working with Covington and Burling and the Mental Health Law Project, serving as a US Supreme Court Fellow and a special master in a federal case, and teaching law at Yale, the University of Virginia, Yeshiva University, Widener University, and American University. She is survived by two daughters, two sons, a sister, and five grandchildren.

E. Graham Evans Jr., SM'65, PhD'69, of Urbana, IL, died March 20, 2021. He was 78. For more than 30 years, Evans taught mathematics at the University of Illinois Urbana-

Champaign, focusing his research on commutative rings and the study of free resolutions of modules. He served as managing editor of the *Illinois Journal of Mathematics* and director of undergraduate studies in the math department, receiving campus awards for excellence in teaching and advising. Evans enjoyed travel and cooking meals for his family, friends, and students. He is survived by two sons, a sister, and a grandchild.

Judy Victoria Jones, AM'65, died February 20, 2022, in Norwich, England. She was 80. Born in Venezuela, she earned her bachelor's degree at Western College for Women in Ohio. While pursuing graduate studies in English literature, Jones met **Eric Homberger**, AM'65. They wed two years later in New York City, while she was working in the publicity department at Alfred A. Knopf, and moved to England. At the University of Cambridge Jones worked in the English Faculty Library, where she discovered an unpublished manuscript by Sylvia Plath. The couple settled in Norwich in 1970. She is survived by her husband, three children, and eight grandchildren.

Marcia Earlenbaugh, AB'66, of Colorado Springs, CO, died October 23. She was 78. Earlenbaugh loved to learn—about people, cultures, music, the natural world, metaphysics, actual physics, and more. A writer and artist, she was active on issues of human potential, equality, and environmentalism. Survivors include a daughter and a sister.

John Dale Apel, PhD'66, died November 15 in Lindsborg, KS. He was 93. Raised on Kansas farms, Apel returned to his native state after earning his PhD, continuing what would be more than a 45-year career with the 4-H Foundation and the Kansas State University Research and Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. In retirement Apel enjoyed doing genealogical research, attending the theater, supporting the Kansas City Chiefs, and participating in his church. Survivors include a daughter, two sons, and six grandchildren.

Robert L. Bayler, EX'67, of Elgin, IL, died July 19. He was 88. Bayler attended college and seminary in Pennsylvania and Missouri, where he and his wife, Lavon, studied together. After their ordination in the United Church of Christ, they accepted a copastorate of four churches in rural Ohio. Attending UChicago on a Rockefeller Fellowship, Bayler particularly enjoyed seminars held in the apartment of theologian Paul Tillich. He later became a teaching chaplain at Elgin State Hospital, worked for the Illinois Department of Mental Health, and served as chaplain and community relations representative at Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, IL. A voracious reader, Bayler was also an artist, carpenter, and community volunteer. He is survived by his wife, three sons, a sister, a brother, and four grandchildren.

Nakho Sung, SM'67, of Lexington, MA, died October 22. He was 82. Sung was a professor of chemical and biological engineering at Tufts University for 35 years.

With degrees from Seoul National University, UChicago, and MIT, he published more than 100 technical papers, edited a book, held multiple patents, and supervised dozens of students. A specialist in polymer science and engineering, Sung founded the Laboratory for Materials and Interfaces at Tufts and served as president of the Korean American Scientists and Engineers Association. His many honors include being elected to the Korean National Academy of Engineering and receiving South Korea's National Medal of Honor in Science and Technology with highest distinction, the country's greatest honor for individual scientists and engineers. He is survived by his wife, Chong Sook Paik Sung; a son; and two grandchildren.

1970s

Arthur Leon Beamon, JD'72, of Washington, DC, died February 10, 2022. He was 80. After earning his bachelor's degree at the US Air Force Academy, Beamon completed a master's degree in public administration at George Washington University in 1970. With his UChicago law degree, Beamon spent 27 years at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, serving as an attorney, head of the compliance and enforcement division, and associate general counsel. One of the proudest moments of his legal career was his admission to the Bar of the US Supreme Court. He and his wife, Joan, traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Australia, and New Zealand. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a brother.

Alan Russell Hinds, SM'72, died October 10 in Oak Park, IL. He was 79. Hinds worked as a computer scientist at Argonne National Laboratory, as a research programmer for the Computer Center and School of Public Health at the University of Illinois Chicago, and as a computer programmer for several local companies. He loved going to theater, music, and dance performances across the Chicago area. His wife, Lois Nyberg Hinds, AM'74, died in 2011. Hinds is survived by a daughter; two sons, including **David Hinds**, SB'88; and a granddaughter.

James Patrick Smith, PhD'72, died August 4 in Santa Monica, CA. He was 79. An economist, Smith published widely on topics including education, immigration, and wealth inequality. From 1974 to 2020, he served as a senior economist at the RAND Corporation, where he directed research on labor and population and held a distinguished chair in labor markets and demographic studies. He helped design the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) to collect data aimed at advancing researchers' understanding of the challenges and opportunities of aging. Smith chaired the HRS Data Monitoring Committee for 30 years and advised numerous HRS partner studies around the world. In 2020 he joined Rose Li and Associates as a senior research associate. His many awards include two honorary doctorates, election to the National Acad-

emy of Medicine, and two merit awards from the National Institutes of Health. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Berry; two daughters; and two grandchildren.

William Edmonds Keig, SM'73, PhD'82, died July 23 in Davenport, FL. He was 73. With his doctorate in physics, Keig taught physics, astrophysics, mathematics, and related topics at Lycoming College; California State University, Dominguez Hills; and Compton College. He also conducted research at the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex. Keig enjoyed taking his children and grandchildren to Disney movies, reading classic children's tales aloud and butchering them hilariously, and watching sci-fi B movies while providing running commentary on how the laws of physics had been broken to further the plot. At night he would point out constellations and share the myths associated with them. He was a frequent contributor of letters to the editor of the *New York Times* and wrote several books for middle schoolers. He is survived by two daughters, three sisters, and two grandchildren.

Roberto Manuel Benito "Tito" Sanchez Miranda, MBA'73, died October 22 in Clackamas, OR. He was 82. Born in Morocco, Sanchez moved to Spain to study law at the University of Madrid and served an obligatory term in the Spanish army. Later, a job at *Fonorama* music magazine gave him the chance to write about and meet famous musicians such as Tom Jones and the Beatles. With his business degree, Sanchez took a job at Hewlett Packard in Spain and in 1976 transferred to the company's growing division in Corvallis, OR, residing there for many years. His favorite hobby was flying—he had a private pilot's license—and he enjoyed world travel. Survivors include a daughter and a sister.

Mary Ann Swedlund Knudten, PhD'74, of New Berlin, WI, died October 23. She was 87. Knudten served as campus dean and CEO of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at Waukesha from 1980 to 1999. In that role she supported nontraditional and working students with similar trajectories to her own. As a scholarship student, Knudten had completed her degree in bacteriology at the University of Kansas and gone on to do graduate work in sociology while raising four children. She also taught at Marquette University and cofounded a criminal justice research firm with her former husband. In retirement, Knudten volunteered for Milwaukee-area community organizations and enjoyed travel and the arts, especially music. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, a sister, and six grandchildren.

Joseph F. Delaney, MBA'76, died October 17 in Ocala, FL. He was 82. Educated by Jesuits in Detroit and at Xavier University, Delaney was at seminary briefly and earned a bachelor of science in physics. He later spent four years in the US Air Force as a task scientist, collecting a commendation for his work on emerging laser technology. Delaney's career focused on developing and marketing new

technologies such as early lasers, video cameras, printers, semiconductors, and satellite radomes. Moving from Chicago to Florida in 1978, he enjoyed reunions that brought his extended family together. He is survived by one daughter, two sons, two brothers, and three grandchildren.

Terry W. Du Clos, PhD'77, died October 28 in Albuquerque, NM. He was 75. Raised in suburban Chicago, Du Clos attended the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and went on to graduate studies in microbiology and immunology. After completing his MD and residency at Rush Medical School, he trained in rheumatology at Scripps Research Institute in San Diego. Settling in Albuquerque with his family in 1986, he saw patients at the Veterans Affairs hospital and did research in immunology at the University of New Mexico, retiring as professor emeritus in 2013. Du Clos loved to learn new skills and taught himself to restore cars, weld, fly-fish, build furniture, and turn wood. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; a daughter; a son; two sisters; one brother; and a grandchild.

1980s

Kenneth J. Krolczyk, MBA'80, of West Chicago, IL, died October 30. He was 67. Krolczyk grew up on the southwest side of Chicago and studied finance at DePaul University. He started working for the First National Bank of Chicago at age 16 while in high school and, over 30 years and several mergers, rose to the position of senior vice president. After retiring from Chase Bank in 2001, Krolczyk was self-employed in educational services. A nature and sports lover, he played golf and followed the Chicago White Sox and Bears. He is survived by his wife, Anita; a daughter; two sons; two sisters; a brother; and five grandchildren.

Ronald J. Krumm, PhD'81, of Ashkum, IL, died September 16. He was 69. A graduate of Knox College, Krumm wrote his UChicago doctoral thesis about the impact of the minimum wage on regional labor markets. After teaching in the Committee on Public Policy Studies (now Harris School of Public Policy) and the College, he founded Krumm and Associates (now Analytic Innovations), a company that pioneered the evaluation of individual-level behavioral data to provide insights into customer behavior. Survivors include his wife, Barbara, and a sister.

Leo G. LeSage, MBA'81, of Boulder, CO, died July 6. He was 87. LeSage attended the University of Kansas on a US Navy ROTC scholarship, completing a degree in engineering physics. While serving in the Naval Reactors Branch of the navy, he became interested in nuclear power. With a doctorate in nuclear engineering from Stanford, he launched a 33-year career at Argonne National Laboratory, directing several programmatic divisions and making many technical contributions to fast reactor technology. LeSage represented the United States on the international committee re-

sponsible for developing a plan to stabilize the Chernobyl reactor site after 1986. He lived in Naperville, IL, where he was active in Rotary International and his church before retiring to Colorado in 2017. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; two daughters; and three grandchildren.

Oliver R. W. Pergams, AB'81 (Class of 1979), died November 9 in Chicago. He was 65. With his undergraduate degree in Germanic Languages and Literature, Pergams launched a first career as an options trader. He later earned a PhD in biology. As a biology professor at Olive-Harvey College on Chicago's far South Side, he mentored many students, championed the college's wetlands, and founded and advised the environmental club. He was a caring teacher, accomplished biker, adventurous hiker, and loyal White Sox fan. Survivors include his partner, Charmaine Jake-Matthews; three children; a brother; and a grandchild.

Tania An-Fei Shih-Sit, AM'86, died October 20 in Minneapolis. She was 61. Born in Taiwan, Shih-Sit grew up in New Jersey. She was a gifted pianist who studied at Juilliard as a child and won the New Jersey Young Musicians Competition. At Barnard College she majored in economics, going on to study international relations at UChicago. During her career as a stockbroker, Shih-Sit worked at Brown Brothers Harriman, Nomura Securities, HSBC James Capel, and Crosby Securities before focusing on raising a family. She is survived by her husband, Raymond Sit; two daughters; her mother; a sister; and a brother.

2000s

Smith Matthew Koester, AM'06, died March 16, 2022, in Chicago. He was 48. A Kansas City native, Koester earned a bachelor's in music at the University of Rochester and master's degrees in music theory from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and UChicago. He composed electronic music and became a music recording and mastering engineer, opening his own studio, Barnstorm Mastering, in Chicago. Koester played old-time fretless banjo with the New Mules, a string band that included his wife, Genevieve, and her late father, both on fiddle. He was also a pilot and self-taught astronomer who loved outdoor adventures with family and friends. Survivors include his wife, a daughter, a son, his mother, his father and stepmother, and a brother.

Benjamin Sweat, MBA'07, of Austin, TX, died October 24. He was 44. Sweat grew up in Idaho and earned his undergraduate degree at Brigham Young University-Idaho. With his Chicago Booth degree he became an entrepreneur, working with tech startups and helping bring new businesses to market. Active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Sweat was also a talented ballroom dancer who loved sports, travel, and family get-togethers. He is survived by his wife, Aprilanne; five children; his mother and father; and seven siblings.



THE UCHICAGOAN Sara Toussaint

AB'00

*Questions for the sports marketer,
co-owner of a National Women's
Soccer League team, and
new Alumni Board president.*

What would you want to be doing if not your current profession?

Working on US domestic policies that help this country be more equitable for all people who live here.

What do you hate that everyone else loves?

Seinfeld.

What do you love that everyone else hates?

I don't know if people actually hate them as much as they enjoy bashing them, but I love reading romance novels. Besides the books being fun, the women who write them are brilliant and fierce, so no one should be surprised to discover that there are UChicago alumnae who write for the genre (or protagonists who are UChicago alums!).

What was the last book you recommended to a friend?

I was in Florence recently, so Irving Stone's *The Agony and the Ecstasy*—a biographical novel about Michelangelo's life. Without that book there's no way I would have appreciated the Duomo or *David* as they should be admired. I started tearing up when I saw them in person.

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

Worst piece of advice I've received in my career was to put my head down and keep working rather than be vocal when a situation isn't right. I did the opposite, which actually didn't change the situation but helped me build my confidence.

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

Stay connected to the University, because you'll inevitably find something of interest or value to you. Skim the emails, attend alumni events, read the *Magazine*, whatever that connection point might be. Through the years I guarantee that you'll be thankful you were engaged.



TO READ THE FULL Q&A, VISIT [MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/UCHICAGOAN](https://mag.uchicago.edu/uchicagoan).

Illustration by Nigel Buchanan



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capital raised

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¹ Cambridge Associates, Venture Capital Benchmarks, March 31, 2019.

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